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UTRGV-HCA pact to create residencies in McAllen, Brownsville

Kindness for Cans initiative shifts into gear

Julien Juarez
 THE RIDER

Parking and Transportation Services is hosting the Kindness for Cans initiative, continuing its previous two-semester streak.

The event began April 3 and continues through Friday. Students may bring 10 cans to remove one outstanding parking citation. Dropoff is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Academic Support Facility Building Room 135 on the Edinburg campus and Vaquero Plaza Building A Room 1.101A on the Brownsville campus.

The approved canned food items include vegetables, beans, soups, fruits and more. All items collected from the donations will be sent to the UTRGV Student Food Pantry.

In an interview with The Rider last Tuesday, Parking Services Director

See **INITIATIVE**, Page 12



DAVID PIKE/UTRGV MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

UTRGV President Guy Bailey (from left); Dr. Michael B. Hocker, dean of the School of Medicine; Cris Rivera, CEO of HCA Healthcare affiliate Rio Grande Regional Hospital in McAllen; and David Irizarry, CEO of HCA Healthcare affiliate Valley Regional Medical Center in Brownsville, announce an agreement to bring residents to the Valley Regional Medical Center in Brownsville and the Rio Grande Regional Hospital in McAllen by summer 2024 during a March 27 news conference in the UTRGV Clinical Education Building in Harlingen.

Teresita Dominguez
 THE RIDER

UTRGV and HCA Healthcare have developed an affiliation agreement to provide residency positions to Valley Regional Medical Center in Brownsville and Rio Grande Regional Hospital in McAllen.

The two hospitals are Gulf Coast Division affiliates of HCA, a national corporate hospital system.

"This is significant because ... this is the first time we're actually having

specific residency training programs down in Brownsville and really enlarging our presence there," said Dr. Michael B. Hocker, dean of UTRGV School of Medicine.

In an interview last Monday, Hocker said the agreement will bring "somewhere between 150 and 200 additional residency and fellowship spots."

The agreement is pending final approval by the UT System Board of Regents, according to a UTRGV news release.

Once a student receives their undergraduate degree, they go to medical school and receive their medical degree. Then, they go to basic training, or residency.

"It's kind of the job training where you learn about your specialty," Hocker said.

Beginning in July 2024, the inaugural class will have 30 to 40 residency positions, he said.

One benefit that comes out of this agreement is the increased likelihood

See **PACT**, Page 3

KINDNESS FOR CANS

BRING IN 10 FOOD CANS TO THE PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE AND ONE OUTSTANDING CITATION AND ITS LATE FEES WILL BE REMOVED. CANS MUST BE NEW, UNEXPIRED, WITH A CLEARLY PRINTED LABEL AND UNDATED.

DATE: APRIL 3 - APRIL 14

TIME: 8 A.M. - 5 P.M.

LIST OF TICKETS THAT QUALIFY:

- DISPLAYING AN EXPIRED DECAL
- DOUBLE OR MULTIPLE PARKING
- FAILURE TO DISPLAY A CURRENT PARKING PERMIT
- IMPROPER ZONE PARKING
- PARKING PERMIT NOT PROPERLY AFFIXED TO A WINDSHIELD
- UNPAID LUKE PAY STATION TICKETS

APPROVED CANNED FOOD ITEMS AND MINIMUM SIZES

VEGGIES: 14 OZ	BEANS: 14 OZ
SOUPS: 14 OZ	CHICKEN: 8 OZ
TUNA: 8 OZ	FRUIT JUICE: 8 OZ
RAVIOLI: 8 OZ	CHILI: 8 OZ
FRUITS: 8 OZ	SPAM: 4 OZ
TOMATO SAUCE: 4 OZ	VIENNA SAUSAGE: 4 OZ

SOURCE: UTRGV/PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Blanca Castillo/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Summit to tackle food insecurity in the RGV

RGV FOOD SUMMIT SCHEDULE

April 19 | From 5 to 8 p.m. in the Museum of South Texas History in Edinburg

April 20 | From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Education Complex Borderlands Room on the Edinburg campus

April 21 | From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Education Complex Borderlands Room on the Edinburg campus, and from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Hub of Prosperity Farm in Edinburg

Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Silvana Villarreal
 THE RIDER

The Institute for Ecology, Scholarship and Health, the Office for Sustainability, Professor Alexis Racelis and the School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences will partner to bring UTRGV its first Food Summit as part of the weeklong Earth Fest celebration.

In past years, the Agroecology and Resilient Food Systems program has hosted similar events targeting similar topics, but not as comprehensive and inclusive as the upcoming event, according to Racelis, the Food Summit's project director.

"What we want to do is showcase the different ... efforts of individuals and institutions, businesses that are really trying to promote food systems, sustainability and well-being," he said.

Racelis, an associate professor in the UTRGV School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences, has held monthly meetings since August with residents of the Valley to discuss topics of urgency regarding food systems.

He said that regardless of the Valley being one of the most agriculturally productive regions in Texas, it has the highest rates of food-related diseases.

"With obesity and diabetes, we also have a lot of poverty," Racelis said. "It seems like a bit of a paradox that we're being in these conditions, considering we're so rich agriculturally."

The summit is scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. April 19 in the Museum of South Texas History in Edinburg. The event will continue from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 20 and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 21 in the Borderlands Room in the Education Complex.

See **SUMMIT**, Page 12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Personal Statement Workshop

The **Pre-Physician Assistant Society** will host a workshop to help students learn **how to write a personal statement** for physician assistant school from 2 to 3 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.114 on the Brownsville campus.

Tuesday Community Service Opportunity

Young Life College RGV will host a **Work Week Sign Up** where students can learn about **community service** in Buena Vista, Colorado, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the University Library lobby on the Edinburg campus.

Adviser Series

The **Center for Student Involvement** will host a **"Conflict Management"** information session for advisers, faculty and staff interested in advising a student organization. The session will take place from noon to 1 p.m. in Student Union Room 2.24 on the Brownsville campus and through Zoom.

THRIVE Workshop

Student Life and the **Dean of Students** will host the **Fostering Success Program's** workshop about healthy relationships, sexual health and boundaries from 2 to 3 p.m. in Main Building Room 2.514. There will be **free food**.

Magic Show

The **Campus Activities Board** will host a magic show featuring **stand-up comedian** and **magician Tyler Korso** from 3 to 4 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Library Auditorium on the Edinburg campus.

Faculty Artist Series

The **School of Music** will host a **tuba performance** by Associate Professor **Scott Roeder** from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

Wednesday Neurodiversity Panel

The **Council for Cultural Activities** will host a speaker for **Autism Awareness Month** from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on

the Brownsville campus.

Mass Celebration

The **Catholic Student Association** celebrates **Mass** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the University Chapel on the Edinburg campus.

Free Lunch

The **Catholic Student Association** hosts a **free lunch** and **fellowship** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. every Wednesday in the Newman Catholic Student Center in Edinburg.

Thursday General Meeting

The **Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization** will host a **general meeting** regarding **officer elections** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship Room 121 on the Edinburg campus.

Free Lunch

The **Baptist Student Ministry** will serve **free food** from noon to 2 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus.

Friday Sand Sculpture Competition

The **Sculpture Club** will host a

sand-sculpting competition from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at South Padre Island Beach Access No. 5.

Student Training

The **Center for Student Involvement** will host **training** for student organizations on **minutes** and **record-keeping** from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in University Center Conference Room 205 on the Edinburg campus.

Student Senate Meeting

The **Student Government Association** will meet from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.112 on the Brownsville campus.

Lourdes Garcia Exhibit

The **School of Art and Design** will host an **art exhibition** by the **Masters Fine Arts Program** from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Visual Arts Building Gallery in Edinburg.

Saturday Cheer Tryouts

The **UTRGV Cheer Team** will host **tryouts** for students interested in the UTRGV Spirit Program from 8 a.m. to noon in the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus.

--Compiled by Silvana Villarreal

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between March 29 and April 3.



March 29

10:42 a.m.: An employee in the cooling plant on the Edinburg campus reported the closed-circuit TV surveillance cameras were disconnected. This

is the second incident in which employees find the cameras physically disconnected and they believe it was done intentionally by an unknown person. The case is under investigation.

4:26 p.m.: A female student on the Edinburg campus reported she was being followed by her ex-boyfriend, who was also contacting her through texts and emails. UTRGV police spoke to the non-affiliated man, who was issued a criminal trespass warning. The case is under investigation.

