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COVID-19 booster incentive deadline approaches

Natalie Lapsley
THE RIDER

UTRGV reported three new COVID-19 cases between March 18 and 24, 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 three were one student and two staff 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 no students were in on-campus isolation housing the week of March 18 through 24.

Friday is the deadline to submit proof of a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in order to receive a \$100 booster incentive.

To qualify, students must get a Centers for Disease Control

See **COVID**, Page 3

TRUE TALENT

Students take the stage



Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER

Alondra Peña, an accounting junior, sings "Think of Me" from the "Phantom of the Opera" at Vaquero's Got Talent March 28 in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater in the UTRGV Student Union on the Edinburg campus. Peña received second place for her performance and won Apple AirPods.

Andrea Flores
THE RIDER

The Campus Activities Board held the Vaquero's Got Talent show March 28 in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater on the Edinburg campus, which included performances in opera singing, a Native American dance and instrument playing.

Thirteen participants performed in two categories, singles and groups. There were three prizes for the singles category.

First place received a 32-inch TCL Smart Android TV, the second place winner received Apple AirPods and third place won 50 Vbucks. The winning group received 150 Vbucks.

Jessica Yudith Moreno, a music education freshman, won first place. Her talent was mariachi singing and she performed the song "Los Laureles" by Linda Ronstadt.

"I perform all the time, but even after all these years of performing, I still get super-duper nervous and shaky,"

Moreno said. "I even thought about dropping out five minutes before I came [on]."

She also said the talent show brings an opportunity to be involved on campus.

"It's my freshman year and I feel like I haven't done much in being involved in anything," Moreno said. "I saw the opportunity and I was like, 'Why not?'"

Alondra Peña, an accounting junior, won second place with her opera singing. Peña performed the

See **TALENT**, Page 2

One chapter closes, another opens



RIDER FILE PHOTO

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

As of last Thursday, 2,500 students are expected to cross the stage on May 13 on the library lawn on the Brownsville campus and May 14 in the Bert Ogden Arena in Edinburg.

Sofia Almeda, university registrar, said one of the reasons that led the university to have an outdoor ceremony in Brownsville was because there are limited venues that can accommodate the number of participants.

"Because it's outdoors and because the graduates are permitted to leave the venue as they cross the stage, we decided it would be possible for us to allow all participants an unlimited number of tickets," she said. "In the Edinburg area, we have more options when it comes to venues, and the Bert Ogden Arena allows an indoor venue, with participants getting 10 tickets for their guests."

Almeda said the RSVP period is expected to close April 11.

There will not be a virtual option for students, but the ceremony will be streamed live on Facebook.

She said students are still permitted to have a graduation slide as a memento from the occasion.

Almeda said it is important that students read their emails the week prior to graduation

See **COMMENCEMENT**, Page 11



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Brownsville City Commission

Broadband fiber network conversations begin

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

Last Wednesday, the Brownsville City Commission gave the green light to authorize a term sheet that will further memorialize forthcoming legal instruments for a broadband internet network that would improve reception.

If brought to fruition, Brownsville would have better internet through 100% of a 93-mile radius.

The city is in the process of finding public and private partnerships to fund the project, in addition to \$19.5 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

According to agenda documents, the project is estimated to cost \$70 million.

The fiber-optic network will connect at least 32 anchor institutions, including the City of Brownsville and Public Utilities Board facilities.

Andres Carvallo, CEO and founder of CMG Consulting

LLC, presented the plan to the commission with Elizabeth Walker, assistant city manager.

"Evidence suggests that broadband services have a net positive economic and social impact to communities by enhancing key functions, such as economic competitiveness, workforce development, training, educational capabilities, municipal operations and smart city development,"

See **FIBER**, Page 11



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

The Brownsville City Commission approved the authorization of a term sheet for a fiber-optic network that could deliver 100% broadband internet connectivity coverage within the city. Without broadband, the average person in Brownsville receives 25 megabits (network speed). With broadband, network speed would increase to 100 megabits.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today Affinity Space
The **Council for Cultural Activities** and the **Center for Student Involvement** will host **Finding Your Familia: Muslim Affinity Space** from 1 to 2 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus and from 5 to 6 p.m. in University Center Room 205 on the Edinburg campus. Affinity spaces are dedicated to bringing people who share similar identities together.

The spaces on campus are hosted for students to connect and build community.

KISS Meeting
The **Korean International Student Society** will conduct a **general meeting** from 2 to 3:15 p.m. today and from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesday in Mathematics & General Classrooms Room 2.210 on the Edinburg campus. Students can interact with people who are passionate about Korean culture, music and language.

Tuesday KISS Fundraiser
The **Korean International Student Society** will host a

fundraiser from noon to 2:30 p.m. at the University Library courtyard on the Edinburg campus. **K.I.S.S.** will sell ramen and Asian snacks.

Neurodiversity Discussion
The **Council for Cultural Activities** and the **Center for Student Involvement** will hold a **discussion panel** conversation in observance of Autism Awareness Month from 6 to 7 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 in Brownsville and at the same time in the University Center lobby on in Edinburg.

Wednesday Movie Night
The **Council for Cultural**

Activities and the **Center for Student Involvement** will show **“Denial”** 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 takes place in 1993 when Deborah Lipstadt and Penguin Books were sued for publishing “Denying the Holocaust.” The event is part of the **Cultural Cinema Series**.

Thursday KISS 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.**

Oral Presentation Workshop
The **Office of Engaged Scholarship** and **Learning** will host an **oral presentation workshop** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom on how to prepare for and deliver an oral presentation. All majors are welcome. Students must RSVP via V Link.

--Compiled by *Diana Alvarez-Tovar*

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between March 22 and 29.



March 22

5:21 p.m.: A male student reported that an unknown individual(s) had taken his basketball without his consent at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. The student provided a description of the suspect who was last seen with his

basketball. The case is under investigation.

March 24

12:47 a.m.: A UTRGV police officer observed damage to a vehicle parked at the science loading dock parking area on the Edinburg campus. The officer contacted the owner who was identified as a UTRGV employee. The employee said that she could not confirm when the damage occurred. Camera footage showed the damage did not occur on campus.

March 25

1:50 p.m.: A UTRGV student reported she was involved in a traffic accident off campus. The Edinburg Police Department took the primary

report. The student said the Edinburg Police officer advised her to contact the UTRGV Police Department to obtain possible camera footage of the accident from cameras in Lot E-34 on the Edinburg campus. The officer advised the student the Edinburg Police Department will need to contact University Police to access camera footage. A report was taken for documentation purposes.

March 28

12:47 a.m.: A UTRGV officer responded to a theft report at the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. A student said he ordered a 32-inch television and was informed by FedEx that it was delivered to his apartment on March 17 when he was out of town. The officer reviewed camera footage for the date and time provided but nobody was seen delivering a package to the student's apartment.

9:41 a.m.: A UTRGV officer assisted the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office Deputy to serve a protective order at Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus. The student was not found and has not returned to Unity Hall in over two months.

March 29

11:57 a.m.: A UTRGV officer responded to an injured person in the Education Complex on the Edinburg campus. A male employee said he was walking through the ADA doors when the doors closed on him, which caused a minor laceration to his left forearm. Emergency medical services arrived and transported the faculty member to Doctors Hospital at Renaissance for treatment.

6:20 p.m.: Officers responded to a call in reference to markings found in the first-floor men's bathroom in the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus. The markings were made with permanent black marker on the wall of the ADA toilet area. A work order was placed to have markings removed.

8:51 p.m.: A female student reported she had been approached on March 26 by an unknown female who was asking for money. The description provided matches a non-affiliated female who has an active criminal trespass warning. The student said she could identify the female if she were to see her again.

--Compiled by *Andrea Flores*

TALENT

Continued from Page 1

song, “Think of Me,” from the movie “Phantom of the Opera.”

She said she felt nervous about showing her talent.

“I already knew how to sing the song, but I still felt nervous, and I didn't want to mess up,” Peña said. “So, I still practiced. When I got here, my legs were still shaking, but by the time I had reached the stage, I was feeling a bit better.”

She said the Vaquero's Got Talent show was an opportunity to break out of her shell.

“I've always been shy, and I didn't really like the idea of showing off a talent, but then I realized, ‘you know what, there's nothing wrong in showing people a gift that you were given,’” Peña said.

The opera singer expressed her gratitude toward the event's organizers.

“I'd just like to give thanks to everyone that organized this and worked and helped to make this a reality,” Peña said.

Jeremy Cadena, a mechanical engineering junior, won third place with a performance of his own synthwave songs.

The winner for the group category

was a duo composed of Juan Davila, a history junior, and Anuschka Mai, a cyber security and history sophomore, who performed “There She Goes” by Josh Fudge.

Rebecca Gadson, dean of students'; Emerald Mason (Butterfly Gem), Student Activities administrative assistant; and Sara Hernandez Mendez, associate athletic director for Marketing and Strategic Initiatives, judged the show.

Adamari Hernandez Ramirez, Campus Activities Board Pop Culture Committee chair, and Audrey Solis, Road Trips chair, co-hosted the talent show.

“[Campus Activities Board] have done it before, but it was not like this,” Ramirez said.

She explained how this time, the difference was that the event was better organized.

In addition, Ramirez said she will not be the Pop Culture Committee chair next year, so she decided to organize the event before leaving her position.

