THE RIDER

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TOUCHDOWN VAQUEROS

Board of Regents OKs Athletics Fee increase to create football team

SCREENSHOT TAKEN BY VERILU INFANTE DURING THE NOV. 16 UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

UTRGV President Guy Bailey addresses the University of Texas System Board of Regents Academic Affairs Committee regarding the Intercollegiate Athletics Fee increase during its meeting on Nov. 16. The board voted to approve the increase, which would fund the creation of a football team at UTRGV.

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

Verilu Infante
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

During its Nov. 17 meeting in Austin, the University of Texas System Board of Regents voted to authorize an increase in the Intercollegiate Athletics Fee to create a football program and expand spirit programs at UTRGV.

Students enrolling at UTRGV in Fall 2023 will pay the fee increase of $11.25 for a total of $26.25 per credit hour, capped at 12 hours. The maximum charge per semester will be $315. The fee is currently $15 per credit hour.

As previously reported by

See **REGENTS**, Page 2

Restoration in the works

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

Arisbeth Rodriguez/THE RIDER
Brownsville District 3 City Commissioner Roy De los Santos says creating a task force to focus on improvements to La Posada Park is "an excellent idea because this is the type of project that warrants focus."

Natalie Lapsley
THE RIDER

On Nov. 15, the Brownsville City Commission listened to a Parks and Recreation Department presentation on proposed plans for La Posada Park and the results of community engagement.

Public comment began with historian and Brownsville native Lawrence Fernandez speaking in favor of the proposed project and likening it to San Antonio's Alamo and Riverwalk attractions.

"The project ... is so incredibly beautiful and so much potential for Brownsville," Fernandez said. "I hope that you embrace it."

Damaris McGlone, Brownsville Parks and Recreation director, said the park, located in the city's Southmost area, is home to the largest grove of Montezuma Cypress trees in the United States, which has been undergoing reforestation since 2013 under the direction of Fernandez. Also in the works is the

See **BROWNSVILLE,** Page 10

Respiratory virus cases on the rise

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have detected a high number of cases of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) early in its season compared to previous years, including in the states of Minnesota and Colorado, where the infection rate is 55% and 49%, respectively.

RSV is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, coldlike symptoms, especially in infants and older adults, according to the CDC website.

Eddie Olivarez, chief administrative officer for Hidalgo County Health and Human Services, said case numbers have been increasing in the last few months because of the lack of precaution.

For more information about RSV, visit cdc.gov/rsv.

"So the last two and a half years of [COVID-19], a lot of the children had not been going to school, had not been going to daycare, [and] had been at home," Olivarez said. "Many of them had been wearing masks. ... So the natural exposure to RSV had been limited. So all of a sudden, this year, students get back to daycares, back to school and they had not built natural immunities to it and we're seeing this uptick in RSV cases here in Hidalgo County and throughout the state."

The Rider asked Esmeralda Guajardo, Cameron County health administrator, for an interview, but Guajardo told the newspaper in a Nov. 17 email that RSV "is not a reportable condition and so we do not have information

See **VIRUS**, Page 10

The beginning of a new chapter

Isabel Morales/THE RIDER
Graduating UTRGV seniors on the Edinburg campus will walk the stage Dec. 16 in the Bert Ogden Arena, located at 4900 S I-69 C.

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

More than 2,600 students are expected to cross the stage in multiple ceremonies at UTRGV's Fall 2022 Commencement.

The ceremonies will be held at 9 a.m., 1 and 5 p.m. Dec. 16 in the Bert Ogden Arena in Edinburg and 4 p.m. Dec. 17 on the University Library lawn on the Brownsville campus.

"We have tickets available to students participating in Edinburg Bert Ogden Arena, and each participating student will be allotted eight tickets for their friends and family members," Registrar Sofia Almeda said. "In Brownsville, because the ceremony is outdoors and we don't have the same constraints that we do with an indoor venue, like in Edinburg, there will be no tickets required and students can invite an unlimited number of guests."

The commencement schedule for those graduating in Edinburg is as follows:

9 a.m.: School of Medicine (Bioethics), College of Fine Arts, Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship, and College Health Professions.

1 p.m.: College of Engineering and Computer Science, College of Sciences and College of Education and P-16 Integration.

5 p.m.: School of Social Work, School of Nursing and College of Liberal Arts.

The commencement schedule for those graduating on the Brownsville campus is as follows:

4 p.m.: College of Fine Arts, School of Nursing, School of Social Work, College of Engineering and Computer Science, College of Sciences, Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship, College of Health Professions, College of Education

See **CHAPTER**, Page 10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

HOST Club Meeting

The **HOST Club** will meet from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship Room 121 on the Edinburg campus.

Hot Dogs, Hot Cheetos Sale

The **Society of Automotive Engineers** will sell hot dogs and Hot Cheetos from noon to 2 p.m. on the Science Promenade on the Edinburg campus.

Pie Fundraiser

Kappa Delta Chi Sorority-Alpha Beta will sell pies for $3, $5 and $7 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Wednesday on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus. For more information, email alphabeta.fundraising@kappadeltachi.org or call 492-2701.

Bible Study

The **Encounter Campus Ministry** will conduct a **Bible study** from 6 to 8 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Engineering & Academic Building Room 1.212 on the Edinburg campus. There will be **free food**.

Tuesday

Current Events Discussion

The **Political Science Association** will host a **discussion of current events** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building North Room 101 on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email thepsa.utrgv@gmail.com

Wednesday

HOST Club Fundraiser

The **HOST Club** will sell hot dogs, chips and sodas from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the outdoor barbecue area next to the University Library on the Edinburg campus.

Graphic Thoughts: 'Edgerunners'

The **University Library** will hold a discussion of the anime **"Cyberpunk Edgerunners"** from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom.

Thursday

Super Smash Bros. Tournament

The **Student Union** will host a **game tournament** from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Student Union Game Room on the Brownsville campus. VBucks will be awarded.

Friday

Student Senate

The **Student Government Association** will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. in Student Academic Center Room 2.130 on the Edinburg campus and via Zoom.

Sculpture Exhibit

The **Carlotta K. Petrina Cultural Arts Center** will host a **sculpture exhibition** titled **"Fabricated Visions"** from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is free. The center is located at 1452 E. Madison St. in Brownsville. For more information, email julianrodriguez@utrgv.edu.

Saturday

Potluck Dinner

Texas Rising will host an **end-of-the-year potluck** for members from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus.

Sunday

Rainbow Haven Ball

The **Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority** will host a **charity dance** from 2 to 11 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. The ball will raise awareness of **LGBTQIA+ youth homelessness.** Donations will be accepted for the **Trevor Project,** which provides 24/7 crisis support services to **LGBTQ+** young people, according to its website.

--Compiled by Landon Burns

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Nov. 10 and 16.

Nov. 10

3:38 p.m.: Officers responded to Lot E-16 on the Edinburg campus in reference to a student's vehicle that was struck while parked.

6:28 p.m.: An officer responded to a traffic collision involving two students in Lot E-16 on the Edinburg campus. No injuries were reported.

10:05 p.m.: An officer responded to the Heritage Hall Apartments on the Edinburg campus in reference to a female student feeling ill. The student was subsequently transported to the hospital for further medical evaluation.

Nov. 11

11:41 a.m.: An officer contacted a non-affiliated man at the Veterans Affairs Health Care Center in Lot H-4 on the Harlingen campus. The man was seeking help at the clinic, but found it closed in observance of Veterans Day. An emergency mental health detention was conducted by the officer, and the man was subsequently transported and admitted into a local hospital for inpatient treatment.