10:01 p.m.: An employee reported witnessing two men climb the U.S. Border Fence outside the UTRGV Facilities complex on the Brownsville campus. The men were later located and detained by UTRGV police officers outside the facilities complex and turned over to the U.S. Border Patrol. The men claimed to be from El

Salvador and Nicaragua.

March 30

1:22 p.m.: An employee in the Medical Education building on the Edinburg campus reported receiving emails from an unknown individual regarding a medical student. Upon further investigation, no criminal elements were found. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

March 31

4:07 p.m.: A resident assistant in Troxel Hall on the Edinburg campus reported finding writings containing profanity made with an erasable marker on the surface of a washer and on a dry erase board inside the laundry room. The markings were immediately removed from the washer and the board.

7:24 p.m.: A male student reported that, during an argument, his girlfriend (also a student) slapped him across the chest on the 700 block of North Sugar Road in Edinburg. The male student did not want to file criminal charges and did not sustain any injuries.

April 1

6:03 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to the Social Work and Occupation Therapy building on the Edinburg campus in reference to electronic items

being stolen from a storage closet located inside the building. The case is under investigation.

9:33 p.m.: Officers responded to the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus in reference to a male student urinating in public. Officers spoke with the reporting party, a male staff member, who refused to file criminal charges against the student. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the student was intoxicated to the degree of being a danger to himself or others and was placed under arrest on charges of public intoxication (a class C misdemeanor) and booked into the Edinburg Municipal Jail.

April 2

2:30 p.m.: An officer responded to the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus in reference to a male student who wanted to report that a female student was violating the UTRGV Housing and Residence Life Department's "No Contact Directive" that was made for both parties. The report was taken for documentation purposes. The elements of a criminal offense were not met.

8:09 p.m.: A male student in the Casa Bella Apartments on the

Brownsville campus reported receiving repeated phone calls and electronic messages from a female student who he had notified to cease all forms of communication with him. The male student does not wish to file criminal charges against the female student.

April 3

11:11 a.m.: An employee of the Chick-fil-A restaurant in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus reported a male student tried to purchase food with suspected counterfeit U.S. currency. The student was fully identified, and the bill was seized for further analysis.

4:33 p.m.: A female student reported that in November 2022, while at the Education Complex on the Edinburg campus, a known male student approached her and struck her on the back with an open hand, causing her pain. The case is under investigation.

5:20 p.m.: A female student reported that while at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus in January 2023, a known male student hugged her from behind around her waist. The female student found the contact offensive. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Arisbeth Rodriguez



THE RIDER

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utrgvrider.com

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.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Verilu Infante

ONLINE EDITOR
Danielle Perez

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
Abigail Ollave

COPY EDITORS
Arisbeth Rodriguez
Natalie Lapsley
Daynara Gutierrez

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST
Alejandro Peña

A&E EDITOR
Omar E. Zapata

SPANISH EDITOR
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REPORTERS
Brigitte Ortiz
Andrea Flores
Teresita Dominguez
Silvana Villarreal
Julien Juarez
Aleena Acosta

SPORTS REPORTER
Jose Medina

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Daniela Martinez Salazar
Ramiro Castro Jr.
Aura Velasquez
Isabel Morales
Aurora Acevedo
Landon Burns
Blanca Castillo

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANTS
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FACULTY ADVISER
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STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR
Azenett Cornejo

STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM ADVISER
Jesus Sanchez

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
Ana Sanchez
Maggie Castillo

CONTACT:

EDINBURG CAMPUS
1201 West University Dr.
ELABS 170
Phone: (956) 665-2541
Fax: (956) 665-7122

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS
1 West University Blvd.
Student Union 2.16
Phone: (956) 882-5143
Fax: (956) 882-5176

Email:
TheRider@utrgv.edu
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ADDY winners advance to nationals



Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Aleena Acosta THE RIDER

UTRGV broke its record for student submissions into the national level of the American Advertising Federation Awards, with two students winning three Gold ADDYs at the district level.

"To see three of our student entries make it to nationals is a strong statement of the quality of our students, our faculty and our programs," said Kimberly Selber, a mass communication associate professor, co-adviser of the Ad Club and the Rio Grande Valley chapter of the AAF Awards chair.

The AAF Awards is a three-tiered competition that includes local, district and national levels. Entries that win a Gold ADDY are automatically advanced and those with a Silver ADDY can pay a fee to submit their entry into the next level. The deadline for students to submit

their work was Jan. 27. "It's a very prestigious competition," Selber said. "It's just you have to start at the local level."

Professional and student entries are entered in separate competitions and split up between geographic districts.

UTRGV students are in the Tenth District, which includes participants from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. There were 16 students that won a Gold ADDY in the Tenth District, according to Selber.

Kyara Valdez, a UTRGV alumna, was awarded a Gold ADDY for her app "Moody."

"[It is] a concept for a lifestyle app that I'd like to create in the future," Valdez said. "It's an app that allows users to log their feelings every day. It encourages users to keep track of good mental health habits like journaling or meditation."

Andres "Max" Trejo, a visual

communication senior, won the other two Gold ADDYs.

His app "ATLAS" won in the "App (mobile or web-based)" and the "Digital Creative Technology" categories.

The app combines the functions of crypto and NFT wallets with a social media platform. "ATLAS" began as classwork for Ping Xu, a fine arts associate professor, who continued to mentor him throughout his work process.

Additionally, Trejo was awarded a Silver ADDY for a packaging design he created for "E11even," an automotive care business he started from scratch.

"My dad, he has like his business ... in Monterrey," Trejo said. "He is a chemical distributor. He's been wanting to do his own car shampoo or automotive care line. And he liked 'E11even' so much. 'E11even' is going to come to life, and it's going to be an actual product in Mexico."

He said he would rather base the value of his graphic design work on the people that have supported him along the way rather than the awards he won.

"My girlfriend isn't a graphic designer, but having somebody that believes in you and your work, and someone you can rant to when going through a creative block, can be a very strong pillar in what aids somebody to keep going and produce better work," Trejo said. "To me, it really just means I chose the right parents. I chose the right professors. And I chose the right friends. ... Whether it was by giving me an opportunity, believing in me or sparking inspiration, it's all really because of them."

The Communication and Fine Arts departments celebrated the local winners on March 24 with a ceremony in the University

Library lobby on the Edinburg campus.

"Dr. Kimberly Selber and I just wanted to make a great experience for everyone involved," said Charlie Luna, a mass communication senior and president of UTRGV's AAF student chapter, the Ad Club. "Whether that was the graphic design majors or the advertising majors, we just wanted it to be a blast. And I think we successfully did that."

He credits Selber for his success in AAF and throughout his college career.

Luna was awarded an "honorable mention" Bronze ADDY for his work on the "By Vaqueros, For Vaqueros" campaign designed for the UTRGV Campus Food Security Incentive.

"It was, like, over a year of collecting photos, and getting the moments that had these students involved in raising awareness for our initiative," Luna said. "... I think these highlight what we're trying to do for ... UTRGV, not just the students but also the faculty."

The Ad Club is collaborating with the Campus Food Security Incentive to host a fundraiser from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. today in the University Library on the Edinburg campus. Food will be sold at the fundraiser.

Luna said the club offers different opportunities and guidance for those involved.

"We also do headshots for students that need one for a professional setting," he said. "Whatever projects they want to do in advertising, we promote it and help them give guidance. I'm hoping that the next class will see what we did and try to improve. ... I think there's potential for more, and to grow. And yeah, I hope every class after the last continues to put ... UTRGV on the map."

PACT

Continued from Page 1

of these physicians staying within the community, according to David Irizarry, CEO of Valley Regional Medical Center in Brownsville.

"This continues to grow the care that's being provided in our community," Irizarry said in an interview Tuesday. "This brings new experiences for physicians in training. [They are] more likely to stay within our community, and it continues to elevate the care that we provide the citizens of Brownsville and Cameron County."

The agreement will also help provide support to the existing physicians that are in the community, he said.

"We're expanding our resident slots, which is important for South Texas," Hocker said.

He said Texas is the 47th state "as far as lack of physicians per capita," citing the Association of American Medical Colleges State Physician Workforce Data Report released in January 2022.

"We have the lowest [number of], you know, physicians per capita," Hocker said. "So not only in primary care but specialty care. Not only do we need to graduate more medical students who want to stay in the area, but we need resident physicians."

