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# Behind the mask



**Citlali Torres**/THE RIDER

Members of the UT Health RGV Student Health staff pose in their Cortez Hall office on the Brownsville campus. In a Feb. 8 email, the university announced both UT Health RGV Student Health clinics will continue to provide COVID-19 tests, vaccines and boosters to active UTRGV students. Shown (from left) are Liza Esquivel, medical assistant; Beverly Estrada, patient services representative; Steven Machner, physician assistant; and Mary Ferguson, licensed vocational nurse.

**Brigitte Ortiz**  
THE RIDER

In August 2020, UTRGV looked “in house” to protect the campus community from COVID-19 instead of relying on “outside entities.” Since then, the university has tested and vaccinated thousands of people, a university official says.

The UTRGV COVID Response Team was created to protect the campus community as students, faculty and staff began to return to campus by “managing positive cases, close contact exposures, and people expressing symptoms that might be caused by COVID-19,” according to the UTRGV website.

“In response to the

COVID-19 pandemic, The UTRGV proactively teamed up with UT Health RGV in a multifaceted approach to protect the 32,600 students and 6,400 employees who work and study on the UTRGV campuses,” Doug Arney, senior vice president for Administration Support Services, wrote in an email last Tuesday to The Rider. “This coordinated approach

included the establishment of the Infectious Disease Committee (IDC), which developed management strategies to address the pandemic, the medically staffed COVID Response Team (CRT), which managed over 15,000 UTRGV COVID-19 related cases, the Safety Dept., which managed PPE distribution and conducted

See **MASK**, Page 3

## FEMA-sponsored testing sites extended

**New Student Health clinic schedule for COVID-19 services announced**

**Natalie Lapsley**

THE RIDER

UTRGV reported 75 new COVID-19 cases between Jan. 28 and Feb. 3, according to a university official.

Doug Arney, vice president for Administrative Support Services and chair of the Infectious Disease Committee at UTRGV, said among the 75 were 31 students, 42 staff and two faculty members.

UTRGV updates the number of cases reported for campus individuals weekly through the Confirmed Cases Dashboard. The university COVID-19 Response Team provides the numbers on the website.

Arney said two of the 31 students were in on-campus isolation housing the week of Jan. 28 to Feb. 3.

In an email sent Feb. 8, the university announced both UT Health RGV Student Health clinics will continue to provide COVID-19 tests, vaccines and boosters to active UTRGV students.

Until further notice, COVID-19 services will be available from 1 to 5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays,

VISIT [UTRGV.EDU/COMMITMENT TO VIEW THE COVID-19 DASHBOARD](https://www.utrgv.edu/commitment-to-view-the-covid-19-dashboard)

Thursdays and Fridays at both Student Health clinics, located in Cortez Hall on the Brownsville campus and at 613 N. Sugar Road in Edinburg.

To schedule an appointment for a test or COVID-19 vaccine, students must call 882-3896 for Brownsville and 665-2511 for Edinburg.

See **COVID**, Page 2

## Senate constitutional amendments set for vote

**Verilu Infante**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Later this month, UTRGV students will vote on Student Government Association Constitutional Convention Amendments that include lowering the GPA requirement for serving in the senate and eliminating the requirement that vice presidents represent a particular campus.

During its meeting last Tuesday, the Student Government Association passed a resolution recommending changes to its constitution and presenting them to the student body for

a general election to vote in favor or against amending the document.

In other business, the SGA approved the Legislative Bylaws Amendment and Acting Interim Bylaw bills.

Matthew Cantu, senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship, motioned for a vote on the bills each time Senate Chair José Raul Ruiz opened the floor for motions.

During the President's Report, SGA President José Pablo Rojas said that now the student body will have the choice to decide if it will

See **SGA**, Page 6

**EARLY VOTING FOR MARCH 1 PRIMARY**

**Today through  
Feb. 25**

For a list of polling sites in Cameron County, visit [cameroncountytexas.gov/elections](https://cameroncountytexas.gov/elections), and for Hidalgo County, visit [hidalgocounty.us/105](https://hidalgocounty.us/105).

## THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The newspaper is widely distributed on and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Today Homecoming Dance

The Student Union will host a V My Valentine Homecoming

Dance from 6 to 9 p.m. at the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Thursday on the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. The dance, open to **students only**, will have **free food**, music and **no dress code**.

### Tuesday 'Loving' Film Screening

The Student Leadership Academy and Center for Student Involvement will host a screening of "Loving" from 5 to 7 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus and from 7 to 9 p.m. in Student Academic Center Room 1.112 on the Edinburg campus. The movie details the life of an interracial couple, Richard and Mildred Loving, and the hardships they endure throughout their relationship. **Free snacks** will be provided to attendees.

### Wednesday Homecoming Parade

The Homecoming Victory Trail, which is the official school homecoming parade, will take place at 4 p.m. on the Brownsville campus and at 6 p.m. on the Edinburg campus. In Brownsville, the parade will start behind the Main Building and end at the Casa Bella Apartments. In Edinburg, the parade will depart from the UREC and end at the Fieldhouse.

### Library Resources Discussion

The University Library will host a discussion of its resources for **Black History Month** from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. via Zoom. Attendees must RSVP to receive the Zoom invitation and password.

### Student Involvement Fair

The Office of Student Involvement will host an **Involvement Fair** from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Main Building Courtyard on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Thursday on the Student Union Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus. Departments and student organizations will hold tabling sessions to teach students the benefits and opportunities the university and student organizations offer, as well as give away promotional items, school supplies and snacks.

### Thursday

#### The People Series: Derrick Bell

Students can learn about **Derrick Bell, the late civil rights attorney, legal scholar, professor and political activist**, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. via Zoom. The event is hosted by the **Center for Diversity and Inclusion and DREAM Resources**. To RSVP, visit V Link.

### Family Movie Night

**Family Involvement** and the **Center for Student Involvement** invite Vaquero families to the screening of "**Spider-Man: No Way Home**" from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Dining and Ballroom Complex on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Saturday in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. The event is part of **Family Weekend**.

### Friday

#### Meet the Candidate

The Civic Engagement Alliance will host "Meet the Candidate" with gubernatorial candidate **Beto O'Rourke** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the PlainsCapital Bank Theater in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. The event will also be livestreamed at the Student Union veranda on the Brownsville campus.

### Brunch with the Deans

**Family Involvement** and the **Center for Student Involvement** will host **Brunch with the Deans** from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event is part of **Family Weekend**.

### Scavenger Hunt

**Family Involvement** and the **Center for Student Involvement** will hold a **scavenger hunt** from 1 to 3 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. The event is part of **Family Weekend**.

### Family Picnic

**Family Involvement** and the **Center for Student Involvement** will host a **picnic** from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Student Union Patio on the Edinburg campus. The event is part of **Family Weekend**.

### SFAC Meeting

The **Student Fee Advisory Committee** will meet online to review **Fiscal Year 2023 budget proposals** from 1 to 4:30 p.m. The committee will also meet online on Feb. 25 and March 4. Contact the Office of the Dean of Students at dos@utrgv.edu or call 665-2260 to RSVP and/or request accommodations.

--Compiled by Diana Alvarez-Tovar

## POLICE REPORTS



The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 2 and 7.