Nov. 12

3:11 p.m.: An officer met with UTRGV employees who reported that, while driving a university vehicle from the Edinburg campus to the Brownsville campus, it was struck by another vehicle. The staff member was advised to file a police report with the Edinburg Police Department since the incident occurred in the City of Edinburg. No injuries were reported.

Nov. 13

1:42 p.m.: A student reported that she lost her driver's license in Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus.

Nov. 14

1:27 p.m.: A student reported her bicycle was stolen while secured at the bike rack outside the Mathematics & General Classroom building on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

1:38 p.m.: A student reported his bicycle was stolen while secured at the bike rack outside the Mathematics & General Classroom building on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

Nov. 15

12:39 p.m.: A female student who fell ill on the Edinburg campus was transported to the hospital by emergency medical services for medical care.

Nov. 16

8:20 a.m.: An officer responded to the Health Affairs Building West on the Edinburg campus in reference to an active fire alarm. A staff member reported she caused the alarm to go off while heating up her food in the microwave. The panel was reset, and the building was cleared for reentry.

9:08 a.m.: A parent reported she had not heard from her son, a resident at Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus, since the previous night and was concerned. Officers subsequently located the student and verified he was OK.

--Compiled by Arisbeth Rodriguez

REGENTS

Continued from Page 1

The Rider, the increase will affect only new incoming students and students outside of UTRGV's Guaranteed Tuition and Fees program. Current students who remain within the program will not have to pay the increase.

UTRGV President Guy Bailey addressed the Board of Regents Academic Affairs Committee on Wednesday regarding the increase, which the committee later recommended to the board.

"So far we've raised $2.5 million in private money and I think that'll go to $3 million very quickly, so the community has been very supportive and we appreciate your consideration," Bailey said.

Last November, the student body passed the Athletics Fee Referendum by a vote of 3,497 to 2,287, the largest turnout for a UTRGV election. The increase will fund the addition of a football program, women's swimming and diving teams, two marching bands and two spirit programs.

THE RIDER

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

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New initiative to support children who have experienced trauma

PHOTO COURTESY HIDALGO COUNTY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Nancy Razo (left), professor of practice in the Human Development and School Services department, is interviewed Oct. 27 on the Edinburg campus. Razo sparked a cross-agency initiative called "Handle with Care" that was recently adopted by Hidalgo County to provide support for children with trauma.

Juan Villarreal
THE RIDER

Hidalgo County will implement a new initiative, "Handle with Care," which aims to help support children who have experienced traumatic events by allowing direct communication between police departments and school districts.

Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez announced the initiative during a news conference on Oct. 27.

Nancy Razo, a professor of practice in the UTRGV Department of Human Development and School Services who spoke during the news conference, brought the program to the attention of Cortez.

The program started in West Virginia in 2013.

In 2022, Razo became aware of the program while preparing for a conference.

"At that conference, there's a combination of community members, education people and law enforcement, and so I did ask if they had heard about it and if they had implemented it and nobody had really volunteered that they were," she said.

From there, Razo started pushing for the program.

"[I brought] that information back to my bosses here at the university to see if this was an initiative that we could take on through my program and my college," Razo said. "That's how it came about."

She told Cortez and other county officials about the initiative.

"I'm a part of the Hidalgo County Mental Health Coalition, through Judge Cortez's office, and everybody was really excited," Razo said.

Cortez said the "program is really simple."

"You hand the child a slip and, from there, other people are aware of the trauma that the child has experienced and how to approach dealing with that child," he said.

Children can experience traumatic events in the form of "any situation law enforcement might come across," Razo said, including car accidents, fires and homicides.

"With children of divorce, it's common," Cortez said. "The parents are yelling at each other and the child blames themselves."

Razo said anytime a child is exposed to traumatic situations, it is at the discretion of law enforcement to file a "Handle with Care" notification.

The program has also been implemented by both the Harlingen and Brownsville police departments.

"We want to make sure that we intervene," said Miriam Anderson, Harlingen Police Department lieutenant.

Martin Sandoval, public information officer for the Brownsville Police Department, said the program is already in place.

"Instead of moving to discipline ... we can have the counselor come in and speak to the child," Sandoval said.

Psychology sophomore Danna Serna said she likes that they are taking extra steps to figure out the child's mental health.

"As young as a child might be, they will always remember what happened in their life," Serna said.

Razo detailed the effects of trauma.

"A child might act up, and what's the first thing that schools sometimes do?" Razo said. "Discipline. That's what we are trying to avoid. If students do have a reaction to a trauma, then we're giving them some trauma-informed care."

Razo spoke on how to best deal with children who have experienced traumatic events.

"It's very individualized, but you can have behavioral problems, you can have kids being distracted, kids reliving the traumatic experience, and of course, a traumatic experience is very personal," Razo said. "Something that may be traumatic to you may not be traumatic to me. ... It varies among the children."

Serna spoke about these events when referring to the goals she hopes the program will achieve.

"As a child grows older, we don't want ... this trauma to stay with them," Serna said."Yeah, it will still be there, but as [the] process is going, as they get older, maybe [it] will not stay with them as strongly as when they were younger."

Razo explained how trauma can cause behavioral issues that may be hard to spot.

"It may not just be behavioral, it may be internal," Razo said. "Instead of talking to people about it, they become more introverted, they become more withdrawn, sadness, all kinds of symptoms."

Because trauma can be such a broad term that can refer to

See **SUPPORT**, Page 11

Profs cite impact of pardons for simple pot possession

Landon Burns
THE RIDER

Last October, President Joe Biden announced a pardon for those guilty of simple possession of marijuana. This seems straightforward, but there are important details in the periphery. What is a federal pardon? How much power does it have? Who supports this action?

Ask the Expert: Fourth in a Series

To shed light on this subject, The Rider asked two lecturers from the Political Science department to provide insight—Andrew Smith and Robert Velez.

"Under the U.S. Constitution, the executive, the president, is the one solely in charge of pardons so long as the person has not been impeached and [the person seeking a pardon] has only been convicted or been charged with a federal-level crime," Smith said.

He said most marijuana convictions occur at the state level. As a result, most people will not be affected by it. This pardoning is more of a symbol of where politics is heading.

"Public opinion is what is on the topic of marijuana," Velez said. "Most Americans, more than two-thirds, say it shouldn't be illegal. ... This is a winner at the ballot box. It's already legal in medical or recreational aspects in more than half the states. This is not controversial. The only controversial part is because nobody expected [Biden] to do it."

This is because Biden isn't an activist type of president. However, these blanket pardons are not unheard of.

Smith said Jimmy Carter issued pardons for those who were convicted of resisting the Vietnam War draft, and all of Barack Obama's pardons were done en masse.

It isn't unusual. Also, both Obama and Trump commuted sentences.

"I think most Democrats agree that marijuana should be legalized," Velez said. "And I don't see any vocal Democrats telling Biden he shouldn't do this."

He also said while some Republicans might criticize this pardon, there is not much political pushback. Their interests lie elsewhere.

Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Asked if Biden's action is important, Velez replied, "Yes. The American people have been calling for legalization on public opinion surveys for many years now. It's popular. It's bipartisan. Republicans and Democrats alike are supportive of legalization. If it's regulated, like alcohol or tobacco, there are quality controls that states can put on it."

James Kinde, a graduate student in disaster studies, said Biden's pardons are "great."

"I think it'd be great if governors on the state level took his lead on it," Kinde said.

Ayssa Arevalo, a chemistry postgraduate student, said it should be legal "for medical reasons."