About 60% to 70% of residents are likely to stay in the area where they

train, he said.

Julietta Ortega, a biology sophomore, said it is helpful to have more residencies available here in the Valley instead of having to travel somewhere else and having to worry about the extra expenses.

"You already spend so much on doctorates and grad school and transportation, too, is a lot," said Ortega, who plans to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine. "So, I think it's really helpful. It'll bring down the cost a lot."

Aldo Guzman, an exercise science junior who plans to become a physical therapist, believes it is a great opportunity for the Valley and UTRGV students.

"It opens up the opportunity for them to stay close to home," Guzman said. "It will grow the medical industry down here. So, more likely, they will stay down here making the Valley a bigger place for medical innovation, instead of going upstate or somewhere else out of state."

Hocker said training programs will raise the quality of health care in the area.

"Academic medicine and these training programs will just raise the quality of health care and access to specialists," Hocker said. "It's a win for the RGV, it's a win for HCA. Most importantly, it's truly a win for the patients in the Rio Grande Valley."

Vaqueros VOLUNTEER

**Sat, April 22, 2023
7 AM - 3 PM**

Support **National Volunteer Week** by volunteering with Adopt-A-Beach at South Padre Island

In collaboration with:

Register at the **Engagement Zone** portal at ez.utrgv.edu.

UTRGV Community Engagement

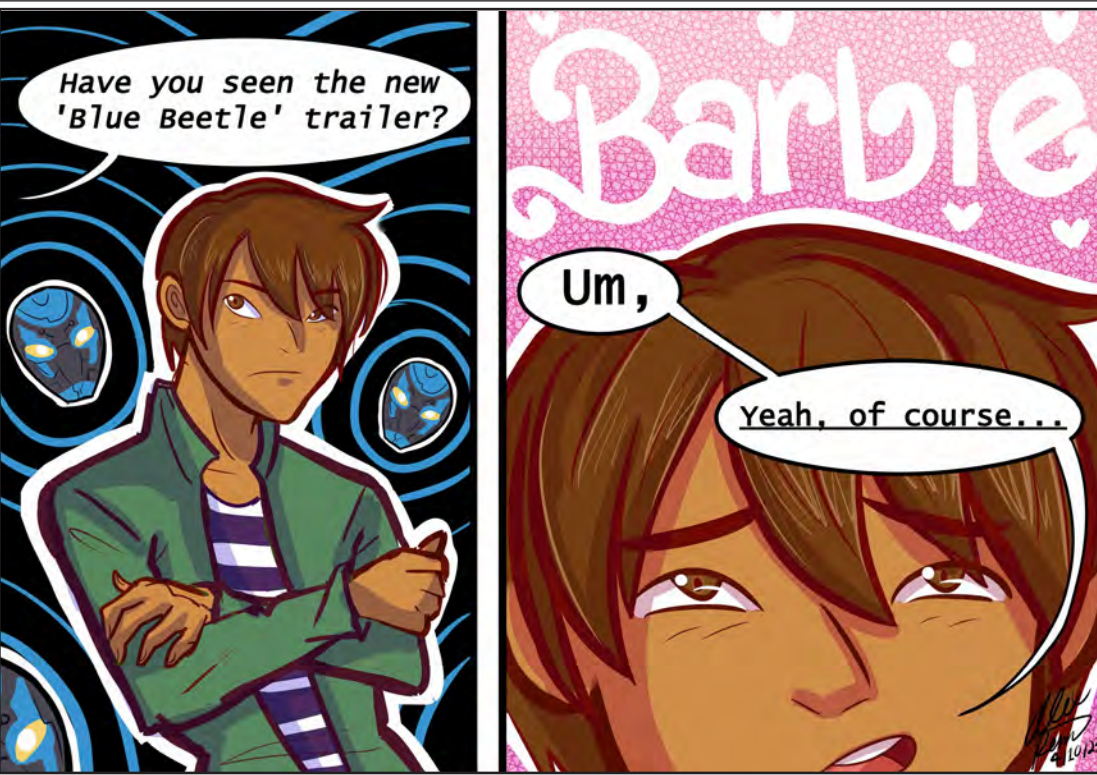
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Your house is on fire



Verilu Infante
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Your house is on fire. All of your friends, family and neighbors are watching it become engulfed in flames at a slow rate and are doing nothing about it. Instead of asking for help or finding the resources to put the fire out yourself, you have decided to take out the items that are dearest to your heart to prevent them from being destroyed in what you believe was the inevitable outcome for the place you've lived your entire life.

The house I'm referring to isn't the one built out of wood or bricks that you have the opportunity to decorate as you please and call home. What I'm referring to is the planet that gives you the land you live on, the air you breathe, the food you eat and the water you drink.

Although I was familiar with climate change, its effects on the planet and how mankind constantly contributes to polluting the environment, the thoughts of it were always

thrown to the back of my mind so I could focus on things that were in my control, such as academics, work duties and life at home. That was how my mind coped with the idea, until I watched "El Tema" by La Corriente del Golfo, a series that highlights the impact of the climate crisis in different areas of Mexico.

In episode 1: *Agua*, Chayo Hernández, a member of the *Organización Popular Francisco Villa de Izquierda Independiente* political commission, explained that a

As someone who hates the Texas heat, suffered through the winter storm in 2021 and is now more informed about how communities outside of where I live are suffering, these consequences make me fear the future.

neighborhood on the borders of *Tláhuac, Iztapalapa* and *Xochimilco* received no water for several years and when it finally did, it was minimal and filthy. So, they came up with a long-term project to allow them to not depend on the water from the *Cutzamala* system.

Hernández further explained they created three absorption wells, to return rainwater to the subsoil, along with a water purification plant and an elevated tank to harvest the rainwater. This provides the

community with water for eight days.

I think it's incredibly impressive that individuals could come together and create a solution to help their community fight the issue of water insecurity, but I also think it's devastating for a community to lack a basic necessity such as water. Now, if we see communities with a lack of water, not only are the people living in them affected directly, but their agriculture will also suffer, leading to food insecurity.

These are just a few of the consequences of the climate crisis that will most likely become more severe over time. Some of the expected future effects of climate change in the U.S. include rising sea levels, stronger and more intense hurricanes, more droughts and severe heat waves, longer wildfire seasons and higher global temperatures, according to climate.nasa.gov.

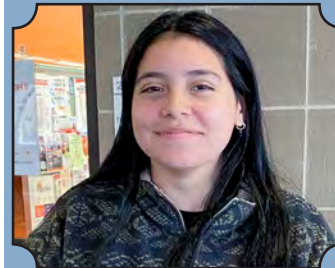
Disasters linked to climate and weather extremes are also becoming more frequent and intense as the planet gets warmer, 90% of which are now classified as weather and climate related, costing the world economy about \$520 billion U.S. dollars each year, according to un.org.

As someone who hates the Texas heat, suffered through the winter storm in 2021 and is now more informed about how communities outside of where I live are suffering, these

See **HOUSE**, Page 12



If you could reincarnate as anyone or anything, who or what would it be?



Angela Flores
communication studies
sophomore

"I think if I could be reincarnated as a person it would be Betty White. ... She was around for a really long time. She actually was around before sliced bread. She had a really big impact. She got to see all these famous artists, [and] she got to see all these historical events. ... #GoldenGirls. #BettyWhite. #Iloveher. ... She lived a good life, like, almost a hundred years."



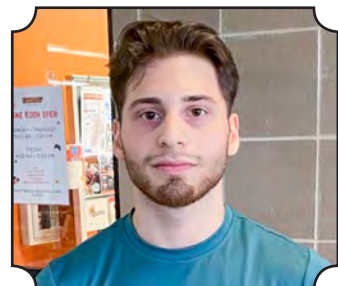
William Jimenez
mechanical engineering sophomore

"I would reincarnate myself as [Canadian bodybuilder] Chris Bumstead—just to get his genetics."



Martin Zapata
electrical engineering
sophomore

"I would reincarnate as Albert Einstein because he was a well-known physicist and he came up with a lot of theories and undeveloped theories. So, I would reincarnate as him to finish his work."



Jorge Garcia
estudiante de segundo año de
ingeniería mecánica

"Me gustaría ser un lobo porque los lobos no trabajan en el circo y no me gustaría ser domado por nadie".

--Compiled by Landon Burns and Fatima Gamez Lopez
--Photos by Landon Burns

WACKY WEB POLL
WOULD YOU RATHER PLAY BOARD OR CARD GAMES?