### Feb. 2

**7:41 a.m.:** An officer observed a man running away from U.S. Border Patrol agents in Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. The officer detained the man, who was taken into custody by the agents. Four Mexican nationals were taken into custody by the agents without further incident.

**6:15 p.m.:** A staff member working at the University Financial Services building on the Edinburg campus reported having located three fraudulent checks with the university bank account information. The checks were flagged as fraudulent and there was no monetary loss to the university. The case is under investigation.

### Feb. 3

**12:21 p.m.:** An officer responded to the Interdisciplinary Engineering Building on the Edinburg campus in reference to a student who passed out.

### COVID

*Continued from Page 1*

In Hidalgo and Cameron counties, COVID-19 cases continue to increase.

Hidalgo County reported 3,409 cases between Feb. 4 and 10, raising its total to 159,892, according to its website.

The county reported 43 deaths between Feb. 4 and 10, raising its death toll to 3,682.

Carlos Sanchez, director of Public Affairs for Hidalgo County, said Edinburg's FEMA-sponsored testing site will remain open.

"We've been running one for the past 21 days," Sanchez said. "That was at Edinburg Municipal Park. It ended [last] Monday. However, FEMA has granted an extension."

Free drive-thru testing services will be available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day at the park, located at 714 S. Raul Longoria Road in Edinburg.

Individuals will receive their test results within three to five business days.

The site will remain open until Feb. 21 for all residents of the Rio Grande Valley.

The officer spoke with the student, who reported he had a pre-existing medical condition. The student declined emergency medical services and was picked up by his parents.

### Feb. 4

**2:50 p.m.:** A faculty member working at the University Center in Edinburg reported having received a phone call and email from a law enforcement agency requesting information on a student that she believed was not legitimate. An investigation confirmed the law enforcement agency and request were legitimate. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

### Feb. 5

**6:20 p.m.:** The Edinburg Fire Department and University Police responded to Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus in reference to an active fire alarm. An investigation revealed that the alarm had been triggered by the construction crew working with a torch on the roof of the building. The fire department deemed the building safe for

re-entry and the alarm was reset.

### Feb. 6

**2:19 p.m.:** The Edinburg Fire Department and University Police responded to Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus in reference to an active fire alarm. An investigation revealed that the alarm had been triggered by the construction crew working with a torch on the roof of the building. The fire department deemed the building safe for re-entry and the alarm was reset.

### Feb. 7

**12:24 p.m.:** A staff member working at the UTRGV Behavioral Health Clinic in Harlingen reported that a non-affiliated man who had made suicidal statements in the past was at the location. Harlingen police officers spoke with the man and determined he was not a danger to himself or others. The man left the location without incident. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

--Compiled by Brigitte Ortiz and Alejandra Yañez

Hidalgo County is currently "playing catch-up" with a backlog, according to Sanchez.

"We are tens of thousands of cases backlogged," he said. "The reason being, all private vendors who are doing testing as of late last year are required to report directly to the state instead of to Hidalgo County. And, so, the state is compiling that information, and then sending the information to [the] Hidalgo County Health Department in very large batches."

Sanchez said some backlogged cases include duplicate cases and that the verification process is causing a delay in reporting.

"In fact, out of that [23,736] backlog, those were the verified cases," he said in reference to a Feb. 3 news release, in which the county reported backlogged cases from January. "We actually got more than 30,000 backlog cases, but all of those other cases were duplicate. And, so, that's the challenge that we're having."

Cameron County reported 3,474 cases between Feb. 3 and 9, raising its total to 70,787 cases, according to its website.

The county reported 28 deaths between Feb. 3 and 9, raising the county's death toll to 2,104.

Cameron County's FEMA-sponsored testing site will remain open through Thursday.

Esmeralda Guajardo, health administrator for Cameron County, said there is no cost for COVID-19 tests at the site.

"Those are open to anyone in the public wishing to get tested for [COVID-19]," Guajardo said. "My understanding is that a lot of people that are going in already have signs and symptoms. ... If you were exposed, or if you're possibly symptomatic, by all means, go get tested."

Testing services will be available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day until Thursday at the Sports Park, located at 1000 Sports Park Blvd. in Brownsville.

"It is drive thru," Guajardo said. "Pretty much a 'stay in your car' kind of situation. There's no need to step out of your car."

Individuals must follow instructions provided by onsite signage and personnel.

Test results will be available within three to five business days.

**WACKY WEB POLL**

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**--62%**  
Win the lottery

**--38%**  
Find my soul mate

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# 'I got your six'

## Student veterans to host walk focusing on suicide awareness

**Brigitte Ortiz**  
THE RIDER

The Student Veterans of America (SVA)-UTRGV chapter and peer support group will host a Suicide Awareness: 22 Minute Walk & Tabling from noon to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 22 on the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses.

From noon to 12:20 p.m., there will be a briefing on suicide awareness. At 12:22 p.m., the 22-minute walk will begin at the flagpole on the Edinburg campus and on the north side of Cavalry Hall on the Brownsville campus.

The walk will be followed by the reading of a poem and closing remarks. To conclude the event, there will be a tabling and a 22-pushup challenge from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the University Center on the Edinburg campus and common area in Cavalry Hall on the Brownsville campus.

The Collegiate Recovery Center, a program that offers hope and support to help lead students to achieve their recovery goals, will participate in the tabling, along with Student Accessibility Services, VA Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System-Suicide Prevention Program, a suicide prevention team from Veterans Affairs, the McAllen Vet Center, Cameron and Hidalgo counties Veterans Service Offices and representatives from the Texas Veterans Commission.

A virtual 22-minute mental health meditation will take place via Zoom with Leah Ellis, supervising clinical therapist at the UTRGV Counseling Center.

Elda Arriaga, director of the Military and Veterans Success Center, said the center is a one-stop-shop to show support in utilizing Veterans Affairs benefits.

"The center assists students in certifying education benefits, advocating for services, developing projects to unite the university with our local community, providing counseling services specifically for veterans and promoting student involvement through the Student Veterans of America National Organization," according to its website.

Arriaga said the peer support group is a therapeutic forum for students, or anyone in the military community, to discuss a variety of topics, from academic, clinical and financial support to food referral services.

Kristopher Ezell, president of the SVA and a work-study at the Military and Veterans Success Center, said the mission of the SVA is to help student veterans throughout their school experience, provide resources and find employment after graduation.

Arriaga said this will be the first time



Brigitte Ortiz/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Jessica Hernandez, program coordinator for the Military and Veterans Success Center and a U.S. Air Force veteran, talks to Richard Clayton, a clinical therapist at the UTRGV Counseling Center and peer facilitator for the Military and Veterans Success Center, about the Suicide Awareness: 22 Minute Walk & Tabling that will take place on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses Feb. 22.

the center will host a 22-minute walk.

Richard Clayton, a clinical therapist at the UTRGV Counseling Center and peer facilitator for the Military and Veterans Success Center, said the event evolved out of the peer group.

"The main purpose of it is, again, to bring awareness," Clayton said. "We lose an average of 22 veterans per day, which is almost twice the national average. So we're a high-risk population."

He said one of the misconceptions about suicide is if somebody asks or talk about suicide, it puts that thought in somebody's mind, and that is not true.

"It's not gonna provoke anybody to go and do self-harm, or die by suicide or initiate a plan," Clayton said. "It actually gives comfort to people when you actually start talking to someone who is contemplating suicide."

