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UTRGV reports 12 positive COVID-19 cases

Natalie Lapsley
THE RIDER

Though the pandemic reached its second year of existence in Texas last March, COVID-19 cases continue to be reported, both on campus and at the county level.

UTRGV reported 12 new COVID-19 cases between April 15 and 21, according to a university official.

Doug Arney, vice president for Administrative Support Services and chair of the Infectious Disease Committee at UTRGV, said the 12 consisted of eight students and four staff members.

Arney said one student was in on-campus isolation housing the week of April 8 through 14.

The university first reported See **COVID**, Page 2

COVID-19 CASES UPDATE



These numbers include cases from April 23 and 24.

Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

PLAY BALL!

UTRGV baseball falls to top-ranked Texas in front of historic crowd



Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER

Longhorn sophomore Dylan Campbell steals second base during the top of the second inning with second baseman junior Diego Ramirez leaping to avoid a collision. See more photos on Page 6.

Omar E. Zapata
THE RIDER

UTRGV fell 7-2 Tuesday night to No. 10-ranked University of Texas at Austin in the UTRGV Baseball Stadium with a wave of different shades of orange and a single-game-program record attendance of 6,418.

With Texas making its first trip to the Rio Grande Valley in 51 years, the Longhorns were welcomed with many of their

own fans in the stands and the largest crowd in UTRGV baseball program history.

The Vaqueros kept the Longhorns' star lineup contained in the first three innings, only allowing one run. This changed in the top of the fourth, when Texas scored four runs to make it 5-0. UTRGV's first run came in the bottom of the sixth by redshirt freshman shortstop Isaac Lopez. Texas added two runs in the top of the eighth to make it 7-1. Lopez finished the night with a run in

the bottom of the ninth for a final score of 7-2.

"What a great crowd, what a great atmosphere," UTRGV head coach Derek Matlock said after the game. "The program has come a long way in five years and it's got to come a lot further. Our expectations are better than that. We have to beat teams like that if we're going to get in the mix like they were when they were the Broncs. Then we have to beat teams like that at home."

Enactus places in national competition

Landon Burns
THE RIDER

Two projects by the student chapter of Enactus at UTRGV have placed first and 11th in a national competition hosted by the organization on Long Island in New York.

Enactus is an international organization dedicated to improving the world in accordance with the United Nations' sustainable development goals.

"Enactus is a student organization," said Maria Leonard, the faculty adviser for UTRGV's Chapter of Enactus and an assistant professor of practice in the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship. "It was started in the 1970s by Sam Walton, the founder of Walmart, and the idea behind creating this organization was to get business students to go out into their community and use their talent and their knowledge to help their community."

In the Rio Grande Valley, the chapter has organized many projects to help the community. This includes Nutrisol, the project that won first place in the Early Stage Competition Pairings at the Enactus United States National Exposition.

Nutrisol is a program designed to inspire students to eat better and provide better food options, according to Enactus Vice President Aylin Salinas, a management senior. The chapter is working with the Hub of Prosperity, a farm dedicated to teaching people how to cultivate crops, and in the future there will be activities on campus centered on healthier eating.

See **ENACTUS**, Page 3

Executive Ticket 1 wins SGA General Election

Andrea Flores
THE RIDER

With 565 votes in the 2022-2023 Student Government Association General Election, Executive Ticket 1, consisting of Jonathan Ricardo Dominguez, Kimberly Escalante and Jose Javier Herrera, has been elected by the UTRGV student body and will begin their SGA term today.

Dominguez will serve as SGA president and Escalante and Herrera will both serve as vice presidents.

Job Martinez, Kimberly Grace Sandoval and Karitza Vianey Garcia ran in Executive Ticket 2 and garnered 394 votes.

Dominguez said he felt honored to have won the SGA presidency and that his next step is to build trust and the foundation for relationship

interactions in the workplace.

"Know how to talk to people, know how to work with people, know how to connect with people; that would be the first step," Dominguez said.

When asked about the goal of providing more upper-level courses with a variety of professors, mentioned in his platform statement, he said that he would like to have more professors teaching those classes. Nevertheless, Dominguez said the hiring process is the main problem in obtaining this.

"What I'm hoping to do is, perhaps, collect some data from the students in order to come up with ... a presentation to pitch it to the department telling them, 'This is what we need and this is our proof,'" he said.

One of the other goals mentioned

See **SGA**, Page 10



Citlalli Torres/THE RIDER

Jose Herrera (from left), a biomedical science senior and vice president for the Brownsville campus; Kimberly Escalante, a biology junior and vice president for the Edinburg campus; and Jonathan Dominguez, a biology senior and SGA president, were elected as the 2022-2023 president and vice presidents and will begin their term today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AV Today **Early Voting** The **Civic Engagement Alliance** and **Student Activities** will host **early voting** for the **Special Constitutional Amendment & Local Entities Election** from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. today and Tuesday in Student Academic Center 1.100 on the Edinburg campus.

Spring Flute Recital
The **School of Music** will host a **Spring Flute Recital** at 7 p.m. at the UTRGV Library Auditorium on the Edinburg campus. The event is part

of the **Patron of the Arts Student Performance Series**. Admission is free.

Violin Recital
The **School of Music** will host a **Spring Viola/Violin Recital** at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex Choir Hall on the Edinburg campus. The event is part of the **Patron of the Arts Student Performance Series**. Admission is free.

Tuesday Breakfast Wrangler
The **Student Union** will host a **Breakfast Wrangler** from 10 a.m. to noon on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus and at

the same time Wednesday on the Student Union Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus. Students can receive a **free breakfast** and **play games** to relieve pre-final exams stress.

First SGA Meeting
The **Student Government Association** will hold its **first senate meeting** of 2022-2023 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. Students can also join through Zoom. RSVP through V Link.