“When I first applied to be a chair, [Campus Activities Board] made us do a mock-up event, and my mock-up event was to do a talent show,” she said. “So, while I am still a chair, I needed to do this.”



Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER

Violet Soto, a rehabilitation services junior, is a part of the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas and performed one of her tribe's dances called the “Fancy Shawl Dance” March 28 during Vaquero's Got Talent in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater in the UTRGV Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

THE RIDER

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A fight for farmworkers



Citlalli Torres/THE RIDER

Eduardo Chávez, director, speaker, activist, podcast host and grandson of César Chávez, takes questions from the audience on what it means to honor his grandfather during the Distinguished Speaker Series last Tuesday. The event was held in PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.

Natalie Lapsley THE RIDER

The grandson of civil rights activist César Chávez visited UTRGV in observance of National Farmworkers Awareness Week to encourage campus community members to connect to their history and find their voice.

Eduardo Chávez, an activist,

podcast host and director of “Hailing César,” was the fourth speaker of the 2021-2022 Distinguished Speaker Series Tuesday night in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón.

Chávez said it is important to continue to inform today’s youth and keep his grandfather’s legacy alive.

“My main goal in doing

events like this and talking to students is to, hopefully, inspire them to go on a journey similar to mine, to learn about their history, especially if they’re Mexican American and their families are connected to farmworking,” he said in an interview after the event. “Learn about what that work is. It’s more than just a form of labor.”

During the event, a screening of Chávez’s award-winning documentary, “Hailing César,” was shown to the dozens of attendees.

“The goal for this film is really to, hopefully, empower young people to go on their own journeys, and find their own voice and find their own vehicle to be socially conscious,” he said. “The main thing is to have it come from an authentic place and knowing your own history is the easiest bridge to that authenticity.”

Noel Rodriguez, UTRGV director of the College Assistance Migrant Program, introduced and played Chávez’s documentary.

CAMP is a government-funded program that has been assisting first-year college students with a “migrant seasonal background” for 20 years, according to Rodriguez.

“Since its debut, Eduardo has screened ‘Hailing Caesar,’ and spoken at over 50 universities in three different countries,” Rodriguez said before starting the movie. “We are honored to have Eduardo join us.”

Chávez’s documentary portrayed his journey in learning and connecting to his family history, specifically his paternal grandfather César Chávez, a civil rights activist and co-founder of the National Farmworkers Association.

Several guests shared their experiences working

in the field during the Q&A portion of the event, including 65-year-old Olga Garcia who came to the U.S. when she was 14.

“I remember crossing the border,” Garcia said in an interview with The Rider after the event. “[My mother] came and talked to people [who were] contracting people to take them up north. And later on, she said, you know, ‘We got us a job.’ I was poor when I lived in Mexico, but coming over here ... I felt poorer, because we started from scratch.”

Garcia said she often missed the beginning and end of the

“The main thing is to have it come from an authentic place and knowing your own history is the easiest bridge to that authenticity.”

--Eduardo Chavez activist, podcast host, and “Hailing Cesar” director

school year to work in the fields, making it hard to catch up with classwork.

“People would think you were dumb or something,” she said. “You’d miss the whole [first] six weeks or the last. Sometimes, it was very hard to catch up.”

“At the time of my senior year, I told my mom, ‘Mom, See CHAVEZ, Page 11

Students represent UTRGV in national problem-solving competition

Fatima Gamez Lopez SPANISH EDITOR

UTRGV students had the opportunity to compete in a national problem-solving challenge and network with representatives of several big companies during the Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Battle of the Brains last month.

Hispanic-Serving Institution Battle of the Brains serves as an HSI academic national championship and experiential diversity recruiting showcase of top Latinx talent from colleges and universities across the country, according to its website. The national competition took place from March 7 to 13 in Austin.

The UTRGV team competed against 10 other Hispanic-serving institutions across the country. The teams had 24 hours to create a solution to a problem given by KPMG, the sponsor of the competition.

Mechanical engineering junior Marisol Ortiz, mechanical engineering junior Antonio Medina, computer science graduate student S M Sarwar, applied statistics and data science graduate student Stephanie Flores and entrepreneurship and innovation senior Ximena Sandoval

were part of the UTRGV team.

Sarwar said competition allows them to collaborate with different companies.

“Battle of the Brains is a 24-hour competition; it’s one kind of hackathon,” he said. “Besides this competition, we participated [in] some company engagement [with] the sponsors of Battle of the Brains ... Amazon, Dell, Expedia group.”

The national competition is a collaborative process where students and employees have the opportunity to interact. At the same time, it is a challenge in real time to seek solutions to real-life problems.

Sandoval said during the 24-hour competition, the team had to come up with a solution for that problem.

“In the 24-hour competition, as I mentioned, KPMG, which is one of the biggest four accounting firms, was the main sponsor,” she said. “So, we were provided [with] a problem that currently KPMG is going through.”

Sarwar said that the problem they had to solve was focused on reducing the carbon emission to zero.

“The problem was [that] KPMG emits about KPMG bond point 85% carbon emission for their ...



COURTESY PHOTO

UTRGV students competed in the Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Battle of the Brains from March 7 to 13 in Austin. The team had to integrate business and technology to solve a problem presented by KPMG, a sponsor of the competition. Shown are Stephanie Flores, applied statistics and data science graduate student (from left); Russell Adams, chair and associate professor for the department of International Business and Entrepreneurship; Ximena Sandoval, entrepreneurship and innovation senior; Noe Vargas Hernandez, assistant professor for the College of Engineering and Computer Science; Marisol Ortiz, mechanical engineering junior; and S M Sarwar, computer science graduate student.

employee transportation,” he said. “That transportation is basically [in the] intercity [of] a metropolitan area. So KPMG wanted to reduce the

carbon emission to zero. That’s the main theme of their problem.”

The group of students had to create See COMPETITION, Page 11

COVID Continued from Page 1

and Prevention-recommended COVID-19 booster shot by Friday. Those interested must upload an updated vaccine card to the UTRGV Vaccine Portal.

The incentive comes from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) to encourage students to receive vaccines.

Hidalgo and Cameron counties continue to report COVID-19 cases.

Hidalgo County reported 692 cases between March 25 and 31, raising its total to 197,429, according to its website.

The county reported eight deaths between March 25 and 31, raising its death toll to 3,885.

On March 29, Hidalgo County announced the Regional Infusion Center for COVID-19 will extend operations for residents until April 30.

The center will provide services from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. everyday and has the

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TO VIEW THE
COVID-19 DASHBOARD

capacity to serve five patients at a time. To qualify, patients must meet the following criteria:

- have a positive COVID-19 test.
- be within 10 days of symptom onset or positive test if asymptomatic.
- be at least 12 years old.
- weigh at least 40 kilograms (about 88 pounds).

The center will not accept patients who have been hospitalized or require oxygen therapy due to COVID-19.

Cameron County reported 104 cases between March 24 and 30, raising its total to 73,395 cases, according to its website.

The county reported two deaths between March 24 and 30, raising its death toll to 2,224.

Free vaccination services will continue to be available in the San Benito Public Health Clinic located at 1390 W. Expressway 83 in San Benito and the Mary P. Lucio Health Clinic located at 1204 Jose Colunga Jr. St. in Brownsville according to the following schedule:

--from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

--from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays.

--from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays.

Services will also be available from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday in the Harlingen Public Health Clinic located at 711 N. L Street in Harlingen and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays in the Father Joseph O’Brien Health Clinic located at 142 Champion Drive in Port Isabel.

Vaccine recipients must be 12 years or older. No identification or documents are required.

Individuals may call the Cameron County hotline at 247-3650 for more information.

VAQUERO VOICE



REFUGEE SITUATION

On March 31, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "What are your thoughts on how the U.S. is handling the Ukrainian-refugee situation?" The results are shown below.

facebook

Could be handled better 100%

twitter

63% Could be handled better

25% It's being handled well

12% Not being handled well

Instagram

Could be handled better 51%

Not being handled well 23%

I have no opinion 23%

It's being handled well 3%

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Double standards in seeking asylum



Omar Zapata
THE RIDER

With people across the world displaced every year by war, poverty and even their own governments, many have sought to pursue safety and a new life here in America. The Ukrainian humanitarian crisis has highlighted the double standard of our country's immigration policies and the way we treat refugees and asylum seekers.

The Biden Administration announced on March 24 that the U.S. will accept up to 100,000 Ukrainian refugees and donate \$1 billion to European countries facing the humanitarian crisis. This has drawn criticism on how the country has handled the ongoing surge of Central Americans, Caribbeans and other displaced people seeking asylum.

Rightfully so, Ukrainian refugees deserve to escape the invasion of their country by Russian forces. In less than a month, many Ukrainians were forced to make a difficult decision about staying home or fleeing their country, both options coming with significant struggles and

uncertainty for the future. The U.S. and several European countries were swift to mitigate the crisis, but my question is: Where is this bipartisan support for brown and black refugees on the U.S.-Mexico border? From fleeing violence from drug cartels and gangs to escaping poverty and oppressive governments, does this not constitute swift actions to better handle the surge and actually assist people the same way

"I just want and hope that all walks of life, from Ukrainian to Mexican to Haitian, and any other people that are displaced, are treated like human beings when seeking asylum."

Ukrainians are being helped by the U.S.?

For the past month, stories have circulated about how Ukrainian refugees are being allowed to enter within minutes of arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border. Central Americans and asylum seekers from other nations have been repeatedly denied and remained in Mexico, where they face violence, discrimination and even death, according to published reports.

