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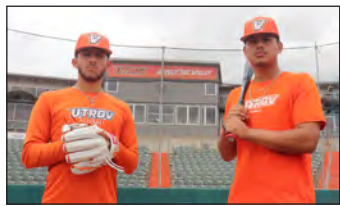
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Early voting begins today on constitutional amendments and venue project



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

Verilu Infante & Alejandra Yañez

THE RIDER

Early voting for the May 7 Texas Constitutional Amendment Election begins today with propositions on a property tax limit reduction for elderly and disabled residents, increased homestead exemption for school district property taxes, and the Cameron County Venue Project makes a return

to the ballot in a special election.

In an interview with The Rider, Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño Jr. said the reason for bringing the venue project back to the ballot is because it ended up not passing by a small number of votes in the November election.

"So, the commissioners court and many of the supporters felt that we probably could have done a better job of informing the public and we thought that it

would be well served to bring it back sooner rather than later," Treviño said, "And again, the sooner we can get the authorization to use the venue tax on this project, then the sooner we can move on developing the project and see where it takes us."

The Rider confirmed with Anthony Lopez, assistant county administrator, that the venue project fell short of 66 votes in the Nov. 2 election.

"One of the comments that I've gotten over the last See **BALLOT**, Page 10

A look back

Natalie Lapsley

THE RIDER

Cameron County's "A Look Back" series, a reflection of the impact of COVID-19 on the public health field, is available on YouTube.

The series, a collection of episodes that highlight the experiences of various Cameron County public health employees, is meant to give perspective to the community, according to Dorene Fourar, director of Community Engagement for Cameron County Public Health.

"The [county is] offering this series as a behind-the-scenes view of what, you know, these different individuals went through working in the public health sector during such a critical time in the world," Fourar said. "So, just, really, kind of giving that perspective to, to the community and, you know, just trying to also commemorate the second-year anniversary of COVID-19."

"A Look Back" began in March and is anticipated to continue through June, she said. Episodes are released weekly on the Cameron County Public Health YouTube channel.

"We've already uploaded two of our videos," Fourar said.

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NEW SPACE



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Marta Salinas-Hovar, associate vice president for Facilities Planning & Operations, said the expansion is being funded by the remaining monies allotted from the Tuition Revenue Bonds for the construction of the original Interdisciplinary Academic Building on the Brownsville campus. The Revenue Financing System, a cost-effective debt program secured by a systemwide pledge of all legally available revenues for debt, also funded the expansion, according to the University of Texas System website.

Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

The expansion of the Interdisciplinary Academic Building in Brownsville began April 11 and is anticipated to be completed in June 2023. The 16,754-square-foot building will house the Department of Health and Human Performance.

Gerry Rodriguez, UTRGV director of Facilities Planning & Construction, said the expanded building will offer new state-of-the-art classrooms and teaching spaces.

"We currently don't have [that] in Brownsville because they're being housed in leased spaces that we're leasing from Texas Southmost College," Rodriguez said. "It's not ideal space. Since we're leasing it, we can't modify it to our needs. And in this new construction, we'll be able to build the space. It was designed specifically for the HH&P instruction and

See **SPACE**, Page 2

Proposed BPUB rate adjustment sparks strong emotions from City Commission

Alejandra Yañez

THE RIDER

An explanation for a rate adjustment to the Brownsville Public Utilities Board's electricity and wastewater services left a city commissioner on the verge of tears during last Tuesday's Brownsville City Commission meeting.

After recommendation from the BPUB, the Brownsville City Commission approved a roll back and adjustment

to the electric base rates for the utility's customers during the item's first hearing.

The BPUB is recommending a 22% rate increase due to an increase in fuel prices.

Victor Flores, Brownsville city attorney, said the second hearing, which will confirm the commission's decision, will be held during the May 3 meeting.

"I find it disingenuous that here we are trying

to roll back the rates," said Brownsville District 1 City Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana during the meeting. "This is me talking real honest. We're rolling back the rates pre-Tenaska, but we just took \$10 million from the ratepayers, which were savings that PUB was able to earn because they were able to sell for the benefit of the city."

"Yes, it's the benefit of


See **CITY**, Page 11



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Brownsville District 1 City Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana speaks about a proposed adjustment in a rate plan for water and wastewater services during a public hearing last Tuesday in City Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today
Book Club
The **Student Leadership Academy** and **Center for Student Involvement** will host a book club from 1 to 2 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus and at the same time on the second floor of the University Center on the Edinburg campus.

‘Harry Potter’ Activities
The **Campus Activities Board** will host “**Harry Potter**” **Night** from noon to 2 p.m. at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. There will be many “**wizardly activities**,” including house sorting. RSVP through V Link.

Movie Night
The **Campus Activities Board** will show “**Harry Potter and the**

Sorcerer’s Stone” from 2 to 6 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

ASCE Fundraiser
The **American Society of Civil Engineers** will host a **snack fundraiser** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and at the same time Tuesday in the University Library courtyard on the Edinburg campus.

Tuesday
K.I.S.S. 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.

Boba Sale
The **Filipino Student Association** will host a **boba drink fundraiser** from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the University Library courtyard on the

Edinburg campus. The organization will accept cash, card, Venmo and Cash App as forms of payment.

Comic Thoughts
The **University Library** will hold a **Graphic Thoughts** session to **discuss graphic novels** from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP through V Link to receive a Zoom link.

Wednesday
Wellness Wednesday
The **UTRGV Campus Food Security Initiative** and **University Recreation** will host a **cooking demo and tasting** from noon to 1 p.m. in the University Recreation Conference Room on the Edinburg campus for students to learn to nourish their bodies and minds with **plant-based recipes**. The **dish of choice** will be **street corn with poblano peppers**. There will also be **free food** and a presentation.


Thursday
Involvement Bingo
The **Involvement Ambassadors** and **Center for Student Involvement** will host **bingo** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Student Academic Center Room 1.101 on the Edinburg campus and from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on the Student Union veranda on the Brownsville campus.

Friday
Dance Workshop
The **Filipino Student Association** will host a **dance workshop** from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. Attendance is open to all students and is **free of charge**. Dance instructors will be from the Filipino Student Association dance team and the Rio Grande Valley dance community.

--*Diana Alvarez-Tovar*

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between April 13 and 20.



April 13
7:36 p.m.: An officer conducting a building check after hours at the UT Health RGV Orthopedics and Sports Medicine building in Weslaco found two non-affiliated individuals, ages 11 and 16. An investigation concluded the individuals were related to a cleaning staff member. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

9:34 p.m.: UTRGV police detectives obtained an arrest warrant for a suspect related to a previous case of harassment, a class B misdemeanor. A female student on the Edinburg campus reported receiving multiple unwanted messages from a non-affiliated male. The suspect was served with the warrant on April 13 and transported to the Edinburg Municipal Jail for arraignment.