Wednesday Film Screening
The **University Library** will

host a film screening of **“Seoul Station”** from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in University Library Room 1.118 on the Brownsville campus. The animated prequel to **“Train to Busan”** follows a man sleeping in a train station who becomes a catalyst for a rapidly spreading infection in downtown Seoul. The event is part of **Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month**.

Thursday Mi Loteria
The **School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling** and the **Graduate Rehabilitation Counseling Association** will hold **Mi Loteria!**

Expressive Arts Study Break from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the University Center Ballroom. Students can make a personalized *loteria* card.

Duck Head Trials
University Recreation will host **“Duck Head Trials,”** based on the **“Harry Potter”** series, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Duck Head property on the Brownsville campus. The events for the competition are modified versions of Quidditch and Wizard Duels. Registration is not required. The **first 100 students** will receive **free T-shirts**.
--Compiled by *Diana Alvarez-Tovar*

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between April 21 and 28.

April 21
5:17 p.m.: Officers responded to the Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus in reference to an injury report. A student reported that he dislocated his knee while practicing jiu-jitsu. The student was transported to Doctors Hospital at Renaissance for further medical evaluation.

6:09 p.m.: A University Library Campus Store employee reported a suspicious older man has been visiting the store for the last two to three weeks. The employee said the older man attempts to start “small talk” and stares at the employees, making them feel uncomfortable.

April 23
8:37 a.m.: UTRGV police officers discovered an unknown suspect(s) spray painted a light pole in Lot E-11 next to the School of Medicine building on the Edinburg campus. A review of the camera footage indicated that the markings had been there since early March.

2:28 p.m.: An Edinburg police officer

requested assistance from UTRGV police to review camera footage from a university parking lot located near a house that was burglarized recently. Camera footage was reviewed and the information and findings were reported to the Edinburg police officer.

April 24
2:47 a.m.: UTRGV police officers patrolling the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus came across a male student and female student who were arguing. No assault occurred and both parties agreed to go their separate ways for the remainder of the evening.

5:57 p.m.: UTRGV police officers responded to an active fire alarm in the Engineering Building on the Edinburg campus. The Edinburg Fire Department arrived at the location shortly after and cleared the building for re-entry. When attempting to reset the fire panel, it showed 28 active trouble alarms for the building. A work order was placed to have the panel assessed.

April 25
11:17 a.m.: An employee in the Biomedical Research and Health Building on the Brownsville campus

reported he lent two keys to a graduate student who is no longer part of his research group. The employee has tried to get the keys back for over a month with no success.

April 26
2:31 a.m.: Officers responded to the area of lot E-10 in reference to a small fire on a utility pole. The Edinburg Fire Department arrived and determined the fire started by a lightning strike, and the rain appeared to have put out the fire. American Electric Power crews arrived to replace the damaged pole. The fire caused a power outage in the majority of buildings on the north side of campus for several hours.

11:07 a.m.: UTRGV police officers responded to a fire alarm in the Brownsville University Library. The Brownsville Fire Department arrived and deemed the building safe for re-entry. The alarm was set off by a water leak in a mechanical room. Facilities and Environmental Safety & Risk Management were on location to address the issue.

12:18 p.m.: A UTRGV police officer observed a motor vehicle crash on the 700 block of North Sugar Road.

It was discovered that the driver at fault did not possess a valid Texas driver's license and was issued a court appearance citation for no driver's license. Both parties agreed to handle the damages among themselves.

4:35 p.m.: A female student reported leaving jewelry behind in a restroom in the Interdisciplinary Academic Building on the Brownsville campus. The student returned at a later time and was not able to locate her property.

5:45 p.m.: UTRGV police officers responded to an injury report in the UTRGV Baseball Stadium. A woman reported tripping on the sidewalk, injuring her hand and knee. The woman was treated by Med-Life emergency medical services on scene.

April 27
5:01 p.m.: A student reported losing his vehicle keys at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

April 28
1:45 a.m.: An employee reported a personnel issue involving her supervisor at the Marialice Shary Shivers Building on the Edinburg campus.
--Compiled by *Andrea Flores*

COVID *Continued from Page 1*

two COVID-19 cases in June 2020. In 2020, UTRGV COVID-19 reports recorded an average of around 10 cases a week and in 2021, the university reported an average of around six cases a week.

So far, the university has reported an average of around 34 cases a week in 2022. This increase in weekly cases can be attributed to travel and events over the holidays, as previously reported in a Jan. 31 issue from The Rider.

Social activity and in-person gatherings over the holidays also play a possible role in the increase in numbers, said Esmeralda Guajardo, Cameron County health administrator, in a January 2022 interview with

The Rider. “[There are] a lot of barbecues, a lot of parties, people getting together,” Guajardo said. “So, anytime that happens, obviously, that’s going to increase the risk and increase the numbers.”

During the week of Jan. 14 to 20, 2022, university officials reported a campus high of 112 confirmed cases.

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, which date back to June 2020, on its website.

As of April 21, the university has reported a total of 1,170 confirmed cases through the dashboard.

Hidalgo and Cameron

counties continue to report COVID-19 cases.

Hidalgo County reported 380 cases between April 25 and 28, raising its total to 199,591, according to its website. The April 25 report includes numbers from April 23 and 24.

VISIT UTRGV.EDU/COMMITMENT
TO VIEW THE
COVID-19 DASHBOARD

The county reported two deaths between April 25 and 28, raising its death toll to 3,900.

Case reports, news releases and other COVID-19-related information has been made available through the Hidalgo County COVID-19 webpage since its creation March 2, 2020.

On June 14 of that year, the county surpassed the 1,000

mark for positive COVID-19 cases and around two months later, on Aug. 24, 2020, the county surpassed the 25,000 mark, according to its website.

The first community COVID-19 vaccination clinic in Hidalgo County, targeting health care workers and the elderly, opened Jan. 5, 2021, on a first-come, first-served basis.

As of last Wednesday, 964,043 people in Hidalgo County were vaccinated with at least one dose, and 677,682 were fully vaccinated.