"It brings comfort to them. It's like, normalizes my feelings. Yes, they're real and let's talk about them. It really is OK. It's not a sign of weakness. It's a sign of strength to say, 'Hey, I need help.' That's a sign of strength. We want to show that we're here. We're veterans, you know, we're not, we're not someone else. ... We're personally invested in this

community."

He encourages the campus community to attend the event.

"We want the whole student body and

the faculty and staff that are invited to be our allies, to understand veterans and that we might have assets, but we have struggles, too," Clayton said.



The Military and Veteran Success Center will host a Suicide Awareness: 22 Minute Walk & Tabling from noon to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at the flagpole on the Edinburg campus and north side of Cavalry Hall on the Brownsville campus. The center serves as a one-stop-shop to show support in utilizing Veterans Affairs benefits.

**MASK**  
Continued from Page 1

fit testing for medical personnel, and UT Health RGV, which tested over 112,000 persons and vaccinated another 86,000 from both the UTRGV campuses and the general public.

"This comprehensive and seamless 'in house' approach eliminated the need to rely on outside entities for support, and proved to be extremely effective in the prevention, mitigation, and response to the COVID-19 pandemic on UTRGV campuses and among the general public in the RGV as a whole."

Eliza Gomez, director of Emergency Management and Continuing Planning, said the team wants to support students, faculty and staff's health and wellness and give them a sense of security and assurance that UTRGV cares.

Gomez said there are five members on the team: three case investigators, an

emergency management coordinator and medical guidance provided by Dr. Scott J. Spear, an associate professor of pediatrics and medical director for Student and Employee Health at UTRGV.

A student, faculty or staff member can report their COVID-19 test result to the COVID Response Team and they will respond within one to two business days, she said.

"The person has to send their information to the COVID Response Team," Gomez said. "We don't own those results. Those results are the property and responsibility of each individual employee and student, so we have to wait for them to send the results to us. Sometimes, there's a little bit of a delay. They'll get their results and send it the next day. So, as soon as they send them to us, we process them and get them up and get them safely returned to campus."

She said a typical day for her is

checking the queue, responding to people sending in their results or their symptom tracker logs, sending emails and processing cases.

"So just about everybody gets a phone call," Gomez said. "And we have a confidential discreet screening interview, where we obtain critical information like contact reason, where someone has been, when someone started feeling sick, were they on or off campus at the time that that occurred, how long were they there, you know, to create that situational awareness ... to figure out what needs to happen going forward, based on the university's protocols based on the CDC [Center for Disease and Control] guidelines."

There's a lot of misconception about the COVID Response Team, she said. The team's purpose is not to keep people away from campus and to frustrate them.

"We're here to help," Gomez said. "We care deeply. All of us have been

professionally and personally touched and affected by COVID-19, so this is real to us. We understand the struggles. We're here for you as a resource."

Arney said one of the challenges the Infectious Disease Committee has seen are the continuous changes of the virus and the new variant, Omicron.

The changes are all based on science, he said. By following the CDC guidelines, the committee is able to change the protocols and provide the best guidance to the campus community.

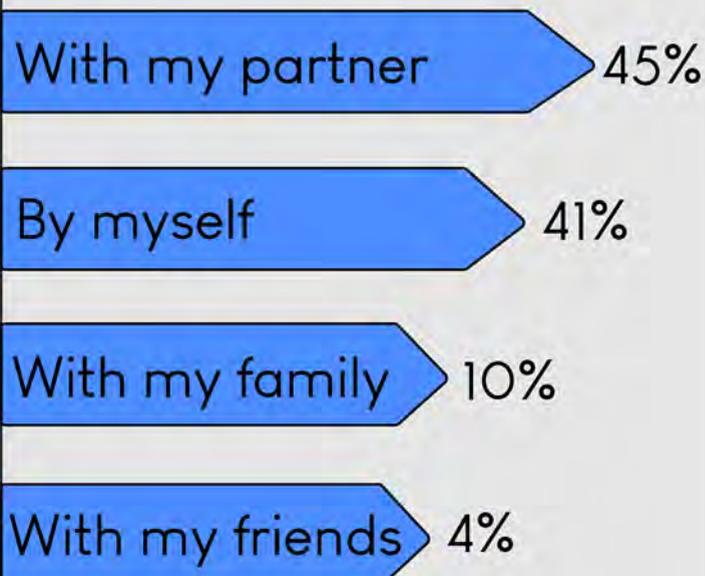
"I think that the COVID Response Team was put in place to help ... navigate our community. Keep them safe," Arney said in a phone interview with The Rider last Tuesday. "I don't know how we would have operated without that structure. So, I think the structure is a really, really good structure. It has worked out really well and there have been relatively little issues in the structure since day one."



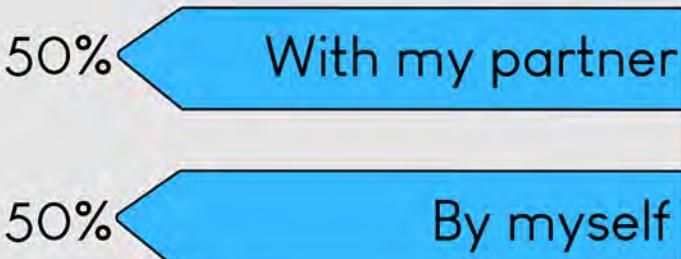
**VALENTINE'S DAY**

On Feb. 7, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "How are you spending Valentine's Day?" The results are shown below.

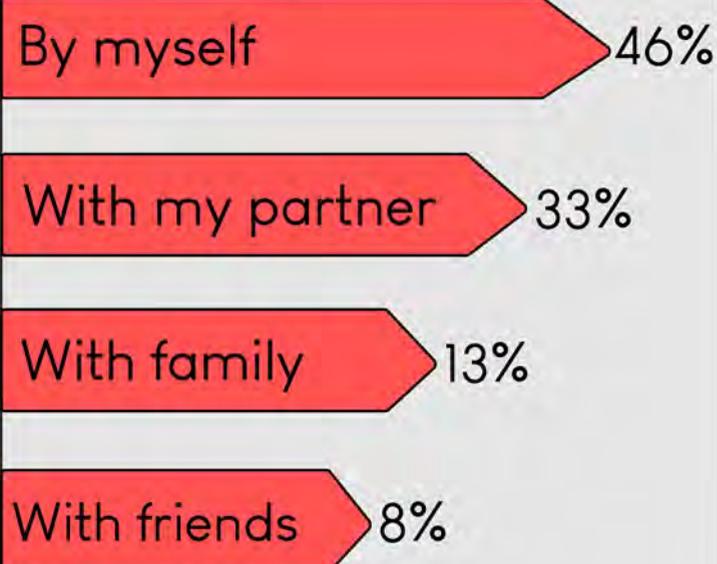
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**Valentine's Day: Trial of the Singles**

Being an introvert, unable to properly express emotions

Feeling left out for not having a partner

Feeling unworthy of love

**Self-love**

**Appreciating your friends who love and care about you**

*A Jinx* 2/14/22

**It is 2022; get your sh\*t together**



**Fatima Gamez Lopez**  
SPANISH EDITOR

Do not blame Cupid. There is only one happiness in life, to love and be loved.

In a group of friends, there is always one person who thinks the world is against them, and that person is you.

