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'Team is everything'
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\$5M project to address drainage issues

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

A new underground system aimed at improving storm drainage on the Edinburg campus is in the works along with other amenities such as new landscaping, barbecue pavilions and a stage.

There is an existing storm sewer line running across the Quad, according to Daniel

Sharp, a landscape architect with Ten Eyck Landscape Architects, the firm in charge of the project.

"When you have a large storm event, that storm drain backs up so water is coming up out of the drain with nowhere to go except the Quad," said Sharp, of the Austin-based firm. "So these cisterns are basically becoming the first best place for that water to go."

Jarrod Neck, project manager with Enriquez Construction, said a hole measuring 90 by 80 feet and 7 feet deep was dug for the new drainage system.

"Well, right now the biggest problem was the existing groundwater," Neck said. "So, that requires us pumping the water out of the area that we're digging and then letting it dry enough to where we

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Diana Alvarez-Tovar/THE RIDER

26 COVID-19 positive cases on campus

City of Edinburg testing site open until March 7

Natalie Lapsley
THE RIDER

UTRGV reported 26 new COVID-19 cases between Feb. 11 and 17, 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 26 were 11 students, 10 staff and five 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 its website.

Arney said four of the 11 students were in on-campus isolation housing the week of Feb. 11 to 17.

In an email sent Feb. 21, the university announced both UT Health RGV Student

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READY. SET. VOTE.

SGA Constitutional Amendments voting begins today



Natalie Lapsley/THE RIDER

Student Government Association President José Pablo Rojas opens the town hall meeting last Tuesday in the Biomedical Research Health Professions Building on the Brownsville campus. Members of the SGA presented changes to the university constitution. The next town hall and SGA meeting will take place at 6 p.m. March 8 in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus and online via Zoom.

Verilu Infante
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Beginning at 8 a.m. today until Wednesday 11:59 p.m., the student body can vote on

the proposed amendments to the Student Government Association Constitution.

Students should have received a ballot via their UTRGV email or may vote on

campus between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Edinburg Student Union Commons and the Brownsville Student Union veranda.

Last Tuesday, the Student

Government Association hosted a town hall to inform the student body about the proposed amendments to its constitution.

The speakers at the town hall were SGA President José Pablo Rojas and Vice President for Brownsville Samantha Lara, who spoke about the amendments that the SGA has identified to go through the Dean of Students level; and Chief Justice Mariana Estevan and Senator Darriel Arostegui, chair of the Financial Affairs Standing Committee, who discussed the amendments that will go before the student body for a vote.

Students will vote on the following changes:

--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.

--Of the four academic senators and four graduate senators, none will need to

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COVID-19 CASES UPDATE

UTRGV From Feb. 11 - 17	5 Faculty	11 Students	10 Staff
Cameron County From Feb. 17 - 23	872 Additional cases	72,609 Total	
Hidalgo County From Feb. 18 - 24	2,176 Additional cases	164,423 Total	

Southmost Nature Trail contract approved

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

The Brownsville City Commission voted last Tuesday to award a contract to RM Walsdorf Inc. for the construction of the Southmost Nature Trail.

Approval of the \$572,168.85 project allows the trail to enter its second phase, spanning from Manzano Street to La Posada Drive.

The first phase of the

eventual 7-mile trail was opened in May 2017 and extends 1.75 miles, connecting to Porter High School and Del Castillo Elementary, the City of Brownsville website states. Trail amenities include a bike repair station. Phase one starts on Vera Avenue and ends just past its intersection with Austin Road.

Frank Gudino, bicycle and pedestrian coordinator for the Multimodal Transportation

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Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

THE RIDER

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Verilu Infante

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Danielle Perez

COPY EDITORS/ONLINE EDITORS

Alejandra Yañez
Arisbeth Rodriguez
Brigitte Ortiz
Natalie Lapsley

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST

Ariael Ortiz

SPORTS REPORTERS

Omar E. Zapata

SPANISH EDITOR

Fatima Gamez Lopez

REPORTERS

Brigitte Ortiz
Natalie Lapsley

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Roxanna Miranda
Citlalli Torres
Diana Alvarez-Tovar

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANT

Itzel Rivera

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Alexis Ramos

FACULTY ADVISER

Michell Escajeda

STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR

Azenett Cornejo

STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM ADVISER

Jesus Sanchez

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Ana Sanchez
Maggie Castillo

CONTACT:

EDINBURG CAMPUS

1201 West University Dr.

ELABS 170

Phone: (956) 665-2541

Fax: (956) 665-7122

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS

1 West University Blvd.

Student Union 2.16

Phone: (956) 882-5143

Fax: (956) 882-5176

Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today National Pokémon Day

The Student Union will celebrate National Pokémon Day

from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus and at the same time in the Student Union's La Sala on the Brownsville campus. Students can play Pokémon trivia, win prizes and trade cards with others.

Undergraduate Research

The Office of **Engaged Scholarship and Learning** invites **freshman students to submit a scholarly proposal** for Scholarly Undergraduate Based Interdisciplinary Research (SUBIR). SUBIR engages freshman students in undergraduate research, creative works and community engagement initiatives by providing mentor-mentee matching, professional development seminars and proposal writing guidance. The application period opens today and ends March

31. Students can submit applications online at bit.ly/SUBIR-Submit.

BSM Henna Tattoos

The **Baptist Student Ministry** will give free **henna tattoos** from 3 to 4:15 p.m. at the library on the Edinburg campus. Students can get a henna tattoo and learn about its history.

Tuesday

Boots to the Ballot

The **Civic Engagement Alliance** will host **Boots to the Ballot** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Student Union Patio on the Edinburg campus and at the same time on the Student Union veranda on the Brownsville campus to promote voting in the Texas primary election. There will be free food, games and activities.

K.I.S.S. Food Fundraiser

The **Korean International Student Society** will host a ramen and Asian snacks **fundraiser** from noon to 2:30 p.m. in the University Library Courtyard on the Edinburg campus.

Wednesday

Lana Condor Speech Set

The **Distinguished Speaker Series**

will host **Lana Condor**, advocate and actress, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. Register for the event through V Link.