April 15
9:38 a.m.: A university staff member reported suspicious activity by a third party involving a female student. An officer later contacted the student via phone. The student confirmed

she was having some issues with an unknown man following her around the Brownsville campus, but indicated that she would file a police report on April 18. The student did not provide any additional details.

April 18
12:26 p.m.: An employee reported finding drawings on newspaper stands made with what appeared to be watercolors on the Edinburg campus.

3:23 p.m.: A student reported that a male student made her feel uncomfortable during class and in common areas on the Brownsville campus. At this time, there are insufficient elements for a criminal offense.

April 19
2:38 a.m.: While on foot patrol, UTRGV police officers found three markings across the Bronc Trail on the Edinburg campus. The markings were made with blue water-based paint/ink. A work order was placed to have the markings removed.

6:32 p.m.: A UTRGV police officer responded to the Music, Science & Learning Center on the Brownsville campus in reference to a female student fainting in a classroom. Upon

arrival, the student was responsive. The student was attended to by the Brownsville Fire Department and then picked up by a family member.

8:33 p.m.: A UTRGV police officer assisted the Harlingen Police Department regarding a search for a juvenile runaway last seen in the area of the Harlingen campus. The officer located the juvenile in the east side parking lot of the Medical Education Building. The officer apprehended and physically detained the juvenile until he was turned over to the custody of his guardian on scene. A Use of Force report was generated for this incident.

April 20
9:58 a.m.: UTRGV police officers responded to the Marialice Shary Shivers Building on the Edinburg campus regarding a fire alarm. The Edinburg Fire Department was summoned and all occupants were evacuated from the building. The fire department personnel deemed the building safe for re-entry. The cause of the alarm was determined to be from a water flow monitor.

1:23 p.m.: A student reported being the victim of a fraud scheme that

involved being paid in advance for tutoring services.

3:57 p.m.: An employee in the Social Work and Occupational Therapy Building on the Edinburg campus reported that during the month of February, \$400 was withdrawn from a checking account that belonged to their student association without their consent.

4:47 p.m.: A student reported a tan drawing board with clips and a drawing were stolen from a cubby that she was using at the student lounge in the Visual Arts Building on the Edinburg campus.

5:37 p.m.: A student reported that on March 7, she left an art bag in a cubby that she was using located at the student lounge in the Visual Arts Building on the Edinburg campus. On March 9, she realized the bag was missing.

7:16 p.m.: UTRGV police officers responded to an ill person report in the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus. The student refused emergency medical services and contacted a friend who picked her up and left without further incident.

--*Compiled by Andrea Flores*

SPACE
Continued from Page 1

research.”

In an email sent to The Rider on April 19, he wrote, “Some departments other than HH&P will remain in [TSC’s] Cortez [Hall], but the amount of leased space will be reduced.”

UTRGV is currently leasing 10 buildings from TSC.

The total cost of the BINAB expansion is \$11,706,456, Marta Salinas-Hovar, associate vice president for Facilities Planning & Operations, told The Rider in an email last Thursday.

Salinas-Hovar said the expansion of the building was funded by \$2,786,456 in Tuition Revenue Bonds and \$8,920,000 from the Revenue Financing System.

TRBs are paid back from tuition

charges levied against students or institutions, according to the Texas Senate website. The Revenue Financing System is a cost-effective debt program secured by a systemwide pledge of all legally available revenues for debt, according to the University of Texas System website.

Rodriguez also wrote in the email that the name of the building will be the same as the original but it will be Building B.

The new space will house classes related to health and human performance, research and faculty offices, he said.

About 70 parking spaces will be lost in Lot B-1, according to Rodriguez.

“The direction that the building is growing does require that we move a drive, an existing drive that’s adjacent to the parking lot,” he said. “So when

we move the drive over, it will cut into some of the existing parking.”

Rodriguez said the university will not be replacing the lost parking spots since additional parking is available in Lot B-4, which is located across the street from the Casa Bella student housing complex.

Biology senior Clarissa Barrera said she likes to see that the campus is growing.

“I just don’t like that it’s right now during the semester,” Barrera said. “It’s less parking. Imagine having to walk all the way from [Lot B-4]. ... It’s just more time for me that I have to get up earlier and find a parking spot.”

Biology junior Alejandra Mata said the new building can add a variety of classes and bring in new professors.

“You know how every building

has their own specific need,” Mata said. “They’re definitely adding more things for those students [in the Department of Health and Human Performance].”

She added that because of the elimination of parking spaces, the university should add more Zone 2 areas for students.

Zone 2 parking lots are located closer to the buildings than Zone 1 spaces.

Barrera also suggested that more Luke pay station spots in Lot B-1 be added.

“Like, if I really have one class the entire week, I’m not going to want to pay \$100 [per year] to come,” she said. “I’d rather just pay, you know, like, per hour. But then again, it’s like, you don’t know if there’s going to be parking because there’s only, like, 10 spots.”

<div></div> <p>The <i>Rider</i> is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The newspaper is widely distributed on and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.</p>	EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Verilu Infante	SPORTS REPORTER Omar E. Zapata	DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANTS Itzel Rivera Abigail Ollave	STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR Azenett Cornejo	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 © 2022 The Rider
	SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR Danielle Perez	SPANISH EDITOR Fatima Gamez Lopez	ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER Alexis Ramos	STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM ADVISER Jesus Sanchez	
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A conference with student leaders



Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER

Audrey Solis (center), After Dark/Road Trips committee chair for the Campus Activities Board, introduces herself during the State of the RGV Conference last Wednesday in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. A similar event took place last Thursday on the Brownsville campus. Also shown are Samuel Valdez, vice president of education for the Civic Engagement Alliance, and Karitza Garcia, Student Government Association senator for the School of Nursing.

Landon Burns

THE RIDER

The purpose of the Civic Engagement Alliance is to encourage UTRGV students toward voter registration, education and engagement in their communities. Last Thursday, the alliance hosted a conference to discuss the state of these ideals in the Rio Grande Valley.

"The ultimate purpose of this panel is to educate the UTRGV community," said Osvaldo

Grimaldo, a sociology junior and the CEA president who organized the event. "You know, to educate the community that is going to be there to listen about the experience of UTRGV students, have the impact that you probably saw as leaders on campus and normal students, how they saw the change."

The panelists were Samuel Valdez, the vice president of education for the Civic Engagement Alliance; Jose Pablo Rojas, the Student

Government Association president; Audrey Solis, the Campus Activities Board committee chair for Road Trips/After Dark; Karitza Garcia, SGA senator for the School of Nursing; and Ruben Loza, a multimedia intern for Student Activities.

The panelists were chosen to speak for their leadership experience and their ties to UTRGV in order to discuss issues that affect the university and the Valley at large. They did this through

discussing their various motivations as well as the challenges they face.