The hours pass and you are still sitting in your chair crying over that failed stage. Get out of your comfort zone, experience new things, meet people, open the doors to love. Please don't close them.

Don't be the player, change the game. It is 2022. No one wants to spend another year without receiving heart-shaped chocolates.

If I have learned anything about love, it is that if you don't risk, you don't win, and I know you want to leave the friend zone.

I am not telling you to go out and marry the first person you see. I am just telling you not to be too hard on yourself.

Princess stories don't usually happen in real life. You don't need to kiss millions of frogs to be able to find your "Prince Charming." You need more than that. You need to love yourself.

Why love yourself? Because how are you going to give all your love to your significant other when you can't love yourself and give yourself the love you deserve

and need.

I know that the person you need by your side is closer than you imagine. You just have to start valuing the little things.

Ask out that person who attracts you in your class. You don't need expensive things to have a good date.

Small actions count a lot, being loving, kind, humble—those little things that you think don't matter really do and a lot.

Being single can have many advantages, as well as many disadvantages.

Yes, one of the advantages is being able to buy chocolates, stuffed animals and that kind of romantic stuff in the clearance section

**"The right person will come into your life the moment you open the doors to love."**

on Feb. 15, but wouldn't you like to celebrate Feb. 14 with the person you love?

Relationships have a great advantage in our lives as they help us in our emotional well-being and create stability, such as having someone to count on and trust in times of need and someone to accompany us in our loneliness.

We tend to believe that all people are the same, that because someone disappointed us in love, we will not be able to be happy, but in reality we are wrong.

Forgetting our past relationships helps us move into the future. Forgetting helps us to continue with a healthier life, allowing us

to forget the pains of the past.

Not only can forgetting our past help us build relationships, but also stops unnecessary stress. Many times, overthinking can kill the joy of going out and meeting new people.

We have to start thinking less and enjoying more of what life has to offer us. Overthinking can make you assume negative consequences and jump to false conclusions.

Believing that you will never find someone because of the way you are or how you look will make you believe that you are not enough for someone and that will affect you when trying to create relationships.

So leave people's negative comments behind and be yourself. Visit dating apps if you have to, but go out and have fun.

Do not spend another Valentine's Day alone. We are at the age where if we love someone, we must show it

with actions and not with words.

It's time to step out of your comfort zone and grow. Make the "New Year, new me" count.

We all have an intense desire to be loved. The need to be loved reaches the point of becoming one of our basic needs.

Stop being so negative and give yourself the opportunity to love, without putting conditions. If you spend your time looking for your ideal man, you will never find love. The right person will come into your life the moment you open the doors to love.

Happy Valentine's Day, Vaqueros.

Visit us online at **utrgvrider.com**



# Estudiantes veteranos organizarán caminata



Brigitte Ortiz/THE RIDER

El Centro de *Military and Veterans Success* organizará una sesión de concientización sobre el suicidio: 22 minutos de caminata y presentación desde el mediodía hasta la 1:30 p.m. el 22 de febrero en el asta de la bandera en el campus de Edinburg, y en el campus de Brownsville al norte de *Cavalry Hall*. El centro sirve como una estación para brindar apoyo en la utilización de los beneficios de Asuntos Veteranos.

**Brigitte Ortiz**  
THE RIDER

El capítulo de Estudiantes Veteranos de América (SVA)-UTRGV y el grupo de apoyo entre pares organizarán una Concientización sobre el suicidio: 22 minutos de caminata y presentación desde el mediodía hasta la 1:30 p.m. el 22 de febrero en los campus de

Brownsville y Edinburg.

Desde el mediodía hasta las 12:20 p.m., habrá una sesión informativa sobre la concientización sobre el suicidio. A las 12:22 p.m., la caminata de 22 minutos comenzará en el asta de la bandera en el campus de Edinburg y en el lado norte de *Cavalry Hall* en el campus de Brownsville.

La caminata será seguida por la

lectura de un poema y palabras de cierre. Para concluir el evento, habrá una mesa y un desafío de 22 flexiones de 12:30 a 1:30 p.m. en el Centro Universitario (*University Center*) en el campus de Edinburg y el área común (*common area*) en *Cavalry Hall* en el campus de Brownsville.

El Centro de recuperación colegiado, un programa que ofrece esperanza

y apoyo para ayudar a guiar a los estudiantes a alcanzar sus metas de recuperación, participará en la presentación, junto con los Servicios de accesibilidad para estudiantes, VA Programa de Prevención del Suicidio del Sistema de Atención Médica de Curva Costera del Valle, un equipo de prevención de suicidios de Asuntos de Veteranos, el Centro de Veteranos de McAllen, las Oficinas de Servicios para Veteranos de los condados de Cameron e Hidalgo y representantes de la Comisión de Veteranos de Texas.

Se llevará a cabo una meditación virtual de salud mental de 22 minutos a través de Zoom con Leah Ellis, terapeuta clínica supervisora en el Centro de Consejería de UTRGV.

Elda Arriaga, directora del Centro de Éxito para Militares y Veteranos, dijo que el centro es una ventanilla única para mostrar apoyo en la utilización de los beneficios de Asuntos de Veteranos.

“El centro ayuda a los estudiantes a certificar los beneficios educativos, abogar por los servicios, desarrollar proyectos para unir a la universidad con nuestra comunidad local, brindar servicios de asesoramiento específicamente para veteranos y promover la participación de los estudiantes a través de la Organización Nacional de Estudiantes Veteranos de América”, según su sitio web.

Arriaga dijo que el grupo de apoyo entre pares es un foro terapéutico para que los estudiantes, o cualquier miembro de la comunidad militar, discutan una variedad de temas, desde apoyo académico, clínico y financiero hasta servicios de referencia de alimentos.

Kristopher Ezell, presidente de SVA y estudiante de trabajo y estudio

Vea **VETERANOS**, Página 10

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# Club Spotlight: CyberSecurity Club

**Name:** CyberSecurity Club

**Established:** 2020

**Mission:** The mission of the CyberSecurity Club is to help raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity. President Pedro Garcia said it aims to facilitate a stronger relationship between students and faculty within the field to increase awareness of its opportunities, according to its constitution.

**President:** Pedro Garcia

**Vice President:** Ariana Alvarez

**Secretary:** Tyler Landgraf

**Treasurer:** Miguel Fernandez

**Executive members:** Charles Galperin and Carter Vavra

**Adviser:** Mahmoud Quweider, informatics and engineering systems professor

**Activities:** Seminars and workshops, as well as hosting sessions for special-interest groups

**Meetings:** TBA

**Membership requirements:** As of now, there is no cost for membership. Members must be enrolled in a regular course of study related to the cybersecurity field, such as engineering, engineering technology, computer science, mathematics, criminal justice and computer information systems. However, Garcia said anyone may attend information sessions to learn more about the field.

**For more information, email:** pedro.l.garcia@utrgv.edu

--Compiled by Roxanna Miranda



Alexis Ramos/THE RIDER PHOTOS

CyberSecurity Club Vice President Adriana Alvarez and President Pedro Garcia look up the latest cybersecurity information last Thursday outside the Engineering Building on the Edinburg campus.



Members of the CyberSecurity Club include President Pablo Garcia and Vice President Adriana Alvarez. Other students in the organization are Secretary Tyler Landgraf, Treasurer Miguel Fernandez and executive members Charles Galperin and Carter Vavra.