Thursday

K.I.S.S. Just Dance

The **Korean International Student Society** will host a game of **Just Dance** from 6 to 8 p.m. in Education Complex Room 2.102 on the Edinburg campus. Students are invited to come play and learn more about K.I.S.S.

CEA General Meeting

The **Civic Engagement Alliance** will conduct a **general meeting** from 1 to 2 p.m. via Zoom. Students are invited to come and learn more about the CEA. Register for the event through V Link.

Friday

SFAC Meeting

The **Student Fee Advisory Committee** will meet online to review **Fiscal Year 2023 budget proposals** from 1 to 4:30 p.m. 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. 16 and 22.

Feb. 16

10:05 a.m.: A female student reported being sexually assaulted in 2017 by two identified former male students on campus. The case is under investigation.

12:35 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the Science Complex on the Edinburg campus in reference to a student reporting feeling ill due to an insect bite. Emergency medical services arrived and transported the student to the Rio Grande Regional 24 Hour Emergency Care for further evaluation.

12:57 p.m.: A student living in Heritage Hall on the Edinburg campus reported that she heard someone knock on her door on two separate occasions during the early morning hours. No other incidents have been reported and extra patrol has been conducted in the area.

Feb. 17

8:43 a.m.: A staff member at the UT Health RGV Multispecialty Clinic on the Edinburg campus reported that there was a scratch on the rear passenger door of her vehicle. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

10:57 a.m.: A staff member at the Science building on the Edinburg campus turned in a makeup bag that was near a student in a restroom inside the building. While inventorying the items inside the bag, an officer

discovered narcotics. The narcotics were tested and submitted for destruction.

4:04 p.m.: A public safety officer was dispatched to the Edinburg Liberal Arts Building South in reference to a female student who had stepped on a nail. The student was subsequently transported to South Texas Health System for further evaluation.

4:35 p.m.: An officer responded to Lot E-16 on the Edinburg campus in reference to a non-affiliated man who made contact with a student. An investigation revealed that there was a protective order prohibiting the man from communicating with the woman. The man had left the area before the officer's arrival. The case is under investigation.

Feb. 18

1:16 a.m.: A staff member reported an inappropriate cartoon was drawn on an eraser board in one of the classrooms of the Interdisciplinary Building on the Edinburg campus. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

Feb. 20

1:57 p.m.: The Edinburg Fire Department and a UTRGV officer responded to the Performing Arts Complex in reference to an active fire alarm. A search of the building determined that the alarm had been activated due to smoke machines being utilized on the stage during a performance. The building was deemed safe for reentry.

Feb. 21

9:32 a.m.: A student reported that on

Feb. 15, her vehicle sustained minor damage after it was struck while parked in Lot E-16 on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

10:19 a.m.: A faculty member in the Science building on the Edinburg campus reported an unknown individual had turned off a freezer that kept chemicals and species samples. The faculty member reported the samples spoiled due to the freezer being turned off. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

4:45 p.m.: UTRGV Police detectives are investigating a terroristic threat on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

6:38 p.m.: An officer identified the suspect from a previous report of a violation of protective order on the roadway. The officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the Edinburg campus but the suspect fled in the vehicle. The case is under investigation.

10:39 p.m.: A student residing in the Heritage Hall dormitory on the Edinburg campus reported several items had been stolen from inside her dorm room. A Timely Warning Notification was generated. The case is under investigation.

Feb. 22

9:52 a.m.: An officer responded to the Liberal Arts South building in Edinburg, in reference to a student suffering from a seizure. Emergency Medical Services arrived at the location and transported the student to Edinburg Regional Hospital for further evaluation.

--Compiled by Alejandra Yañez

COVID

Continued from Page 1

Health clinics will continue to provide COVID-19 tests, vaccines and boosters to active UTRGV students.

COVID-19 services will be available from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at both Student Health clinics, located in Cortez Hall on the Brownsville campus and at 613 N. Sugar Road in Edinburg.

Services will also be available from 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday at both locations.

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

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

Hidalgo County reported 2,176 cases between Feb. 18 and 24, raising its total to 164,423, according to its website. The county reported no cases Feb. 21, as offices closed in observance

of President's Day.

The county reported 42 deaths between Feb. 18 and 24, raising its death toll to 3,783.

The Edinburg Municipal Park COVID-19 testing site, located at 714 S. Raul Longoria Road will remain open through next Monday, according to Hidalgo County officials.

The federal partnership for the site ended Feb. 21, but testing will continue in a new partnership with the state beginning last Tuesday and will continue through March 7.

The site will continue to provide free testing services to all residents of the Rio Grande Valley from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day. There is no age limit for who may receive a test. Children must be accompanied by a parent.

Individuals may register for a test onsite, but officials encourage pre-registration online.

The site will now administer saliva-based PCR tests. Individuals must not eat, drink or use mouthwash or

tobacco within 30 minutes of testing.

To pre-register, visit docshealthtesting.com.

Cameron County reported 872 cases between Feb. 17 and 23, raising its total to 72,609 cases, according to its website. The county reported no cases Feb. 21, as offices closed in observance of President's Day.

The county reported 36 deaths between Feb. 17 and 23, raising the county's death toll to 2,162.

As of last Thursday, 84.16% of Cameron County residents age 5 and older were fully vaccinated, and 99.99% were partially vaccinated, according to the county's website. For updates about county vaccination rates, visit dshs.texas.gov.

The Rider reached out to Bernardino Palacios, Texas Emergency Medical Task Force 11 District Coordinator, to discuss county hospitalization rates. As of press time, Friday, Palacios had not returned any messages.

Corrections/ Correcciones

In the Feb. 21 issue of The Rider, Texas gubernatorial candidate Delilah Barrios was incorrectly identified as a member of the Republican Party. Barrios is a member of the Green Party.

En la publicación del 21 de febrero del Rider, la candidata a gobernadora de Texas, Delilah Barrios, fue identificada incorrectamente como miembro del Partido Republicano. Barrios es miembro del Partido Verde.