53%	47%
BOARD GAMES	CARD GAMES

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Border safety precautions escalate

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

A proposed bill would establish the Border Protection Unit under the Texas Department of Public Safety, whose chief may appoint “law-abiding citizens” without a felony conviction to serve in the unit.

House Bill 20, relating to measures to ensure the safety and welfare of the southern border region of this state, including protection from ongoing criminal activity and public health threats; creating a criminal offense; and creating a civil penalty was filed by state Rep. Matt Schaefer (R-Tyler) on March 10.

The unit is a “division under the commission consisting of the number of officers authorized by the legislature headquartered in the border region,” according to bill documents.

A chief, who will be appointed by the governor, will adopt rules necessary for the control of the unit, and employ “law-abiding citizens without a felony conviction to participate in unit operations,” the bill states.

Law-abiding citizens employed may not have arresting authority unless

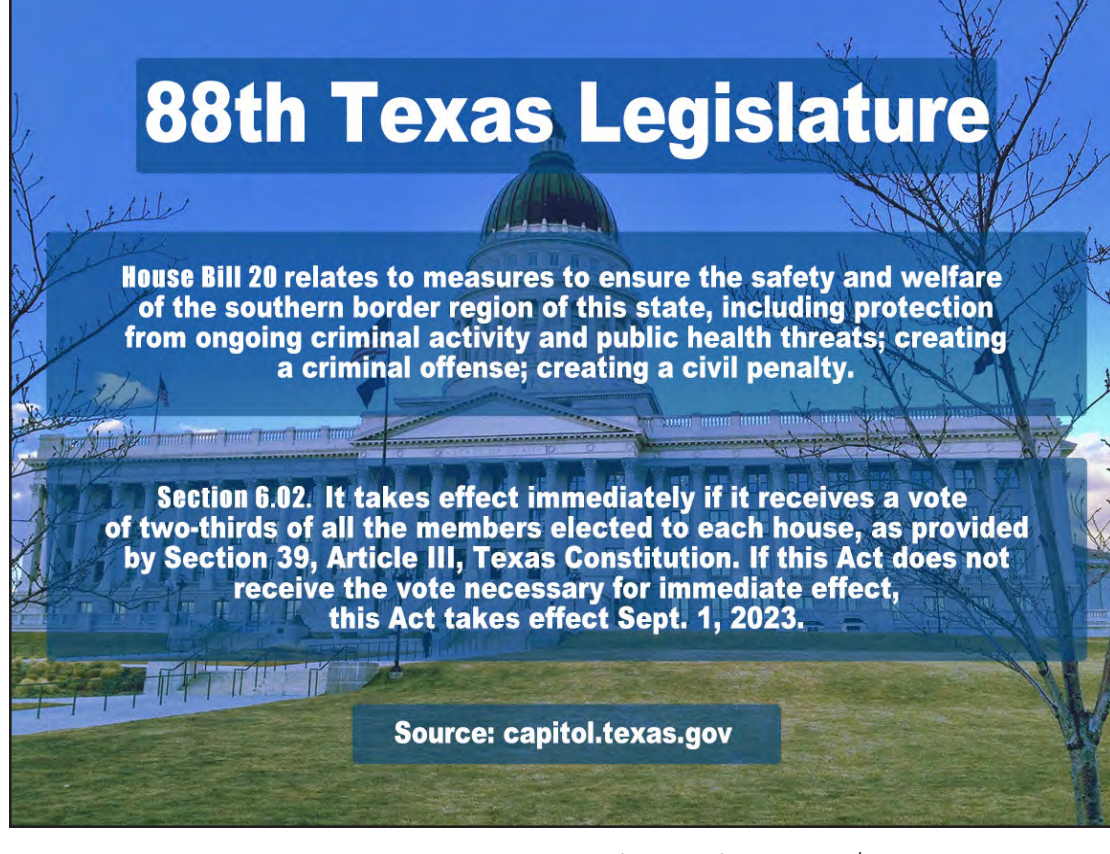
authorized by the governor. Alexis Elicerio, a civic engagement organizer at *La Union del Pueblo Entero* (LUPE) said this is a concern as it may allow people who may be biased into the Border Protection Unit.

“[It] can be an invitation to a lot of folks that have more of a malintent or, you know, some sort of stereotypes as the bill does not turn people away if they have any sort of extremist ideals,” Elicerio said. “It allows people to parade any type of political ideologies, stickers, anything that they would want to show.”

Alvaro Corral, an assistant professor in the Political Science Department, said having the Border Protection Unit could possibly lead to tension with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“I imagine that the Texas Republicans would say, ‘Well, no, the Texas Border Patrol Unit is there to serve and help [U.S. Customs and Border Protection] so that they are not in conflict,’” Corral said. “However, that may not always be true. They may disagree on something, and so who wins there, right?”

He said this bill would test the understanding and interpretation of



Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

immigration and border safety issues.

The bill also states how a person knowingly entering the property of another from a neighboring jurisdiction will be charged with a third-degree felony.

Elicerio believes this charge is “extremely unfair.”

“They’re creating it to be a state felony charge and

also having the fine set at a minimum of \$10,000,” he said. “So, this is an attempt for them to utilize criminal charges as a disguise ... acting like a criminal charge, but its true purpose is to be immigration policies. So, by utilizing the trespassing charge and heightening it to make it more extreme, that’s their tool to enforce

immigration law.”

Corral said he would be concerned that the Border Protection Unit would deter people from seeking asylum.

“In the eyes of our immigration law, [people] should not be deterred because they have a legal right to, perhaps, seek asylum,” he said. “People who present

See **BORDER**, Page 12

Brownsville City Commission Residents petition in support of local activist; grant highlights presented

Natalie Lapsley
THE RIDER

Last Tuesday, members of the community gathered outside City Hall to once again protest the charges against resident and activist Rebekah Hinojosa and demand an investigation of Brownsville Mayor Trey Mendez for “abuse of power.”

Equipped with signs and outfitted in green, several protesters spoke during the city meeting’s public comment period in support of Hinojosa, who was arrested Feb. 16, 2022, and charged with a class B misdemeanor for

allegedly spray painting “gentrified” and “stop SpaceX” on the BTX mural downtown, which was paid for by Elon Musk, the company’s founder.

Hinojosa said after her release, Mendez “publicly attacked” her by publishing her mugshot and employment information on his official Facebook page.

In an interview with The Rider before the meeting, she said the city never responded to over 1,700 petitions delivered on Feb. 7.

“Our petitions are asking for the city to write a letter to the [district] See **BROWNSVILLE**, Page 12



Verilu Infante/THE RIDER

Juan Macias (left), chairman of the Carrizo/Comercruo Tribe of Texas, speaks to the Brownsville City Commission and gestures to over 200 more petitions held by local activist Rebekah Hinojosa during last Tuesday’s meeting. During the Feb. 7 meeting, the group delivered over 1,700 petitions demanding the commission write a letter asking Cameron County District Attorney Luis V. Saenz to drop the class B misdemeanor charges against Hinojosa.

Hidalgo County proposes \$195 million drainage bond issue



Aurora Acevedo/THE RIDER

Raul E. Sesin, a professional engineer and general manager of Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1, presents the 2023 Drainage Bond Program during last Tuesday’s Edinburg City Council meeting. “We’re doing basically a tour of the district just to inform the public of the upcoming bond,” Sesin said. “The district does not promote for or against the bond. We just want to educate the public so they can make an educated decision.”

Andrea Flores
THE RIDER

Hidalgo County residents will vote on May 6 regarding a proposed \$195 million 2023 drainage bond issue program, which will improve the community drainage system and protect more than \$17.8 billion in assessed property values, officials say.

During the Edinburg City Council meeting on April 4, Raul E. Sesin, a professional engineer and general manager of the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1, presented

updates on the county’s 2018 drainage bond issue program and informed the public on the proposed bond issue for this year.

Early voting for the proposal is from April 24 to May 2 and election day is May 6. Voting is open to eligible voters in the county.