"But, just for recreational use, I don't really see a really big reason to why it should be legal," Arevalo said.

Am I qualified to give advice?

Daynara Gutierrez
COPY EDITOR

While I go about my daily schedule, I get interrupted with questions from different people about different scenarios. I listen to what they have to say, then I dish out my best advice, hoping that it is enough to get them through their situation. However, at the end of the day I look back to what I said and think, "Hmm, was that really the right thing to say?"

I brush off those small doubts, only to have them linger in the back of my head, taunting me and saying, "You just changed the entire course of their life in the worst way."

Great, now I can't help but wonder if they actually acted on my advice and regret listening to me.

Here comes the next day. I see the people I gave advice to and ask them how they are doing and whether it worked out for them. They tell me to my face that everything is great and that I helped them out, but as I walk away, I know that they are never going to take my advice again. That's not going to stop me from giving out advice, though. It's like an addiction.

Another situation arises and I know I have the best solution to their problems. I get excited and let the words leave my mouth. I explain to them everything they need to do and why it's the best route they can take. Once they leave the room, my brain begins to run and I want to take back everything I said. I want to pull them back in time and tell them I was wrong and to listen to anyone but me.

> In reality, we all just want to hear what's happening in other's lives

They walk back in and tell me that everything I said is exactly what happened and that my advice worked. Yay! It worked out! Right? No. I didn't actually help them out. I just got lucky enough that the right words formed in my brain and somehow managed to apply to what they were going through.

Now I'm in class. Someone leans over and asks me if I did the homework. Yes, I did. They have questions over the homework and I look at them feeling clueless as ever, but I guess my brain doesn't feel the same way because it is spewing exactly how I did the homework and how I answered the questions. Interesting. I don't remember feeling that confident when I was originally doing the assignments. Wait, now I am also telling them how I'm planning on doing the next assignment. Have I even looked at the next assignment? No, I have not. Great.

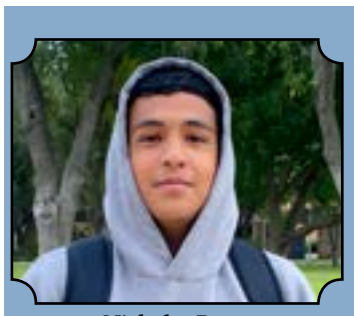
I am at work now and someone is telling me that they are interested in someone else and I start to tell them, "Shoot your shot!" Then I realize that may not be the best choice considering I know nothing about what's going on at all.

They continue to update me on their love life and oh, look here, the person they were interested in is taken. So much for me telling them to go all in with someone who is already in a relationship.

At the end of the day, I don't think any of us are qualified to give advice, per se. In reality, we all just want to hear what's happening in other's lives and we like to interject ourselves in the hope that something interesting will come our way.

VAQUERO VOICE

What's a piece of advice that really stuck with you?



Nicholas Perez
criminal justice freshman

"A piece of advice would probably be, no matter how hard it gets, to just keep going and push through it, 'cause no matter what, you're gonna finish and once you finish, you're gonna be happy with what you did. And even if you didn't, like, make some of your goals come true … you're still gonna be happy that you did finish your school. So, that's probably one piece of advice that did stick with me a lot."

"I think it's to, like, let go of the people that don't demonstrate that they love you and they care for you, 'cause then it's not worth, like, giving the attention 'cause they don't give it back. So, I guess that's something that I live by, like, if it's not good for me or, like, they don't show me, like, speaking with, like, a person, then I don't want them."

Valeria Rodriguez
English junior

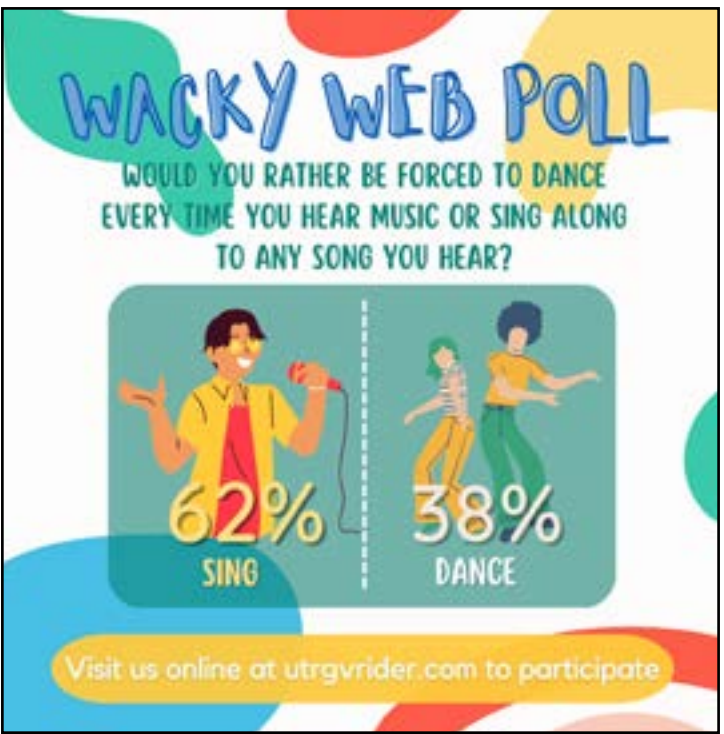
Roberto Avila
engineering freshman

"My grandpa told me that, what's it called, like, it's always, like, you can always right a tree if it's growing to the side by helping it out and letting it grow up. So I guess people can always change and you can always help them change to be better. That's one."

"Lo que más me ha servido durante este tiempo que he estado aquí … es como ser paciente y estar abierto a nuevas ideas [y] a nuevas perspectivas. No solo de los estudiantes o los maestros si no en general de todo, y eso más que nada me ha ayudado … a trabajar de una forma más eficiente".

Victor Serrato Sauceda
estudiante de segundo año de ciencias de la salud integrada

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



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El comienzo de un nuevo capítulo

Fatima Gamez Lopez
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

Se espera que más de 2,600 estudiantes crucen el escenario en las múltiples ceremonias de graduación de otoño de 2022 de UTRGV.

Las ceremonias se llevarán a cabo a las 9 a.m., 1 y 5 p.m. el 16 de diciembre en el Bert Ogden Arena en Edinburg y a las 4 p.m. el 17 de diciembre en el césped de la Biblioteca Universitaria en el campus de Brownsville.

"Tenemos boletos disponibles para los estudiantes que participan en Edinburg Bert Ogden Arena, y a cada estudiante participante se le asignarán ocho boletos para sus amigos y familiares", dijo la registradora Sofia Almeda. "En Brownsville, debido a que la ceremonia es al aire libre y no tenemos las mismas limitaciones que tenemos en un lugar bajo techo, como en Edinburg, no se requerirán boletos y los estudiantes pueden invitar un número ilimitado de invitados".

El horario de inicio para aquellos que se gradúan en Edinburg es el siguiente:

9 a.m.: Facultad de Medicina (Bioética), Facultad de Bellas Artes, Facultad de Negocios y Emprendimiento Robert C. Vackar y Facultad de Profesiones de la Salud.

1 p.m.: Facultad de Ingeniería y Ciencias de la Computación, Facultad de Ciencias y Facultad de Educación e Integración P-16.

5 p.m.: Escuela de Trabajo Social, Escuela de Enfermería y Facultad de Artes Liberales

El horario de inicio para aquellos que se gradúan en el campus de Brownsville es el siguiente:

Isabel Morales/FOTO RIDER
Los funcionarios de la universidad dicen que se espera que más de 2,600 estudiantes participen en las ceremonias de graduación de otoño de UTRGV.