"I'm a first-generation Mexican American migrant student whose parents came to the United States to be able to get their child the opportunities they might not have had while they were in Mexico," Valdez said.

Asked how she balances her responsibilities with her academic life, Garcia replied, "Time management is your best friend. You're going to

always use it, whether it is in your academic life or your professional life."

The conference also discussed the issue of voter registration.

"I came into this position thinking I want to make sure everybody is registered to vote," Valdez said. "And it expanded from making sure everybody is registered to vote to educating people as part of my committee and brought events, like Meet the Candidates Series, to UTRGV."

COVID

Continued from Page 1

"So, this is something that is ongoing and we are trying to continue to recruit people for their experiences or to recount their experiences on what, you know, the past two years have looked like for them working in public health."

So far, the series has focused on the recount of Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño Jr. and Cameron County Health Authority James Castillo.

"I think it was really to give the public an idea, or at least some insight into how members of the county's team look back and reflect on how we responded to [COVID-19] and the impact it's had on us as well," Castillo said in an interview with The Rider.

He spoke about how the pandemic deeply impacted everybody, including the officials responding to it.

"But that we have, you know, hope that we're coming ... through the end of the, at least, one phase of the pandemic, you know, entering the part about learning how to live with this illness that might just be part of our daily lives and trying to heal from the effects that these past couple of years have had," Castillo said.

In the first episode of the series, uploaded April 4, Treviño spoke about the "new reality" COVID-19 presented and his responsibility as county judge to make the "best-informed decisions" possible.

"Having that meeting, that first meeting at the Public Health Department with all the superintendents, it was clearly a life-altering moment for all of us," he said. "Our new normal includes living with COVID-19, but not living afraid with COVID-19."

Fourar said she hopes that viewers recognize that Cameron County Public Health will continue to serve the county's residents throughout the pandemic.

"I hope that they're able to just really, you know, embrace these experiences that ... public health officials and workers are recounting and just, you know, just kind of see it from their perspective," she said.

Meanwhile, UTRGV reported three new COVID-19 cases between April 8 and 14, according to a university official.

Doug Arney, vice president for Administrative Support Services and chair of the Infectious Disease Committee at UTRGV, said the three consisted of two students and a staff member.

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 April 8 through 14.

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

Hidalgo County reported 237 cases between April 18 and 22, raising its total to 199,169, according to its website.

The county reported three deaths between April 18 and 22, raising its death toll to 3,898.

Cameron County reported 56 cases between April 14 and 21, raising its total to 73,557, according to its website. No cases were reported on April 15, as offices were closed in observance of Good Friday.

The county reported three deaths between April 14 and 21, raising its death toll to 2,230.



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC



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Delete your social media accounts



Lent is the period from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, the day before Easter when people give up something for 40 days for penance and to honor Christ's 40 days in the desert.

Now, I would not say I am that religious, but I always enjoyed a challenge. The first couple of weeks were a little difficult, I will admit. I missed mindlessly scrolling on Instagram or TikTok. I would be in awkward situations in public or wanting to avoid eye contact with a creepy stranger across from me, but all I could scroll on was my contact list. How stupid.

Toward the end of Lent, I almost didn't notice how I wouldn't get any more texts or notifications.

I cared less about what people were posting, what silly nonsense was being shared or what the latest TikTok challenge was.

Alternatively, I gave more time to school. I volunteered more and I cracked open the books that collected dust in the full bookshelf. I liked this new lifestyle. I wasn't some loser glued to my phone.

Easter finally came and everyone who participated in Lent was sprinting back to their sacrifices. However, I would say I was more like a speed walker. I got back onto my accounts and I noticed absolutely no change. The world felt the same, but I felt

different. A good different.

Then, out of curiosity, I wanted to see how different my screen time was. Of course, my recent total was zero for the "social" category. But then, when I swiped six weeks back, my total would be an average of six hours a day! What?! Was I really spending that much time online?

I was so repulsed by the sight of that old total. I have been using so much of that time elsewhere during my hiatus. It is crazy to think that something so small will demand your attention, and you surrender to its command willingly and eagerly. If you asked me, I would say it is embarrassing.

Since then, I have been on my phone less.

After I turned off notifications, I didn't obsess over who is liking my posts or seeing my stories anymore. I would only get on when I felt like I deserved to, like a reward. As the old saying goes, out of sight, out of mind.

The moral of my story is everyone should take a break.

Stop submitting yourself to the power of the founders of those social networks we preoccupy ourselves on. They are manipulating us! No one will care if you are on or off social media. Go do all the things you have been saying you wanted to do. Live a better life. Be brave and let go of your accounts just for some time. I promise you will feel like a whole new person.



If you were a dog, which breed would you be and why?

"I think I'd be a German shepherd just because they're, like, big and tall and ... a lot of them are police dogs. I feel like I'd be safe as a German shepherd."



Yusra Hussen
psychology freshman



Jose Saldivar
Learning Framework Program director

"Probably a Lab. I have a black Lab, and his name's Fred. And Fred just sits on the couch all day. And Fred just seems to have the best life. So, I think I'd like to be a Lab, and I'd like to have my dog Fred's life."

"I would be an English bull terrier because they look like sharks and they're pretty hyper. Like, they are jumping all around."



Sandy Mendoza
computer engineering senior

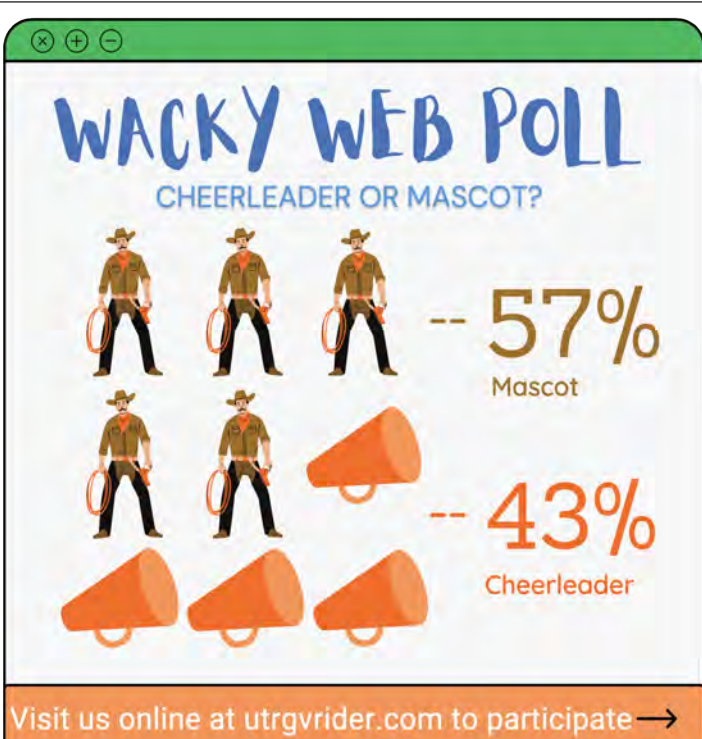


Tommy Izo
chemistry freshman

"I think I'd be a dachshund and I just like the way they look. They look like they have a lot of fun with their short, little legs, and they look pretty happy, too. Whenever I see videos of them, they're always having fun playing."