For example, at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in

Tijuana, Mexico, Central Americans, Mexicans and Haitian migrants have been waiting for weeks, months and some even years to even get a chance to seek asylum.

The long wait is now being compared to some Ukrainian families being allowed to cross within minutes of arriving at the port of entry. A memo obtained by CNN shows officers at the border are being instructed to consider exempting Ukrainians on a case-by-case basis from U.S. public health restrictions.

This is part of an ongoing Trump policy, Title 42, which was issued to limit the number of asylum seekers allowed entry into the U.S. to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As of press time Friday, Title 42 is still in place under the Biden Administration.

The now two-year policy has denied people seeking asylum 1.7 million times and has forced them back to their countries or onto the Mexican side of the border, where they wait for another chance, according to a March 30 article from The Hill.

With COVID-19 cases declining, why is this policy still in place when thousands of people move across ports

See ASYLUM, Page 11

Letter to the Editor: Gas Prices

Gas prices should make Americans ask the fundamental question: What is the difference between what a public nonprofit utility company provides and what a private for-profit oil company provides?

Both sell energy to all United States residents. The difference is that natural gas and electricity are sold in the form of a public good, whereas oil is sold in the form of a private good.

Accordingly, on the grounds of promoting national security, the United States Congress should convert all oil companies to utility companies. This would eliminate the windfall profits and force the oil industry to earn just enough income to cover operating expenses, just as natural gas and

electric utility companies are required to do. The resulting drop in gasoline prices would further stimulate the economy and lighten the energy stranglehold upon the United States by the Middle East.

It would also eliminate the influence of the oil lobby. In this case, desperate times call for deliberate measures. But as pathetic as the energy policy is in the United States, the effort to develop alternative sources of energy will not really be accelerated until the oil dries up and the Saudis place solar cells all across their desert and then sell us the electricity.

Joe Bialek
Cleveland resident

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Rider encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. Letters for The Rider may be sent to therider@utrgv.edu. All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of the letter's author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in The Rider are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rider or UTRGV administrators.

Una lucha para los trabajadores agrícolas

Natalie Lapsley
THE RIDER

El nieto del activista de derechos civiles César Chávez, visitó el campus de UTRGV en celebración de la Semana Nacional de Concientización del Trabajador Agrícola para alentar a los miembros de la comunidad universitaria a conectarse con su historia y encontrar su voz.

Eduardo Chávez, activista, presentador de podcast y director de "Hailing César", fue el cuarto orador de la Serie de Oradores Distinguidos (*Distinguished Speaker Series*) el martes por la noche en PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón.

Chávez dijo lo importante que es seguir informando a los jóvenes de hoy y mantener vivo el legado de su abuelo.

"Mi principal objetivo al hacer eventos como este y hablar con los estudiantes es, con suerte, inspirarlos a emprender un viaje similar al mío, para aprender sobre su historia, especialmente si son mexicoamericanos y sus familias están conectadas con la agricultura", dijo Chávez en una entrevista después del evento. "Aprender que es ese trabajo. Es más que una forma de labor".

Durante el evento, se mostró a las decenas de asistentes una proyección

del documental premiado de Chávez, "Hailing César".

"El objetivo de esta película es realmente, con suerte, empoderar a los jóvenes para que emprendan sus propios viajes, encuentren su propia voz y encuentren su propio vehículo para ser socialmente conscientes", dijo Chávez. "Lo principal es que venga de un lugar auténtico y conocer tu propia historia, ese es el camino más fácil hacia esa autenticidad".

Noel Rodríguez, administrador del Programa Migrante de Asistencia Universitaria de UTRGV, presentó al público el documental de Chávez.

CAMP (por sus siglas en inglés) es un programa financiado por el gobierno que ha estado ayudando a estudiantes universitarios de primer año con un "antecedente migrante estacional" por casi 20 años, dijo Rodríguez.

"Desde su debut, Eduardo ha proyectado 'Hailing César' y hablado en más de 50 universidades en tres países diferentes", dijo Rodríguez antes de empezar el documental. "Nos sentimos honrados de que Eduardo esté aquí con nosotros".

El documental de Chávez retrató su viaje de aprendizaje y conexión con su historia familiar, específicamente con su abuelo paterno, César



Citlalli Torres/FOTO RIDER

Eduardo Chávez, director, orador, activista, presentador de podcast y nieto de César Chávez, comparte historias con el público de lo que significa el ser descendiente Cubano Mexicano y la lucha que tuvo para identificarse. El evento fue parte de la Serie de Oradores Distinguidos (*Distinguished Speaker Series*) el martes pasado en PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón en el campus de Brownsville.

Chávez, activista de derechos civiles y cofundador de la Asociación Nacional de Trabajadores Agrícolas.

Varios invitados compartieron sus experiencias trabajando en el campo durante la sección de preguntas y respuestas

del evento, incluida Olga García de 65 años que vino a los EE.UU. cuando tenía 14.

"Recuerdo haber cruzado la frontera", dijo García en una entrevista con *The Rider* después del evento. "[Mi madre] vino y habló con unas personas [que estaban]

contratando para llevarlos al norte. Después, ella dijo, 'Conseguimos un trabajo'. Yo era pobre cuando vivía en México, pero viniendo aquí ... me sentí aún más pobre, porque empezamos desde cero".

Vea TRABAJADORES, Página 11

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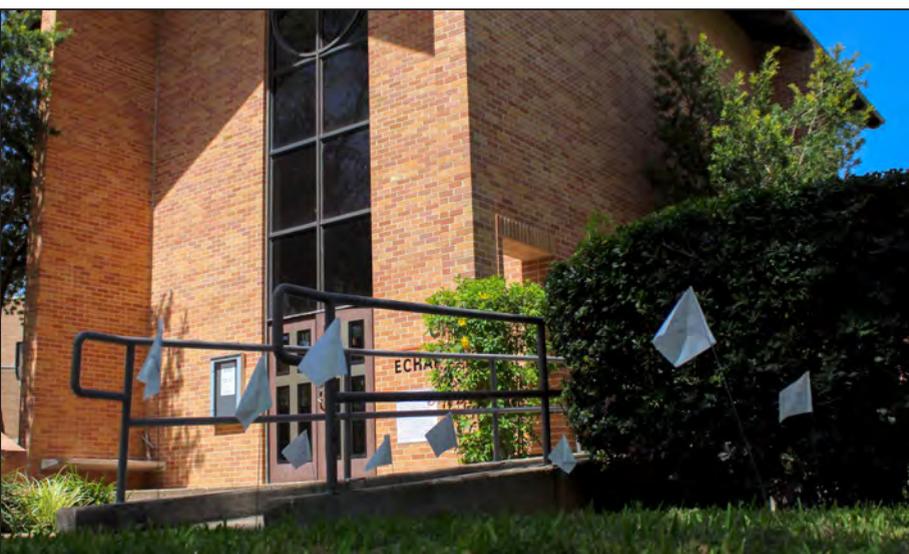
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REMEMBRANCE

COVID-19 memorial honors community members' loved ones

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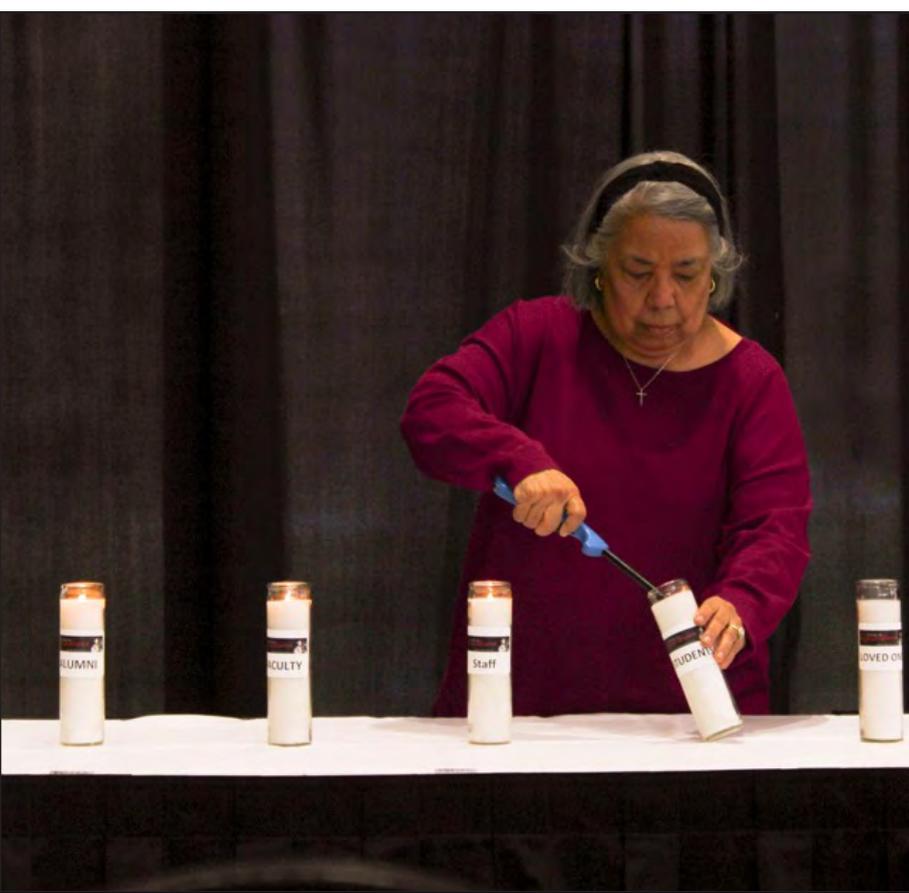
Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER

Flags are placed to commemorate those who have died of COVID-19 by loved ones and community members in front of the Chapel on the Edinburg campus March 23 after the "COVID-19 Remembrance" memorial.



Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER

Five candles, labeled alumni, faculty, staff, students and loved ones, are lit to honor those who died during the "COVID-19 Remembrance" memorial March 23 in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.



Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER

Sonia Arredondo, professor for the School of Social Work and a member of the Faculty Senate, helps light a candle to remember and honor those who have died from COVID-19 during the "COVID-19 Remembrance" memorial March 23 in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.



Citlalli Torres/THE RIDER

Kip A. Hinton, an associate professor of Bilingual and Literacy Studies, speaks about where on campus the UTRGV community can place a white flag with the name of those who have died of COVID-19 during the "COVID-19 Remembrance Memorial". The ceremony took place at the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Sal3n March 23 on the Brownsville campus.



Citlalli Torres/THE RIDER

Noelynn Gillamac Llasos, an academic outreach coordinator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship, pays her respects for those who have died due to COVID-19. The five candles on the table represent loved ones, UTRGV students, staff, faculty and alumni.



Citlalli Torres/THE RIDER

White flags with the names of loved ones that have died from COVID-19 are placed outside El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. The UTRGV community may place flags with the name of loved ones, which will be on display throughout April, to honor those who have died.

Vaqueros rope 53 journalism state awards in Cowtown



UTRGV media programs won 53 awards, including 12 on-site contests, at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Convention held March 23-26 in Fort Worth.

Verilu Infante

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On March 26, UTRGV Student Media and Gallery Magazine received 53 awards at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Convention for on-site contests and previously published/broadcast content.

This year, the event took place in Fort Worth and was in-person for the first time since March 2019. Previously, TIPA was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

TIPA is the oldest state collegiate press association in the nation and has grown into one of the largest and most respected collegiate groups in the country, according to its website.

About 300 students and advisers from 35 Texas colleges and universities gathered in the Hilton Fort Worth hotel for the convention, which took place from March 23 to 26.

Students competed in live contests, including TV sports writing, newspaper design, Spanish news

writing and radio advertising.

Student Media

Advertising Sales Manager Alexis Ramos and former Marketing Specialist Monica Llanas placed second in the previously published Advertising Campaign category. Llanas also placed second in Static Ad Design.

The Rider

In the on-site contests, The Rider won three awards. Editor-in-Chief Verilu Infante placed third in Newspaper Design; Sports Reporter Omar E. Zapata earned third in Sports Action Photo and Spanish Editor Fatima Gamez Lopez received an honorable mention in Spanish News Writing.

Additionally, The Rider also garnered nine awards in the previously published/broadcast competition. Lopez won first and second place in both Spanish News Story and Spanish Feature story. Editorial Cartoonist Ariel Ortiz received second place in Editorial Cartoon. Social Media Editor Danielle Perez placed second in Best Use of Social Media-Breaking News.

Former Editor-in-Chief Jacqueline Peraza received third in Multimedia Slideshow. Zapata placed third in Sports Feature Photo. Infante received an honorable mention in Breaking News.

Vaquero Radio

Vaquero Radio received two awards in the on-site contests. Reporter Felix Balderas placed second in Radio Announcing and Assistant Station Manager Jan Luis Trejo received an honorable mention in Radio Advertising.

The station received 13 awards for previously published/broadcast content, including first place in Overall Design-Web and third in Program Production-Audio. Vaquero Radio also received an honorable mention in Program Production-Audio.

Former Sports Reporter Luis Rubio received first and second place in Sports Reporting-Audio, second in Sports News Story and an honorable mention in Sportscast Audio.

Former Station Manager Victor Ramirez placed second in Advertising/PSA/Promo-Audio, and third in

Advertising/PSA/Promo-Video. Ramirez also earned third place in In-Depth News Reporting-Audio.

Former reporter Justin Elizalde placed second in In-Depth News Reporting-Audio and third in General News Multimedia Story. Former reporter William Bennet received third in Feature Reporting-Audio.

KVAQ-TV

In the on-site contests, KVAQ-TV garnered five awards. Reporter Jessica Amaya placed first in TV Sports Writing and received an honorable mention in Live Video News. Reporter Amada Baldovinos placed second in TV Announcing and received an honorable mention in Spanish TV Announcing. Reporter Karen Lucero received an honorable mention in PR Crisis Management.

The staff won 10 awards for previously published/broadcast content. The station placed third in Newscast Video; third, Overall Excellence-News Production Video; and honorable mention, Newscast Video.

Former reporter Rolando Avila placed first in Sports Reporting-Video, second in Sportscast Video and received an honorable mention in Sportscast Video.

Former reporter Adam Cardona placed second in In-Depth News Reporting-Video, third place in Feature Reporting-Video, and honorable mentions in General News Video Story and In-Depth News Reporting-Video.

Pulse magazine

Pulse magazine received one award in the on-site contests. Graphics Editor Andres Mazzei received an honorable mention in Editorial Cartoon.

Pulse placed first in Overall Design-General in the previously published competition.

Section Editor Bianca Ramirez-Vale placed third in Sports Column and former photographer Michael Gonzalez earned second in Photo Story.

Gallery Magazine

Gallery Magazine received one award in the on-site contests. Gallery Marketing Director Jessi Mata won third place in Yearbook Design.

Additionally, Gallery also received four awards for previously published content. Contributor Adeeba Ahmad placed first in Illustration. In the Cartoon Strip/Panel contest, Ortiz finished third and contributor Karina Torres received an honorable mention. Former Editor-in-Chief Samantha Cortez received an honorable mention in Cover Design-Literary Magazine.



Students from different universities and colleges across the state, including Rider Copy Editor Alejandra Yañez (middle), compete in the Copy Editing on-site contest March 24 in the Hilton Fort Worth Hotel during the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Convention.



KVAQ-TV Station Manager Yanelli Hernandez records an interview during the on-site news competition March 24 at the Arlington Fire Department. The live contest was one of 30 on-site competitions held at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Convention.

Review

A fish with one fin, a man with no memory

Verilu Infante

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After several hit Disney+ series, such as “WandaVision,” “The Falcon and the Winter Soldier,” “Loki” and “Hawkeye,” fans got a glimpse of a darker side of the Marvel Universe with the release of “Moon Knight,” episode one.

Titled “The Goldfish Problem,” the exciting and frightening twists and turns in the episode make it clear to viewers that protagonist Steven Grant has much more than a goldfish to worry about in the season to come.

That being said, a spoiler warning is advised for those who have yet to view the episode.

The opening sequence begins with the painful sight of a man, later revealed to be Ethan Hawke’s character Arthur Harrow, crushing a glass cup he has just drank water from and placing the shattered pieces in his shoes, only to then walk away in them to the sound of mellow music and clinking glass. I found this to be a very uncomfortable sight but it helps set the tone for the show and how it may differ from previous Marvel series.

After the opening credits, the episode shifts to the perspective of Steven, played by Oscar Isaac, who frequently checks in on his mother via phone call and his pet, a one-finned goldfish, Gus.

We see his life as an Egyptian museum gift shop employee who is a loner not respected by his manager or

the museum security guard, and has an immense love for Egyptian history.

Steven can’t remember most of his days and actions, including asking one of his coworkers out on a date.

At night, Steven reads about Egyptian gods, attempts to solve a Rubix cube, restrains one of his ankles to his bed, tapes and locks his apartment door, and places sand around his bed while listening to a podcast to stay awake.

There isn’t much indication of why he does each specific step, except he can’t seem to remember what he does during the night and wonders why he wakes up feeling like he “got hit by a bus.” This upset me a bit since Marvel is known for including as many details and/or easter eggs as possible, but I’m hopeful this may be directly addressed later.

Eerie music plays as the scene unfolds and cuts to Steven laying on grass, waking up with what seems to be a broken jaw and once again wondering what’s happened and what he’s done. I cringed as I watched what looked like Steven readjusting his jaw back in place and became nervous for what was going to happen next. The music composed by Hesham Nazih helped create a suspenseful atmosphere and continues to do so the rest of the episode.

The setting is full of color but the music from prior gets sharper and louder and a male voice begins to tell Steven to go back to sleep and “surrender the body to Marc.”

I know who this voice may belong to and jumped off my couch in both excitement and fear as soon as I heard it. Although it may come off as confusing to those unfamiliar with the characters’ comic arc, the scene itself is both scary and suspenseful in one of the greatest ways possible.

In the sequences to follow, Steven is being hunted down by men with guns for reasons unknown, and has his first interaction with Harrow in a nearby town after witnessing him drain a woman’s life with supernatural abilities.

After being seen as an outsider, Arthur states he knows Steven as a mercenary and asks him to return a scarab. Another scene where information is missing but I am confident will be resolved later. Steven agrees to do so, but is unable to physically, no matter how hard he tries after the voice from earlier aggressively states, “You will give him nothing.”