4 p.m.: Facultad de Bellas Artes, Facultad de Enfermería, Facultad de Trabajo Social, Facultad de Ingeniería y Ciencias de la Computación, Facultad de Ciencias, Facultad de Negocios y Emprendimiento Robert C. Vackar, Facultad de Profesiones de la Salud, Facultad de Educación e Integración P-16 y Colegio de Artes Liberales.

Los lugares para las ceremonias se decidieron según el tamaño de la clase que se gradúa "y la cantidad de invitados que sabemos que a los estudiantes les gustaría traer", dijo Almeda.

> "Creo que cualquiera que se gradúe, si tiene esos factores estresantes como el posgrado o saber que las cosas deben arreglarse, solo deben recordar que este es el momento para disfrutar realmente. Diviértete mientras estás aquí".
>
> ***--Madyson Sauter***
> ***estudiante de último año de ciencias políticas***

Los estudiantes pueden elegir qué ubicación y día les conviene a ellos, a su familia y a sus invitados.

"Sabemos que, a veces, los estudiantes tendrán en cuenta diferentes factores a la hora de elegir su ceremonia", dijo Almeda. "Entonces la fecha puede ser más importante, por ejemplo, el sábado versus un viernes. Para otros estudiantes, sabemos que la ubicación es más importante y luego, para otros estudiantes, es cuántos invitados pueden traer".

Ambas ceremonias se transmitirán a través de utrgv.edu/live.

Almeda alienta a los estudiantes a leer sus correos electrónicos la semana antes de la graduación para que estén preparados e informar a sus invitados sobre qué esperar.

El estudiante de último año de justicia penal, Joel Adrian Hernandez, quien comenzó en la institución heredada de la Universidad de Texas-Pan American en 2014, cruzará el escenario en Edinburg.

Hernández espera con ansias la graduación después de estar en la universidad durante "casi ocho años".

"Primero, mi especialización fue ingeniería informática", dijo. "Luego me uní al Ejército [Guardia Nacional en 2019], me tomé un descanso. Luego regresé y cambié mi especialización a justicia penal y finalmente está sucediendo".

Después de graduarse, Hernández planea obtener una maestría en justicia penal y "aplicar para las agencias de aplicación de la ley, como la Patrulla Fronteriza o... policía estatal".

Madyson Sauter, estudiante de último año de ciencias políticas, dijo que la ceremonia en Brownsville encajaba mejor para ella debido a la cantidad de personas que quiere que asistan a la ceremonia.

Sauter se inscribió en UTRGV en el otoño de 2019 y se gradúa antes de

Vea **CAPÍTULO**, Página 11

The Angel, the Stuffed Rabbit and the Monster Under the Bed

By: Diane Joseph

"They couldn't have gotten far," the guardian angel said, agitatedly pacing back and forth in the small bedroom. He had donned normal mortal apparel, consisting of a gray hoodie, black jeans, and sneakers. His large wings protruded from through the hoodie, knocking things off of shelves as he paced.

The angel, named Uriel, looked over at the monster from under the bed. The monster also wore human clothes, with a green sweater with a purple skirt. Horns stuck out from a mass of dark hair that covered most of her face, except her red, angry eyes. She bared her teeth at the angel.

"It was your fault they took her," she rasped. "You were supposed to be watching the mortal."

"It's night; it's supposed to be your turn watching her," the angel countered back at the demon. He ran his fingers through his golden hair, practically pulling it out. "Why would anyone want to hurt such an innocent girl?"

"For that exact reason," the demon replied, rolling her eyes. "Mortals are sick that way. And calm down; we're not going to be able to find her if you're freaking out like this."

"Calm down?! How am I supposed to calm down?! The child is gone!" Uriel said, his voice rising a few decibels. "It's all your fault she's gone, *you demon*," he spat.

"My fault? Please! You cannot blame me that you were out preening your feathers while she got abducted," she shot back.

The angel narrowed his eyes. "Watch how you talk to me, demon," he said dangerously.

The demon, named Lilith, ignored the angel's murderous glare and turned to the girl's favorite stuffed toy. The plush rabbit quivered under the demon's gaze. "Did you see who took Aliyah?" She asked the rabbit. The toy thought for a moment. "I-I couldn't get a clear image of his face, but he was a young man with blonde hair," the toy replied. The angel stopped his pacing and tilted his head. His normally golden glow took on a red tint. "How dare that man touch my mortal," he said, gripping his flaming sword.

The rabbit sat on the messy bed, absolutely terrified. He had seen the angel and demon on multiple occasions, but he had never seen them this angry. He hoped that they wouldn't rip him up. Aliyah wouldn't really like that.

Lilith reached over with her long fingernails and picked up a long strand of blonde hair from Aliyah's bed. She held it in her hand for a few seconds and then grinned a horribly toothy grin. "I think I know who it is," she rasped to the angel.

Uriel's outline took up a fiery silhouette. "Who? Where?"

"A few blocks away. Oh, I'll be having a nice little snack tonight," she said, licking her lips with a forked tongue. The rabbit shivered at the sight. Oh, how he wished Aliyah was here!

"Lead the way," Uriel said, pointing his flaming sword towards the window. In unison, the demon and the angel leapt from the window, their wings spread out, catching the brisk night breeze.

UTRGV MSA
Authors' Corner

Go Green!

Biomedical sciences senior Neida Gutierrez (left) helps plant a tree during a Tree Planting Ceremony Nov. 14 near the Pollinator Garden on the Brownsville campus. The event was in observance of Arbor Day. Also shown is the UTRGV mascot.

Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Graphic design freshman Briana Alvizo chooses a plant to keep during the Tree Planting Ceremony Nov. 14 near the Pollinator Garden on the Brownsville campus. The event was hosted by the UTRGV Office of Sustainability.

UTRGV maintenance workers plant a tree during the Tree Planting Ceremony Nov. 14 near the Pollinator Garden on the Brownsville campus.

Aguas frescas and *chamoy* to help build a concrete canoe

American Society of Civil Engineers members host a snack fundraiser to support their expenses for the organization's concrete canoe competition March 2023. Shown (from left) are freshman Arthur Cabo, sophomore Regina Nava, sophomore Zulimar Nava and freshman Juan Gonzalez.

Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER PHOTOS

American Society of Civil Engineers member and civil engineering junior Noelani Morales serves a mango-flavored *agua fresca* for a student in support of their fundraiser Nov. 15 outside the University Library on the Edinburg campus. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used toward expenses for the organization's concrete canoe competition in March 2023.

ASCE members and civil engineering seniors Eliseo Moreno (left) and Fernando Resendiz serve Hot Cheetos with cheese and *marranadas* to students Nov. 15 outside the University Library on the Edinburg campus in support of their concrete canoe competition March 2023.

American Society of Civil Engineers members sell snacks, such as Hot Cheetos with cheese, *chamoy* gummies, *aguas frescas*, candy, pickles, corn in a cup and more Nov. 15 outside the University Library on the Edinburg campus to raise funds for the organization's concrete canoe competition. Shown are freshman Arthur Cabo (from left), sophomore Regina Nava, sophomore Zulimar Nava, freshman Juan Gonzalez, and junior Noelani Morales.

'Brujería in South Texas'

Omar E. Zapata
A&E REPORTER

Amy Frazier, a senior lecturer in the Writing and Language Studies department, will have her first novelette, "*Brujería* in South Texas," released on Wednesday, with parts of the book based on real events.