**Want your club featured? Email us at [therider@utrgv.edu](mailto:therider@utrgv.edu) or call us at 882-5143 in Brownsville and 665-5058 in Edinburg!**

## SGA

*Continued from Page 1*

vote for or against the Constitutional Convention Amendments Bill.

As previously reported by The Rider, if students vote to amend the constitution, some of the changes that would be made include:

--Undergraduate students must maintain good academic standing as defined by the university for enrollment at the time of application and appointment throughout their SGA term. This change would remove the minimum 2.5 GPA requirement.

--Vice presidents will no longer be required to represent a campus. This change would remove the requirement to be enrolled in at least six credit hours at the location they desire to represent at the time of application or appointment and while holding office.

--Vice presidents will coordinate the actions and efforts of the SGA at the direction of the president for each campus, satellite campus and university facility in the UTRGV domain.

--At the time of assuming office, graduate students who have completed an undergraduate degree at UTRGV are eligible under the undergraduate requirements.

--The executive cabinet will consist of the chief of staff, secretary of administration and finance, the secretary of communications and recruitment, and the secretary of graduate affairs.

--Of the four academic senators and four graduate senators, none will need to represent a different location.

--The seven members of the Supreme Court would consist of four associate justices, two faculty/staff associate justices, and one chief justice, which must be filled by a student. The change would remove the requirement of all associate justices to represent either the Brownsville or Edinburg campus.

--The chief justice will initialize and oversee the removal and impeachment process as designated in the bylaws. The creation and dissolution of a student court system will also be at the

discretion of the chief justice.

--The First Year Internship Program director will move from the executive cabinet to its own branch in collaboration with the SGA.

"I don't encourage not voting," Rojas said. "I encourage voting. If you don't like it, vote, vote. If you like it, vote. If you don't care, get informed and vote. It's pretty much just to ensure that everybody's voices get heard. That's the most important thing."

Now that the senate has passed Legislative Bylaws Amendment Bill 01, the following amendment has been made to the SGA Legislative Bylaws:

--"Failure to provide an excuse to the sergeant-at-arms at least 12 hours before a mandatory event or meeting, unless deemed an emergency, shall constitute an issuance of an unexcused absence."

After passing the Acting Interim Bylaw Bill, the SGA has adopted the following sections of the bylaw:

--In the case of a presidential vacancy, the vice president who was stipulated in the act of succession will assume the presidency and its responsibilities for 30 days or until a senate meeting is called for the election of the president.

--In the case of a chief justice vacancy, the president will appoint an existing associate justice to the role of interim chief justice and its responsibilities for 30 days or until a candidate is presented to the senate floor.

--At the time of their absence in a senatorial event or at a prescribed time stamp designated by their person, the chair of the senate will delegate their senatorial roles and responsibilities to their fellow senate officers. Based on the designation of the chair of the senate, the secretary or the sergeant-at-arms will assume coordination and control of the senatorial process.

The general student vote is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. Feb. 28 and end at 11:59 p.m. March 2. A town hall is scheduled to take place at 6 p.m. Feb. 22 in Biomedical Research and Health Building Room 1.222 on the Brownsville campus and via Zoom before the next SGA meeting.

Under new business, the SGA voted to appoint Senator Job Martinez to the sergeant-at-arms position and Senator Dariel Arostegui to the chair of the Financial Affairs Standing Committee.

During the President's Report, Rojas said research has been conducted in regard to the College of Fine Arts.

"So, recently we met with the Senators for the College of Fine Arts to see a little bit more about what's going on in the School of Art and Design, particularly in the Brownsville campus," he said. "Right now it's located in ... not in UTRGV. UTRGV basically rents a space from [Texas Southmost College] in the Brownsville campus and we have been getting a lot of student concerns in regards to that. So, we really want to be able to address as much as possible and shed some light into what's going on and speak to higher-level administration just to look more into it."

Rojas also declared the establishment of an executive ad-hoc committee "to prompt the conversation and construction, if need be, for a graduate student association, council, assembly or any of its likeness ..."

"Basically entailing that these conversations will be conducted and the current graduate membership that we have in SGA, they will be a part of this conversation," Rojas said. "My secretary for graduate affairs will be taking lead in this committee. They will be connecting with graduate students and they will be having these conversations, if need be, of creating, assume a form of official representation, like the School of Medicine, ensuring that each student concern gets addressed in a specialized manner."

He said graduate students interested in being a part of this committee may email the SGA at [sga@utrgv.edu](mailto:sga@utrgv.edu).

Rojas then invited Senator Martinez and Aylin Madrigal, former President of the Student Stakeholder Advisory Board (SSAB) and now majority leader for the Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship, to stand alongside him and recognize the adoption of the SSAB into the structure of Collegiate

Advancement Student Advisory Councils (CASAC).

The SGA acknowledged Madrigal, Dean Lance Nail, Associate Dean Linda Mathews, and student organization Presidents and/or leadership now known as delegates for the college:

--Nallely Balderas Gallegos, Association of Latino Professionals for America

--Angelica M. Guerra, Society for Human Resource Management

--Job Martinez, Enactus

--Jenny Milczewski, Masters in Business Administration Association

--Orfie Sepulveda, Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization

--Abelardo Villareal, Hospitality and Tourism Management Student Organization

--Jinna Yoom, Association of Accountants and Financial Professionals in Business

"This will ensure a coalition between the caucus, the College of Business, and SGA," Rojas said, who proceeded to give the floor to Senator Martinez and then Madrigal.

"This is a very historic moment," Martinez said. "I'm just really happy that we have this opportunity to be able to work together and have that strong sense of communication."

Madrigal proceeded to explain that the transition of the SSAB into the CASAC strongly encourages the collaboration between the SGA and an effort to strengthen the representation and communication with faculty, staff and students.

"So, overall, CASAC will function autonomously with its own jurisdiction," Madrigal said. "Together we will serve as the voice of the student population with constant communication with our senator, of course, and together we will ensure the success of the College of Business and Entrepreneurship. With this, we hope to ensure that we are able to breach that gap between administration and students."

She added that she is excited to be a part of this and hopes that other university organizations are able to take upon the CASAC as well.

# WIENERMOBILE VISITS BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS



The Oscar Mayer Wienermobile visited UTRGV last week to inform students about the benefits of becoming the next "Hotdoggers," who travel the country in a PR firm on wheels and serve as brand specialists. There will be an information session at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday via Zoom for students interested in applying. The meeting ID is 841 3392 8528.

Roxanna Miranda/The Rider Photos



Nick Ruybalid, also known as "Nickaroni and Cheese," is a "Hotdogger" for the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile.



Philosophy freshman Seth Sweeney and Texas Southmost College criminal justice freshman Melissa Mancha exit the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile last Wednesday on the Brownsville campus. Students toured the vehicle when company representatives visited the campus last week. Nick "Nickaroni and Cheese" Ruybalid (in the red shirt), a "Hotdogger" for Oscar Mayer, stands outside the public relations vehicle.

Citlalli Torres/The Rider Photo

# Newspapergrams

“Kassandra I. Garcia, you are the best thing that has ever happened to me. I look forward to our future together and seeing our relationship grow stronger and stronger!”

From: Stevan Perez

“Feliz día de San Valentín a mi periodista favorita, Fatima. Te amo.”