In the Feb. 21 issue of The Rider, it was incorrectly reported that the University of Texas System Board of Regents would meet last Tuesday and Wednesday and consider approval of an increase in the UTRGV Intercollegiate Athletics Fee. The board met last Wednesday and Thursday but did not discuss the proposed increase.

Locker installments in Edinburg food pantry



Citlalli Torres/THE RIDER

The Student Food Pantry in the University Center on the Edinburg campus has added new lockers for students to have easier access to their orders and to minimize face-to-face contact with staff members. The screen next to the Vaquero mascot gives students directions on what to do and which locker their food was placed in.

Brigitte Ortiz THE RIDER

A grant from H-E-B was awarded to the Student Food Pantry for the installment of lockers on the Edinburg campus for students who are not available during the pantry's distribution days. The 17 lockers are available

only on the Edinburg campus, as it reaches a wider variety of students, according to Maria Barrera, a Student Food Pantry attendant.

"It was about 25 a week as opposed to Brownsville, where it's maybe like 10 to 15 per week," Barrera said, referring to the number of

students who use the service.

Eric Martinez, Student Food Pantry manager, said the lockers will, hopefully, be added in Brownsville, depending on how the locker system works in Edinburg.

"It'd be really awesome to have it on both campuses," Martinez said. "But, as of right

SGA Continued from Page 1

represent a different location. --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.

--Members of the judicial branch will no longer have location-based requirements. This means there will no longer be a location requirement for eligibility.

--The Supreme Court will consist of four associate justices and a chief justice. The chief justice position must be filled by a student. This change would remove the requirement for the associate justices to represent a different location and the two faculty/staff from the associate justice branch.

--Should UTRGV establish a campus where the student population requires representation based upon the recommendation of the dean of students, or approval of a petition of the students

from that location, the SGA Advisory Council will prompt the senate chair to create two senator-at-large positions followed by their location to represent that student population.

--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 student supreme court will have jurisdiction over the removal and impeachment processes unless otherwise noted.

--The dean of students will have the power to amend or appeal any provision in the constitution or bylaws by the SGA but will not be effective until approved by the UTRGV president and the SGA president.

In an interview with The Rider after the meeting, Rojas said the decision to change the membership eligibility to good academic standing rather than just lowering the GPA requirement was to make the eligibility more fluid

to allow retention of student representation.

"In the past, it used to be even more detailed," Rojas said. "Students had to remain 67%. They had to complete 67% of their courses. So, you could be taking 20 credit hours and you drop all your courses down to 12 credit hours, you're still full-time. You have a good GPA, but you will be removed from office just because it falls below 67%."

In regard to the removal of the location-based requirement in some amendments, Rojas said that he understands why some students may be worried but explained that the clause was removed for his term because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and had it not been, the senate's membership would have been reduced by more than half.

"We want to make sure we're representing all of UTRGV and to better focus on the campuses," he said. "We're leaving the senators at large to focus on the issues on those campuses and not focus on the academic part. If it's

now, it's only here in Edinburg and we have around 17 lockers that were installed. But, the way the system works is that ... not only 17 people can come per week and use the locker. It's like once your order's [picked up] ... the lockers are able to be used again and it's like a whole cycle."

Douglas Stoves, associate dean for Students Rights and Responsibilities, said another reason why the lockers make sense is because of the stigma that can be attached to accessing the food pantry.

"[Students] may think that people think less of them if they're getting meals from the food pantry or things of that sort," Stoves said.

He said during the pandemic, one of the things that the pantry found is that students prefer curbside delivery.

"But then, we had the issue where students couldn't always make it when we were open and doing the distribution so as we started thinking about, you know, how do we reduce this stigma, allow students to pick up their foodstuffs and to do so in an environment that's more comfortable," Stoves said. "That's how we came up with the idea of installing these lockers and, so, that was really the impetus behind it."

Food is distributed by pantry employees on Tuesdays

and Fridays.

Barrera said their inventory does change every now and then, so the pantry updates the order form online and students can see what is new and what is available to order every week.

Before submitting an order form, students must fill out a Food Pantry Student Enrollment form on the UTRGV website.

The lockers are not refrigerated so no perishable items can be left in them. Once their order is ready, they will receive an email with a combination to open the locker.

Martinez said with the campus opening up again, the pantry might hold clothes drives as was done in the past.

"Students would donate their clothing, like jackets or some shirts or coats that they might have, things that they don't necessarily need anymore," he said. "And, well, since the pandemic started, like, we haven't been able to, like, accept those for sanitary purposes but we're in the talks of like, maybe starting that again sometime soon. We have all the equipment here. ... But, as of right now, it's just trying to see how the locker system goes."

Students interested in donating to or volunteering at the pantry may visit utrgv.edu/foodpantry.

something in academia, it can be delegated to a senator for an academic college."

Rojas also said the requirement affects the retention of the SGA and the removal will provide a better structure for the student leadership.

Asked how he can ensure equal representation for the student body if this requirement is removed, Rojas replied that students should get involved in the senate meetings.

"As it currently stands, our senate meetings are in Brownsville and they are also in Edinburg," he said. "And also we have the availability for Zoom capabilities. So there will always be a forum for them to speak on."

In regard to representation, Rojas said it will not affect the student body at all.

"If it's for a particular college, the location is not going to affect you because those four people are supposed to be advocating for all university campuses because they're academic senators," he said. "I know it's very scary in a sense, for lack

of a better word. But UTRGV is growing.

"To a certain point, it's no longer going to be Brownsville and Edinburg. It's going to be Weslaco, even further. It's going to be other parts in the Rio Grande Valley. So, to ensure better representation, at this point, we have to open up the eligibility and allow more students in. Because this keeps students out from being representatives of the student body."

In other business, the SGA proposed a change in the First Year Intern Program guidelines. Instead of students maintaining a 2.5 GPA throughout the school year to qualify, the change would require students to be in good academic standing with the university and enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours per semester.

The change will be referred to the Internal Affairs Committee for review and then sent back to the senate for a vote.