The projects under the bond issue program would “address critical drainage infrastructure improvements and expansions of these arteries and channels to mitigate potential threats from catastrophic flooding and protect See **EDINBURG**, Page 10



Nombre: Shiara Zarate

Carrera: Biología marina

Clasificación: Estudiante de tercer año

Fecha de graduación: Primavera 2024



Isabel Morales /THE RIDER

Ciudad natal: Cúcuta, Colombia

Actividades extracurriculares:

“Me gusta ir al gimnasio. Así, que me gusta hacer ejercicio, jugar al voleibol, bailar [y] pasar el rato con mis amigos. También estoy en el Club de Hospitalidad y Turismo [Estudiante de Gestión] aquí [en] la universidad. Y me gusta ser voluntaria. ... Empecé a ser voluntaria para una clase el semestre pasado y a veces lo sigo haciendo. Y trabajo aquí en la universidad en el Centro para la Participación Estudiantil”.

¿Cuáles son las diferencias entre tu ciudad natal y los Estados Unidos?

“Hay muchas diferencias, pero yo diría que el principal, o como el que más noté, fue la comida y cómo la gente te trata, como interactúas con la gente”.

¿Qué hay en tu lista de deseos?

“Me encantaría ir a Hawái y luego hacer paracaidismo”.

¿Quién es tu ejemplo a seguir?

“Mi padre. Él es ... la persona más genuina y amable que conozco. También es muy inteligente y divertido”.

¿Por qué elegiste la carrera en la que estás?

“Siempre me ha interesado mucho el océano y me gustan las ciencias en general. ... Biología marina ... trata de todo el ecosistema. Y cómo funciona todo en la Tierra. Como, todos los procesos y todo. Así que es muy divertido e interesante aprender sobre eso. Y siempre estás aprendiendo algo nuevo. Siempre es, como, lineal, porque puedes aprender sobre los animales, las plantas [y] todo”.

¿Qué películas o programas te gustan?

“Soy una gran chica de la televisión. Así que veo muchas películas y programas. ... Me gustan las películas como ‘Divergent’, ‘Insurgent’, [todas] esas. A mí también me encantan ‘The Hunger Games’. En programas, me gusta ‘Grey’s Anatomy’”.

¿Qué consejo le darías a otros estudiantes internacionales?

“Honestamente, diría que no tengas miedo. Porque sé que ... es difícil estar ahí fuera o estar solo en un país que no conoces o te gusta, en un idioma que realmente no conoces muy bien. Y a veces incluso tienes miedo, como, hablar en clase o, como, socializar con la gente y cosas pequeñas como esas, ya sabes. Pero una vez que te das cuenta de que no tienes nada de qué tener miedo, todo va muy fácil”.

--Recopilado por Fatima Gamez Lopez

Pacto UTRGV-HCA para crear residencias en McAllen, Brownsville



DAVID PIKE/UTRGV MERCADOTECNIA Y COMUNICACIONES

El Regente del Sistema de la Universidad de Texas, Dr. Nolan Perez (desde la izquierda); el presidente de UTRGV, Guy Bailey; el Dr. Michael B. Hocker, decano de la Facultad de Medicina; Cris Rivera, directora ejecutiva del Hospital Regional de Río Grande, filial de HCA Healthcare, en McAllen; y David Irizarry, director ejecutivo del Centro Médico Regional del Valle, filial de HCA Healthcare en Brownsville, posan después de anunciar un acuerdo para llevar a los residentes al Centro Médico Regional del Valle en Brownsville y al Hospital Regional de Río Grande en McAllen para el verano del 2024 durante una conferencia de prensa el 27 de marzo en el Edificio de Educación Clínica de UTRGV en Harlingen.

Teresita Dominguez

THE RIDER

UTRGV y HCA Healthcare desarrollaron un acuerdo de afiliación para brindar puestos de residencia al Centro Médico Regional del Valle en Brownsville y al Hospital Regional Río Grande en McAllen.

Los dos hospitales son filiales de la División de la Costa del Golfo de HCA (por sus siglas en inglés), un sistema hospitalario corporativo nacional.

“Esto es significativo porque ... esta es la primera vez que tenemos programas de capacitación de residencia específicos en Brownsville y realmente ampliamos nuestra presencia allí”, dijo el Dr. Michael B. Hocker, decano de la Facultad de Medicina de UTRGV.

En una entrevista el lunes pasado, Hocker dijo que el acuerdo traerá “entre 150 y 200 plazas adicionales de residencia y becas”.

El acuerdo está pendiente de la aprobación final por parte de la Junta de Regentes del Sistema UT, según un comunicado de prensa de UTRGV.

Una vez que un estudiante recibe su título universitario, va a la escuela de medicina y recibe su título de médico. Luego, van a la formación básica o a la residencia.

“Es una especie de capacitación laboral en la que aprendes sobre tu especialidad”, dijo Hocker.

A partir de julio del 2024, la clase inaugural tendrá de 30 a 40 puestos de residencia, dijo.

Un beneficio que surge de este

acuerdo es la mayor probabilidad de que estos médicos permanezcan en la comunidad, según David Irizarry, director ejecutivo del Centro Médico Regional del Valle en Brownsville.

“Esto continúa aumentando la atención que se brinda en nuestra comunidad”, dijo Irizarry en una entrevista el martes. “Esto trae nuevas experiencias para los médicos en formación. [Son] más

importante para el sur de Texas”, dijo Hocker.

Dijo que Texas es el estado número 47 “en cuanto a la falta de médicos per cápita”, citando el Informe de datos de la fuerza laboral médica estatal de la Asociación de colegios médicos estadounidenses publicado en enero del 2022.

“Tenemos el [número de], ya sabes, médicos per cápita más bajo”, dijo Hocker. “Entonces, no sólo en atención primaria sino también en atención especializada. No solo necesitamos graduar a más estudiantes de medicina que quieran quedarse en el área, sino que también necesitamos médicos residentes.

Es probable que alrededor del 60% al 70% de los residentes permanezcan en el área donde entrenan, dijo.

Julietta Ortega, estudiante de segundo año de biología, dijo que es útil tener más residencias disponibles aquí en el Valle en lugar de tener que viajar a otro lugar y tener que preocuparse por los gastos adicionales.

“Ya gastas tanto en doctorados y posgrados y el transporte también es mucho”, dijo Ortega, quien planea obtener un título en medicina veterinaria. “Entonces, creo que es realmente útil. Bajará mucho el costo”.

Aldo Guzman, estudiante de tercer año de ciencias del ejercicio que planea convertirse en fisioterapeuta, cree que es una gran oportunidad para los estudiantes del Valle y de UTRGV.

Vea PACTO, Página 13

“Hará crecer la industria médica aquí. Entonces, lo más probable es que se queden aquí, haciendo del Valle un lugar más grande para la innovación médica, en lugar de ir al norte del estado o a algún otro lugar fuera del estado”.

-- Aldo Guzman

estudiante de tercer año de ciencias del ejercicio

propensos a permanecer dentro de nuestra comunidad, y continúa elevando la atención que brindamos a los ciudadanos de Brownsville y el condado de Cameron”.

El acuerdo también ayudará a brindar apoyo a los médicos existentes en la comunidad, dijo.

“Estamos ampliando nuestros espacios para residentes, lo cual es

¿Tienes una historia que contar?
Cuéntanos que te gustaría ver en THE RIDER
882-5143 or 665-2541

AYUDE A MEJORAR LA ATENCIÓN DE SALUD MENTAL PARA LOS NIÑOS DE TEXAS

El Consorcio de Atención de Salud Mental Infantil de Texas está reclutando participantes de investigación de entre 8 y 20 años de edad que han experimentado eventos de vida dolorosos o estresantes.

Esto puede incluir: una enfermedad o lesión médica grave, la pérdida de un ser querido, presenciar o experimentar violencia, amenazas físicas o emocionales, un accidente automovilístico, desastre natural, ataque de animales, negligencia, agresión sexual, separación familiar, experiencias de terrorismo, estatus de refugiado o solicitante de asilo.

Los participantes elegibles serán compensados hasta \$400.