Cameron County reported 80 cases between April 22 and 27, raising its total to 73,651, according to its website.

The county reported one death between April 22 and 27, raising its death toll to 2,231.

COVID-19 updates are made

available on the Cameron County Public Health website, which has been providing information and reports since March 4, 2020.

In an April 27 daily COVID-19 report, county officials said that vaccination efforts within Cameron County communities continue.

As of last Thursday, 86.81% of the population 5 years and older in Cameron County is fully vaccinated and 99.99% has received at least one dose.

For more information, see the Texas Vaccine Data Dashboard on the Texas Department of State Health Services website at dshs.texas.gov.

Individuals may call the Cameron County hotline at 247-3650 for more information about vaccination sites and services.

THE RIDER
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Times announced for commencement ceremonies



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Alejandra Yañez THE RIDER

Times and dates for Spring 2022 commencement were announced last week in a campuswide email.

As previously reported by The Rider, the Brownsville ceremonies for Spring 2022 graduates are scheduled for May 13 on the Library Main Lawn.

For those graduating in Edinburg, the ceremonies are scheduled for May 14 in the Bert Ogden Arena.

In a campuswide email sent last Wednesday by UTRGV Announcements, the commencement schedule for those graduating on the Brownsville campus is as follows:

- Beginning at 4 p.m.:
- College of Fine Arts
- College of Engineering and Computer Science

- College of Education and P-16 Integration
- Mathematics and Science Academy
- College of Sciences
- Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship
- Beginning at 7 p.m.:
- School of Medicine (Bioethics)
- School of Nursing
- School of Social Work
- College of Health Professions
- College of Liberal Arts
- The commencement schedule for those graduating in Edinburg is as follows:
- Beginning at 8 a.m.:
- College of Fine Arts
- College of Liberal Arts
- Beginning at noon:
- Mathematics and Science Academy

- College of Sciences
- College of Education and P-16 Integration
- Beginning at 3:30 p.m.:
- School of Medicine (Bioethics)
- School of Nursing
- School of Social Work
- College of Health Professions
- Beginning at 7 p.m.:
- College of Engineering and Computer Science
- Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship
- In an interview with The Rider at the beginning of April, UTRGV Registrar Sofia Almada said 2,500 graduating students are expected to attend the ceremonies.
- For additional information, visit, utrgv.edu/commencement.

ENACTUS *Continued from Page 1*

“We’re only working in the university right now, not so much the Valley in general,” Leonard said. “But we just want to effect change in the way that our students see the way that they eat, because there are no healthy options on campus.”

Today, Enactus will host its first awareness program, a cook-off at 10 a.m. in the Health Sciences Building on the Edinburg campus among various chefs in the Valley, using food from the Hub of Prosperity and the UTRGV Student Food Pantry.

The Nutrisol project is not Enactus’ only venture. Members also have been working on the Sustainable Opportunities for Advancement in Recruiting, or SOAR project, which recently placed 11th in the World Cup Qualifier Semi-Final League Pairings at the Enactus United States National Exposition, which took place April 21-22.

“Individuals with autism, especially young adults, when they age out of high school, for example, they have a hard time getting a job,” Leonard said. “... We saw a need and we decided to help.”

Partnering with Workforce Solutions, Enactus created a curriculum for people who need to develop their social skills. This includes subjects such as time management, goal setting, conflict resolution, communication and customer service. When the students graduate from the course, each receives a paid internship from Workforce Solutions.

Last Thursday, 12 students graduated from the course and are in the process of receiving their internships.

Other projects Enactus has worked on include Cansgiving, which is an annual charity drive to raise food for less fortunate families, and Financial Literacy, which trains students on the basics of managing their financial affairs.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Enactus chapter at UTRGV are shown with student participants in the chapter’s Sustainable Opportunities for Advancement in Recruiting project during a field trip to the Sea Turtle Inc. conservation and rehabilitation facility on South Padre Island. Enactus’ SOAR project won 11th place at the World Cup Qualifier Semi-Final League Pairings at the Enactus United States National Exposition.



Shut up and listen



Verilu Infante
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Verilu Infante is a mass communication junior.

In 2018, Larry Nassar, a former doctor for USA Gymnastics and member of the Michigan State University sports medicine staff, was sentenced to 40 to 175 years in prison after pleading guilty to sexual assault charges.

The Associated Press recently reported that 13 of Nassar's victims are each seeking \$10 million from the FBI, claiming a bungled investigation by agents led to more abuse by him.

In 2015, Indianapolis-based USA Gymnastics told local FBI agents three gymnasts said they were assaulted by Nassar, but they did not open a formal investigation or inform federal or state authorities in Michigan, according to the inspector general's report.

Nassar was ultimately arrested in November 2016 during an investigation by MSU police.

The victims seeking \$10 million from the FBI are just a few out of over 150 women and girls Nassar allegedly abused over the span of 25 years, according to an Associated Press article.

It hurts my heart to think that the same law enforcement agency we frequently make jokes about spying on us 24/7 via our laptop webcams and cell phones let Nassar get away with his evil acts for as long as he did.

What hurts me even more is knowing there were so many

"How about instead of questioning women and creating excuses as to why it happened, you hold men accountable."

times he could have been stopped if one adult had just listened.

In her victim statement, which was broadcast by several news outlets, Kyle Stephens said that at 12 years old, she told her parents about the abuse she began to experience from Nassar at 6 years old. Instead of listening to her, her words were dismissed as lies and she was consistently told to apologize to Nassar, leading her to endure more years of abuse.

Imagine being a terrified child,

experiencing traumatizing harm, and when asking for help, you're made to say sorry to the person hurting you, and he's allowed to continue ripping away your innocence at such a young age.

Some of the women he abused were Olympic gymnasts, such as Aly Raisman, Simone Biles, Jordyn Wieber and McKayla Maroney.