The next SGA meeting will take place at 6 p.m. March 8, in the University Ballroom on Edinburg campus.

PROJECT Continued from Page 1

have stable ground."

The Quad Drainage Project will cost about \$5 million and was made possible through surplus funding from the Interdisciplinary Engineering & Academic Building budget.

"When we added the new engineering building ... we modified the ground in such a way that it's pushing water towards the quad now," said Juan Carlos Ortiz, university architect. "So, we need to

address that because, before, when the building wasn't there, water would flow around to where the building actually sits now. So there is an immediate need to address the drainage on top of the overall desire to really improve the campus drainage as a whole."

The project is anticipated to be completed by December.

Ortiz said the tank will have to be maintained.

"There's a series of sediment basins inside the bottom

of the tank that have to get vacuumed out every so often," he said. "We're trying to figure out what the frequency of that is. We don't know that yet and we probably won't know until we start using it and see how much silt and ... solid material would be in the groundwater itself that would filter out to the bottom of the tank."

"And, you know, we got to maintain it in that respect to keep the capacities at where they are. But, other than that, there's really no operational

maintenance. It's just a big tank that fills up with water and empties out of the system over time."

The area will also provide a central circular campus activity lawn with rejuvenated landscaping and hardscape with new pedestrian-level lighting.

Sharp said the area can become a destination for concerts and other events.

"Then, on the north side of the circular lawn, there are existing live oak trees

... and then building a deck underneath those [adds] another gathering space for students to go and sit in the shade," he said. "The goal is to make sure that all the places that we're not doing the stormwater management [in] could also provide additional amenities to the students and faculty at campus."

Ortiz said it is a nice development that will bring a lot of activities and improve students' experience on campus.



ENDANGERED SEA ANIMALS

On Feb. 22, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "Which sea animal do you believe is the most endangered by plastic?" The results are shown below.



Sea turtles 94%

Whales 6%



71% Sea turtles

14% Whales

14% Seals



Sea turtles 78%

Whales 16%

Seals 7%

Follow us on social media to participate @utrgvrider



2/28/22



Superstar sea turtles

What it takes to save sea turtles



Citlalli Torres
THE RIDER

As a volunteer at Sea Turtle Inc. on South Padre Island, I get to experience firsthand how much help the staff needs and how little help they receive.

I have been a volunteer since October 2020 and have the pleasure of saying I have helped with the feeding of our resident Allison, our "one-flipped" sea turtle, as well as a few patients we have had throughout my time as a volunteer.

I have seen just how much work goes into trying to keep patients in severe conditions alive to see the ocean again one day.

Take last February, for example, when Texas "froze," the water temperature dangerously dropped, causing what is known as a "cold stun event." This is when sea turtles become lethargic and literally freeze, as they are cold-blooded animals and cannot regulate their body temperature the way we can.

South Texas had never seen an event of that magnitude, and according to Sea Turtle Inc., nowhere else in the world had this been experienced either.

With help from literally everywhere, 5,559 sea turtles were taken to the hospital in less than a week. Of these, 2,252 were successfully rehabilitated and released, while 3,307 did not survive.

As the water temperature

drops, we closely monitor and patrol the beaches in case we find any stranded turtles. This year, we have not had more than 150 cold-stunned turtles, and that is wonderful news, especially with the drastic population decline we had last year.

During that tough week in February 2021, power was lost for several days and our residents were also in danger of getting cold stunned, so we had to take them out of their tanks to prevent them from freezing.

SpaceX was kind enough to donate a generator once they heard of our dilemma and with it, we were able to power back most of the

home and we cannot wait to see them back in the wild, right where they belong.

In order to get deemed releasable, a sea turtle must be able to swim and dive perfectly well, even if they are missing a flipper or two. They must also be able to come up for a breath of air and eat on their own. If they cannot do those things, it becomes an issue to release them as their lives could be in danger once they go back to sea.

It's always a bittersweet moment when we release them, because we grow to care for them all, but we know that they do not belong in captivity if they are healthy.

I think it is best when we finally release a turtle that has been with us for a long time, such as "Wolverine." That little guy was with us from Jan. 18 to Sept. 30, 2021, because

he had been struck by a boat propeller and had five gashes on his shell. Our team worked hard to give him the proper care and now he is back in the ocean.

As the public, we must pick up after each other. This means don't litter and try to minimize your use of plastic. All of that trash eventually gets back into our oceans and hurts our wildlife.

If you find a stranded or dead turtle, stay and keep everyone away and call 243-4361.

If you are interested in volunteering at Sea Turtle Inc., you can visit the webpage, seaturtleinc.org, and fill out an application in order to attend virtual or in-person training.

"All of that trash eventually gets back into our oceans and hurts our wildlife."

heaters in our resident tanks.

Finally, after that week was over and temperatures were back to normal, and after releasing most of the cold-stunned turtles, a few had to stay behind due to other health conditions. However, with the help of our wonderful animal care team, they were able to release those few that had to stay behind.

People say you can only bond with dogs or cats, even with farm animals, but I have bonded with both our residents and patients.

While it is sad to see them in our clinic, we know that in a few days, weeks, months and, in certain cases, up to a year or more, if they pass all their tests, they will go back

Visit us online at utrgvrider.com



Se instalan casilleros en banco de alimentos en Edinburg



Citlalli Torres/FOTO RIDER

El Banco de Alimentos Estudiantil en el Centro Universitario del campus de Edinburg ha incorporado casilleros para que los estudiantes tengan un acceso fácil para las órdenes que solicitan y disminuir el contacto con los miembros del personal. La pantalla a la izquierda le da instrucciones a los estudiantes en que hacer y en cual casillero sus alimentos fueron depositados.

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

Un subsidio de H-E-B le fue otorgado al Banco de Alimentos Estudiantil para la instalación de casilleros en el campus de Edinburg para los estudiantes que no tienen disponibilidad en los días de distribución.

Los 17 casilleros están disponibles solamente en el campus de Edinburg, ya que tiene una gran variedad

de estudiantes, según Maria Barrera, asistente del Banco de Alimentos de UTRGV.