Los padres / tutores de menores de 18 años deben dar su consentimiento para la participación de sus hijos.



tcmhcc

Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium

UTRGV



UT Health
Rio Grande Valley



**Para obtener más información cómo puede participar,
llámenos o mandenós un correo electrónico:**

CTR@UTRGV.edu

Catherine Hernandez (956) 296-1530

SAVE THE DATE APRIL 17 - 23

UTRGV
EARTH FEST 2023




Save the Dates | April 17-21

ES² Engaged Scholar Symposium

Research ▶ Creative Works ▶ Community Engagement ▶ Sustainability

April 17 -18	April 19	April 20	April 21
Brownsville PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón 9AM - 4PM	Edinburg Ballroom 9AM - 4PM	Brownsville PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón 9AM - 4PM	Edinburg Ballroom 8AM - 1PM

FOOD SUMMIT
EARTH FEST



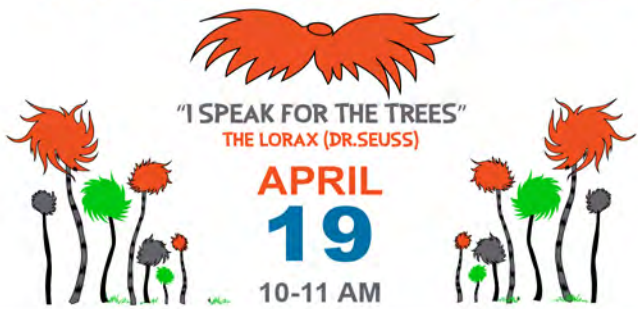
SAVE THE DATE APRIL 19 - 21



VAQUERITOS

"I SPEAK FOR THE TREES"
THE LORAX (DR. SEUSS)

APRIL 19
10-11 AM



EARTH FEST
ARBOR DAY

Tree Planting Ceremony
Lorax Storytelling

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
EDINBURG CAMPUS

The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley

School of Earth,
Environmental,
& Marine Sciences

EARTH FEST
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE EXHIBIT

APRIL 20 11AM - 1PM	EDINBURG CORRIDOR OF ESCNE 2.603	BROWNSVILLE POLLINATOR CANTINA
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SAVE THE DATE APRIL 17 - 23

UTRGV™ EARTH FEST 2023

f i y W



POLLINATOR DAY 2023

APRIL 20
11AM - 1PM

Tree Planting Ceremony
BROWNSVILLE
POLLINATOR CANTINA



UTRGV Department of Theatre

Albert L. Jeffers Theatre
Edinburg Liberal Arts Building South (ELABS)

Somewhere:

A Primer for the End of Days
BY MARISELA TREVINO ORTA

APRIL 21-23, 2023
(956) 665-3581 | UTRGV.EDU/THEATRE



SPEND EARTH DAY CLIMBING AROUND THE WORLD



SCHEDULE

CHECK IN	5:30 PM
CLIMBING MEETING	5:45 PM
CLIMBING BEGINS	6:00 PM
CLIMBING ENDS	8:30 PM
AWARDS	8:45 PM

CLIMBING COMPETITION



APRIL 21
5:30 - 8:30 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ACCOMMODATIONS:
E: 956.665.7813 | B: 956.882.5969

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

ADOPT A BEACH

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND

APRIL 22
7AM - 3PM




ENGAGEMENT ZONE



Marching into the fall semester



Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

Assistant Professor and Director of Bands Saul Torres stands next to the first UTRGV marching band uniform that will be worn by students in the Fall 2023 semester. The uniform was on display last Tuesday during the UIL Region 15 band competition in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

Omar E. Zapata
A&E EDITOR

For both current students and alumni, excitement is building up in anticipation of the UTRGV Marching Band, which the university plans to roll out as early as next fall.

Saul Torres, an assistant professor and director of Bands for the School of Music, will be one of two directors

at the helm for the UTRGV Marching Band.

Torres told The Rider the goal is to hire a director of Athletic Bands before the semester ends.

Interest forms to join the band for the Fall 2023 semester are available through Aug. 28. Auditions are set to take place during the summer break.

Currently enrolled students, new freshmen and transfer students at

UTRGV can audition. All majors are welcome.

Torres said the marching band will include flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, baritones, tubas and a drumline.

He has an ambitious goal of creating a 250-person band, which he said is an average number of members for a university marching band. Another goal is to have two self-sufficient bands in Edinburg and Brownsville but said he understands that may take some years to accomplish.

Bigger schools, such as the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Alabama, have about a 400-member band on average.

As of last Tuesday, the university had received 250 interest forms, said Torres, adding that he expects that number to grow in the coming months.

"We're looking at getting enough instruments that anybody that wants to participate should be able to participate," he said. "We don't want to turn down a student because we don't have an instrument or they don't have it. ... My main goal as director of bands is to make sure we have a complete marching band. ... There's no reason for them not to be in it."

Torres said whether or not students would have to pay an equipment fee is still up in the air.

"We're going into uncharted territory, so we have to go through a season and we'll learn through the

process," he said. "But there's some fees that students will be required to pay. What those fees are, we still don't know yet. ... The fees may include students purchasing their own shoes and maybe ... a marching band shirt."

Torres also mentioned marching band students will receive scholarship due to the time commitment that is required with rehearsals, game day and event attendance.

"It's a big time commitment," he said. "We're looking at at least six hours of rehearsal a week."

Aiming to start auditions and teaching students the fundamentals in late August, another goal Torres has for the marching band is for the first performance to be during the annual McAllen Holiday Parade.

Depending on when the marching band can get its instruments and uniforms, he also hopes for the band to perform at other community events, parades and for local high schools during marching competitions.

Ruben Adame, Fine Arts director for La Joya Independent School District and executive secretary for University Interscholastic League Region 15, told The Rider last Tuesday that having a marching band at UTRGV is a great opportunity for local kids who want to continue their passion for marching.

"We have a very rich tradition of marching bands here in the [Rio Grande] Valley and a lot of kids, not

See BAND, Page 13

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez
ONLINE EDITOR

Aries-Good news will reach you this week when the time is right. Therefore, keep living your life normally, and the news will be delivered sooner than expected. Take it a day at a time and be positive. Remember, what you give out will return to you.

Leo-Take note from your past experiences to protect yourself. As charming as you can be, people around you can be selfish and take advantage. Learn to read people by what they tell you to determine if you can trust them. Keep your heart away and let your intuition guide you.

Sagittarius-Things have been a roller coaster since the beginning of the year; however, don't let it affect your next move. Use this as motivation to determine what you want or need in your life. Take a moment to journal what you picture the rest of the year to be and manifest it.

Libra-It is better to ask than to stay silent. Tell yourself this every time confusion arises. Sometimes, clearing the air is better than to stay unaware of the situation. If you care about the situation, make it a priority to get the answers you need.

Gemini-This week you will be in a good mood. Use this energy to achieve any pending tasks that you have put off. Trust the outcome will be worth it and perhaps this mindset can stick permanently. Avoid feeling that your responsibilities are useless; they serve an underlying purpose.

Aquarius-Although making yourself a priority is a good characteristic to have, focusing on others could be a good thing, too. Many friends or family around you feel as though you've forgotten about them. Be sure to reach out in the next couple of days to clear up any misconceptions.

Scorpio-Instead of viewing setbacks negatively, think of them as an opportunity for growth. When these moments happen, retrace your steps and reflect on the circumstances. Remind yourself that timing plays a big role in your life, so do not give up.

Pisces-Many people are becoming too dependent on you, which is starting to take a toll. It is time to let go of these connections because they are holding you back. The only way they are going to grow is if you stop guiding them. Allow them to make mistakes and learn from them.

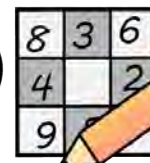
Cancer-Sometimes things may not work out for certain reasons. Instead of allowing the disappointment to get to you, focus on the silver lining. Every individual moves at their own pace, so do not get discouraged. Perhaps this wasn't your time but the next one will.

Taurus-Don't be afraid to network with those who have similar interests as you. Be bold and ask about their experiences and familiarize yourself with what they say. Refrain from being bitter because of their status in life. Rather, use them to your advantage and learn from them.

Virgo-At times, it can be hard to do what makes you happy because it doesn't make sense to those you love. But when there is a chance for a major upgrade in your life, you should not shy away from it. Put yourself first and do what makes you happy. Perhaps communicate with your loved ones to reach a middle ground.

Capricorn-You will soon receive clarity on a situation that may not make you happy. It is OK to feel it through, but understand what happens next will be what's right for you. Don't let this discourage you from what you had going.