Imagine being a member of a national team who is constantly being looked at during a major international event, a person about whom the media frequently reports, interviews and captures photos of, and a person who other athletes admire and some aspire to be as great as one day, yet not a single person could help you in a time of need.

What's most unfortunate is that this is just one of many times women and girls have suffered at the hands of adults, more specifically, a man, when it could have been prevented if someone had just listened.

It's frustrating. It's upsetting. It is painful for me to think about the number of women, of all ages, that have shared the same universal experience of being groomed and abused at the hands of a man abusing the power he had over them.

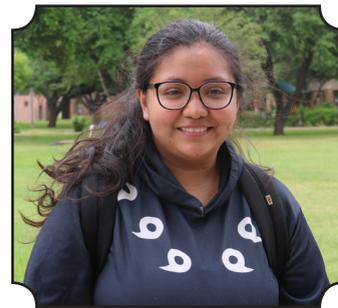
"Why didn't you say something about it earlier?"
"What were you wearing?"

See LISTEN, Page 11



What is the weirdest thing you have seen this year on campus?

"This is my first year. I didn't notice it, but they were handing out condoms everywhere. It was so weird. It felt awkward at first."



Carla Velasco
anthropology freshman



Cindy Ruiz
criminal justice freshman

"Creo que lo peor que he presenciado o he logrado conocer en el campus fue lo de la amenaza del tiroteo de parte de uno de los maestros. Creo que fué lo que más [me] impactó ... y también lo de los asaltos en los dormitorios. Creo que también tienen que ver mucho."

"I think a lot of my first week, my first semester as a freshman, I saw someone dressed entirely as a cat and meowing at people. Not to, like, say it's weird. Perhaps very different, not ... anything I was used to."



Victor Avalos
psychology freshman



Jenae Moya
biology freshman

"This semester I would say, like, in March, maybe, like, the beginning of March, there was a girl, OK, and she had, like, cat ears on, like, a cat, like, a little fox tail. And she had a collar and a leash and she was, like, 'I have a boyfriend,' like, a little skinny guy, and he was holding her leash and I remember thinking, like, 'WTF?' I remember being, like, 'What the hell am I looking at right now?' So I left. I was, like, 'Yeah, this is my last time on campus. I'm not coming back anymore.'"

--Compiled by Fatima Gamez Lopez
--Photos by Abigail Ollave

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Caridad innovadora

Landon Burns
THE RIDER

Dos proyectos del grupo estudiantil de Enactus de UTRGV ocuparon el primer y undécimo [11º] lugar en la competencia nacional coordinada por la organización en Long Island en Nueva York.

Enactus es una organización internacional dedicada a mejorar el mundo de acuerdo con los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible de las Naciones Unidas.

“Enactus es una organización estudiantil”, dijo Maria Leonard, asesora de la facultad del grupo de Enactus de UTRGV y profesora adjunta de la Facultad de Negocios y Emprendimiento Robert C. Vackar. “Empezó en la década de 1970 por Sam Walton, el fundador de Walmart, y la idea detrás de la creación de esta organización era lograr que los estudiantes de negocios salieran a su comunidad y utilicen su talento y conocimiento para ayudar a la comunidad”.

En el Valle del Río Grande, el grupo ha organizado

múltiples proyectos para ayudar a la comunidad. Esto incluye a *Nutrisol*, el proyecto que ganó el primer lugar en la Competencia de Fase Temprana en la Exposición Nacional de los Estados Unidos Enactus.

Nutrisol es un programa diseñado para inspirar a los estudiantes a comer mejor y brindar mejores alternativas de alimentos, según la vicepresidenta de Enactus Aylin Salinas, una estudiante de último año en administración. El grupo está trabajando con *Hub of Prosperity* (Centro de Bienestar), una granja dedicada a enseñar a las personas a cultivar y en el futuro habrá actividades en el campus centradas en una alimentación más saludable.

“Solamente trabajamos en la universidad por el momento, no en el Valle en general”, dijo Leonard. “Pero solo queremos efectuar un cambio de cómo nuestros estudiantes ven la forma en la que comen, porque no hay opciones saludables en el campus”.

Hoy, Enactus será el anfitrión en su primer



FOTO DE CORTESIA

Los miembros del grupo de Enactus en UTRGV se muestran con los estudiantes participantes en el proyecto Oportunidades Sostenibles para el Avance en el Reclutamiento del grupo durante un viaje a las instalaciones de conservación y rehabilitación de Sea Turtle Inc. en South Padre Island. El proyecto SOAR de Enactus ganó undécimo [11º] lugar en la nivelación de la liga semifinal de clasificación para la Copa Mundial en la Exposición Nacional de Estados Unidos Enactus.

programa de concientización, de una competencia de cocina a las 10 a.m. en el Edificio de Ciencias de la Salud en el campus de Edinburg contando con varios chefs del Valle, utilizando alimentos del *Hub of Prosperity* y la Despensa Estudiantil de UTRGV.

El proyecto *Nutrisol* no es el único trabajo de Enactus. Los miembros

también han sido parte en el proyecto Oportunidades Sostenibles para el Avance de Reclutamiento, SOAR por sus siglas en inglés, que ocupó el undécimo [11º] en la nivelación de la Liga Semifinal de Clasificación de la Copa Mundial de la Exposición Nacional de Estados Unidos Enactus que tuvo lugar el 21 y 22 de abril.

“Las personas con autismo,

especialmente los adultos jóvenes cuando salen de la escuela preparatoria, por ejemplo, tienen dificultades para conseguir trabajo”, dijo Leonard. “... Vimos una necesidad y decidimos ayudar”.

Al asociarse con *Workforce Solutions*, Enactus creó un plan de estudios para las personas que necesitan

Ve **INNOVADORA**, Página 11

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UTRGV baseball falls to top-ranked Texas in front of historic crowd

Continued from Page 1

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com



UTRGV second baseman junior Diego Ramirez attempts to get Longhorn sophomore Dylan Campbell out while running back to first base during the top of the sixth.

Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER PHOTOS



UT redshirt junior infielder Ivan Melendez hits a fly ball to center field during the top of the first.



UTRGV first baseman Jacob Sanchez extends to get Longhorn senior outfielder Austin Todd out during the top of the first.



A single-game-program record crowd of 6,418 attended the game, breaking the previous record believed to be 4,900 at Jody Ramsey Stadium in 1976, according to goutrgv.com.

UTRGV redshirt freshman shortstop Isaac Lopez prepares to catch a fly ball during the top of the ninth inning.



UTRGV redshirt freshman pitcher Randy Garza winds up during the top of the first. Garza recorded a career-high, tying four strikeouts in 3.2 innings.



New dean on the block

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

After a year of searching for a new College of Fine Arts dean, Janna Arney, executive vice president and provost, sent a campuswide email on April 20 announcing Jeffrey Ward of Kansas State University as dean, effective July 1.

Ward is the current director of the School of Music, Theater and Dance at Kansas State University.

He received a doctorate of musical arts in music education (conducting) from Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, Virginia; master's of music degree in choral conducting from East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina; and bachelor's of arts in music with a teacher preparation certificate from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida.

In a Zoom interview with The Rider from Manhattan, Kansas, Ward said he first visited the Edinburg campus on March 21 and the Brownsville campus on March 22.

"I was really looking for a place where I could come in and make a difference and have the partners in helping the college move forward and having supportive faculty and students that were excited about moving to the next chapter," he said.

One of Ward's goals for his career at UTRGV is to create a group that would look at the outreach component to connect students to opportunities outside the college in terms of internship and field experiences.

The second goal is to build global citizenship, in which students can have the opportunities to study abroad and bring new experiences back to the Rio Grande Valley.

The third is to help the schools and the departments within the college to define what their strategic directions are and provide the resources and the infrastructure for them to be successful.

"As a dean, I'm going to work on creating a student advisory leadership group that [will

have] direct conversations with me," Ward said. "I want students to see me in their classes, at their exhibitions and their performances because ... that's really important to me, to build that relationship and to build that trust that students can come to me and feel like they're going to be heard and that their perspective is going to be taken seriously. That's really important."

Katherine McAllen, director of the UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts and a School of Art and Design professor, was one of nine members in the College of Fine Arts search committee.

Other search committee members were Jean Braithwaite, an associate professor in the Creative Writing Department;

"The students have ideas about how to make the college function better and Dr. Ward is open to those ideas and open to working with students to make the College of Fine Arts a great college."

--Luis Torres-Hostos
founding dean and School of Social Work professor

Hector Rodriguez, a School of Music lecturer; John Garza, a director of development for the College of Fine Arts; Jonathan Guist, a School of Music professor; Min Kim, a Department of Dance professor; Paul Jorgensen, an associate professor and director of Environmental Studies; Peter Mikolasky, a director and associate professor in the Department of Theatre; and Vallerie Hernandez, program coordinator for the School of Music.

McAllen hopes for Ward to help the School of Art and Design become accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.

"Dr. Ward is a NASM accreditor, so ... he's the person that comes to campus and visits and helps give other



COURTESY PHOTO
Jeffrey Ward
Dean of the College of Fine Arts

university departments their accreditation," she said.

McAllen said she looks forward to collaborating with Ward on projects at the UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts to support faculty, students and all the different departments of the college.

"I look forward to supporting him and helping bring faculty together to help support our students," she said. "As a faculty member in the School of Art and Design, I look forward to welcoming Dr. Ward and helping him get to know our faculty and our talented students and include him in art events that we organize."

Luis Torres-Hostos, founding dean and professor in the School of Social Work, was the chair for the search committee.

Torres-Hostos said the committee narrowed down the list of applicants from more than 50 to 18 and then to four.

"The four people that came to campus, that's what we call the short list," he said. "What set Dr. Ward apart from the other three candidates, you know, one of the things is his vision for the position, and then, the other one is just his philosophy about leadership overall."

Torres-Hostos said another thing that set Ward apart was his vision for the role in terms of how to bring together the unique strengths of two campuses.

"A lot of programs have

See DEAN, Page 11

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Aries-After the storm, there is always a rainbow. Do not be fooled by all the hardships you have been going through. It all exists for a reason and will lead you to happiness and success. Spirit is trying to clear the path for you by making you stronger every day.

Leo-The plans you have will come to fruition sooner than expected. Keep rising above and take care of your future. Demand what is right for you. Realize what is working for you and what isn't. Don't let your hard work go down the drain because others did not match it.

Sagittarius-The world is in the palm of your hand, but it doesn't mean a thing until you change it. Start taking it more seriously and go after what you dream of. It will require strength, but it is nothing you don't already have. Afterward, you will see everything start to fall into place.

Libra-A difficult situation may arise but stay calm. It will all work out. Sometimes, some things need to fall apart before they come back stronger. Spirit wants you to keep this close to heart and remember, there is a purpose for everything.

Gemini-Patience is what is driving you crazy. Try to be collected and think positively about what is happening. Avoid hiding and isolating yourself as it may not be good for the soul. Try to do some soul-searching and realize what you need to feel powerful again.

Aquarius-Every week that goes by makes your work seem to go unnoticed. Reflect back on your actions that cause you to feel this way. However, don't be too harsh because soon you will receive great news and a celebration attached to it, making you realize it was all in your head.

Scorpio-Lately, you have been feeling positive and radiant with great energy. This feeling is hard to come by; therefore, it is important to grasp it and keep it within. Having this kind of outlook will make things easier for you.

Pisces-Juggling between two life-changing decisions can be difficult to handle. This situation has you feeling pressured and unable to do anything else. Take a deep breath, consider what is at stake and let the universe guide you. Tune into your emotions and let everything else go.