“Son alrededor de 25 a la semana en comparación de Brownsville donde son de 10 a 15 a la semana”, dijo Barrera, refiriéndose al número de estudiantes que utilizan el servicio.

Eric Martinez, el director del banco de alimentos estudiantil, dijo que los casilleros, posiblemente sean instalados en Brownsville,

dependiendo de cómo el sistema de casilleros funcione en Edinburg.

“Sería genial tenerlo en los dos campus”, dijo Martinez.

“Pero por el momento, es solamente aquí en Edinburg, instalamos alrededor de 17 casilleros. Pero de la manera en la que el sistema funciona es que no solamente pueden venir 17 personas a la semana y utilizar el casillero sino que cada vez que la orden haya sido recibida por el estudiante,

el casillero está disponible para ser utilizado de nuevo, es un ciclo completo”.

Douglas Stoves, decano adjunto de *Students Rights and Responsibilities*, dijo otra razón por la cual los casilleros tienen sentido es por el estigma que atribuye al acceso al banco de alimentos.

“[Los estudiantes] pueden pensar que los demás piensan menos de ellos si es que están recibiendo sus alimentos de un banco o algo parecido”, dijo Stoves.

Dijo que durante la pandemia, algo que notaron en el banco de alimentos es que los estudiantes prefieren el *curbside delivery*.

“Pero luego tuvimos el problema donde los estudiantes no siempre podían llegar a tiempo cuando estábamos abiertos y distribuyendo alimentos, así empezamos a platicar de cómo poder reducir el estigma, que los estudiantes puedan recibir su despensa y hacerlo en un ambiente donde estén más a gusto”, dijo Stoves. “Así es como tuvimos la idea de instalar estos casilleros, esa fue la motivación detrás de la idea”.

Los alimentos son distribuidos por los empleados del banco de alimentos los martes y viernes.

Barrera dijo que el inventario cambia de vez en cuando, así que el banco actualiza la solicitud en línea

y así los estudiantes pueden ver los productos nuevos y que están disponibles cada semana.

Antes de enviar una solicitud de pedido, los estudiantes deben llenar una forma de registro para el banco de alimentos en el sitio web de UTRGV.

Los casilleros no están refrigerados así que los alimentos perecederos no pueden dejarse en el casillero. Una vez que la orden esté lista, los estudiantes recibirán un correo electrónico con la combinación para abrir el casillero.

Martinez dijo que con el campus abriendo sus puertas de nuevo, el banco de alimentos podrá organizar una colecta de ropa como lo ha hecho en el pasado.

“Los estudiantes podrán donar su ropa, como chaquetas, camisas o abrigos que puedan tener y que no utilicen”, dijo. “Y, bueno, desde que empezó la pandemia no podemos aceptarla por motivos de higiene, pero ya estamos en pláticas para empezar a hacerlo pronto. Tenemos aquí todo el equipo ... pero por ahora estamos tratando de ver que tan bien funciona el sistema de casilleros”.

Los estudiantes interesados en donar al o ser voluntarios para el banco de alimentos pueden visitar utrgv.edu/foodpantry.

--Traducido por Itzel Rivera

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CHARREADA

2022



Imran Noor, a molecular biology graduate student, eats five jalapeños to win a water bottle at Charreada. Director of University Recreation Kimberly Rottet monitors Noor in case he feels ill and decides to back out of the game.

Citlalli Torres/THE RIDER PHOTOS



UTRGV's Folklorico dance team members (from left), Maria Garcia, a dance junior; with dance partner Raul Passamentt, a dance senior; and Leila Banda, a dance senior; with dance partner Yovan Zamora, a dance senior, perform during Charreada. They finish with the usual dance position in which the couples appear to be kissing.



UTRGV Folklorico dance team members (from top), Leila Banda, a dance senior; Yovan Zamora, a dance senior; Raul Passamentt, a dance senior; and Maria Garcia, a dance junior, perform at the Charreada, hosted Wednesday on the Brownsville campus in honor of Charro Days. The holiday celebrates the peace and friendship between Brownsville and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico.



Members of the UTRGV campus community walk and pet alpacas during Charreada, hosted Wednesday on the Brownsville campus. The attraction is part of the Charro Days Fiesta, which celebrates the peace and union between Brownsville and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico.



Students wait to use an inflatable maze in which participants race as they try to dodge the rotating blue and red poles at Charreada.

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Aries-You are one step closer to your goal. All the hard work is finally paying off and soon you will reach nirvana. Keep manifesting your reality and stay positive. However, be careful what you wish for and who you share your secrets with. They may try to sabotage you. Stay woke, Aries.

Leo-This is your lucky week, Leo! Keep an open eye for the people you meet. They could be the one of your dreams. Instead of going the same direction to work or school, try a different route. Maybe you'll surprise yourself with something even better.

Sagittarius-Stress is starting to overwhelm you with all the work you have been doing recently. As independent as your zodiac sign is known for, it is OK to not be. Ask for help whenever you need it, Sagittarius. Try to make your life easier.

Libra-Establishing a solid foundation is essential when trying to create a better lifestyle. Try developing healthier habits by spending time with family or improving your relationship with your partner. These small gestures will help get your life moving again.

Gemini-Although your energy hasn't been in the best shape, don't think this is a permanent situation. Focus on yourself and try to connect with people who bring you peace. These bonds are in your life for a reason; take advantage of them.

Aquarius-Money is on its way to repay you for all your hard work. Don't tell anyone this news until you finally have received it. Use it on a good day for yourself and

loved ones around you. Don't be greedy, Aquarius.

Scorpio-Now is the time to share your ideas with others. Build upon your plans and start growing something magical. There is a lot of potential in you and the universe is trying to push you to make it happen. Think about your future wisely.

Pisces- Inspiration is going to strike you randomly. Take this as a sign to be yourself again. It's time to get out of the shadows, Pisces. Something important will come out of this and if you don't take the train you'll miss it.

Cancer-A relationship in your life will start to improve. When it happens, don't let it be temporary and lead back to old habits. Communicate about the situation and try to implement it forever. Make sure you both are on the same page before moving forward.