SUDOKU



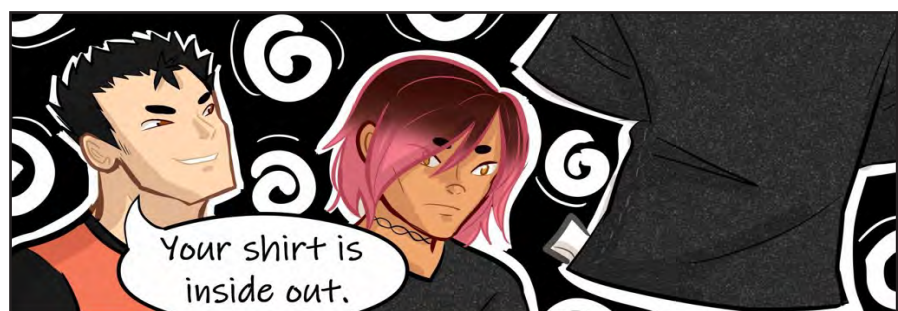
				4				
	7	8		9	1			3
1								5
		2	4		5			1
	6			7			8	
			5	1	6			
				4				
				6	8			
	2							7

Last week's puzzle answer key:

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

DIBBLE DABBLES

by Alejandro Peña





Leonardo Novella



Jose Medina/THE RIDER

Finance junior Leonardo Novella is a member of the UTRGV Men's Golf Team. After graduating from Istituti Scolastici Cardinal C. Baronio, in his home country of Italy, Novella was recruited by the university.

Q: What are some of your hobbies outside of golf?

A: "Besides golf, we don't have a lot of free time, sometimes. My main hobby is playing golf, yeah, but also hanging out with friends and, sometimes, go fishing, or going to the beach, or going to the gym. But apart from that, we don't have a lot of free time. We just like to go and practice, and that's the main thing."

Q: When did you get into golf?

A: "I started getting into it. It was just out of nowhere. I went to a birthday party with my family in a country club, back at home in Italy, and me and my brother just figured out the game of golf because the restaurant where we went was inside the country club. So, we just saw the range and we started hitting some balls, and from there, we just started playing golf. My parents don't play golf at all."

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: "I do like 'Interstellar.' Stuff like that. I love 'Star Wars' ... sci-fi kinda movies. I'm not the type of guy that stays in and watches movies the entire time, but I enjoy them."

Q: How do you train to be better at golf?

A: "The training that we have is specifically aimed to improve some parts that we feel like every time needs to be improved. I don't have a specific training method every time. I just like to discover new stuff, and I feel like that right now ... the training schedule is a little bit more of a mental kind of training. It's more ... like, we keep going every single time, and we just try to get a lot of confidence after every drill that we do. It's nothing too specific or nothing too related to swing, or movement or stuff like [that]. It's more of a kind of trying to get confidence every single time, more and more confidence to go and play tournaments. The best we can do."

Q: What is your proudest moment in your career?

A: "One of the proudest moments would probably be getting to the national team back at home, and getting to the team over here. Getting recruited over here, and being able to play not only in Italy, but internationally. Playing over here, making a name for myself, not only in Italy, as I said, and winning with this team two times. We won [The Big Texan competition March 27-28] and we won two years ago as well."

--Compiled by Julien Juarez

UTRGV tees up for WAC



Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

Samantha Garza, a junior member of the UTRGV Women's Golf Team, uses an alignment rod to clear the green during putting practice April 3 at the Los Lagos Golf Course in Edinburg.

Jose Medina
SPORTS REPORTER

The UTRGV Men's and Women's Golf teams are almost through their season and are about to enter the Western Athletic Conference Championship, which is scheduled later this month.

The Vaqueros recently came off a first-place finish at the Big Texan Tournament on March 27-28 in Kerrville and an eighth-place finish at the Huntsville Toyota Walden Invitational on April 3-4 in Montgomery.

Meanwhile, the Vaqueras finished second at their UTRGV Invitational on March 6-7 and 11th at the Houston Christian University Husky Invitational on March 13-14 in Sugar Land.

The Vaqueras are set to play at the Oral Roberts University Spring Invite on April 10-11 in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, followed by the WAC Championship April 23-25 in Blaine, Washington.

Women's golf head coach Bryan Novoa said he is proud of the team and how far they have come.

"The girls [had] three top-three finishes," Novoa said. "[They are] just performing at a really high level with their stroke average and their scoring. I couldn't be more pleased."

He said the upcoming ORU Spring Invite would be an interesting event since they will be playing in a different environment with different weather.

"But we're very unfamiliar [with the course]," Novoa said. "We only get one practice round. So our preparation's going to be a little tight, a little crunch. But as soon as we do it, we're going to put a good game plan together, and go attack."

past that now. And now we're playing to our personality, you know. We're having a good time."

Novoa said he is proud of them "taking care of business on the course" and being great human beings off the course.

Men's golf head coach Houston Moore said part of being a coach is always wanting more for the players.

Moore said his chemistry with the team has completely changed since the beginning of the year.

"My relationship with the guys is a lot stronger," he said. "Coming in as a new coach, it's something that had to be built. And I had to be patient and wait for that to happen."

Moore said they would love to win and are going to play 54 holes at WAC and see what the results are at the end.

Junior Leonardo Novella said the main goal is to win the WAC Tournament and the team always tries to push themselves individually.

"So, we have two goals," Novella said. "That is just winning, obviously, but at the same time, trying to improve every single part of our game in order to be prepared and always knowing that we have a shot to win every single tournament that we're gonna play."

The men's team is set to play in the WAC Championship on April 28-30 in Boulder City, Nevada.

"We play our best golf when we're laid back, having fun, smiling, laughing."

--Bryan Novoa
Women's Golf Head Coach

He said motivation comes from within the team and it is not an issue for the Vaqueras, but managing fatigue is more of a challenge.

Novoa said the team chemistry has evolved during the season.

"We play our best golf when we're laid back, having fun, smiling, laughing," he said. "It's funny, the girls at the beginning of the year, [in] the fall, came out a little too intense. A little tight. ... There was a little frustration with injuries. We're kind of

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

Women's Tennis

11 A.M. Friday vs. Stephen F. Austin State University

9 A.M. Sunday vs. Sam Houston State University

At the Orville L. Cox Tennis Center

INITIATIVE*Continued from Page 1*

Pablo Aguilar said the idea came from a conversation with his co-worker about ways to give back to the community. After realizing students and faculty and staff members face financial hardships, the initiative was created to be a “win-win” for both sides.

Aguilar said during the first run of the event in Spring 2022, they had good participation.

“We were able to collect over 2,400 cans between campuses,” he said.

For this semester however, Aguilar said he has a more aggressive goal.

“We wanna pick up at least 2,800 [cans],” he said. “... We wanna increase what we can continue donating to the university food pantry and just continue making that impact.”

Aguilar said many of the citations students and faculty receive are for not having the parking permit in the right position, or not having one at all.

“That usually happens at the beginning every semester, [but] it does die down after the semester starts,” he said.

Although there is no limit to the number of citations that can be removed, they do not include removing a boot from your car.

Citations can be removed for the following reasons: displaying an

expired decal, double or multiple parking, failure to display a current parking permit, improper zone parking, parking permit not properly affixed to a windshield and unpaid Luke pay station tickets. Late fees on these citations will also be removed.

In order for the citation to be removed, students must bring their student ID, citation ticket or license plate number.

Aguilar hopes that after this current fiscal year, there will be enough data to determine if the initiative is increasing or decreasing the rate that citations are being given.

“We’re too early to get any historical data,” he said. “... Initially, my thoughts are that we’re still issuing the same quantity of citations. ... Gradually, [over the semester] we see a decline [in citations].”

He said this is a good opportunity for the university community.

“We openly encourage [supporting the community] and encourage people to engage in even more acts of kindness,” Aguilar said. “We just hope that this effort just makes a positive impact on our campus, and in students’ lives, and employees as well, so we can continue doing this.”

The pantry receives about 16 pounds of student donated foods monthly, but during its large-scale donation drives, the amount can range from 200 to 400 pounds of food, said Maria Barrera, a

communication sciences and disorders junior who works as an attendant at the pantry on the Edinburg campus.

The food pantry also receives donations from outside organizations during these drives, where foods other than canned goods are collected, such as dried fruits, snacks and ramen.

“Anything you can put in a can, we’ve got in here,” said Eric Martinez, an electrical engineering senior who also works as an attendant at the pantry on the Edinburg campus.

Volunteers in the pantry sort and transport food, but do not collect it from grocery stores.

Barrera said the pantry is careful about food that is donated.

“We try to stay away from opened items if they’re not individually wrapped,” she said. “... We can’t give out an open box of cereal because, obviously, it’s a health risk. There aren’t any items that are specifically not allowed, only the condition that they are in.”