As Steven is being restrained by the men who were hunting him down earlier, the scene flickers then he wakes up to the men around him dead. When he looks around and places his hands up in defense he notices blood on the scarab indicating he murdered the men attempting to take him. This was the first time I dramatically gasped out loud that wasn’t in a joking manner.

A chase scene follows and Steven wakes up several times once again to the individuals chasing him dead and

the voice speaking to him while also attempting to wake up Marc.

The chase ends with Steven waking up in his room as he left it and believing it was all a really bad dream, only to notice Gus now has two fins. The fish is not Gus and the sense of mystery only makes the following events worth watching even more.

He later finds out that he is two whole days late for his date and when returning to his apartment finds a flip phone with dozens of missed calls from a stranger by the name of Layla who questions his accent and asks, “What’s wrong with you Marc!?”

When Layla hangs up, he hears a new voice telling him that he’s going to get himself in trouble and hallucinates a tall monster with a skeletal bird-like head following him in the building and to work.

Although I don’t think this is the best CGI to come out of Marvel Studios’, this monster, who I am also familiar with, thanks to the comics, is what I like to call nightmare fuel.

Arthur follows him to work only to realize Steven is actually a gift shop worker and it is revealed that the museum employees are actually working for Arthur. He once again tells Steven to return the scarab and informs him, “There’s chaos in you.”

Steven runs away safely and Arthur allows him to continue his work freely, only to later send an enormous dog-like

See **MEMORY**, Page 12

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Aries-The new month is here to bring you the clarity you have been waiting for. It will allow you to heal from certain wounds you have not dealt with. Do not be afraid when it happens, but rather accept and move forward with your life. Start a new plan and do not look back.

Leo-April is going to be a good month because fortune and health will make its way toward you and your family. However, let it happen naturally and do not force things. Sometimes things happen best when we least expect it. Remember, do not count your chickens before they hatch.

Sagittarius-Although your bank account may be drier than ever, do not lose hope. Sometimes we need to waste money to have fun. After all, life is too short to live with regret. So, be proud of taking that vacation and spending that extra money on yourself.

Libra-The last few days have been exciting and have you thinking about your future. Be sure to communicate your feelings or any last words that you have been meaning to say to someone. Be truthful and stay real, just as you have always been.

Gemini-After working hard these past months, April will bring you what you deserve. Now is the time to sit back and watch what comes to you.

Be grateful and proud of your achievements and reflect on who you are becoming.

Aquarius-Major change is happening this month. So, be prepared for the unexpected. Ground yourself with positive thoughts when this turnaround happens. Do not let it get the best of you. After all, it is what needs to happen in order to reach your destination.

Scorpio-A new chapter in your life is about to begin. Take this opportunity to start fresh the way you always wanted without any regrets. Give yourself permission to go after what your heart desires. Feel your way through this new journey and enjoy it.

Pisces-The universe wants you to start being more free with yourself and the choices you make. Learn to live in the moment instead of living in regret. Time is precious, so go out and create memories that will stick with you forever.

Cancer-Continue working on the project that has been sitting on your desk since long ago. Avoid starting things and not finishing them. You have the power to create something amazing. Figure out your schedule and find the right time to solely work on them.

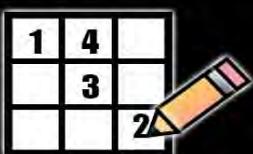
Taurus-Being comfortable is what people look forward to in life. However, being too comfortable is a problem. It is time to make a switch in a situation and grow from it

instead. Advancing in life is greater than staying at the same level.

Virgo-Empower yourself to make a bold decision that is beneficial for the greater good. This transition will encourage you to start thinking ahead and leave what does not serve you behind. Be brave and take the chance now before it is too late.

Capricorn-Learning how to deal with stressful situations is not your best trait. Make sure to learn how to take care of emotions in the best way possible and prevent keeping them within. Instead, make it easier by taking it a step at a time.

Sudoku



Last week’s puzzle answer key:

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

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

Cartoon-ish Hijinks

by Ariel Ortiz



Athlete of the Week:
Isabelle Bahr



Landon Burns/THE RIDER

Sophomore Isabelle Bahr is from Redding, California, and was the first female tennis player to win a section title for her high school, Foothill High School. Bahr won the 61st Annual Umpqua Valley Tennis Championship in 2019. She played club tennis with Team Ascension out of Sun Oaks Tennis and Fitness Club. Bahr has one brother and is pursuing a degree in psychology.

Q: When did you start your sport?

A: "I started in first grade when I was 6 years old."

Q: Out of all the other sports, what makes yours special?

A: "I would say it's special because it's mentally and physically challenging. It's such a mental game more than a physical game, and I feel like in a lot of sports you can maybe get away with not having the best attitude, but here you're out on your own. You have to deal with all the pressure and [do] all of it by yourself, and you have to learn how to deal with that."

Q: What is your most memorable moment in the past few years?

A: "I would say the honor of being made [Western Athletic Conference] Freshman of the Year was probably my most memorable."

Q: Who is your inspiration in life and athletics?

A: "In my sport, I would say Rafael Nadal because he is such a hard worker and never ever stops even when it's hard. ... In life, I would say, probably, my parents. I mean, they just always continually show me how to show up every day and be the best version of myself."

Q: What's it like where you're from?

A: "Back home it's a little bit different than here. I mean, it's still like a smaller town vibe but, definitely, it's dry heat, not the humidity. So it's a little different here."

Q: What's your favorite book?

A: "I would say 'Mindset' is one of my favorite tennis books."

--Compiled by Landon Burns

Planting the seeds for collegiate boxing at UTRGV



Diana Alvarez-Tovar/THE RIDER

Accounting senior Andres Lopez (left) and physics major Kelvin Olivera practice last Wednesday in the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus.

Omar E. Zapata

THE RIDER

For the first time in school history, Club Boxing at UTRGV brought home three national titles, which its founder and members said is only the beginning in establishing a long-lasting organization.

The club competed at the United States Intercollegiate Boxing Association Nationals (USIBA) from March 17 through 19 in Atlanta, hosted by Georgia Tech University. Six UTRGV students competed at the event and three brought home national championships in the 140, 154 and 225-plus weight classes.

Founder, president and communication graduate student Noe Mendoza Jr. won the novice and open 140 weight divisions. Biology junior Omar Cortez triumphed in the novice 154 weight division. Henry 'Mac' McFarland, who graduated last May with a masters in exercise science but was allowed to compete this year after the event was canceled in 2021, was victorious in the beginners 225-plus weight division.

Not only was it the club's first time boxing as a team, but psychology senior Leann Villarreal also made school history by being the first female boxer to represent UTRGV.

Villarreal said it feels great making history, especially when walking into local boxing gyms and carrying that title.

"I've noticed that if I walk into a boxing gym and there's, like, younger little girls, they look up to me, like if I'm some kind of, like, superstar," she said. "The coaches will tell them, 'Yeah, she's the first UTRGV female boxer' and they're like in awe and ... that inspires me. Like, wow, I'm making a difference for these little girls."

Arielle Caraveo, arts and

communication graduate student and vice president of Club Boxing at UTRGV, also made history by being the first female boxing coach to represent the organization at USIBA.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to do something different and represent women and break the stigma that boxing is just for men," Caraveo said.

Being a first-time mom, graduate student and working full- and part-time jobs has taken a lot of time, commitment and dedication, she said. Yet, Caraveo does

"The seed that we planted, we're going to continue watering over the years so that we can produce many more champions through this program."

**--Noe Mendoza Jr.
Club Boxing Founder and President**

not focus on the small inconveniences, but rather on the bigger picture, which is making a lasting boxing club at UTRGV with female representation.

The team was also accompanied by Noe Mendoza Sr., who spent his youth as an amateur boxer in the U.S. and Mexico. Mendoza Sr. also owns Las Brisas Community Boxing Club in Weslaco, which offers free lessons in exchange for passing report cards for grade-school children.

Felix Piedra, strength and conditioning coach for the club, has more than 20 years of experience in boxing as an amateur and professional boxer. Piedra owns Rock Squad Boxing in Mercedes

but waives all fees for students who compete.

Asked how it felt to bring back some hardware, Mendoza Jr. replied, "The feeling itself is kind of indescribable because when I came back to the [Rio Grande Valley] and started this program, I had to do a lot of recruiting ... and I'm not going to lie to you, it was more like fate because [the students] fell into the program right when it was created."

The Weslaco native, who earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy, started a boxing club at Texas A&M. The experience helped him establish the club at UTRGV in 2021.

Cortez, another Weslaco native, told The Rider he started boxing at the age of 8. He gave it up for a while to play other sports but picked it back up in 2018 and hopes to become a professional boxer in the future.

He said he is thankful to bring home a championship to UTRGV but is also grateful to have the opportunity to make new friends and experiences through the club.

Cortez had the opportunity to fight someone from a more experienced division at the event and took it. He faced off against Erick Benitez-Ramos from Georgia Tech.

"I beat him in his hometown," Cortez said. "He had 20 people in the crowd and we only had five people here from this club. So, it was more like, 'Oh, everybody is chanting his name and all that,' and then it was a cool experience because it made me feel like the underdog, like in the movies. Everyone was like, 'This guy, he's gonna lose,' but I overcame the adversity and the obstacles, and I came home with a belt."