Taurus-Let go of the fear of meeting new people and exploring new places. Changing your perspective can lead you to something more powerful. These new locations and individuals could offer more to you than expected. Remember, don't judge a book by its cover.

Virgo-Many romantic opportunities are starting to open up and make their way toward you. This energy will make you fall head over heels for someone if you haven't already. Enjoy the adventure for as long as you can and express your love.

Capricorn-Be ready to share your feelings and for love to start blooming. This week, you will find yourself thinking about someone more than you thought you would. Instead of creating tension by holding it within, reach out and let them know how you feel.

Nights in nature: free outdoor concerts at Quinta Mazatlán



PHOTO COURTESY QUINTA MAZATLÁN

Members of the Valley String Quartet are Geoffrey Wong (from left), concertmaster of the Valley Symphony Orchestra; Lindsey Gamble, assistant professor of music-upper string; Young Sin Choi, violin and viola instructor; and Patrick Hopkins, music-lower string instructor.

Fatima Gamez Lopez SPANISH EDITOR

UTRGV and Quinta Mazatlán are partnering to bring "Music in the Park," a series of free outdoor concerts, to the Rio Grande Valley community with a \$50,000 grant that UTRGV received.

Krista Jobson, an associate professor of flute, said UTRGV received the grant from the Rea Charitable Trust, which is based in the western Texas city of Midland.

Quinta Mazatlán to bring a series of outdoor concerts so guests can enjoy a night off with music and also explore the beautiful nature trails, Jobson said.

"The musicians are a wide variety of artists," she said. "Some of them are local, and some come from further away."

Quinta Mazatlán is a World Birding Center under the stewardship of the City of McAllen. The urban sanctuary offers public and

"The concertmaster of the Valley Symphony Orchestra was playing principal violin," she said. "All the other members of the ensemble are musicians with the Valley Symphony Orchestra. So, they're local from right here around the McAllen area."

Jobson said the first concert of the "Music in the Park" series was a success.

"We had our first concert last Thursday, and it's just been so wonderful to see it come to life," she said. "We did have a really nice turnout for the first concert. We had a food vendor that came out [and] we are going to have more food vendors in all of the upcoming events."

Jobson said the next concert will be from 6 to 7 p.m. March 10, when Mariachi Margaritas, an all-female group based in Brownsville, will perform.

The third concert, titled "Jazz/Classical Flute Crossover and Guitar," will be from 6 to 7 p.m. March 31.

"It's going to feature soloists [UTRGV Guitar Ensemble Director] Hector Rodriguez on guitar, and myself ... on flute," Jobson said. "We will also feature our string bass."

See **CONCERTS**, Page 11

"We have a very special opportunity here because we are still in these COVID times."

--Linette Castillo

Quinta Mazatlán environmental education specialist

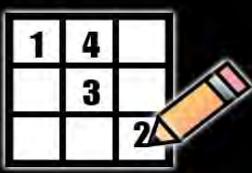
"That organization was created in 2009 and its primary purpose is the promotion of the arts," Jobson said. "Specifically, this grant for UTRGV was created with the intention of creating an outdoor music series for the community and, of course, the series is called 'Music in the Park.'"

UTRGV has partnered with

private group tours on topics including birding, history and native landscaping, and hosts business meetings and celebrations, according to its website.

Jobson said the concert series kicked off Feb. 17, when the Valley String Quartet, a group of various local musicians, performed.

Sudoku



Last week's puzzle answer key:

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

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

Cartoon-ish Hijinks by Ariael Ortiz



**Athlete of the Week:
Noe Mendoza Jr.**



Noe Mendoza Jr.

Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER

Communication graduate student Noe Mendoza Jr. of Weslaco paved the way for college boxers in Texas by launching the UTRGV Boxing Club last year and the Texas A&M Boxing Club during his undergraduate career.

Mendoza graduated from Texas A&M College Station in 2016 with a degree in philosophy and a concentration in pre-law.

The Weslaco native said he took to the ring from a young age thanks to his father, Noe Mendoza, who was an amateur boxer in his youth. In his adolescence, Mendoza watched his father run Las Brisas Boxing Club, named after their subdivision. The gym is not only a safe space Mendoza, but also for local kids who are given free lessons.

As he approaches the completion of his master's degree this semester, Mendoza plans to step outside the ring and into the courtroom. His goal: to practice law and become a professional boxing promoter to bring world-class talent to the Rio Grande Valley and eventually host collegiate events on campus.

Q: What are you most proud of?

A: "I would say [I'm most proud of] ... the amount of lives I've been able to touch. I've worked with many people, meaning that they all come from different walks of life, and, you know, they're all excited to learn from me, and what I'm able to teach. So, I think that that, in and of itself ... is something that goes beyond any, like, victory in the ring."

Q: Who is your favorite athlete in the sport?

A: "My favorite boxer has been Canelo Alvarez since, like, the early 2010s. I've been following him in the sport for a while. And prior to him was Oscar De La Hoya. I think a big reason why these are my favorite boxers could just kind of be, like, a disposition from the culture. You know, we are down here in the southern region, and I'm just really prideful of the Mexican Americans and the Mexicans in the sport."

Q: What is your favorite thing about the Rio Grande Valley?

A: "My favorite thing about the Valley is our people. I went to College Station, so I experienced a bit of culture shock out there, initially, when I first got out there. And, after a while, you just learn to miss home, you know, what you grew up in. A lot of people say, 'If you want to leave the Valley, you don't want to come back,' but ... I beg to differ. I couldn't wait to come back and bring everything that I learned up there home."

Q: Do you have a favorite boxing movie?

A: "There's been a run ... of the original 'Rocky' movies and it was about 'Creed.' My favorite thing about that movie was that Creed had the same name as his father, Adonis Creed. But, he chose Adonis Johnson, I believe. And he chose to do so because he didn't want to live in his father's footsteps. He wants to create his own legacy. And I think that was kind of like my own branch, you know, my own father as well. I kind of see myself vicariously through Creed."