A short story writer from Brownsville, Frazier told The Rider she initially wrote the novelette as a short story.

"*Brujería* in South Texas" centers on Isabella, who finds a pile of puzzling objects appearing on her porch step. With each passing day, Isabella's health starts to deteriorate and that is when her best friend Bonnie suspects *brujería*. Bonnie's suspicions are confirmed when an anthropologist notices evidence in Polaroids taken by Isabella and advises her to see a *curandero* or a priest to break the *brujería* spells.

Not wanting to reveal too many details from the true events to keep the person anonymous, Frazier said it was someone she knew for a long time.

"I would never have thought it would happen, but coming from her, I believe her," she said. "There are actual witches involved in the story that did take place. ... Three witches caused extensive injury to this person, where she was in [the] ICU twice."

Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER
Amy Frazier, a senior lecturer in the Writing and Language Studies department, poses with her novelette, "*Brujería* in South Texas," in the UTRGV Bookstore on the Brownsville campus. Her book will be released Wednesday by Austin Macauley Publishers and sold on Amazon and in Barnes & Noble, as well as in other bookstore outlets in the United States, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Frazier, the mentor of Authors' Corner, a Mathematics and Science Academy-based creative writing group with works published in The Rider, said she took the chance and submitted the story to Austin Macauley Publishers in New York City. She said they liked it but it was about 2,500 words too short for their 10,000 word minimum.

"They asked me if I would be willing to expand it to a minimum of 10,000 words and I didn't blink an eye," she said. "I didn't know what I was going to write, but I started thinking about some ideas. And I isolated myself from the entire world for two weeks. ... When you write as an author, you have to be alone and stay away from distractions ... to be able to delve deeply into this, a psychology of these characters."

Frazier said the characters came alive and were leading her in the writing process.

"I don't write an outline, but I have an idea what the story's about," she said. "And it wasn't until I added those three chapters to expand my short story into a novelette that I saw how these characters were leading me instead of the opposite."

See **BOOK,** Page 11

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez
ONLINE EDITOR

Aries-This week you will receive good news that will be life-changing. Take the news as a sign to finally move forward and let go of your past. Your life has great potential to flourish as long as you allow it to. The universe is by your side as long as you repay it by completing good deeds. Your lucky numbers are 3, 11, 26.

Leo-Don't be afraid to express emotions with others during times of need. It is crucial to be honest and vulnerable when trying to solve an issue. Avoid being stubborn by only seeing your side of the story. Allow the other person to share their perspective and listen carefully. Your lucky numbers are 14, 45, 63.

Sagittarius-A burst of energy will reach you in the next couple of days. Use this momentum to get responsibilities out of the way in order to have fun. Start planning your next adventure and who you'd like to include. Enjoy all the moments and be grateful for the experience. Your lucky numbers are 3, 12, 21.

Libra-Slowly, but surely, everything is starting to feel right. Your energy is returning for good and will have a strong impact on you. Be ready to start exploring and doing things you haven't done before. This turnaround will be beneficial by guiding you toward success. Your lucky numbers are 4, 12, 39.

Gemini-Moving on can be difficult, especially when you've invested so much of yourself. However, consider if there is progress being made in the relationship. Be real with yourself by asking if this is something you want to deal with forever or if it's time to close that chapter. Your lucky numbers are 13, 33, 36.

Aquarius-A big decision will have to be made sooner than expected. Although it can be life-changing, you need to explore and encounter new things to get a taste of what is out there. Ignore what others have to say and go after what you desire. Afterward, a clearer perspective will be provided. Your lucky numbers are 10, 34, 52.

Scorpio-Taking accountability plays a big role when becoming mature. Don't be stubborn when people point out your flaws; instead, embrace them. Reflect on your actions and how to correct them in the future. Remember nobody is perfect and accepting mistakes is a part of growth. Your lucky numbers are 16, 51, 68.

Pisces-Telling the truth can be hurtful but necessary in most situations. Basing things on a lie will bring you problems. Now is the time to be honest and be set free from your mistakes. This will bring you closer to your true self. Your lucky numbers are 15, 42, 68.

Cancer-Boundaries are important to consider in relationships. Try being aware the next time you are having a conversation with someone. Understanding these factors will prevent miscommunication and help you have a long-lasting connection. Your lucky numbers are 10, 55, 67.

Taurus-In the next couple of days, a situation may arise where you and another person do not meet eye to eye. Take this situation as a lesson on how to find a middle ground with others who have different values. When it happens, be calm and decide if it's worth the fight. Your lucky numbers are 8, 17, 35.

Virgo-Being conscious of one's own feelings is often disregarded when living a busy life. Occasionally, check in with yourself to evaluate your feelings. Then, follow through by doing a comforting action that can ease your emotions. Your lucky numbers are 2, 22, 42.

Capricorn-Having a good day is a reflection of your mindset. If you start off the day complaining about the tasks you need to complete, more than likely you will be annoyed. Try waking up feeling grateful for another day and envision all the great opportunities it holds. Your lucky numbers are 19, 41, 61.

Sudoku

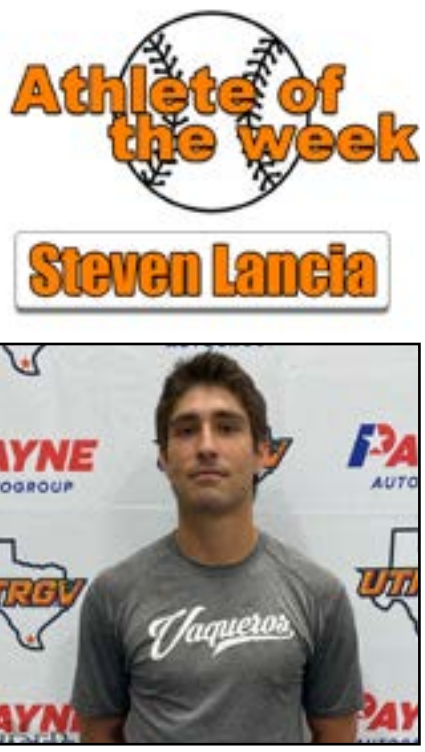
9			6					
		6		5	7			
5				3			7	
	1		8					
							8	
			4	7	1	5		
							1	
	4			2	3	8		
3		9					5	6

Last week's puzzle answer key:

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

Dibble Dabbles

by Alejandro Peña



Matthew Gonzalez/THE RIDER

Kinesiology sophomore Steven Lancia, of San Diego, California, is a catcher on the UTRGV Baseball Team.

Q: What do you like to do in your downtime?
A: "I like to work out, hang out with some friends [and] go to the beach when I'm back at home. [I] go on some hikes every once a while."

Q: How did you get into playing baseball?
A: "I started when I was younger. My parents just kind of signed me up, and I played with all my friends growing up, so it was always fun. And then I moved into travel ball, which kind of got more serious and I got more passionate about the game and then from there, it just took off."

Q: What would you like to say to anyone feeling homesick?
A: "I felt a little homesick last year, first semester, but I feel like there's people around you to support you. And there's always, like, people that are gonna take care of you, especially coming from so far away. It was hard at first, but the team really just supports you and takes care of you and anything you need. So there's always people by your side."

Q: Who has been your biggest inspiration or role model?
A: "Definitely, my mom. My mom has always been by my side and [she] visits every once in a while and really just takes care of me and supports me with every decision I have. She kind of just supports [my decisions] and goes with it."

Q: What is your favorite show/ movie?
A: "My favorite show is 'Prison Break,' for sure. There's so many scenes, and they always leave you on a cliff-hanger, which is always good. So, I stay into it. It's entertaining."