Villarreal said the club has helped

See **BOXING**, Page 12

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

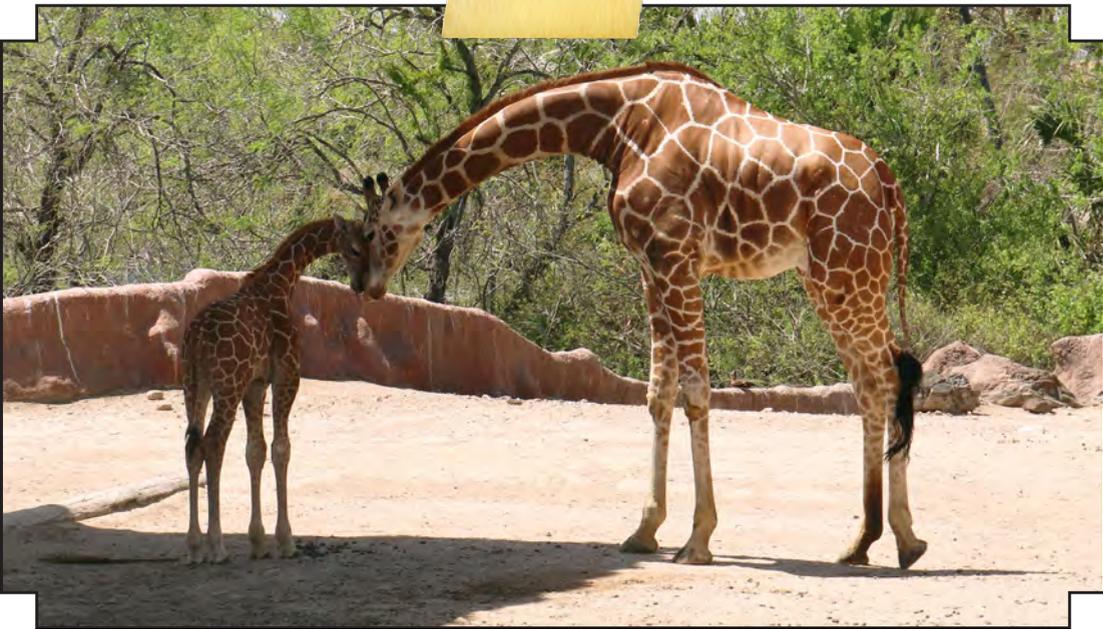
7 P.M. FRIDAY VS.
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
[HOME]

6 P.M. SATURDAY VS.
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
[HOME]

NOON SUNDAY VS.
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
[HOME]

BASEBALL

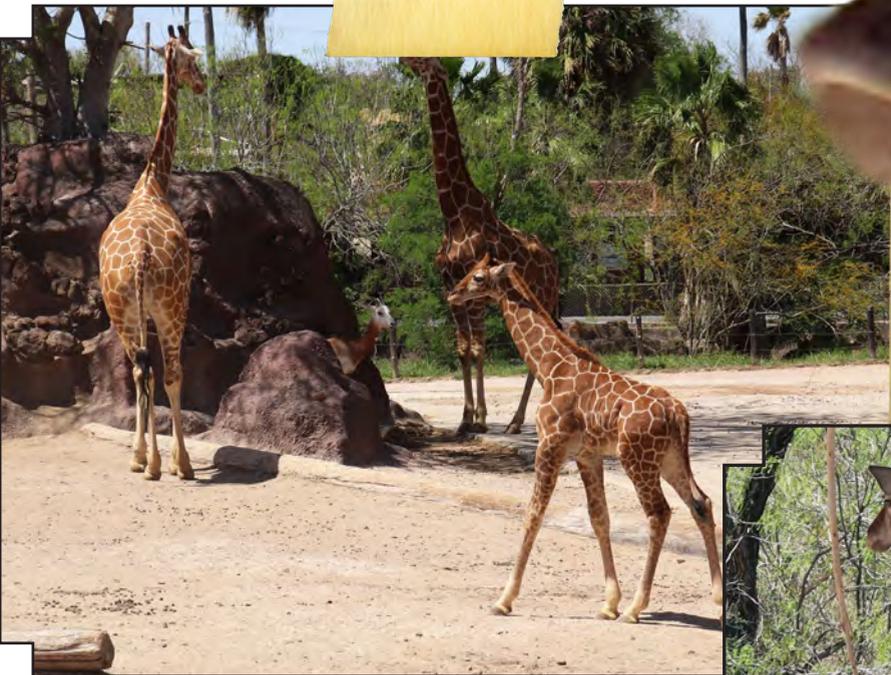
Giraffe calf born at Gladys Porter Zoo



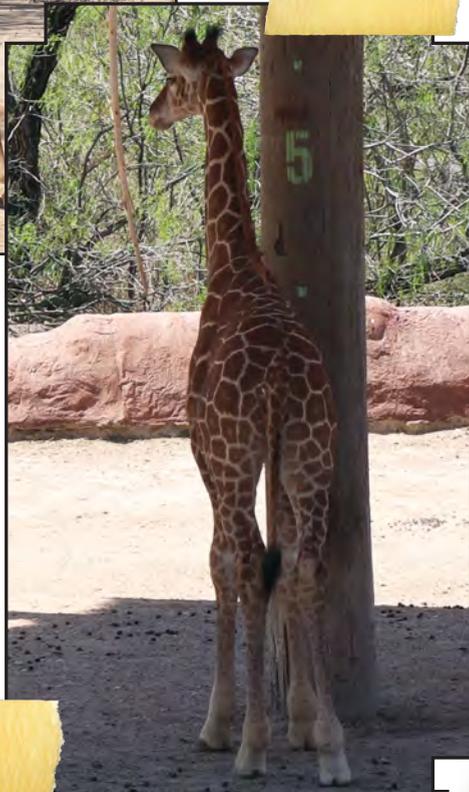
Citlalli Torres/THE RIDER PHOTOS

The calf and his mother Rocket touch heads last Tuesday at the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville.

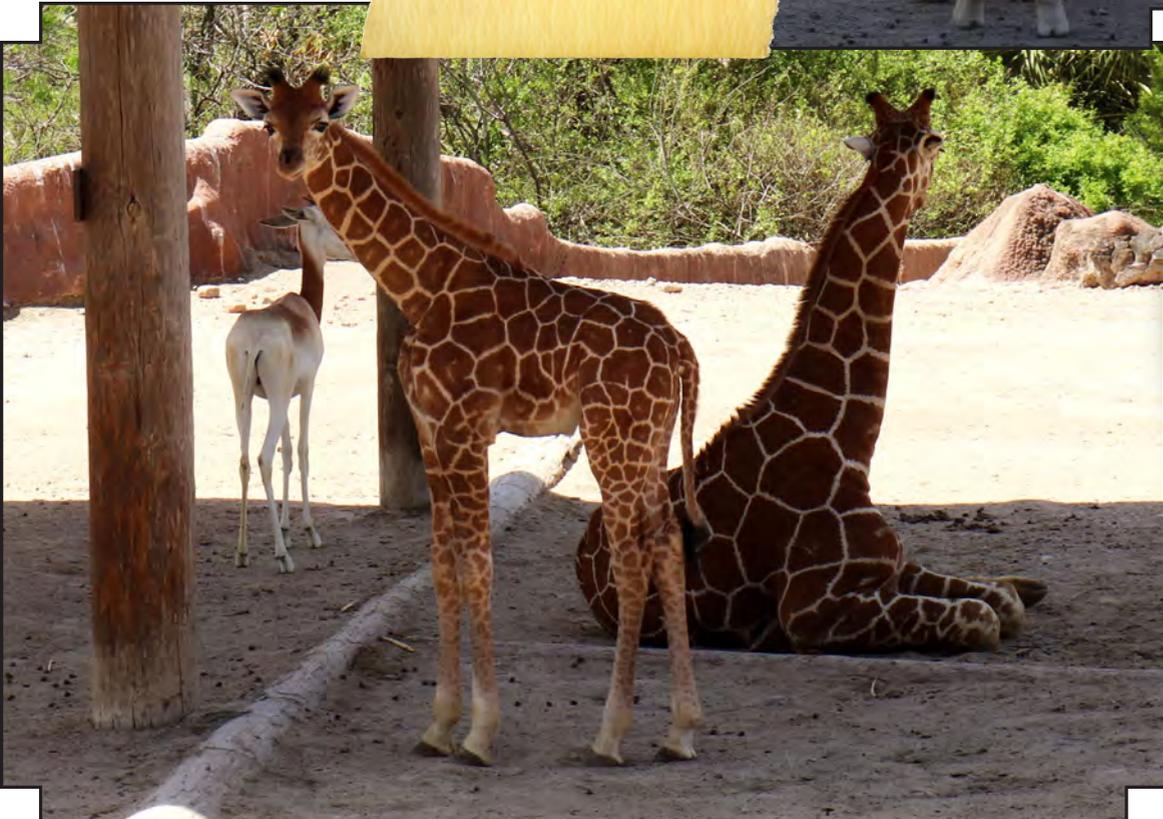
Rocket, a giraffe at the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, became a mother for the first time when she gave birth to a calf on Feb. 23, according to the zoo's Facebook page. The male calf was placed in a private barn to bond with his mother. He can now be seen on exhibit with the rest of the herd. Reticulated giraffes are listed as endangered by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and their biggest threats include habitat loss and poaching. About 15,950 reticulated giraffes are left in the wild, according to the Giraffe Conservation Foundation.



A giraffe calf walks near the rest of the herd at their exhibit last Tuesday at Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville. There are around 15,950 reticulated giraffes still left in the wild, according to the Giraffe Conservation Foundation.