Q: What advice would you give to a beginner boxer?

A: "Every day, just understand ... that boxing itself is all about repetition, and that some people entering the sport may want to learn everything that there is under the sun within boxing. They may turn to tutorials on YouTube or Instagram. But, in reality, the only way you're going to learn is not through the theory that you learn through information or videos like on YouTube or Instagram, but really through the application of it."

--Compiled by Omar E. Zapata

--Alejandra Yañez contributed to this report.

'Team is everything'

Men's golf prepares for new season



Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER

Sophomore Andres Cortez practices his bunker shot last Wednesday at the Champion Lakes Golf Course in McAllen.

Omar E. Zapata
SPORTS REPORTER

After finishing the fall season on a good note, the new and young UTRGV Men's Golf Team is ready to swing into the spring season and prove itself.

Fifth-year head coach Philip Tate told The Rider he is excited for the spring season with a core of new players who will get first-time experience competing at the collegiate level and, hopefully, grow.

With the spring season starting March 7 at the Colin Montgomerie Invitational in Spring, Texas, the head coach said the team is excited and cannot pack their bags fast enough.

"Let's go tee it up," Tate said. "See what we're made of."

Only three of eight players on the roster had previous tournament experience before the fall season.

The head coach described the fall season as "sporadic," with the team finishing last at the Lone Star and Trinity Forest Invitationals, 11th at the Bentwater Intercollegiate and third at the Herb Wimberly Intercollegiate.

"I think it was a little inconsistent," he said. "But, I think we finished strong, which proved what we have in the tank. So, I think we'll be able to replicate that more in the spring than we did in the fall."

Tate said the two main things he wants his players to focus on this year are being as strong as possible by hitting the gym and mentally growing as a team.

"This is the first chance for some of these guys to get out here and really play and be a part of the team," he said.

With seven of eight players being

underclassmen, The Rider asked Tate what he thinks of having a predominantly young team.

The coach replied, "It could go either way. I think that the fall proved that, you know, we were capable of some really good moments, but we were capable of some inconsistent moments. So, we really need to focus on being consistent and playing the way that we should play every single day."

Sophomore Leonardo Novella told The Rider he feels great starting his second

[sophomore Sebastian Lundberg] and some of the guys have taken the lead and [are] feeling more a part of the team and more important," he said. "I would say this will allow us to [get a] good mentality going into tournaments and be more together and knowing that everybody can be a leader."

Sophomore Rhaasrikanesh Kanavathi, who finished one shot behind Novella at the Herb Wimberly Intercollegiate for 11th place, told The Rider that as much as golf is an individual sport, the team aspect is important as well.

"Team is everything," Kanavathi said. "So, for instance, when one of us finishes off earlier or something, the [teammate] comes and supports us along the way. So, that support is very important. And in the weight room, we all work together and we are trying to get better physically ... and in general practice, too. We are actually practicing together and everything. So, everything is done, preparationwise, as a team. And then on the golf course you do feel a bit individualistic."

Kanavathi said the fall season was disappointing, but the strong finish and time off between seasons helped the team.

"We've all had, like, a long break basically since the fall and we've all had time to work on our game and everything for at least about two months now since our last event," he said.

During the break, Kanavathi said he worked on technical difficulties he had in his game.

"I was all over the place in my last semester," he said. "I was all over the place in my game and I think it was very obvious

"We're not the basketball team or we're not the baseball team, but we can bring something special every single tournament."

--Leonardo Novella
Sophomore

season with the Vaqueros and is excited to prove himself this spring.

Novella led the team with a 74.75 stroke average this fall, tying for ninth place at the Herb Wimberly Intercollegiate with a three-round score of 216.

"I feel like we have a lot to prove," the native of Italy said. "And I have a lot to prove to my teammates. I didn't play as I wanted to and I really believe we can reach a good point going into the [Western Athletic Conference] finals and take the trophy."

Novella said it was hard to replace last year's seniors.

"Right now, I feel like me and

See GOLF, Page 11

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

<p>WOMEN'S BASKETBALL</p> <p>7 P.M. THURSDAY VS. LAMAR UNIVERSITY [CONFERENCE, HOME]</p>	<p>BASEBALL</p> <p>7 P.M. FRIDAY, NOON AND 3 P.M. SATURDAY AND NOON SUNDAY VS. YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY [HOME]</p>	<p>MEN'S BASKETBALL</p> <p>7 P.M. SATURDAY VS. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY [CONFERENCE, HOME]</p>
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UTRGV Baseball starts season with sweep

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

The Vaqueros started the season 3-0 after defeating The George Washington University in a three-game series Feb. 18-20 at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium.

On Feb. 18, senior Kevin Stevens and junior Jesus Aldaz pitched a one-hit shutout to lead UTRGV to a 3-0 season opening victory, all while wearing throwback Pan American University uniforms to celebrate the 1971 College World Series Broncs team.

Feb. 19, saw the Vaqueros beat the Colonials 7-1. George Washington (0-3) started the day 1-0, but miscues in the bottom of the fourth gave UTRGV the 4-1 lead.

On Feb. 20, UTRGV had its highest scoring output since 2010 by defeating George Washington 23-3. Junior outfielder Brandon Pimentel led the Vaqueros to victory with a pair of three-run home runs.



A crowd of 2,418 attended the opening game Feb. 18 at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium, the largest attendance for a home game since before 2008.

Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER PHOTOS



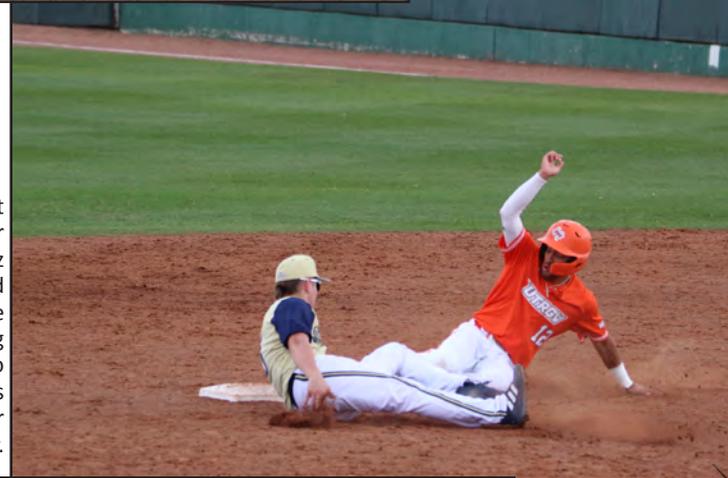
Redshirt sophomore infielder Alex Kelch prepares to hit the ball during the sixth inning. Kelch hit a grounder to second base to allow junior outfielder Brandon Pimentel to score and make it 2-0.



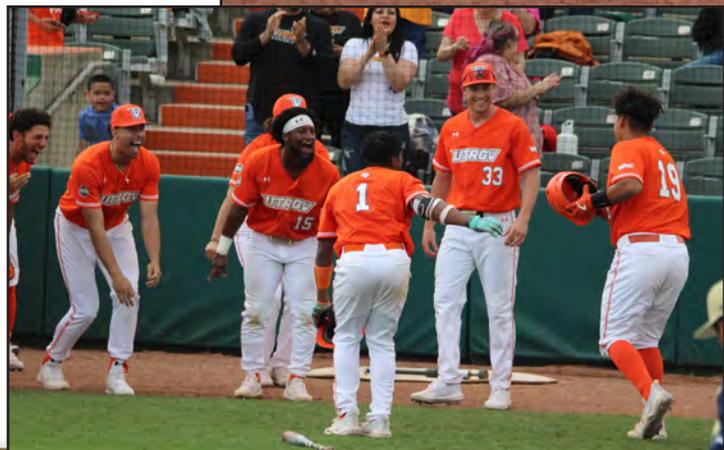
UTRGV junior outfielder Brandon Pimentel dives for second base as Colonials Steve Ditomaso attempts to get him out in the sixth inning.



Junior infielder Diego Ramirez slides to home plate to make it 5-1 in the bottom of the sixth against the Colonials.



UTRGV redshirt freshman infielder Isaac Lopez slides to second base during the seventh inning Feb. 20. Also shown is Colonials freshman infielder Ty Acker.



Sophomore infielder Jacob Sanchez (right) and graduate infielder Deandre Shelton celebrate Sanchez's first-career home run by dancing the "Griddy" with teammates Feb. 20.



Graduate infielder Deandre Shelton reaches out to Colonials outfielder Logan Leax as he slides into second base Feb. 19 at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium.

TRAIL
Continued from Page 1

Department, informed the commission that the HALFF Associates Inc. project engineer and Texas

Department of Transportation made the recommendation to award the contract to RM Walsdorf Inc., as it was the lower of the two bids submitted for the project. Commissioner At-Large "B" Rose

Gowen asked that the department look into incorporating the trail through La Posada Park. The commission unanimously voted to award the contract to RM Walsdorf Inc. of Brownsville after Gowen made

the motion to approve it and was seconded by District 3 Commissioner Roy De los Santos. Groundbreaking for the Southmost Nature Trail is scheduled for March 11.

CONCERTS
Continued from Page 8

professor, Dr. George Amorim, as well as one of our piano professors, Dr. Juan Pablo Andrade, and [Lupe Barrera], percussion drum set player who is band director at Hidalgo High School."

last concert of the series, which will be from 6 to 7 p.m. May 12.

"Tish is a Mexican American singer [and] songwriter," Jobson said. "Her songs blend the genres of country folk and Hispanic music."

and in between the shows, the artists are going to be giving information about the pieces they are playing and the history of how these pieces came to be and you are going to be surrounded by all the native flora and fauna of South Texas."

and the artists are going to be speaking to the audience in both English and Spanish throughout every concert."

Jobson invites the entire UTRGV and Rio Grande Valley community to attend the outdoor concert series.

The fourth concert will be from 6 to 7 p.m. April 14, when Ensemble Radieuse will perform.

Linette Castillo, an environmental education specialist at Quinta Mazatlán, said the community can register to receive a free ticket by scanning the QR code on the promotional flyers for the series or by visiting the sanctuary's website.

Jobson said she wants to break down the barriers between the audience and performers and make them feel connected to the music.

"These are open to our community and their families," she said. "They are welcome to bring food to enjoy or they can bring a blanket and lay it out on the lawn if they want. These concerts are really for everyone to enjoy."

"It's a flute-and-oboe duo that are coming from South Carolina," Jobson said. "They're going to do a concert with flute, oboe and electronics."

"We have a very special opportunity here because we are still in these COVID times," Castillo said. "So you get to enjoy these incredible concerts

"They can bring the whole family as they want and, you know, they can just show up and enjoy the beautiful music and just really get the benefit of the comfort that live music provides," she said. "It's a wide variety of music

Quinta Mazatlán is located at 600 Sunset Drive in McAllen. For more information, call the sanctuary at 681-3370 or visit its website.

GOLF
Continued from Page 9

in how I played last semester. So, I had to do the work."



Novella said he is also working on technical aspects of the game.

"Some little things in order to be more solid around the greens, especially with my putter," he said. "I've been changing putters. And as well I would say overall tempo. Tempo for three days in a row or four days in a row, or whatever. Just give it the same tempo every single time."

Freshman Juan Luis De Bethencourt Duque (left) and Sophomore Leonardo Novella practice their putts last Wednesday at the Champion Lakes Golf Course in McAllen.

Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER

The Vaqueros will play five tournaments before the WAC Championship April 29 in Las Vegas, where they finished in fourth place last year.

"We're not the basketball team or we're not the baseball team, but we can bring something special every single tournament," Novella said. "Following us can be something really fun. ... A team tournament can be won, like, even on the last day and in the last second."



SGA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

STUDENT ELECTION February 28 - March 2

Students can vote on the constitutional amendments that propose changes to student representation.

HOW TO VOTE?

Students can vote anytime between February 28 at 8:00 am and March 2 at 11:59 pm



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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.

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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