--Compiled by Danielle Perez

Visit us online at utrgvrider.com to watch the full-length interviews.



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PAR AVION

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 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.

UTRGV expande BINAB para albergar edificio de Salud y Desempeño Humano

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

La expansión del Edificio Académico Interdisciplinario en el campus de Brownsville dio inicio el 11 de abril y está previsto que esté terminado en junio del 2023. El edificio de 16,754 pies cuadrados formará parte del Departamento de Salud y Desempeño Humano. Gerry Rodríguez, director de Planificación y Construcción de Instalaciones de UTRGV, dijo que el edificio podrá ofrecer nuevas aulas y espacios de enseñanza de última generación. “Actualmente no tenemos [esto] en Brownsville porque son parte de espacios que rentamos de Texas Southmost College”, dijo Rodríguez. “No es un espacio ideal, como lo estamos rentando, no podemos modificarlo de acuerdo a nuestras necesidades. En esta nueva construcción, podemos construir el espacio. Fue diseñado específicamente para la construcción del edificio de investigación, HH&P (por sus siglas en inglés)”. En un correo electrónico enviado a *The Rider* el 19 de abril, escribió: “Algunos departamentos, aparte de HH&P, permanecerán en



Roxanna Miranda/FOTO RIDER

La expansión para el Edificio Académico Interdisciplinario en el campus de Brownsville está en marcha para crear más espacio para nuevas aulas modernizadas, laboratorios de investigación y oficinas del profesorado de última generación para el Departamento de Salud y Desempeño Humano. La expansión reducirá la cantidad de espacio que UTRGV le renta a Texas Southmost College y se estima que sea terminado para junio de 2023. Alrededor de 70 espacios de estacionamiento de el Lote B-1 se perderán debido a esta expansión.

[TSC] Cortez [Hall], pero se disminuirá la cantidad de espacio rentado”. UTRGV actualmente renta 10 edificios de TSC. El costo total de la expansión de BINAB es de \$11,706,456 de dólares, dijo Marta Salinas-Hovar,

vicepresidenta adjunta de Planificación y Construcción de Instalaciones, a *The Rider* en un correo electrónico el jueves pasado. Salinas-Hovar dijo que la expansión del edificio fue financiada con \$2,786,456 de dólares en Bonos de Ingresos

de Colegiatura y \$8,920,000 del Sistema de Financiamiento de Ingresos. Los TRB (por sus siglas en inglés) se reembolsan con los cargos de colegiatura que se le cobran al estudiante o instituciones, según el sitio web del Senado de Texas. El

Sistema de Financiamiento de Ingresos es un programa de deuda económico que está garantizado por un compromiso de todo el sistema de todos los ingresos legalmente disponibles para la deuda, según el sitio web del Ve **EDIFICIO**, Página 11

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State of the RGV



UTRGV student leaders and panelists of the State of the RGV Conference hold their certificates of recognition last Wednesday in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. Shown are Samuel Valdez (from left), vice president of education for the Civic Engagement Alliance; Audrey Solis, After Dark/Road Trips committee chair for the Campus Activities Board; Karitza Garcia, Student Government Association senator for the School of Nursing; Ruben Loza, multimedia intern for Student Activities; and Jose Pablo Rojas, SGA president.

Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER

Samuel Valdez (from left), vice president of education for the Civic Engagement Alliance; Audrey Solis, After Dark/Road Trips committee chair for the Campus Activities Board; Karitza Garcia, Student Government Association senator for the School of Nursing; Ruben Loza, multimedia intern for Student Activities; and Jose Pablo Rojas, SGA president, pose with their Vs Up after a panel discussion during the State of the RGV Conference last Wednesday in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER



Lourdes Perez (from left), secretary of marketing for the Civic Engagement Alliance; Martin Resendiz, culture committee chair for the Campus Activities Board; and Jose Raúl Ruiz, vice president of voting for the Civic Engagement Alliance, chair of the Senate and senator of the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship for the Student Government Association, participate as panelists during the Civic Engagement Alliance annual State of the RGV conference last Thursday on the Brownsville campus. The purpose of the CEA is to help UTRGV students become more active in the community through service, voter registration, education and engagement.

Citlalli Torres/THE RIDER



Jose Raúl Ruiz, vice president of voting for the Civic Engagement Alliance, Student Government Association chair and senator of the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship, speaks about what leadership means to him and how it has changed since he transitioned to be a student leader during last Thursday's State of the RGV conference hosted by the CEA.

Citlalli Torres/THE RIDER



Lourdes Perez, secretary of marketing for the Civic Engagement Alliance, speaks about how UTRGV resources, such as the library, the counseling center and the advisers, have helped her in becoming a better student leader during last Thursday's State of the RGV conference hosted by the CEA. Perez was one of three student-leader panelists invited to speak on the Brownsville campus.

Citlalli Torres/THE RIDER



Irma Slovak (left) signs during last Thursday's State of the RGV conference hosted by the Civic Engagement Alliance. Also shown are student panelists Lourdes Perez, secretary of marketing for the CEA; Martin Resendiz, culture committee chair for the Campus Activities Board; and Jose Raúl Ruiz, vice president of voting for the CEA, Student Government Association chair and senator of the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship. The conference was held on both campuses.

Citlalli Torres/THE RIDER

‘Don’t change who you are’



Diana Alvarez-Tovar/THE RIDER

Theatre senior Johnny Platas (from left), as Mayor Troll; theatre sophomore Emily, as a Troll; and theatre junior Justin Vasquez, as Seymour, rehearse last Tuesday at the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus.

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

UTRGV students will perform “Seymour the Troll,” a play about an unhappy troll looking for a miracle to change his name, at 2 p.m. May 8 in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre in Edinburg.