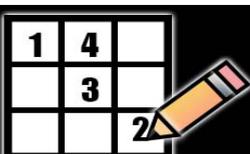
Cancer-Frustration is building up inside and tears are ready to start flowing. Let your heart breathe and your mind rest by allowing these emotions to come through you. Recall all the happy moments and let the joy back into your world.

Taurus-A time of relaxation is deeply needed in your life. Find a spot of availability in your calendar and do it. Don't let what is happening in the outside world keep you from it. Take care of yourself before taking care of others.

Virgo-A certain situation may have hurt you so deeply that it will take some time to recover. Be careful to not let this feeling be permanent and consider walking away from it since nothing else can be done. Accept this fate and move forward to a new, happy beginning.

Capricorn-Delays are necessary when trying to reach goals. Sometimes, other things get in the way so you are set back. Instead of being upset by it, try using the time to figure other things out. This will provide the security you need in order to reach the outcome.

Sudoku



Last week's puzzle
answer key:

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

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

Cartoon-ish Hijinks

by Ariael Ortiz



**Athlete of the Week:
Samantha Gonzalez**



Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER

Freshman Samantha Gonzalez graduated from Raymond and Tirza Martin High School in Laredo. Since then, she has joined the UTRGV Women's Cross-Country Team and the Women's Track and Field Team. This semester, she placed 19th in a 3,000-meter run and 10th in the distance medley relay at the Western Athletic Conference indoor championship.

Q: What makes your team unique among others?

A: "We're a very young team. Most of us are sophomores or freshmen, so I think we have a lot of room for improvement."

Q: Do you do anything outside of running?

A: "Besides studying and running, I do have other hobbies. I play violin. I play other sports."

Q: If you could go anywhere for an extended period of time, where would you go?

A: "I'd probably go to Colorado. I would want to run in some different scenery, maybe elevation, just spend some time there."

Q: Why do you like running?

A: "I played many different sports growing up, and when I tried running, it was just completely different than all the sports. It was more mentally challenging. It required a different skill set. So, I think that's why I fell in love with it."

Q: Will you keep running after college?

A: "I don't think I'll run professionally, but I do think I'll keep running for the rest of my life."

Q: Have you been watching any TV shows?"

A: "Yes, right now I've been watching 'Community' [on Netflix]."

Q: What do you like about 'Community'?"

A: "With all the stress and school, I think it's a good way to have a laugh when I'm not doing work or something like that."

--Compiled by Landon Burns

Taking the next big step



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Omar E. Zapata
THE RIDER

Three UTRGV student athletes graduating this spring told The Rider about their reservations and excitement about the transition to life after college.

UTRGV Women's Tennis senior Sandra Putz, majoring in economics and minoring in statistics, is one of 37 graduating student athletes. Putz said she likes to work with numbers and always envisioned herself in a related career.

Arriving at UTRGV in the 2018-19 season, Putz said she was first a math major but figured out along the way that economics was what she wanted to do.

"[Math] was a bit too theoretical and I wanted to do something that's more, like, applied," she said. "Something I can actually use on an everyday basis, kinda. So, yeah, that's why I chose economics."

Taking macroeconomics during her basics with Lecturer Gilbert Cardenas made her enjoy the subject, Putz said.

The Munich, Germany, native will go back to her hometown for a six-month internship with BMW where she will work with the finance division of the company.

"I was really excited when I got it," Putz said. "I was, like, I didn't expect it because it's a really big firm. So, I think it's a really, like, nice chance and ... I'm really happy about it and I'm grateful."

The best advice for getting an internship or a job is to be confident, she said.

"If you believe you can do it, then I think the world out there is going to see it as well," Putz said.

She believes the internship is a step in the right direction and hopes to pursue her master's in Germany.

Asked how UTRGV has helped her for the next step in her life, Putz replied, "I think, just by having to do so much on a daily basis, I got more organized. So, it really helped me throughout these four years to, like, excel in the classroom. ... I think that's



PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

also going to help me now in the future to just stay on top of things."

Junior track and field distance runner Edward Ramos, majoring in mechanical engineering with a certificate in petroleum engineering, said the rigorous time crunch among school, athletics and being a tutor at the Learning Center helped him learn time management.

"For sure, in the beginning, the study hall hours helped me out a lot ... because I didn't know, like, how to study," the Harlingen native said. "I feel like doing study hours actually helped me, like, realize how to study, how much time I need to spend for

"If you believe you can do it, then I think the world out there is going to see it as well."

--Sandra Putz
UTRGV Women's Tennis senior

school. After a while, I started getting used to the way the practice times were at, and I had to start making adjustments to make time to study for exams and for homework."

After graduation, Ramos plans to take a break for two to three months before attending a petroleum engineering conference in Houston, where he hopes to land a job.

Admitting he is scared of graduating and for his future, Ramos said his fellow UTRGV peers should take advantage of internships as early as possible and talk to their professors.

"They really helped me out with everything," he said. "Some may be strict but they do help out students. ... That's how I found out about the engineering petroleum conference. I was talking to my professor about that."

Ramos said he wants to stay in the



PHOTO COURTESY JUAN DELEON

Rio Grande Valley, if possible, but would not mind moving somewhere else in Texas. He plans to continue running long distance as a hobby and his long-term goal is to participate in the Boston Marathon.

Psychology graduate student and UTRGV Women's Basketball forward Iva Belosevic is one Vaquera who plans to continue her athletic career after graduation.

"I want to go play overseas, professionally, for a couple of years," the Croatia native said "I signed with [an] agency as soon as we were done playing and I also have a couple of offers already when I get home. And I have a couple of visits also."

Belosevic said she is excited for her next step, but it also scares her that once she is no longer a college student, she will need to focus on her adult life.

"All of a sudden, I need to focus on all these things that I didn't care, like, you know, here, I was just playing basketball and studying," she said "Now, I need to find a job, I need to pay, you know, just for stuff in everyday life."