From: Juan Gracia

“May your heart be filled with love today. Happy Valentine’s Day!”

From: The Rider



## Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

**Danielle Perez**  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

**Aries-Singles:** Although you may not admit it, you are thinking about the future of your love life. Do not compare yours with your friends’. It is meant to happen whenever the universe thinks you are ready. However, encourage yourself to go out there and socialize with others.

**Couples:** This month, you want to spend more time focusing on your relationship and are dedicated to getting it where it needs to be. Make plans for today and enjoy the time you have together. Feel free to express your feelings toward each other.

**Leo-Singles:** Stop being so controlling of your love life and follow your heart wherever it takes you. Be aware of the feelings you have and start to express them. The awkwardness and tension you have been experiencing will then go away.

**Couples:** Whatever you and your partner do is totally up to you. Do not let others try to steer you away from each other. Break the chains and bring the romance back. Eliminate distractions and focus on the conversations you have.

**Sagittarius-Singles:** February began and your hope for love renewed. If you think trying to find love led you nowhere, think again. Branch out and meet new people. Most connections will not lead to a romantic one, but networking is a good way to see who you are compatible with. Love may come after developing a friendship.

**Couples:** Good luck is on your side as long as you both are kind to each other. Things flow easier when compassion and comprehension are present. Soon a romantic breakthrough will be in motion and love will fill the room.

**Libra-Singles:** If your intuition is pulling you towards someone, there is a good reason. See what they are about and if you still feel the same way, then maybe you should confess. Your heart also deserves love, and it is in the air, Libra!

**Couples:** Communication is a good form of healing in your relationship but it seems as if you are not doing so. Do not hold anything back and talk about your feelings. This will bring the relationship closer and is a chance to explore emotions.

**Gemini-Singles:** Conversations at night seem to be your new love language; check your dating apps and slide into people’s direct messages. Do not feel intimidated or rejected. Hype yourself up first. This month, your flirtation has a chance to turn nothing into something.

**Couples:** Just like Libra, communication is what is needed in your relationship. Release the negative thoughts and start focusing on the positive. Allow your relationship to grow and explore itself on a deeper level. If needed, confide in someone you respect and trust for advice.

**Aquarius-Singles:** This week, you are encouraged to take love more seriously. With your silliness and kind heart it is difficult for others to tell if you like them or not. If there is a connection that makes you feel nervous and excited,

try taking an extra step forward.

**Couples:** There are some conversations you have been waiting to have. Although you may feel it is not the right time, remember that your feelings should not have a timeline. Open up and talk about it. You will feel better afterward.

**Scorpio-Singles:** Step out of your comfort zone and start to make the changes you have been longing for. Rejection may be an issue but never get bummed about it. It is better to know what happened than wonder what could have been.

**Couples:** Loosen up and have fun, Scorpio. Having too much control or wanting control of everything can be toxic in a relationship. Remember, what is meant to be will be. Try to focus on what is in front of you and start growing with your partner. Do not follow the wrong path.

**Pisces-Singles:** It is time to face reality and reveal the truth to yourself. Developing feelings is normal. Do not shy away from it. Use this Valentine’s Day to show love and perhaps express how you feel. No pressure, Pisces. Think about it first.

**Couples:** Being responsible for your actions is something to consider. It is only fair to respect one another and be able to apologize when necessary. Sit down and hear each other out and only then move forward with peace and love.

**Taurus-Singles:** Although your love life may not be going according to plan, it is on the right path. The universe is guiding you to do soul searching in regard to love. It is time to quit messing around with your

emotions and others’.

**Couples:** Goals in your relationship require hard work. Do not think because something was set in motion will be in motion. Work toward your goals every day by saving money for a trip, exercising together, etc., and progress will start to show.

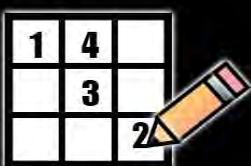
**Virgo-Singles:** Motivation is not what you are lacking to find love, it is communication. Express yourself further when talking to someone and be less flirty as it may come off as a joke. Decide what you are searching for and be clear about it.

**Couples:** Being supportive is what every relationship needs and yours certainly does. Continue to motivate and support each other as it does go a long way. Be sure to also communicate your goals and feelings to determine if you are still on the same page.

**Capricorn-Singles:** Many people have been telling you that your expectations are too high, but now is the chance to prove them wrong. Never lower them for anyone, especially for people who do not believe in you. A new week is starting, which means a new love may be coming around. Do not settle, Capricorn.

**Couples:** The energy of this week will allow plans to roll smoothly, so do not worry. At the end of the day, people with busy schedules will make time for those they love. Have faith and believe in each other. Soon you will get to spend time together.

## Sudoku



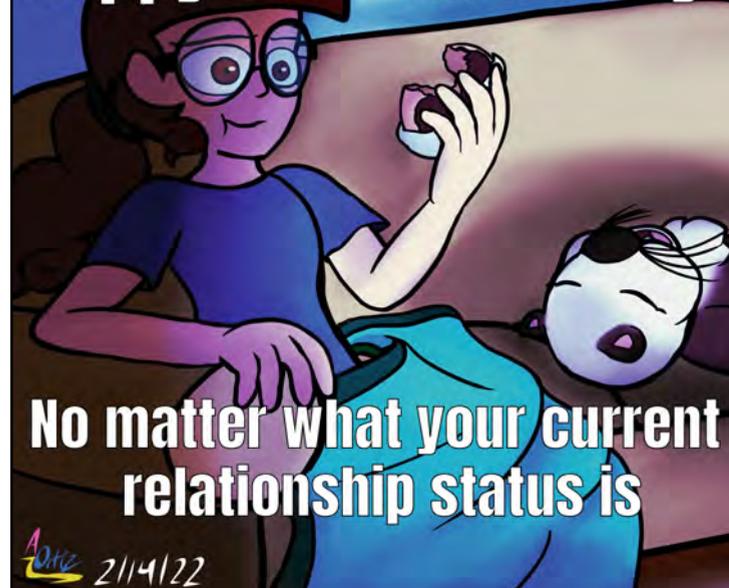
		4				5		
8			3		7		2	9
			5			7	8	
				9			1	4
2	3							7
			8					
5			6	1	8			
7								3

### Last week’s puzzle answer key:

2	6	8	1	9	3	5	7	4
4	3	9	5	6	7	8	2	1
5	1	7	8	2	4	3	6	9
1	7	4	3	8	5	6	9	2
8	5	6	2	4	9	1	3	7
9	2	3	6	7	1	4	5	8
3	4	2	9	5	8	7	1	6
6	8	1	7	3	2	9	4	5
7	9	5	4	1	6	2	8	3

## Cartoon-ish Hijinks by Ariael Ortiz

### Happy Valentine’s Day!



No matter what your current relationship status is

Ariael 2/14/22

### Coach of the Week: Lane Lord



PHOTO COURTESY STAVERNE JOSEPH

UTRGV Women's Basketball head coach Lane Lord is in his fourth season with the program. A native of Waco, Lord spent 11 years as the head coach at Pittsburg State University in Kansas, according to [goutrgv.com](http://goutrgv.com). He is a five-time conference and three-time NCAA Regional Coach of the Year. Lord earned a bachelor's degree in physical education and special education from Tabor College in 1993. The head coach also earned a master's degree in school leadership from Friends University in 2003.