The Children’s Theatre Workshop course and Director

Brian Warren, an associate professor of Theatre, brought “Seymour the Troll” to UTRGV. “Seymour the Troll” is basically about this troll who has been given a really bad name and he takes his journey to try to change it,” said Jaclyn Flores Barreiro, a theatre senior who will play Chief Pencil Pusher. “Everywhere he goes, he is always [being] denied or

turned the other way because people make fun of his name.” Warren said the genre of the play is TYA, theater for young audiences. “It was actually written by one of my colleagues in the Theatre Department, [Professor] David Carren is his name,” he said. Warren said the play has more than one theme. “We hope that [the] play

speaks to the young people, not only about their names, but ... how to come to terms with who you are, your identity and why that is valuable,” he said. “You know, so those are the themes of the story.” Warren said “Seymour the Troll” shows the value of oneself. “The play has to do with self-identity and recognizing yourself as a valuable part of the world, which I think we all need right now,” he said. “We want people to be proud of who they are and what they can offer the world and that’s what this play is about.” Justin Vasquez, a theatre junior who will play Seymour the Troll, said he would describe his character as “persistent.” “[Seymour] doesn’t ... like people telling him he can’t fix it ... or, like, learn how to, like, accept this part of himself,” Vasquez said. “He is just very motivated and very driven and is a little sensitive, in spite of it all.” He encourages students to attend to learn about the process of creating a play. “This show [is] important because of how influential it could be to people who have experienced theater for the first time and also, like, get to see how collaborative it is as an art form,” Vasquez said. “Theater, generally, can help people understand how much

teamwork goes into putting on a production and how it is basically everybody, probably, putting their talents together to make sure that the community and everyone involved in the production itself has fun.” Barreiro said she would describe her character, Chief Pencil Pusher, as “threatening.” “The other trolls fear her but she’s just a 10-year-old little girl,” she said. “I can be, like, an intimidating little girl. ... [Chief Pencil Pusher] has all the power to just, like, say if you can or cannot change your name.” She said her experience working on the play has been “amazing.” “I really enjoy how this production is going and it’s been, basically, a class effort,” she said. “Everyone is a student. We are all equal to each other, and I think that is really good because everyone can get along with everyone so easily. ... So, it’s really amazing.” Asked why she would encourage students to attend, Barreiro replied, “I think it is really important for the community to attend this play because it gives, like, [a sense of] ‘don’t change who you are.’” The play is open to the public and admission is free. Masks are recommended and social distancing between parties will be in place.

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Aries-You have finally reached the success you’ve been waiting for. Great news and celebrations are in your future and will make you feel prouder than ever before. Accept this offer as it will bring you security and a bright beginning.

Leo-Lately, you’ve been spending a lot of time in bed, making you feel so restless. Be mindful of the time you dedicate to yourself and others. Stand your ground and use your power to demand what is right. Don’t let stress overwhelm you.

Sagittarius-Focusing on the future, building and growing toward your goals is the plan at the moment. This energy is important to have to find your way to success. Allow the relationships in your life to guide you further. Be hopeful and positive through the process.

Libra-Carrying a lot of weight on your shoulders can start to affect you. Try to relax by adventuring with someone special and live in the moment. Don’t be afraid to get out of your comfort zone when necessary because it can be for the best.

Gemini-Holding back from things you want will only make you regret it later. Open up to new chances and start making memories. In this world, you only get one life, so start living it to the fullest. The world is yours. Embrace it.

Aquarius-Use this week to reflect on what you want your future to look like. Remind yourself to not settle for less if you truly do not think it’s right. Stand your ground and protect your heart from others who do not see your worth.

Scorpio-Life is moving fast every day, but try to stop and take a breath here and there. When stressed about starting something new, calm yourself. Try slowing down your days by taking things one at a time.

Pisces-Communication is being highlighted this week. Be clear with your emotions and reflect on your actions to figure out what’s really happening inside your heart. Try being transparent with yourself to avoid heartbreak.

Cancer-Spirit wants you to carefully examine how you’ve been acting. Maybe you haven’t noticed you’ve been selfish and stubborn. Accepting that you’ve been wrong is growth, so do not fear it. Use this advice to decide what you want to do next.

Taurus-Stand your ground and be positive in order to reach a solution. If you’re thinking about what to do next, just be honest with yourself. Deep down, you already know what to do but are afraid to take that step. Forget being fearful. Be real.

Virgo-Although you may be feeling frustrated lately, the universe wants to remind you to have patience. Whatever you may be going through will resolve itself soon, so do not let it keep you up at night. It will start to balance itself out just the way you wanted it to.

Capricorn-Any plans you have in mind will take you to the right places. Do not let what has happened fool you into thinking that you need to reroute your future. Remember, things happen for a reason, so don’t let it stop you from building your foundation.

Cartoon-ish Musings

by Ariael Ortiz



Sudoku

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

Last week’s puzzle answer key:

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

Athlete of the Week:
Andres Cortez



Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER

Sophomore Andres Cortez plays for the UTRGV Men's Golf Team. In high school, he won 22 tournaments, including two 32-4A District Championships as a junior and senior. Cortez has qualified for state twice, was a four-time regional qualifier and a two-time regional medalist. Cortez also got the lowest single-round score of 67 at the Donna Boys Invitational.

Q: What career did you want when you were younger, and how does that compare to your current major?
A: "I wanted to be a veterinarian, and at the moment, I'm doing criminal justice pre-law. So, obviously, I'm in a different ballpark."

Q: How hard do you work in order to win?
A: "I had a talk with a teammate about this not too long ago, and [what] he told me kinda stuck with me. If I only put 99.99% of the work and I know I could have put that .01%, I don't know if I could live with myself, so I feel always trying to reach for that 100% mark, which is honestly super hard, but trying to reach for that 100% mark is super important to me."

Q: What is the hardest part about taking classes here?
A: "At the moment, not really anything. But when I was just getting into the swing of things, I had trouble with my time management, so that was probably the hardest thing for me. But, I guess, maturing and getting older, I became more organized with my school and separating school and golf."

Q: Where is your favorite place to eat?
A: "Draft House, easy."

Q: Do you go to Draft House with your teammates?
A: "All the time."

Q: What is your favorite part of attending UTRGV?
A: "Honestly, the people I meet. Being from the Valley, no one really expected coming here, or I didn't really expect coming here and meeting all the people I met. Me, being one of the only Americans within my friend group, I just see people come from all different parts of the world. It's super cool."

--Compiled by Landon Burns

Hometown stars

Omar E. Zapata
THE RIDER

UTRGV baseball sophomore first baseman Jacob Sanchez, of San Juan, and redshirt freshman shortstop Isaac Lopez, of Edinburg, have become regulars on the starting lineup, but their impact goes beyond what happens on the field.

This season, for UTRGV (21-15, 7-8), Pharr-San Juan-Alamo High School alum Sanchez has tallied four home runs, 24 RBIs, 38 hits, fourth best on the team, and a .339 batting average, the third best on the team.

"I'm having a great start," he said. "I'm having a very consistent way of playing. ... I'm trying to do my best and do whatever I can to help out the team."

Sanchez said the difference from his first season is his consistency of "staying locked in at all times" and going out with more confidence.

Robert Vela High School alum Lopez has garnered one home run, eight RBIs, 16 hits and a batting average of .271.

Lopez said he attributes his development to having good teammates and coaches around him.

"The guy I am today was definitely not the kid who showed up in August of last year," he said.

Lopez said one of the best parts of playing for UTRGV is the home game experience. From having fans, family and friends come out to the games, to representing the Valley and being looked up to by kids, Lopez said it is a blessing to be in his position.