Belosevic attributes her interpersonal skills, communication skills and overseas connections to the UTRGV basketball program and the people around her.

She said her biggest inspiration during her four years at UTRGV has been her parents back home.

"They're working hard and sacrificed so many things to help me be where I'm at," Belosevic said. "I want to, like, kind of pay them back because they made so many sacrifices for me just to start playing basketball and then to come here. ... I will never be able to pay them back, but I want to give them something."

After she pursues a professional basketball career, Belosevic dreams of using her psychology degree to work with children in school or as a coach.

"I'm excited about [graduating]," she said. "I've never actually walked in a ceremony, so that's kind of a new thing, and I'm excited to see what the future is going to give to me."

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

6 P.M. TUESDAY VS. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO (AWAY)

6 P.M. WEDNESDAY VS. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI (AWAY)

6 P.M. FRIDAY, 2 P.M. SATURDAY AND 1 P.M. SUNDAY VS. LAMAR UNIVERSITY (AWAY)

BASEBALL

SGA
Continued from Page 1

in his platform statement was the idea of providing more internship and research project opportunities.

“As a science major, I noticed that research opportunities are very slim, and I think we should just come up with more projects that will prepare students for actual research projects,” Dominguez said.

He elaborated on his statement by saying that he feels that an introductory class to research would better prepare students for the material and its methods.

Escalante said that without the campus community’s support, the results would not have been the same. “Thank you to everyone that voted, because this wouldn’t have been possible and to everyone that spread the word, too,” she said.

Escalante also explained what made them different from the other candidates was that her team opted to not rely entirely on social media for reaching students.

“We did it more in person, you know, talking to the students,” Escalante said. “Even myself, I was at [E] Comedor talking to them, at the library talking to them.”

She also said one of her team’s goals is the inclusion of the Brownsville campus. Escalante said it is important to incorporate the Brownsville campus more when it comes to Student Life activities.

“When they do events, I know they do more and they do bigger [events] over at Edinburg,” Escalante said.

Escalante said another goal was to increase the number of incentives given to students. She pointed out that students, for example, the ones on the Dean’s and President’s lists, should

receive monetary incentives, like for the vaccine portal, or a free meal.

Herrera is a biomedical sciences senior and said he is excited to work in the SGA for the first time. He also looks forward to helping students next fall.

“I’ve always liked helping people,” he said. “Even though I’ve never really taken a leadership position, I always take the time to help my peers. So, if it’s possible, I’d like to help everybody.”

Herrera said listening to others’ concerns motivates him to want to make a change. One of the plans for the next office term is to listen to students’ opinions through voting polls and make changes according to students’ needs and wants.

“What we want to do is just hear from the community,” Herrera said. “Like, maybe, from right now, the current problem is ‘A’ but then, in a few months from now, it is now ‘B.’ Well then, we just changed our focus at that point because what’s most important is what you guys need.”

In regard to Executive Ticket 2, Martinez, a management senior, was a candidate for SGA 2022-2023 president.

Martinez held different positions in SGA during the 2021-2022 year, including senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship, the chair for Campus Life & Community Affairs and the sergeant-at-arms.

“I had a really good experience working with SGA, and it was very rewarding in the sense that I was able to impact the [lives] of students in a great manner,” he said.

Concerning the election results, Martinez said that losses can hurt; however, he said he and his team tried their best and that there is always a

learning experience.

Asked if he planned to be part of SGA in the fall, Martinez replied that he is not sure if he will be able to dedicate time to SGA since he will be a graduate student and is also considering being a graduate assistant.

He wished Dominguez and his team good luck and offered them advice.

“Most important, that they have this personal connection with the students, both in Edinburg and in Brownsville and the other sister campuses as well,” Martinez said.

His last message toward the campus community was that students need to be aware of what is happening at UTRGV and how SGA plays a part in campus changes.

“It’s imperative that students engage themselves in [SGA] so that they ensure that the majority of the voice of students is heard and is understood to ensure that there is no misunderstandings or any confusion and that everything’s fully transparent,” Martinez said.

Garcia told The Rider, despite the outcome, she thanks the campus community for supporting her team during the election and the SGA throughout the year.

“We couldn’t have gotten the things that we’ve done, done, without you guys,” Garcia said. “And it just means so much to see the community come out and really take an interest in SGA and actually know who SGA is now.”

Sandoval would also like to thank the campus community for their support and making their voices heard.

“Regardless of who you voted for, that’s your vote, and no one can take that away from you,” said Sandoval.

Garcia said she is content with her work in the SGA and does not think she will apply to return to the SGA for

the next term.

Sandoval wants to continue her work toward helping the College of Fine Arts as well as other colleges.

“It’s different situations for me and Karitza,” she said. “She’s done a lot for her college. She’s done a lot in SGA. I feel like I haven’t done enough and that’s why I want to reapply.”

Both Garcia and Sandoval wish the new executive team good luck.

Students voted in the SGA general election from 8 a.m. April 18 until 11:59 p.m. April 21.

The following senators were also elected and will begin their term of office today:

- Osvaldo Grimaldo, senator-at-large-Edinburg
 - Isabella Marie Macias, senator-at-large-Edinburg
 - Kimberly Moran, senator-at-large-Edinburg
 - Julianna DeAnda Castillo, senator for the College of Health Professions
 - Omar Esteban Salgado, senator for the College of Health Professions
 - Odalys Anahi Saenz, senator for the College of Liberal Arts
 - Kassandra Ximena Garcia, senator for the College of Sciences
 - Batool Ibrahim, senator for the College of Sciences
 - Jacob Ruben Flores, senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship
 - Josiah Gonzalez, senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship
 - Abby Marie Davila, Graduate senator
 - S M Sarwar, Graduate senator
- Other leadership roles in SGA for the 2022-2023 term are still open. Students may find the application form in V Link. For questions, students may email SGA at sga@utrgv.edu.