Q: What is your favorite food?
A: "My favorite food [has] probably got to be just chicken. I love chicken. Some fried chicken is always good."

--Compiled by Matthew Gonzalez

New opportunity for former UTRGV coach

Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

Jai Steadman, the newly appointed head coach for the Rio Grande Valley Vipers, prepares to shoot during practice Nov. 15 in the DHR Health and Sports Wellness Center in Edinburg.

Jose Medina
SPORTS REPORTER

Jai Steadman, former University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Men's Basketball interim head coach, is now assistant coach for the Rio Grande Valley Vipers professional basketball team, NBA G League affiliate of the Houston Rockets.

Steadman, originally from Lincoln, Nebraska, previously worked as an assistant coach for the Vipers from 2009 to 2012. During his first season, the Vipers won their first championship in 2010. The team currently has the most championships in league history, with four titles and the most trips to the title series.

From Feb. 11 to April 2021, Steadman served as interim head coach for the Vaqueros following the death of former head coach Lew Hill, a friend of his since 1999.

Asked what it feels like to coach for the Vipers, Steadman replied it feels like a fun and renewed energy.

"This is my second time coming back to the Vipers," he said. "You know, 12 years ago, when I was at the Vipers, we did win the first championship. ... I coached [Vipers head coach Kevin Burleson], when I was D league, when I was with the Dallas Mavericks."

He said it is exciting to be around former players and notes Burleson was one of the best he has coached.

Steadman said he was waiting on some coaching opportunities at the college level when he met with Minnesota Timberwolves head coach Chris Finch, who mentioned the job.

"Of course, I've known Travis [Stockbridge, RGV Vipers general manager]," Steadman said. "... I've kept in contact with all these guys so, of course, I was really interested.

"So when the college opportunities didn't work out, I was blessed and fortunate that I had an opportunity to speak with Travis. I was really excited to come back."

Steadman said being a part of the Rio Grande Valley for 12 years and being part of two winning programs has been great.

"My heart is always with UTRGV," he said. "We've built something special there."

He said he was really appreciative of everybody at UTRGV, from the students to staff and administration.

> "I just want to thank UTRGV for all they did for me and my family, former student athletes, current student athletes and staff. I love them and miss them."
>
> ***--Jai Steadman***
> ***Assistant Coach for the RGV Vipers***

"I love UTRGV," Steadman said. "They helped build myself, my family. ... I just want to thank UTRGV for all they did for me and my family, former student athletes, current student athletes and staff. I love and miss them."

Jonah Goldberg, UTRGV senior associate athletic director of Communications & Championships, has known Steadman for years.

"Jai and I go back to about October 2009," Goldberg said. "When he first got hired with the Vipers, I was the director of communications there at the time."

He said he could tell Steadman was a good person right away.

"In 2010 was the first time I couldn't get home for Thanksgiving," Goldberg said. "I just figured I wasn't going to have anything and hadn't really told anybody."

Steadman, Goldberg and some of the Vipers players had a community service event to help feed the less fortunate that year.

"He looks at me as we're finishing up, and says, 'You're coming over to the house for Thanksgiving dinner,'" Goldberg said. "And I said, 'Really?' 'Absolutely, you're like family. Let's go.'"

Asked how he would describe Steadman, Goldberg replied he is the "glue guy" because he keeps it all together when he's on staff. He said he is good at managing people and a "people person" in general.

"You have guys from all over, all different walks," he said. "And he's able to bring them all together and get them to jell."

Goldberg said Steadman, along with Hill, turned the UTRGV program around.

"We made the postseason in 2018 for the first time since 1981," Goldberg said. "Then we made it again in 2019. ... Jai was here throughout that success."

Asked how he felt when he found out Steadman was going to be working with him at UTRGV, Goldberg replied he was happy and excited.

"Oh, I was so happy," he said. "I was so happy when I found out. ... I think I screamed. I called him right away and let him know how excited I was that he was coming here."

After working with UTRGV since 2014, Steadman was hired as an assistant coach for the Vipers under head coach Burleson.

See **OPPORTUNITY**, Page 11

BROWNSVILLE
Continued from Page 1

reintroduction of water to the resaca and involvement of Texas Historical Landmark Commission in registering the historical bridge that goes over the body of water.

"We currently have been working on a building assessment and visioning, so basically years of engagement from our parks department, but also from our stakeholders and from the community around the area," McGlone said.

She went on to present two layout design options for the park, both of which were renderings meant to spark a vision rather than final concept ideas. The layouts included a community garden expansion, resaca overlooks, nature trails, a pavilion and a playground.

Eva Garcia, a member of the Brownsville Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, said the department conducted surveys in the community around the area and found that "people want to enjoy nature ... especially in urban areas."

"This park provides that opportunity for, you know, us, in our urban spaces," Garcia said. "Southmost is one of the poorest and densest areas in our community. [We want] to give them a space where they can enjoy nature."

Other respondents prioritized a space to gather with families and enjoy events.

"So we do have some bicycle and pedestrian facilities coming into the area," Garcia said. "But I think a lot of that pristine habitat along the resaca is where they would like to have some walking trails ... playgrounds for kids ... nature viewing and then, exercise equipment."

In-person community engagement efforts by the department revealed other requests for recreational amenities, such as paddle boats, canoeing, art installations, soccer and football fields, a dog park and a pool, all of which were included in proposed plans. Parks and Recreation also hopes to restore historic structures on site and install security.

"[The project] would be a phased approach," McGlone said. "... We understand the fiscal position that the city is in. We also understand that this is an asset that has been near and dear to the heart of Brownsville. And so, we wanted to look at [the budget] and we did a high end and a low end."

For the proposed phases between now and 2026, the budget could be between $3.8 million and $5.7 million.

"Again, this is an entire wish list and this can be edited as ... we go down the line on that," McGlone said. "And just, another thing ... is really looking at what grant opportunities are out there. [Are] there fund-raising opportunities?"

Garcia and McGlone asked the commission about creating a task force that would focus on the park.

"I think a task force is an excellent idea for this, because this is the kind of project that warrants focus," said Roy De los Santos, District 3 city commissioner.

City Commissioner At-Large "B" Rose Gowen agreed, adding that the commission should create a concrete timeline as to when the task force should return with its findings and plans.

VIRUS
Continued from Page 1

on the number of cases in Cameron County."

"Your best resource would be either a pediatrician or a hospital," she wrote.

As of Nov. 17, Texas was not participating in RSV surveillance, according to the CDC website.

Olivarez said hospitals and doctors' offices give an overall indication of flu and RSV cases through sentinel sites.

"It's not an exact number but it gives us a good indicator of where we stand, and right now, we're seeing some high numbers, in fact, even for the flu," he said.

One of the main things Olivarez recommends to prevent the spread of RSV and the flu is to be current with vaccination.

"I know that after COVID, a lot of people are COVID fatigued and they're tired of hearing of vaccinations and all that, but the reality is flu vaccines work," he said. "Medication works."

Olivarez encourages individuals and parents of children who are showing respiratory distress, coughing, fever and respiratory congestion to go to a doctor or physician to determine if it is RSV.

"Also, right now, this time of year, we have a lot of allergies," he said. "We have a lot of sinus infections going on. So when you combine COVID, flu, RSV and sinus infections, it's like the perfect storm for some of these young children. So we encourage parents, 'Take your kids to the doctor and get [them] assessed, especially if they have a fever.' Fever is the biggest telling part of it."