"[When I go up to bat], I like having the [words] 'Edinburg, Texas,' up on the scoreboard to show everybody there that kids from the [Rio Grande] Valley can do whatever they put their mind to," he said.

At almost every home game,



Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Redshirt freshman shortstop Isaac Lopez (left), of Edinburg, and sophomore first baseman Jacob Sanchez, of San Juan, have both earned a spot on the starting lineup this season after developing their skills last year.

you can find Lopez's family, each with their own customized fan shirts, cheering him on.

"Yeah, they like to make their own fan shirts and stuff, but sometimes I tell them, like, nothing too drastic, to keep it simple," Lopez said with a laugh. "They're here to support the team, too, not just me, but I'm so thankful for their support."

Sanchez said he is fortunate to play at UTRGV with his "huge" family and friends coming to most home games.

"Representing the Valley and PSJA is a great feeling," he said. "Just giving hope to all the kids around the Valley that anything's possible and I'm just trying to be great for them and trying to be a big role model for all the young kids."

From having kids know his name and ask for autographs to parents coming up to Sanchez and telling him how proud they are of him, he said it is an amazing feeling.

The most memorable fan Sanchez has encountered is a child who has watched his entire high school and collegiate baseball career. From his freshman year at PSJA High School to this day, he said the kid has gone to most of his games and is now following in his footsteps and playing baseball in middle school.

Lopez said it is awesome to see all the support from the community around the team.

"I've had older people just come up to me and tell me congratulations on having a good season so far, and just to keep going because they believe in me," he said.

Another example Lopez

said is how the students at the elementary school, where his mother is the principal, will ask her how he and the team are doing.

"Sometimes, they can't make it to the games, but they just like keeping up with how we're doing and it's awesome," Lopez said. "And then, especially when they come out to the games and you give them balls, they come out here at the end of the game, and we sign the baseballs."

One young fan of the team that Lopez notices at games is Derek. He said Derek even comes to the game by himself with his parents dropping him off because he loves the game and is always trying to catch foul balls.

"He sits by himself over there on the left-field line," Lopez said. "And I see him and I just, every time I see kids like that, I just appreciate the game more and appreciate my position more because it's a blessing for me to be here."



Redshirt freshman shortstop Isaac Lopez bunts the ball at the bottom of the third in the game against the University of the Incarnate Word last Tuesday at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium. The Edinburg Robert Vela High School alum has posted one home run, eight RBIs, 16 hits and a batting average of .271 this season.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

<p>6:30 P.M. TUESDAY VS. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN [HOME]</p>	<p>6 P.M. WEDNESDAY VS. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI [HOME]</p>	<p>7 P.M. FRIDAY VS. TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY [HOME]</p>	<p>6 P.M. SATURDAY AND NOON SUNDAY VS. TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY [HOME]</p>
<h2>BASEBALL</h2>			



Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER

Sophomore first baseman Jacob Sanchez waits at first base during the top of the fourth in the game against the University of the Incarnate Word last Tuesday at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium. This season, the PSJA High School alum has garnered four home runs, 24 RBIs, 38 hits, fourth best on the team, and a .339 batting average, the third best on the team.

BALLOT
Continued from Page 1

several months was ‘I didn’t realize it was on the ballot,’ ‘I didn’t know it was on the ballot,’ ‘You guys should’ve done a better job,’” Treviño said. “But, part of the issue is we cannot utilize public funds to advocate one way or the other for a project that we put on the ballot, for example, as a county. So, all we could do in the fall and all we are doing now in the spring is, from the county perspective, is just informing the general public, the electorate, that there is a ballot proposition to be considered.”

Asked how much the arena will cost, he replied the county’s estimate is about \$100 million.

“But, a lot of things have changed over the last year, including the cost of numerous materials,” Treviño said. “So, we’re not sure what it’s going to cost, but this is just a part of it. The venue tax, the hotel, motel and rental car tax was never designed nor planned to pay for the entire project. It cannot pay for the entire project.”

“If at the end of the day, we’re not able to have enough money to pay for the construction utilizing the venue tax, utilizing the TIRZ, which is the tax increment reinvestment zone from the developer, and then utilizing a public-private partnership to make up the difference, whatever that amount is, well then, you know, we won’t be able to move forward until we have that addressed and taken care of. We’re not going to start a project that we can’t pay for or fund utilizing all of the different resources that will be available to us both from a public and a private standpoint.”

The county judge said the arena will be a multi-use facility and part of the reason for its creation is to be able to host large-scale events, such as concerts, sporting events and both high school and college graduations.

Asked what would be next if it fails at the polls again, Treviño said he is staying positive that it will not have

to be brought back again because it is going to pass this time.

“I have a message to all voters,” Treviño said. “Obviously, it’s important that any time there’s an election, that you get out and exercise your right to vote because it’s not only a right and obligation, it’s our responsibility any time there is an election. This is something that is going to take a while to get done but more importantly it is something planning and looking towards the future.

“I think our community here in Cameron County is one that’s very excited at the moment in regards to all the wonderful things that are going on, such as SpaceX and what it’s brought to the area, the attention, the tourism, the excitement and the inspiration. So, this is kind of part of it, and I think that it’s critical that people start believing that when we work together we should be able to work to get those things that other communities already have.”

He also said that for the most part, young people are not the most engaged voters and it is critical that they take advantage of the opportunity to vote and make this project a reality because they can be the difference in whether this proposition passes or not.

“But this is an opportunity for all of the people who say we don’t have enough things to do, to help us make the arena a reality and, therefore, another tourist attraction, which is part of the planned development that’s already being done out there,” Treviño said. “It’s gonna be a residential, multifamily, it’s gonna have retail, open-style retail shops, and hotels, and restaurants, and bars and nightclubs. All of these things are gonna happen but imagine being able to do all that and go to a show at the same time here in Cameron County. I think it’s exciting and I would hope that everybody would get behind it because this is a quality-of-life issue, an economic development issue, and something positive for the community and it should be a uniting issue as opposed to a dividing one.”

Mark Kaswan, UTRGV associate



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

professor of political science, provided a closer reading of the propositions on the Constitutional Amendment Election ballot on May 7 and said he is confident that both will pass.

Kaswan said Proposition 1 on the ballot proposes a property tax limit reduction for elderly and disabled residents, which corrects an error that the Texas Legislature made in 2019.

Essentially, in 2019 the Legislature passed a property tax cut that was not passed to people who were 65 and older.

“So, they didn’t get to enjoy the benefit of the tax cut,” Kaswan said. “So, what this proposition is doing is it is correcting that error.”

If passed, Proposition 2 on the Special and General elections ballot will exempt more of a property’s value than before for property taxes.

In Texas, if a resident owns and lives in their home, they may declare a homestead exemption, where the first \$25,000 of appraised value is exempt from the property tax.