**Q:**What inspired you to become a basketball coach?

**A:** "My high school basketball coach, Ken Holly, inspired me the most. He was from Waco Christian High School in Waco. ... I wanted to be just like him and wanted to influence people just like he did."

**Q:**What is a song that hypes up the basketball team before a game and why?

**A:** "First Day Out' by Tee Grizzley. The song starts off with his life story and then, when the beat drops, that hypes up the team the most. The song goes with the flow of the game."

**Q:**Do you have any plans for this upcoming Valentine's Day? If so, what are they?

**A:** "For the basketball team, we plan to do a secret valentine exchange. As for my wife, it's going to be our 29th anniversary and I plan to take her out to dinner at Olive Garden."

**Q:**What is your favorite way to spend Valentine's Day?

**A:** "It's during the basketball season, so it usually gets busy. It's really just relaxing with family."

**Q:** What is your favorite aspect about coaching the basketball team?

**A:** "My favorite aspect is the relationships you can build throughout your career. I've been a head coach for about 27 years, and looking back over the last 27 years, it's all about building relationships and keeping contact with everybody you coach and, hopefully, making an impact in their lives."

**Q:**Who was the most memorable student you have coached?

**A:** "That's really tough to say. I would have to say Madison Northcutt, since she was with me in my previous school at Pittsburg State [University], and then, she came here in my first year and we made it to the championship game in the WAC [Western Athletic Conference] tournament, and she was our best player. She's one of the kids I'll never forget 'cause she came with me for this experience."

**Q:**Besides basketball, what are your favorite sports and favorite teams?

**A:** "My favorite sport to play besides basketball is golf. I love to play and watch golf. I love NFL football. I love the Kansas City Chiefs and the Dallas Cowboys. I like all sports."

**Q:**Who is your favorite famous athlete?

**A:** "Tom Brady. He played quarterback longer than anybody in the history of football and his approach is amazing."

**Q:**What is a random fact about yourself?

**A:** "One thing that people don't know about me is that I have one of the 52 diseases of muscular dystrophy, called myasthenia gravis. I deal with that on a daily basis. I've had it for 27 years. I'm in remission right now. I'm a big supporter of muscular dystrophy [awareness]."

--Compiled by Ailed Montague

# Focus, control and determination UTRGV Baseball Team aims for championship



Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER

Redshirt sophomore Alex Kelch (center) attempts to get to second base during practice last Wednesday. The Vaqueros start the season at 7 p.m. Friday against The George Washington University at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium for the Al Ogletree Classic.

### Omar E. Zapata THE RIDER

With the UTRGV baseball season starting Friday, the team's goal is not only to get back to the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Tournament but to win it this time.

The Vaqueros start the season with a three-game series against The George Washington University at 7 p.m.

last year, but made a run to reach the championship and finished as runners-up.

UTRGV lost the championship game against Grand Canyon University 5-4.

Matlock said getting so close to winning the tournament championship left a bad taste in the team's mouth, but was necessary.

"To get to where you want to go, you got to get to certain places first," the

Player of the Week awards. The Brooklyn native said it was a blessing to be recognized for his season, in which he finished with nine home runs and 30 RBI, while slashing a .298 batting average, .407 on-base percentage and .522 slugging percentage.

Asked what the biggest thing the team has worked on in the offseason is, Rojas replied, "focus."

"We've come to find out that once the whole team is focused, the way we play is totally different," he said. "Everybody's locked in and we're making the plays."

Rojas said individually, he is working on his defense and becoming a more consistent hitter.

First-year redshirt sophomore infielder Alex Kelch, who transferred from Pima Community College, also told The Rider that focus, especially attention to detail, was something the whole team worked on in the offseason.

"You know, small things and, like, knowing your role," the Tucson native said. "There's people that can do certain things better than other people and just knowing that, like, we got to fit it all together like a puzzle."

Kelch said he has worked on being more positive within the team and stepping up as a leader.

"Just being able to give people that energy that maybe they're lacking on a specific day, or when they have a bad at bat or something, just being able to be a leader and give others energy that they need," he said.

Matlock said having players with prior experience playing at schools like Texas A&M University, Kansas State University or having been with UTRGV will help a lot this season.

Redshirt senior pitcher Kevin Stevens is one of those experienced

See **BASEBALL**, Page 10

## "You don't play the other opponent in the dugout. You play the game. You beat the game and the game will reward you.

--Alex Kelch

### First-year redshirt sophomore infielder

Friday at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium as part of the Al Ogletree Classic. They face the Colonials at 1 p.m. Saturday and noon Sunday.

UTRGV head coach Derek Matlock told The Rider the Vaqueros are excited to finally play another team as they have been practicing and scrimmaging against each other since August.

"I feel really good about our guys," Matlock said. "I can trust that they're really trying to get themselves better. That's the culture part of the program that we have now."

Last season, UTRGV finished with a 32-26 overall record, including a program record 20 conference wins.

The Vaqueros not only notched their first win at the WAC tournament

head coach said. "We know what it's like to play in that tournament now, but we got to get ourselves back there and it ain't easy getting there."

In Matlock's fifth year at the helm, he said a winning culture has been established and the team improved mentally and physically in the offseason.

Graduate outfielder and third-year veteran Freddy Rojas Jr. told The Rider that the team has a lot to prove after reaching the conference championship and the team's priority is to win it this time and make regionals.

Rojas described his season as having many highs and lows, but the highs did get him a WAC Honorable Mention and two Collegiate Baseball National

**Men's Basketball**

**THIS WEEK IN SPORTS**

7 p.m. Wednesday vs. Seattle University (Conference, HOME)

7 p.m. Saturday vs. Sam Houston State University (Conference, Bert Ogden Arena)

**Men's Baseball**

7 p.m. Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday and noon Sunday vs. George Washington University (HOME)

**Men's Tennis**

11 a.m. Friday vs. University of the Incarnate Word (HOME)

# Rain or shine, study time



Sophomore Homer Ramirez prepares for his assignments on Blackboard for cybersecurity Feb. 3 at the fountain located across from the UTRGV Dining Hall on the Edinburg campus.

**Ailed Montague**/THE RIDER

## BASEBALL

*Continued from Page 9*

players and was named Preseason WAC Pitcher of the Year. Last season, Stevens had a 3.17 ERA. He pitched 93.2 innings in 15 starts while striking out 97 and allowing just 78 hits and 20 walks.

The WAC Southwest Division coaches picked UTRGV to finish tied for second in the division with Sam Houston State University and Abilene Christian University finishing first. In the West Division, GCU was voted to finish first.

The Vaqueros start conference play against ACU, who received votes to be nationally ranked, at 7 p.m. March 11 at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium.

“We got to focus on us and we got to focus on what we can control and our players have to play to their ability,” Matlock said. “And if they do that, we don’t care about the schedule.”

By controlling what they can control, Matlock hopes to win the regular season, the WAC tournament and advance to the NCAA Regionals for the

first time since 1986.

Leading up to the WAC Tournament, UTRGV faces other notable teams that received votes to be ranked like Sam Houston State University, South Texas Showdown rival Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and No.1 ranked University of Texas at Austin.

Kelch said to be the best you have to beat the best and the team’s attitude toward Texas is the same as for every team they will face.