Dr. Jaime Fergie, director of infectious diseases at Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi, said infants can develop lower respiratory disease from RSV.

"When it gets into the lungs, it begins to cause respiratory distress," he said. "There is difficulty breathing. There is wheezing. Then, the infants have difficulty feeding. So many of [them] end up coming to the emergency room and being hospitalized and about 20% of them or more require admission to an intensive care unit. So it's a very important virus, it's very common and unfortunately can cause severe diseases."

Because of the larger number of cases in RSV across the state, Fergie said Driscoll Children's Hospital is asking pediatricians and family doctors to extend their hours to make it easier for parents to take their children to their offices.

He said the hospital wants the emergency room available for children who are having difficulty breathing.

"So we are expanding the resources," Fergie said. "Our hospital [is] opening the spaces for more fast-track evaluation in the emergency room and trying to open as many beds as possible for the children with a respiratory infection, because the problem is not only RSV. The problem is that influenza is also here and is causing an extremely large number of cases. So we're dealing with two very significant viruses at the same time at a very high level of activity."

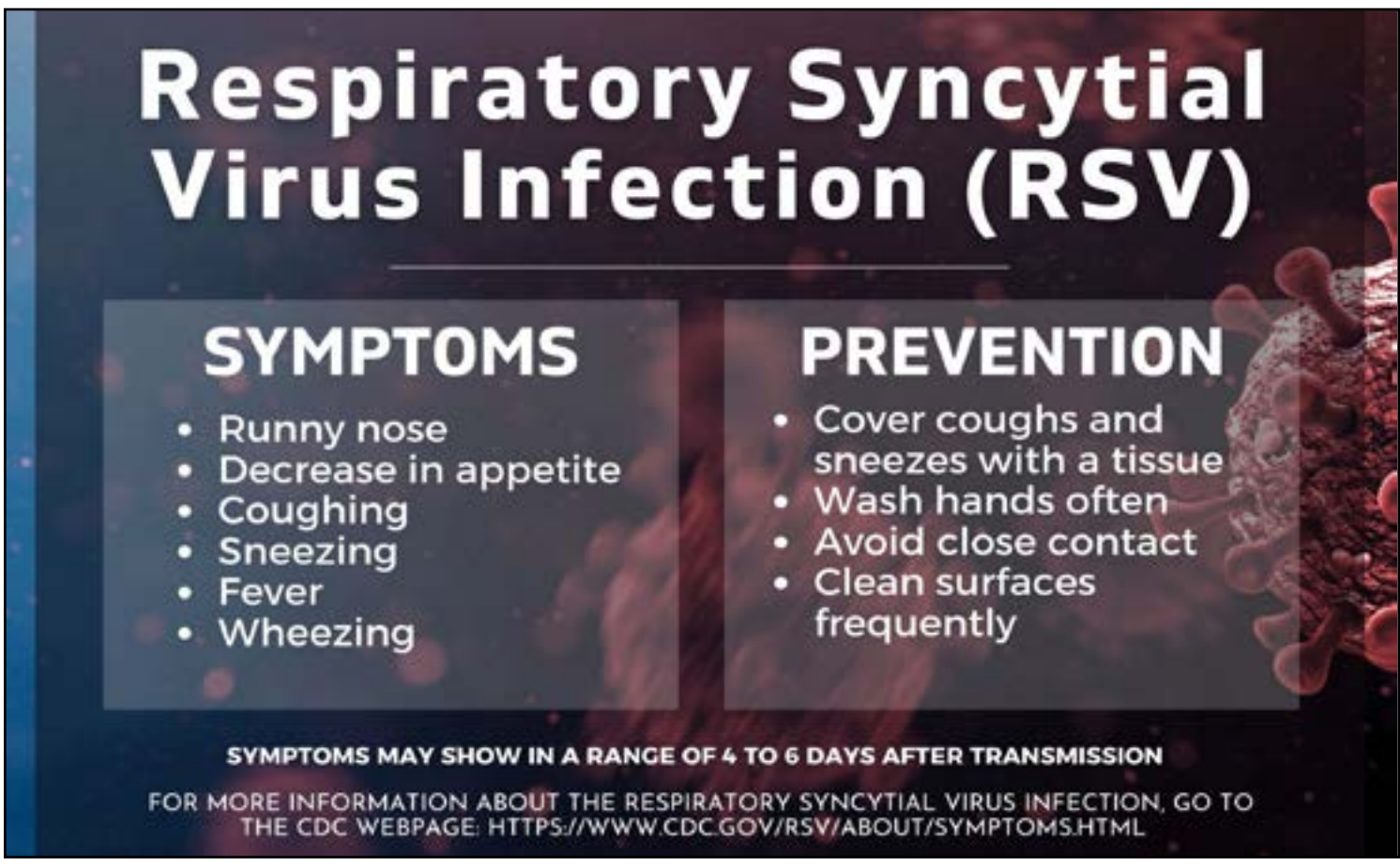
Driscoll Children's Hospital sees about 100 to 200 positive tests of RSV in a week, he said.

Fergie expects the number of cases of RSV and influenza to rise.

"Well, you know, obviously, there is a limit to the number of people who can be infected," he said. "Once everybody has been infected, then you have to see a decrease. So it is possible that in the next two or three months, we'll see a decrease in number of cases. But right now, I expect more and more cases."

Fergie said individuals need to take advantage of the vaccines available.

"We don't have one routine vaccine for RSV," he said. "But we do have a vaccine for influenza and we have a vaccine for COVID. And both ... are available for anybody ... 6 months of age or older. And also, for COVID-19, we have, now, the new booster vaccines that are to be given to anybody who is 5 years of age or older, two months after the prior dose. So let's take advantage of what we have and use the vaccines to prevent illness in our communities."



Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

CHAPTER
Continued from Page 1

and P-16 Integration, and College of Liberal Arts.

The locations for the ceremonies were decided depending on the size of the graduating class "and the number of guests that we know students would like to bring," Almeda said.

Students have the choice of which location and day works for them, their family and guests.

"We know that, sometimes, students will take different factors into consideration when it comes to choosing their ceremony," Almeda said. "So the date may be more important, for example, the Saturday versus a Friday. For other students, we know that the location is more important and then for other students, it's how many guests they can bring."

Both ceremonies will be streamed via utrgv.edu/live.

Almeda encourages students to read their emails the week before graduation so that they are prepared and inform their guests on what to expect.

Criminal justice senior Joel Adrian Hernandez, who started at legacy institution University of Texas–Pan American in 2014, will cross the stage in Edinburg.

Hernandez is looking forward to commencement after being in college for "almost eight years."

"First, my major was computer engineering," he said. "Then I joined the Army [National Guard in 2019], took a break. Then I came back and changed my major to criminal justice and it's finally happening."

After graduation, Hernandez plans to pursue a master's in criminal justice and "apply for law enforcement agencies, like Border Patrol or ... state trooper."

Madyson Sauter, a political science senior, said the commencement in Brownsville is a better fit for her because of the number of people she wants to attend the ceremony.

Sauter enrolled at UTRGV in Fall 2019 and is graduating early due to taking summer classes. Her original graduation date was Spring 2023.

She is looking forward to commencement and having her family together.

"[My] family has not been together since pre-COVID in 2019 because we were all kind of scattered," Sauter said. "So it will be the first time that my mom gets to come back down [from Dallas] and my uncle gets to come back down [from Arizona]. So it's exciting ... that for the first time since COVID, [my family] will be together again."

Asked how she felt about the difference in locations for both commencements, she said Edinburg is more organized.