“What this exemption would do is increase that exemption from \$25,000 to \$40,000,” Kaswan said.

The last time there was an increase was in 2015, when the exemption went from \$15,000 to \$25,000.

Asked why this is being considered

now, Kaswan replied, “Texas has a budget surplus and they feel like they have more money than they need, and this is a way that they can reduce taxes on people.”

Being that Texas does not require residents to pay an income tax, residents pay more in property taxes, he said.

“Because the state is flush with cash ... they want to return a portion of that money to the taxpayers,” Kaswan said.

However, one of the primary beneficiaries of property tax revenue is public schools.

Kaswan said there is a provision in the bill that states the Legislature will cover all or part of the cost of the school districts. However, it does not state for how long.

According to the Texas Tribune, the reimbursement to public schools will cost the state \$600 million annually.

“And what happens when the state does not have a budget surplus,” Kaswan asked rhetorically. “The concern is that this is going to really hurt funding for public education.”

Early voting continues through May 3. For information on where to vote in Cameron and Hidalgo counties, visit cameroncountytexas.gov/elections and hidalgocountytx.us.

CITY
 Continued from Page 1

the city, but that’s also a win that could have been passed onto the customers. It could have been taken off their bill. So, it’s a double-edged sword.”

Miguel Perez, chief financial officer for BPUB, presented the rate adjustment to the commission and said that in 2013, the utility charged an average bill of \$102. In the same year, the board decided to make that price its target.

“We subsidized the fuel rate to maintain that \$102, but ... everything that was pushed from that 22% was all pushed back to the customer because we artificially reduced the fuel charge,” Perez said.

This means that every dollar that was charged for the 22% was given back to the customer.

Due to an increase in the price of fuel, BPUB can no longer maintain its average bill of \$102 for its customers, Perez said.

However, if the proposed rate adjustment is approved, the fuel rates will change, and over the next two years, BPUB will go back to the original rates that were in effect on Oct. 1, 2013.

Now that BPUB is no longer subsidizing the fuel cost, customers will see an increase in their bill. The average monthly bill for residential customers is projected to be \$113.03 for 2022 and \$113.52 in 2023, according to the agenda packet.

“I remember sitting in the [UTB/TSC] Cueto Building with the PUB ... when you all presented to us the first time and it dragged on for a long time,” said District 2 Commissioner Jessica Tetreau. “It took a while. ... I had so many questions. ... These rate increases were going to increase and it was like ‘Why?’”

“I had so many questions and I would be told, you know, ‘This is a good thing for Brownsville. We need this power consumption, and nothing will ever come if we don’t have it, and you don’t understand.’ So, explain it to me. It was just one of those things, like, ‘You don’t understand,’ but nobody would explain it. ... I remember being so embarrassed. Somebody just please explain it to me. And that’s when I had this feeling, like,

‘If they won’t explain it, something is wrong.’ You just want me to pass it, but you won’t tell me why.”

At that point, Galonsky Pizana interjected to ask if Tetreau had voted on said items and to clarify that the decisions made with BPUB were done before her appointment to the board.

The two went back and forth, but ultimately Tetreau regained the floor to give her opinion on what the commission should consider in regard to the rate adjustment.

“All I ask [of] the commission is that ... you really, really, really do the right thing by the ratepayers,” Tetreau said. “Yes, we did subsidize the fuel and I feel like that does make up a lot for it. ... But all I ask [of] you is that you really, really advocate for these ratepayers that have been through so much and just do the right thing

“And that’s kind of a rollout we need to do now because we didn’t know what the commission was going to do. But now, we gotta roll out to the customers and explain that ‘you’re gonna get a reduction in your bill, but your bill may go up because we’re now gonna set the fuel at the real cost.”

--John Bruciak
general manager and CEO of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board

by them and make sure that they are compensated for what they’ve been through. ... All I’m trying to ask is for fairness and to be fair and to be honest and to be open and to be transparent and I feel like the ratepayers deserve that as well.”

District 3 Commissioner Roy De los Santos said that while he understands Tetreau’s point of view, “doing right by the taxpayers isn’t always about lowering their bill.”

De los Santos said it is also about what the city is delivering and if it is setting itself up to be able to deliver, even through the toughest times.

“It’s not easy to tell to a customer,” said John Bruciak, general manager and CEO of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board. “And that’s kind of



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Last Tuesday, the Brownsville City Commission conducted its first public hearing on proposed electric base rate adjustments. During the meeting, members of the commission voiced their thoughts regarding a proposed amendment. Mayor Trey Mendez motioned to approve Brownsville Public Utilities Board’s recommendation of rolling back the rates over the course of two years.

a rollout we need to do now because we didn’t know what the commission was going to do. But now, we gotta roll out to the customers and explain that ‘you’re gonna get a reduction in your bill, but your bill may go up because we’re now gonna set the fuel at the real cost.”

The three components of a customer bill are the customer service charge, the energy charge, which are the base rates and in which the 22% rate increase is included based on an average user rate of 1,000 kilowatts per hour), and the fuel charge, Perez explained to The Rider.

All electric utilities are allowed to recover fuel costs and the revenue that was generated from the 22% rate increase was given back to customers through the reduction or subsidization of the fuel charge.

“The rates currently are at about \$8,” Perez said. “ ... A year and a half ago, those prices were \$2. That’s a significant increase and so we’re gonna have to increase that fuel charge in the coming month.”

All utilities are allowed to recover that fuel cost and BPUB has subsidized that fuel cost ever since the last rate

increase in 2016, he said.

De los Santos said he would have preferred if the item was presented to the commission after BPUB completed the Tenaska audit.

Tenaska is a private, independent energy company whose project with BPUB did not come to fruition, Perez said in an interview with The Rider.

“It would set the public’s mind at ease,” De los Santos said about the audit. “All questions can be answered at that point and, as I understand it, we are looking at a possible delay in that now. So, I’m not comfortable moving forward with the rate adjustment at this point until I see that audit.”

Mayor Trey Mendez replied that he did not understand how the audit would change anything because it is “mutually exclusive.”

“Personally, I can’t not lower it knowing that the consumer is still going to continue to pay something that they shouldn’t be paying,” Mendez said.

All commissioners except for De los Santos voted to approve the rate adjustment. The second hearing for this item is scheduled for the May 3 city commission meeting.



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Marta Salinas-Hovar, vicepresidenta adjunta de Planificación y Construcción de Instalaciones, dijo que la expansión está siendo financiada por el dinero asignado por el Bono de Ingresos de Colegiatura para la construcción del Edificio Académico Interdisciplinario en el campus de Brownsville. El sistema de Financiamiento de Ingresos, un programa de deudas económico garantizado por un compromiso del sistema de ingresos legalmente disponibles para la deuda, también financió la expansión, según el sitio web del Sistema de la Universidad de Texas.

EDIFICIO
 Continuación de Página 5

Sistema de la Universidad de Texas.