The one-month-old giraffe surpasses 6 feet in height. The pole beside him is used to inform the public of the height of the giraffes at the exhibit at Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville.



A newborn giraffe looks directly at the camera. The calf can be seen at Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville with the rest of the herd.



COMMENCEMENT
Continued from Page 1

so that they are prepared and inform their guests on what to expect. "We did have an opportunity to survey our participants from commencement from last semester so that we are sure to continue some of the things that students responded really positively to," Almada said. Cassandra Ramos, a business administration senior, chose to cross the stage in the Bert Ogden Arena in Edinburg. Ramos said she made this decision because of the experience she had attending her friend's commencement ceremony last semester. "[Last semester], Brownsville [was in] the parking lot and then Edinburg

at the Bert Ogden Arena," she said. "So, my friend chose Edinburg. And when I went to hers it was really pretty. So, I chose the Edinburg [ceremony] because I already got to see how it looks like." Ramos said she is looking forward to her family attending and sharing the experience with her friends. Asked about her thoughts on the locations for both ceremonies, she responded that there should not be a drastic difference in locations. "One is indoor and one is outdoors, that's very drastic," Ramos said. "I understand Edinburg has more students but the majority of the Brownsville students have to take Edinburg classes. So, I feel like they also deserve the same ceremony as the students in Edinburg."

She said during her junior year at UTRGV she started to see how the university was evolving and how it had many great programs, opportunities and professors. "I feel like it was a blessing and a sign to stay [in the Rio Grande Valley] because everything has been evolving for the better," she said. "I can't wait to see how UTRGV is going to look like in the next couple of years because I will also be completing my masters here." Sahara McGee, a psychology senior, said she is excited to walk the stage because it is a reflection of her life that she gets to start after completing the school year. McGee is based on the Brownsville campus and although she is not sure which location to attend yet, she said it will most likely be in Brownsville

because it is closer to her house. Asked how she felt about the difference in locations for both commencements, she replied, "I feel that Brownsville might have gotten a little bit of the shorter end of the stick because of the fact that there is a much smaller space. So, it's kind of hard to fit so many people into one space, especially without tickets. Some people might not be able to see their family members. ... I feel like they both have pros and cons, in their own ways." McGee feels that the amount of tickets for the Edinburg commencement is understandable because of the location. For more information on commencement visit, utrgv.edu/commencement.

FIBER
Continued from Page 1

Walker said during the meeting. Mayor Trey Mendez made the motion to approve the agenda item, which was unanimously approved by the rest of the commission.

With its approval, the next steps to be completed within 30 days are action toward a memorandum of understanding and a public-private partnership (PPP) shareholder agreement, PPP incorporation, and letters of intent with potential stakeholders and institutional

customers. Wholesale marketplace agreements with internet service providers would follow. The next steps to be completed within 60 days are the securing of necessary additional financing vehicles beyond partner equity contribution, an evolved packet core

contract and the start of the fiber middle-mile network project planning and staging. All parties must agree to follow federal procurement regulations required by the usage of ARPA funds, including mandatory contract provisions.

CHAVEZ
Continued from Page 3

I can not go anymore. I want to go to college." Garcia earned a technical degree in data processing from Texas Southmost College so she could work and help her family. She then earned her bachelor's and master's degrees while employed in data processing for TSC, where she worked for 32 years before retiring. The documentary screening and discussion was a reminder to work hard, Garcia said. Richard Hernandez, who also attended the event, said he marched through Downtown Brownsville to boycott grapes in California. "Back in 1974/75, César Chávez came here," Hernandez said. "I must have been 10 years old and we used to pick cotton as well. Then at 15/16 is when I got to meet him. ... It was the American Farmworkers and we all marched to downtown."



Citlalli Torres/THE RIDER
Eduardo Chávez (left), director, speaker, activist, podcast host and grandson of César Chávez, is handed the microphone by Noel Rodríguez, director of the College of Assistance Migrant Program, during the Distinguished Speaker Series last Tuesday in Plains Capital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.



COURTESY PHOTO

COMPETITION
Continued from Page 3

different plans for the solution. "We had to submit several deliverables," Sandoval said. "We had to submit a business plan, like, what was going to be our solution and how is the business going to implement it. We had to submit whatever our solution was. We had to submit, like, an app or some sort of software to go with our solution. And at the end of it, all we had to do is come up with a presentation." Sandoval also said she had the opportunity to interact with different companies and learn about the opportunities they offer.

"KPMG was there, Dell was there, Amazon [and] representatives from all these companies were there," she said. "They were there to talk to students and talk about the opportunities they had for students, especially for us as Hispanics." Sandoval said her experience in the competition was eye opening. "I got to work with people from other majors," she said. "It was, like, a real-world experience. You get a challenge and you have to work with other people that maybe you didn't know before or, like, that are experts in other areas." The three finalists received scholarship prizes. First place received \$25,000; second place, \$15,000; and third place, \$10,000.

ASYLUM
Continued from Page 4

of entry every single day? Why is it that Ukrainians are exempt from this? Both groups of displaced people are facing unimaginable hardships and struggles, but what is the difference? The difference is how different groups of

people are treated. On one side, you have president Biden greeting Ukrainian refugees in Poland, speaking with them, hoisting up children in his arms and being welcoming. However, when Haitian migrants arrived in Del Rio, Texas, they were greeted with a different welcome. Border Patrol agents on horseback

allegedly aggressively pushed the Haitian migrants back into the Rio Grande and did not let them cross into the U.S. to officially seek asylum, according to the Associated Press. Is one group's experience and struggles worth more humanity than the other? At the end of the day, these double

standards are loudly telling us something about the value placed upon human life and how that varies with different groups of people--a double standard. I just want and hope that all walks of life, from Ukrainian to Mexican to Haitian, and any other people that are displaced, are treated like human beings when seeking asylum.

TRABAJADORES
Continuación de Página 5

García dijo que a menudo se perdía el principio y el final del año escolar para trabajar en los campos y era difícil ponerse al corriente con el trabajo de sus clases. "La gente pensaba que eres tonto o algo así", dijo. "Te perderías las

[primeras] seis semanas o las últimas. A veces, era muy difícil ponerse al día. En mi último año, le dije a mi mamá, 'Mamá, ya no puedo ir. Quiero ir a la universidad'". García obtuvo un título técnico en procesamiento de datos de Texas Southmost College para poder trabajar y ayudar a su familia. Luego obtuvo su licenciatura y

maestría mientras trabajaba en el procesamiento de datos de TSC, donde trabajó durante 32 años antes de jubilarse. La proyección del documental y la discusión fueron un recordatorio para trabajar duro, dijo García. Richard Hernandez, quien también asistió al evento, dijo que marchó por el centro de Brownsville para

boicotear las uvas en California. "En 1974/75, César Chávez vino aquí", dijo Hernández. "Debí tener unos 10 años cuando recogíamos algodón también. Luego a los 15/16 es cuando lo conocí ... eran los Trabajadores Agrícolas Estadounidenses y todos marchamos hacia el centro de la ciudad". --Traducido por Itzel Rivera

MEMORY

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creature to chase him down and kill him. I had never feared a dog before in my entire life until I witnessed this sequence of events.

After locking himself in the bathroom in an attempt to avoid death, he hears the same voice from his apartment calling to him, only to reveal that his own reflection is speaking to him. The reflection refers to him as Steven and says, "I can save us. But, I can't

have you stopping me this time." This is where the fun begins.

As Steven panics and tries to reassure himself that none of this is real and is convinced he is going to die, his reflection asks him to give him control and reassures him he's not going to die.

Steven calms down and seems to be giving control of his body as the monster bursts through the door and attacks him.

An off-screen fight scene takes place, which a small part of me wished had been on screen, and a figure in all white ultimately kills the monster. The figure turns

around and is revealed to be Moon Knight, in all his glory, right before the credits roll.

I was a bit bummed out that we had seen this portion of the reveal in the trailer, but I was still excited enough to love this ending to the episode.

Overall, the general tone is probably the darkest, most spine-tingling, nightmarish thing produced by Marvel Studios' to date. Although we only get to see one side of the story so far, it's intense and suspenseful enough to leave viewers wondering what comes next and not wanting to wait another (K)night for the next episode.

BOXING

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her with her boxing fundamentals and dedication.

"Making it to all the practices, and giving it your all, that's something it taught me," she said. "Don't go into practice with half motivation. Pull through, even if you're tired, still go do your runs, still do your strength and conditioning in the mornings, before work and still stay on top of your schoolwork."

Caraveo said she encourages all students to join the boxing club and try it out. She said she thinks it is a great way to stay healthy.

"If you want to get in shape, you know, drop some pounds to get more toned, it's a great way for that," she said. "I know school is very stressful and fitness is a great way to relieve stress."

From July 9 to 16, the three champions will head to Wichita, Kansas, to compete at the USA Boxing Collegiate Championships against the champions of the National Collegiate Boxing Association in their respective weights and divisions.