“If you play hard, play fundamentally sound, no one can beat you,” he said. “You don’t play the other opponent in the dugout. You play the game. You beat the game and the game will reward you ... [Texas] is ranked No. 1 right now, but they’ll come here and they don’t know what’s gonna come get them.”

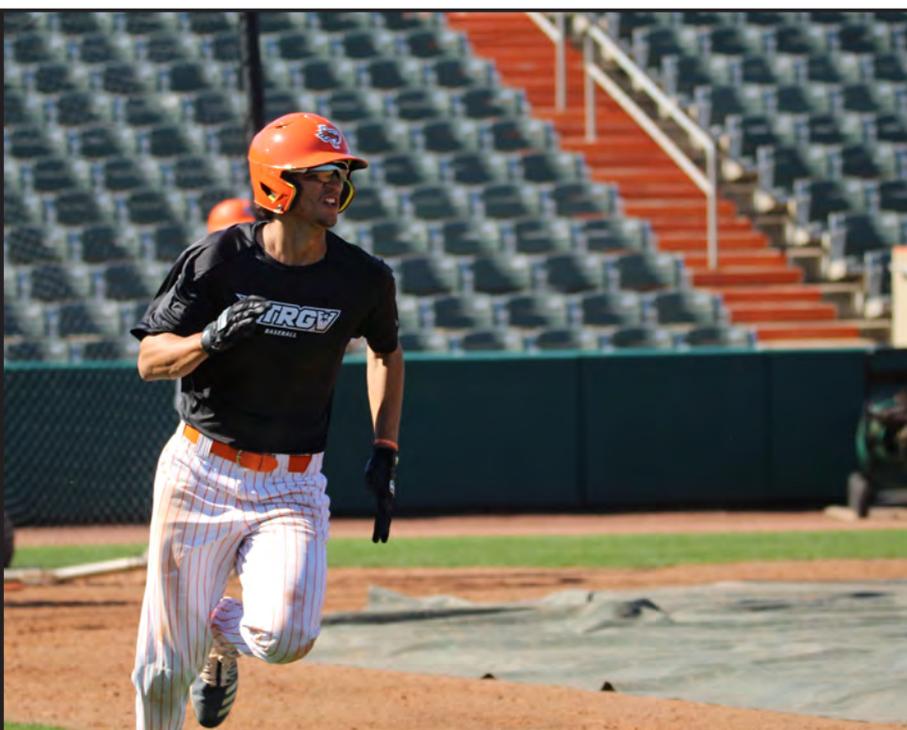
The Vaqueros play the Longhorns first in Austin at 6:30 p.m. April 5 and then at home at 6:30 p.m. April 26.

“Come have a good time at the ballpark,” Kelch said. “We’re gonna play as hard as we can for [the students], for the city and for the school.”



**Omar E. Zapata**/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Junior infielder Diego Ramirez swings to hit the ball during practice last Wednesday at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium.



Redshirt sophomore infielder Alex Kelch runs to first base during practice last Wednesday at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium in Edinburg. It is Kelch’s first season with the Vaqueros after playing for the last three years at Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona.

## VETERANOS

*Continuación de Página 5*

en el Centro de Éxito para Militares y Veteranos, dijo que la misión de SVA es ayudar a los estudiantes veteranos a lo largo de su experiencia escolar, proporcionar recursos y encontrar empleo después de graduarse.

Arriaga dijo que esta será la primera vez que el centro albergará una caminata de 22 minutos.

Richard Clayton, terapeuta clínico en el Centro de Consejería de UTRGV y facilitador de pares para el Centro de Éxito para Militares y Veteranos, dijo que el evento evolucionó a partir del grupo de pares.

“El objetivo principal es, nuevamente, crear conciencia”, dijo Clayton. “Perdemos un promedio de 22 veteranos por día, que es casi el doble del promedio nacional. Así que somos una población de alto riesgo”.

El dijo que uno de los conceptos erróneos sobre el suicidio es que si alguien pregunta o habla sobre el suicidio, pone ese pensamiento en la mente de alguien, y eso no es cierto.

“No va a provocar que nadie vaya y se autolesione, o muera por suicidio o inicie un plan”, dijo Clayton. “En realidad, le da consuelo a la gente cuando empiezas a hablar con alguien que está contemplanando el suicidio.

“Les trae consuelo. Es como, normaliza mis sentimientos. Sí, son reales y hablemos de ellos. Realmente está bien. No es un signo de debilidad. Es una señal de fortaleza decir: ‘Oye, necesito ayuda’. Esa es una señal de fortaleza. Queremos demostrar que estamos aquí. Somos veteranos, ya sabes, no lo somos, no somos otra persona. ... Estamos personalmente comprometidos con esta comunidad”.

El alienta a la comunidad del campus a asistir al evento.

“Queremos que todo el alumnado y la facultad y el personal que están invitados a ser nuestros aliados, que entiendan a los veteranos y que podemos estar activos, pero tenemos luchas, también”, dijo Clayton.

--Traducido por Fatima Gamez Lopez

# Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Joy Diaz visits Edinburg campus

Reprinted from [utrgvrider.com](http://utrgvrider.com)



Former journalist and educator Joy Diaz, a Democratic hopeful in the race for Texas governor, speaks to more than 40 UTRGV campus community members during the first of the Meet the Candidate series, hosted last Tuesday by the UTRGV Civic Engagement Alliance in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater on the Edinburg campus and via livestream in Salón Gardenia on the Brownsville campus. Diaz spoke about her goal to improve education and health care for the benefit of the community.

Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Joy Diaz speaks last Tuesday about wanting to change the state of Texas to improve the quality of life of people through changes and not words. Diaz addressed students in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater on the Edinburg campus and via livestream in Salón Gardenia on the Brownsville campus. She said her experience with COVID-19 helped open her eyes and want to improve the quality of life of the people.



## HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BEING A DJ?

**CALLING ALL UTRGV STUDENTS**  
**CALLING ALL UTRGV STUDENTS**  
**CALLING ALL UTRGV STUDENTS**  
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YOU CAN HAVE YOUR OWN DJ SHOW  
[SUBMIT HERE](#)



ELECT JUDGE  
**NORMA**  
RAMIREZ FOR COUNTY JUDGE 2022



## Hidalgo County is my priority.

As a child who grew up without a mother by age 3, Norma picked cotton to survive. Judge Norma Ramirez, a true Democrat, served 4 years as the Hidalgo County Democratic Party Chairwoman, ensuring that our County stayed blue and all our candidates re-elected.

Founder and owner of a multimillion dollar company, Norma currently serves as municipal Judge for the city of Granjeno and Board member for Access Esperanza, helping ensure that Hidalgo county women have access to affordable healthcare.

Political advertisement paid for by Judge Norma for County Judge Campaign

[JUDGENORMA.COM](http://JUDGENORMA.COM)

A STRONG DEMOCRAT  
★ — for — ★  
**HIDALGO  
COUNTY**

- **LOWER** property taxes
- **SOLVE** our countywide flooding problems
- **CREATE** good paying jobs that support working families
- **INCREASE** access to affordable healthcare
- **ADVOCATE** for Democratic values across Hidalgo County
- **BUILD** more public housing and infrastructure for a growing community
- **INCREASE** the number of women in County jobs and contracts



VOTE EARLY FEBRUARY 14 - 25 | ELECTION DAY MARCH 1, 2022