Rodriguez también escribió en el correo electrónico que el nombre del edificio será el mismo que el original, solo que este será Edificio B.

El nuevo espacio albergará clases relacionadas con la salud y el desempeño humano, investigaciones y oficinas del profesorado, dijo.

Se perderán cerca de 70 espacios de estacionamiento en el Lote B-1, según Rodriguez.

“La dirección en la que crece el

“Hay menos estacionamiento. Imagínate tener que caminar todo el camino desde [Lote B-4]. Es más tiempo para mí, tengo que levantarme más temprano y encontrar un lugar para estacionarme”.

--Clarissa Barrera
estudiante de último año de biología

edificio requiere que removamos un camino existente que está junto al estacionamiento”, dijo. “Entonces, cuando movamos el camino, cortará parte del estacionamiento existente”.

Rodriguez dijo que la universidad no reemplaza los lugares de estacionamiento perdidos, ya que hay estacionamiento adicional disponible en el Lote B-4, que está ubicado al

otro lado de la calle de la unidad de viviendas estudiantiles Casa Bella.

Clarissa Barrera, estudiante de último año de biología, dijo que le gusta ver como el campus está creciendo.

“Simplemente no me gusta que sea ahora mismo durante el semestre”, dijo Barrera. “Hay menos estacionamiento. Imagínate tener que caminar todo el camino desde [Lote B-4]. Es más tiempo para mí, tengo que levantarme más temprano y encontrar un lugar para estacionarme”.

Alejandra Mata, estudiante de tercer año en biología, dijo que el nuevo edificio puede agregar una variedad de clases y traer nuevos profesores.

“Sabes que cada edificio tiene su propia necesidad”, dijo Mata. “Definitivamente están agregando más cosas para los estudiantes [en el Departamento de Salud y Desempeño Humano]”.

Agregó que debido a la eliminación de espacios de estacionamiento, la universidad debería agregar más áreas de Zona 2 para los estudiantes.

Los espacios de estacionamiento de la Zona 2 están ubicados más cerca de los edificios que los espacios de Zona 1.

Barrera también sugirió que se agreguen más puestos de pago en el Lote B-1.

“Si realmente tengo una clase toda la semana, no voy a querer pagar \$100 [por año] para venir”, dijo. “Prefiero pagar, ya sabes, como una hora. Pero igual, es como si no supieras si habrá estacionamiento disponible ya que solo hay como 10 espacios”.

--Traducido por Itzel Rivera



UTRGV Student Media is accepting applications for the Summer 2022 sessions and Fall 2022–Spring 2023 academic year for the following programs:

The Rider Newspaper Vaquero Radio

Newspaper Editor-in-Chief
Newspaper Online Editor
Newspaper Social Media Editor
Newspaper Editorial Cartoonist/Graphics Artist
Newspaper Copy Editor
Newspaper Spanish Editor
Newspaper Reporter
Newspaper Sports Reporter
Newspaper Arts & Entertainment Reporter
Newspaper Photographer

Radio Station Manager
Radio Assistant Station Manager
Radio News Director
Radio Online/Social Media Editor
Radio Program Director
Radio Sports Reporter
Radio Reporter

Pulse Magazine

Magazine Editor-in-Chief
Magazine Graphics Editor
Magazine Photo Editor
Magazine Section Editor
Magazine Online/Social Media Editor
Magazine Photographer
Magazine Graphics Designer

KVAQ-TV

TV Station Manager
TV Assistant Station Manager
Video Editor
TV Web Producer
TV Reporter

Student Media

Advertising Manager
Marketing Specialist
Distribution Assistant



**Deadline to
apply is
3 p.m. May 6,
2022**

Students must apply via Handshake

All applicants must:

- Be enrolled at UTRGV for a total of 6 credit hours during Summer 2022 sessions.
- Be enrolled at UTRGV during the Fall 2022 semester.
- Have a semester grade-point average of 2.5 or higher.

For more information, call 882-5143 or 665-5085.



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does not discriminate based on gender, race, color,
national origin, religion, disability,
veteran status, or sexual orientation.

The Net

By Rebecca Green

Never in her wildest dreams did she ever think they would look back at each other with nothing but the love or happiness they once shared. Even though now looking back on those fond memories, they were all lies. She felt fooled and slow-witted to have fallen over and over for his fabricated words sown to perfection, so she wouldn't have thought for one second but just believe like a toddler.

As she danced through the halls of this forbidden home, nothing but hatred swept through her mind, which had been hanging on a thread of love. It would soon tear, and her grip on reality would begin to loosen to the point of insanity.

Maybe, it had torn already, but she couldn't know at this moment, for the rope in her hand would soon be used with malice intent. As she hummed her favorite classical piece, "Valse Sentimentale," she continued to dance her way to the member of this so-called family she once called her husband.

From the start, all she had ever done was love him with such a deep passion and all for him to repay her in such a devious cruel way. Once, she stood across him, his back facing her at his desk as he usually did, reading that godforsaken book. It had always made her jealous because he would spend more time reading that than speaking with her.

She felt a cold spill of poison trickle down her stomach just thinking of the many times her heart begged for his attention, and for what? She wanted to give him one more chance to own up and tell her the truth, which she was entitled to after all she had given up for this man, this man she once knew who seemed foreign to her.

"My love?" she said in her beautiful soft tone.

"What is it, Arya?" he responded his tone seemed almost bothered, this provoking the grip of the rope in her hand to tighten.

She continued after taking a breath and gripping onto the thread of love she had left, "Yesterday love, you told me you had simply come home and fallen asleep. Are you sure nothing else was done?"

His voice shifted, "Arya honey," he said almost genuinely. "I'm sure that's what I did. What more do you expect me to do when you're not home?"

It was as if a pot of boiling water was poured into every inch of her veins, and she could only feel anger and hate towards a man she once loved. "This lying snake how could he?" she thought to herself with the most hideous glare as she revealed the rope from behind her back. He dropped the book and backed up, knowing the unstable behavior patterns his partner carried and got up from the desk chair and slowly backed away saying,

"Now, Arya, it is not what you think. You see I came home and assumed well you wouldn't care-."

"Wouldn't care!?!!" She cut him off. "Oh, you're about to see how much I don't care!" Before he knew it, he felt a wave of shame as he sat tied down to a chair in front of the tv. He knew it would be the end soon and began to sweat and beg through his eyes for forgiveness.

"Last I checked, we left off on episode 36. Why does it say we are on the last season with the finished finale episode?" He had no words to say but look down and sat in silence for betraying her in such an unforgettable way. "Since you did this and lied, you will see my wrath and watch the whole rest of our series from beginning to the end, which you promised when we started it."

As the anger left her face, she sat down with a bowl of popcorn and snuggled close to him as he rolled his eyes for a long all-nighter of Netflix.

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Authors' Corner