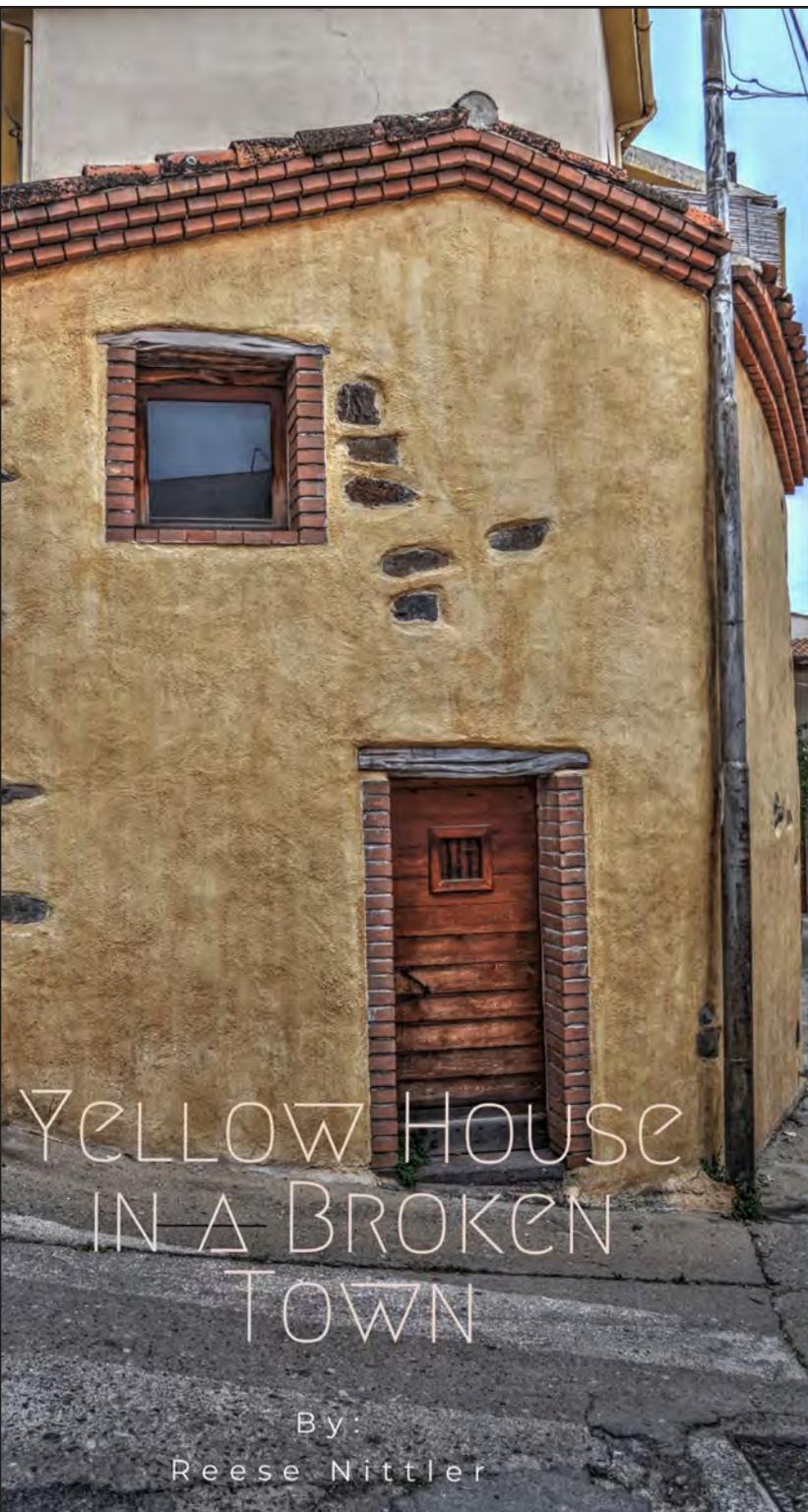
For questions or information on how to join the club, message the organization via Instagram (@ClubBoxingUTRGV).

"The seed that we planted, we're going to continue watering over the years so that we can produce many more champions through this program," Mendoza Jr. said.



Diana Alvarez-Tovar/THE RIDER

Psychology senior Leann Villarreal was the first UTRGV female student to compete at a boxing national tournament. Villarreal competed at the 2022 United States Intercollegiate Boxing Association tournament alongside other members of Club Boxing at UTRGV.



A chill swept the fractured gravel street, and our boots scraped as we ran. Well – we weren't really running . . . but it was cooler if we were running.

"Keep up," a brusque voice barked back at me. My eyebrows shot up at the bite in his tone – but more so from the icy gust that blasted me in the face.

"I am keepin' up!" I exclaimed indignantly. I turned to fling a winning grin at the guy who spoke to me, but he just shook his head with a deep sigh.

"Hey, er . . . Mr. Ryder?" I added. "Why're we the only people out here?"

The cool dude slightly ahead of me slowed and cocked his head back half an inch. Deep shadows lengthening around the houses obscured most of his visage, but I could see a liver of one of his sharp, brown eyes.

"They don't wanna dare open their doors, kid," came my only response. Then Mr. Ryder stared dead ahead, and I couldn't see either of his eyes. My jittery hazel ones widened, and my mouth dropped all the way open. Like, my jaw hit the ground.

"Oh!" I told him. "You're kidding!" My fear vanished at the appearance of this, and I straightened right back up and jogged to his side.

"Sure," Mr. Ryder said after a minute. His silence dug into me, and the wind swirled around us. Flocks of autumn leaves scuttled over our muddy, leather boots, and they refused to calm down. Even as they settled across the rocky gravel road, they shivered – quivering in the setting sun.

The chill and silence swelled until even I didn't dare break the quiet – and I adored speaking. I turned my hazel gaze upward and peered into the distant horizon.

A squat, yellowish house sat perched in the distance, and it blinked innocently back through its black shutters and window frames; a far-off curtain swayed from inside the depths. Half of the frayed, blue curtain snagged on the shattered glass frame where that window used to be.

"Hey, we're almost there!" I called in a loud voice, forgetting myself as usual. My shout echoed across the dampening street and faded, repeating my thoughtless words to every boarded-up house on the block.

"Keep quiet!" Mr. Ryder hissed at me. I caught a frantic shock in his eyes, which he masked by adding, "and stay right by my side!"

"I am an adult you know, Mr. Ryder," I piped up, thrusting a proud thumb at my chest. "A real man!"

"Barely," Mr. Ryder grunted under his breath. "Silence."

"What?"

"Be silent!"

I mouthed the word "oh," to adhere to his request, but it was too late anyway. Somewhere behind me, though it could have been beside or maybe above me, a cloak dragged across the ragged stones.

My heart leaped into my throat, and I sucked in a sharp breath. My eyes whipped up to Mr. Ryder's. My tight, curly hair tumbled across my face, but still, I caught him shake his head slightly at me.

Don't stop, his eyes said. Do not stop. Don't stop. Don't stop . . . Don't stop!

I thrust my shoulders up to the brassy sky and marched on close at his broad side. As full-grown adults, monsters in cloaks didn't scare us one little bit!

Mr. Ryder touched my shoulder. I thought it might be the monster, so I let out a deafening, ringing shriek. My high scream tore across the icy street, and I practically felt Mr. Ryder cursing my name.

So much for that cloak "dragging." I heard definite, pounding footsteps stalking us now, and I didn't even wanna dare turn around.

I tried to keep on marching strong, but Mr. Ryder grabbed me by the arm and thrust me into a run. "Run!" he screamed at me. "Don't bother with bein' quiet! RUN!"

So, run I did. I ducked my chin to my chest and pelted at that silent house with all of my might. Granted, I was only about five-foot – Mr. Ryder had to pick me up a couple of times and fling me ahead so I could move at the correct speed – but I ran, anyways.

The craggy, rubble town blurred around me as we sprinted, and a stabbing stitch burst to life on the left side of my ribcage. My fingers scrabbled at my shirt, but that didn't do anything, and I hoped Mr. Ryder wouldn't resort to picking me up and carrying me . . . and suddenly, our feet thudded as we pounded across the yellow house's stone pathway.

"We made it?" I gasped, coughing and spluttering. "Not yet we didn't!" Mr. Ryder told me, not winded in the least. My boots kicked up two exquisite, blueish rocks, and I fell forward along the sweeping footpath.

I could hear the slapping footfalls of that ravenous beast behind us – could feel its putrid breath on my neck . . .

I felt Mr. Ryder's calloused hand give me one last shove, and I stumbled forward so hard that my fingers groped at the old, silver door handle. I noticed mottled rust dusting the knob's curve – noted tiny words etched into the setting before my fingers found the silver.

The moment they did, the monsters' footsteps ceased. Everything ceased. The wind died. Those leaves stilled.

"Did we do it?" I asked with a shuddery breath. "Mr. Ryder, did we do it?"

I coughed again, then pulled myself upright, keeping both of my hands wrapped securely around the silver doorknob. Its coolness pressed against my fingers, and I glanced up at Mr. Ryder.

He had a hand mashed over his forehead, and now, finally, allowed himself to pant.

"Yeah," he gasped into the pinking sunset. "Yeah, we did it."

"Yeah!" I exclaimed. I made to turn the door handle, and I asked, "but – wait, where did the monster go?"

I saw Mr. Ryder's face blanch, and his fingers stretched out to stop me. Too late, though.

The door swung open with a hollow creak, and I opened my mouth to scream as that monster pounced us.

I thought I heard Mr. Ryder cough something about the monster faking chasing us so he could get us once we got inside. But I wasn't sure. I wasn't sure of anything – just that I saw a huge black-cloaked thing dive at me. Fingers like ice yanked me headlong into that house just then.

UTRGV M.S.A



Authors' Corner