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

- 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

Vaquero Radio

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



KVAQ-TV

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

Student Media

- Advertising Manager
- Marketing Specialist
- Distribution Assistant



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

LISTEN
Continued from Page 4

“Maybe you provoked him.” And the saying I dread the most of all, “Well, boys will be boys.” How about instead of questioning women and creating excuses as to why it happened, you hold men accountable. Ask them why they decided it was OK to make a woman feel uncomfortable and violated. Tell them to control

themselves and be respectful to women. And when a woman approaches you with such crucial and serious information, shut up, listen, and most importantly, help her! Or at the very least, help her get the help she needs! Don't turn her away because you think she might be part of the small percentage of people who lie about these things, because chances are, she's not.

If a lawsuit follows, I hope the victims are awarded the compensation they deserve and that this not only sends a message of empowerment to victims of any kind of abuse who have yet to speak their truth, but I hope this lets people remember what Stephens told Nassar during his sentencing hearing, “Little girls don't stay little forever. They grow into strong women that return to destroy your world.”

INNOVADORA
Continuación de Página 5

desarrollar sus habilidades sociales. Esto incluye temas como la gestión del tiempo, el establecimiento de objetivos, la resolución de conflictos, la comunicación y el servicio al cliente. Cuando los estudiantes se gradúan del curso, cada uno recibe una pasantía pagada por *Workforce Solutions*. El jueves pasado, 12 alumnos egresaron del curso

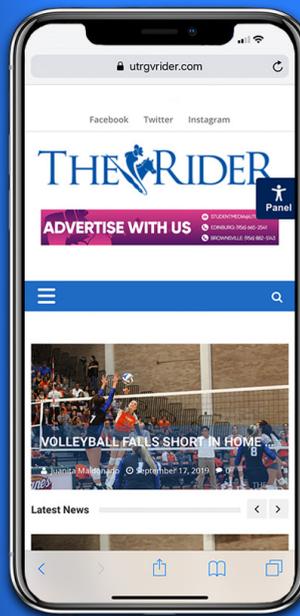
y están en proceso de recibir sus prácticas. Otros proyectos en los que ha trabajado Enactus incluyen *Cansgiving*, que es una campaña de beneficencia anual para recaudar alimentos enlatados para las familias menos afortunadas y educación financiera que capacita a los estudiantes sobre los aspectos básicos de la gestión de asuntos financieros. --Traducido por Itzel Rivera

DEAN
Continued from Page 8

programs in both campuses, Brownsville and Edinburg and the College of Fine Arts is one of those units,” he said. “They have a strong presence in both and that creates some important challenges but also creates some phenomenal opportunities. “And Dr. Ward had some great ideas about how to leverage the distinctiveness of each of the two communities ... and also some ideas about how to address the challenges that come with being miles apart. ... He is currently a director of a school in Kansas State University that has three departments, so he has experience with larger units like ours as well. That's an important thing.” According to Torres-Hostos, Ward has a desire to partner with everybody, but especially with students. He said Ward understands that UTRGV students are really important

partners in everything that the university does. “The students are not just passive recipients of an education,” he said. “They are active partners in their education and their training. The students have ideas about how to make the college function better and Dr. Ward is open to those ideas and open to working with students to make the College of Fine Arts a great college.” Ward said he is excited to be a part of the university community and to continue building partnerships. “The college has the opportunity to be, kind of, that public good that I think high universities are supposed to be, and it's positioned really well in the Valley to be such a valuable resource for the region, for our students, for our arts programs, for education programs, for industry, and I am honored to have the opportunity to be able to lead the college in that endeavor,” he said.

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Imperfections Makes Us Who We Are

By Salma Olvera

Daisy had always thought that her father was perfect, but as soon as she turned eight, she realized otherwise. No one prepared her in how to react when there is a family member with a mental illness. The responsibility that Daisy took once she let out her first breath was massive, and she was unprepared. Ever since she could remember, her father had struggled with bipolar and schizophrenia, but even though this caused obstacles, she learned to overcome them. Seeing her father struggle with such illness forced her to mature at a young age, and there was no going back. Seeing her family struggle for about fourteen years was not fun, but it made her endure challenges and pursue goals to overcome the trials at home.

Daisy had been very naive as a child and was oblivious to the challenges her father faced. It was an inevitable responsibility that she took once she inhaled her first breath. She saw her father change his mood from one second to the next, and she would ask herself if she had done anything wrong. Daisy knew nothing about mental illnesses, and she was finally able to put the pieces together at the age of ten. She learned to keep this a secret from all her friends, not because she was embarrassed, but because she did not want pity. Unconsciously, every time one of her father's episodes occurred, she gained courage and learned to mature. Many would think that maturing at a youthful age is bad, but it has its benefits. This led her to thrive and make the most of her education. School would distract her, as well as sports and clubs that she joined. Ironically, her father's mental illness helped her achieve so many accomplishments. She started earning higher grades, and she learned her second language. Daisy's relationship with God increased in so many levels, and instead of asking Him why she was going through this, she thanked Him for making her stronger. People tell her how great her father was before his mental illness, and she believes them because some days she would get to see the real him.

Daisy believes that her father is one of the strongest people she knows because she has seen the challenges and distress that her father has endured. This obstacle that Daisy's family and her faced was the hardest but also the greatest undisguised blessing ever. She knows now that if it were not for the challenges that she faced, she would not be the person she is today. She is positive, cheerful, optimistic every day of her life, and it is all thanks to her father. She looks around, and she tries to treat everyone with kindness because she does not know what they are going through. Most importantly, she has learned to forgive, forgive her father, forgive the world, and forgive herself.



Class of Spring 2022



STUDENT MEDIA

wishes you
Good Luck!



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KVAQ-TV
Station Manager



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Pulse Magazine
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Alejandra Yañez
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