"I know Edinburg has a ticket cap ... and Brownsville, it is open so you can have as many people attend as you want," Sauter said. "But it will be outside. It will be colder. I do feel like Edinburg is a little bit more organized in that fact. Like, you can know where you sit and where your family sits. ... That's the only thing I'm kind of worried about."

Almeda responded to Sauter's concern by saying that the "seating in Brownsville is available to guests on [a] first-come, first-served basis."

Sauter encourages students to make the most of their time left in college.

"I think anybody who is graduating, if they do have those stressors like postgrad or knowing that things need to get together, they need to just remember that this is the time to really enjoy themselves," she said. "Enjoy yourself while you're here. Do organizations and clubs. That is, like, one of the things I wish I did more of."

SUPPORT
Continued from Page 3

many situations, along with current Texas privacy laws, the "Handle with Care" slip does not give the school district detailed information regarding the events the student has witnessed.

"If students are exposed to trauma, mainly indirectly, that their school gets [notified], not with any details of the traumatic incident, just with details to handle with care," Razo said.

Razo said her goal for the initiative is to go Valleywide.

"In our research about this program, we found out that Brownsville's already implementing it with Brownsville ISD," Razo said. "We also found out that Harligen CISD is already implementing it. ... Cameron County is already doing it."

Anderson said she is excited that this program has been implemented elsewhere.

"It's been successful for us," she said.

Sandoval expressed a similar sentiment.

"It is a great policy that we have," he said.

In regard to her work in getting this program Valleywide, Razo is optimistic.

"We are just offering the information, whether [the local police departments] want to pick it up or not is up to them," Razo said. "We already have districts who are already wanting to promote it ... who are already interested in the program."

Razo said Hidalgo County, and the Rio Grande Valley in general, could be ahead of a statewide movement.

"There is conversation that at the state level, it might be required come some years [or] months."

CAPÍTULO
Continuación de Página 5

tiempo debido a que tomó clases de verano. Su fecha original de graduación fue la primavera de 2023.

Ella espera con ansias la ceremonia y tener a su familia junta.

"[Mi] familia no ha estado junta desde antes de COVID en el 2019 porque todos estábamos un poco dispersos", dijo Sauter. "Así que será la primera vez que mi mamá regrese [de Dallas] y mi tío regrese [de Arizona]. Así que es emocionante ... que por primera vez desde COVID, [mi familia] volverá a estar junta".

Cuando se le preguntó cómo se sentía acerca de la diferencia de lugares para ambas ceremonias de graduación, dijo que Edinburg está más organizada.

"Sé que Edinburg tiene un límite de boletos ... y Brownsville está abierto para que pueda asistir la mayor cantidad de personas que desee", dijo Sauter. "Pero será afuera. Será más frío. Siento que Edinburg está un poco más organizada en ese sentido. Por ejemplo, puedes saber dónde te sientas y dónde se sienta tu familia. ... Eso es lo único que me preocupa".

Almeda respondió a la preocupación de Sauter diciendo que "los asientos en Brownsville están disponibles para los invitados por orden de llegada".

Sauter anima a los estudiantes a aprovechar al máximo el tiempo que les queda en la universidad.

"Creo que cualquiera que se gradúe, si tiene esos factores estresantes como el posgrado o saber que las cosas deben arreglarse, solo deben recordar que este es el momento para disfrutar realmente", dijo. "Diviértete mientras estás aquí. Haz organizaciones y clubes. Esa es, como, una de las cosas que desearía haber hecho más".

BOOK
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Gabriella Medina, a psychology freshman, told The Rider the book sounds like something that would interest her since she has heard about witchcraft in South Texas through family.

"I've never been able to get really into depth about [witchcraft]," Medina said. "But reading the synopsis and how [Frazier] told us some of it is actually based on actual events, I think it'll be interesting to read and it'll give me insight into witchcraft."

Amy Leal, an English freshman, also told The Rider she is interested in reading the book and a big reason is because of the book cover.

"It's just very vibrant and it catches your attention," Leal said. "I think there's a theme going there that you can see, definitely, with the witchcraft."

Asked if either of them have experienced any sort of witchcraft, they replied no, but said they have family members that tell stories of witchcraft.

"I grew up being told to be careful of witchcraft out there," Medina said. "Be careful of what I get myself into. So, I think Isabella in this book might have gotten herself into something."

Frazier, who specializes in short stories, specifically fiction about the people of the Rio Grande Valley, was asked what drives her passion for the specialization.

She replied that as an English teacher at the public school and university levels for the last 35 years, she has met many talented students and community members.

"I started writing short stories about the people here in the Valley because I wanted to highlight and emphasize the gifts and talents in people," Frazier said. "We can make a name for ourselves. We can put ourselves on the map here. We're relevant. We may not be people from New York City ... but there's a great deal of talent down here. Talent that I don't think is recognized and acknowledged enough."

"*Brujería* in South Texas" will cost $6.95 for a paperback and $21.95 for a hardcover, and will be sold on Amazon and in Barnes & Noble, as well as in numerous bookstore outlets in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia and other countries.

Frazier said a book signing is in the works. Possible locations include the Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts and the University Bookstore on the Brownsville campus.

"My [goal for the book] is that I offer hope in the story," Frazier said. "No matter what hardship, what problem, what suffering we experience ... it's all about our attitude and the choices we make. If we can see the problem that we're experiencing as an opportunity to ride out the storm so that we can see it as an opportunity to strengthen us, then we can come out stronger people after the storm."

Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER

Amy Frazier, a senior lecturer in the Writing and Language Studies department, reads her novelette "*Brujería* in South Texas" Nov. 15 in the UTRGV Bookstore on the Brownsville campus. Frazier's book will be released Wednesday by Austin Macauley Publishers.

Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

Jai Steadman, the newly appointed head coach for the Rio Grande Valley Vipers, throws the ball around during practice Nov. 15 in the DHR Health and Sports Wellness Center in Edinburg. Vipers head coach Kevin Burleson looks on as players run their drills.

OPPORTUNITY
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Burleson said working with Steadman has been a good experience.

"He has a calming influence on everybody," he said. "I knew he had a lot of experience. So I wanted somebody that I can kind of lean on and talk things through."

Burleson said, with Steadman, what you see is what you get.

"He's got a personality that's genuine," he said. "I think from the staff to the players, they feel that. That's something that's valuable."

Burleson said he had a feeling Steadman was going to have a smooth transition back with the Vipers.

"I think the staff really like him," he said. "He's really helpful and anyone can just go up to him and talk to him."

Burleson said he is excited to have him and thinks he's a valuable asset to the program.

Even though Steadman has moved to the Vipers, who recently won the 2022 NBA G League title, he is still supportive of UTRGV Athletics.

Asked what advice he has for students looking to become coaches, Steadman replied that even though some might not be able to play anymore, they can still become student managers or join programs, such as UTRGV or the Vipers, and work their way up.

"Continue working hard and just always ask if you have to start off not getting paid much, or volunteering," he said. "... One thing about the kids in the Valley is they work so hard. Other companies will see that and hire you eventually."

UTRGV
STUDENT UNION

BREAKFAST WRANGLERS

10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
STUDENT UNIONS

TUES. DEC. 6
BROWNSVILLE

WED. DEC. 7
EDINBURG

FREE BREAKFAST

PRIZES GAMES MUSIC

Event is for currently enrolled UTRGV students. Must have your Vaquero Student ID card to participate. For questions or to request accommodations, please call (956) 665-7989 or e-mail studentunion@utrgv.edu.