To request food from the pantry, recipients must fill out a form online at <https://www.utrgv.edu/foodpantry/>, where a list of the items in the pantry is shown, and they can choose what they want. After filling out the form, they can pick up what they ordered.

When the donated food runs low, the pantry can order from the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley; however, the

food is not similar to what is donated by the UTRGV community and it comes with a fee to order.

“Whenever we get donations, we really enjoy it because it kind of alleviates the financial aspect of [running the pantry],” Barrera said.

Barrera said the food pantry is available to all students, with no requirements outside of being enrolled.

“All of our forms are available online,” she said. “It’s a pretty simple process, and it only takes 15 minutes, maybe.”

Those considering a donation to the Kindness for Cans drive are encouraged to think outside the box.

“We have a lot of corn, we have a lot of green beans,” Martinez said. “... If you could get creative and see if you could make it a little more diverse in terms of the stuff donated, it would be really helpful for the people that come in and get food from here because it’s a lot better than the stuff we already have.”

Mechanical engineering sophomore Osvaldo Curiel said the event is an interesting way to replenish the food pantry.

“It incentivizes them to bring in food,” Curiel said. “I think it’s a very interesting way to do that, and, I don’t think, it’s also in a good position where it’s hard to take advantage of, because who’s gonna bring 10 cans with them to get rid of a parking violation?”

SUMMIT*Continued from Page 1*

Complex on the Edinburg campus and from 5 to 7 p.m. April 21 at the Hub of Prosperity Farm in Edinburg.

It will include panel discussions on how to transform the food system, food and policy at local and national levels, farmworkers’ rights and health through food, featuring local voices and organizations. There will also be a screening of the documentary “Valley of Tears.”

UTRGV Chief Sustainability Officer Marianella Franklin said there could be real change if the opportunity arises during the summit to discuss the food- and health-related challenges the Valley battles.

“If we could have a clear conversation with our farmers, if we can have a conversation with our city officials who can change policies and ordinances ...

if they start serving better food, more nutritious food, we’re all going to be better off,” Franklin said. “The entire Rio Grande Valley is going to see a shift in their health, and that’s what we hope to achieve.”

She said the food summit will cover the first four of 17 goals set by the United Nations, which are eliminating poverty and hunger, having good health, well-being and quality education.

“This is a very important summit because [Racelis is] bringing together not just faculty, staff and students, but he’s bringing in the local farmers,” Franklin said. “He’s bringing in nonprofit organizations ... as well as city officials or commissioners and county judges and a couple of other people, who, you know, work in the area of food systems.”

Hernan Colminero, CEO of the Institute for Ecology, Scholarship and Health, said the event is trying to bring stakeholders from various industries in

the Valley to advise on how to improve the wealth the area has to offer, agricultural productivity, cultural heritage and the ecological landscape.

“We are hoping to improve the livelihood [of] residents of the Rio Grande Valley,” Colminero said. “That being said, we understand that our situation here is not ... relegated to only the RGV, so we’re bringing in some speakers from El Paso, for example, and having a rich discussion on *colonias*, food access in *colonias*.”

He said people should walk away with actionable ideas and steps to improve the food system.

“Everyone plays at least some role, even if we’re just eaters, right?” Colminero said. “So, how do we consume food in a more sustainable manner?”

The summit is a free public event, but space is limited. The event will also be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person. To access the meeting or RSVP, visit rgvagroecology.com.

HOUSE*Continued from Page 4*

how communities outside of where I live are suffering, these consequences make me fear the future. And the unfortunate truth is that no single person has control over it. This isn’t something we can fix immediately, or with the push of a button.

Yes, I sound as if the world is doomed and I’ve lost all hope in humanity. But, surprisingly, I still have hope that by becoming more informed about these issues, taking the time to listen to credible research findings, investing the right funding, reducing the use of fossil fuels and our carbon footprint and doing our part in taking care of our environment, we can come together and find a solution to clean up as much of this mess as possible.

So, yes. Your house is on fire. But it doesn’t have to be.

BORDER*Continued from Page 5*

themselves and sometimes cross in an unauthorized way, may be doing so in order to literally present themselves to federal agents in order to request asylum. But if the Texas Border Protection Unit acts in such a way as to deter that group of people, is that diminishing our understanding of our asylum laws?”

The Rider asked Ava Stuart, legislative director for state Rep. Erin Elizabeth Gámez (D-Brownsville) for an interview with Gámez. Stuart replied last Tuesday with an email containing a statement from the representative.

“The issue of border security is of the utmost importance to all Texans, particularly those in District 38 as our homes and neighborhoods border Matamoros, Mexico,” Gámez wrote. “HB 20 is working its way through the legislative process and is likely to be carefully debated and amended in many ways before it reaches its final form. Considering the magnitude of the issue at hand, I am confident that my colleagues will take member and constituent concerns seriously and with empathy in mind.”

The Rider also asked Arianna Joslin, Rep. Shaefer’s legislative aide, for an interview with Shaefer multiple times via email, but Joslin told the newspaper in a phone call last Thursday that he was not available.

BROWNSVILLE*Continued from Page 5*

attorney] and ask him to immediately drop the charges against me and to investigate the mayor for abuse of power,” Hinojosa said. “And so, we’re back here again demanding a response.”

During the interview, she held a stack of more than 200 additional petitions, which the group later delivered during public comment.

Hinojosa also described her arrest as “politically motivated” and said their goal was to get the commission to “stop ignoring” constituents’ concerns about SpaceX.

“He made it clear he was lashing out against me because I’ve been very outspoken about SpaceX operations for years,” she said.

Hinojosa asked residents to learn about the “negative impacts of SpaceX.”

“There are serious issues with SpaceX,” she said. “And we will not allow politicians in the pocket of a private space corporation to intimidate and silence us.”

During public comment, resident Xandra Treviño said Tuesday was also Hinojosa’s birthday.

“The last time I was here, we were celebrating the birthday of the city,” Treviño said, referencing the Feb. 7 city meeting. “... Today we are celebrating another birthday. ... Today is Bekah’s birthday. I mean, I’m not Bekah. I don’t know exactly what she wants, but I feel like it would be fitting for her to receive an apology from our mayor.”

The commission does not take action or respond during meetings to public comments, so no response was given during the meeting.

Other than asking residents to state their name before speaking and informing them when their three minutes were up, Mendez offered no response. While residents spoke, he watched silently and at one point sifted through papers on his desk.

In other business, officials from the Brownsville Grants and Community Development Department gave a presentation about the department’s efforts and highlights during the 2021-22 Fiscal Year.

Grant Manager Olga Moya said the team looks for opportunities that “align with the commission pillars and meet department needs” and collaborates with city departments to gather information for grant applications.

Grant Writer Samantha Cienfuegos said the department applied for 33 grants, totaling \$7.8 million in potential funding.

“Last fiscal year we were awarded 15 of those grants, totaling \$2.2 million,” Cienfuegos said. “Looking back at the grants awarded over the past few years, the grants department has seen a consistent increase in funding.”

Of the \$2.2 million awarded, 13.3% was for infrastructure, 20% was for quality of life, 40% was for public safety and 26.7% was for economic development.

The city was awarded \$1 million for the first phase of the Brownsville Emergency Operations Center, training facility and a future fire

station, according to the presentation.

Cienfuegos said the project is “of the utmost importance to the city” and that it is the first time Brownsville receives this award.

“We are continuing to seek additional funding opportunities to complete this project,” she said.


Grant Analyst Eryka Dubernery presented ongoing projects, such as the Cultural and Tourism Grant fund.


Brownsville received \$65.3 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to “combat the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 in the community,” \$2.62 million of which was allocated to help rebuild nonprofit arts and cultural organizations that attract tourism to the city, according to the presentation.


Dubernery said Brownsville was one of eight cities in the nation to be selected for a Choice Neighborhood Planning grant of \$450,000 to improve the quality of life for residents in the International/Southmost area.

“The plan is centered on the redevelopment of Victoria Gardens housing, which includes 46 units of low-income housing,” she said.

The team is in the drafting stage and is set to submit a final plan in November.

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EDINBURG

Continued from Page 5

lives and property,” according to the presentation.

Twenty-six projects are included in the proposed bond issue. Among these are the South Main Drain, which would cost \$11,510,000, and the North Main Drain III and I, which would cost \$17,190,000 and would include improvements in the City of Edinburg, Sesin said.

Place 1 Councilmember Daniel “Dan” Diaz asked if the proposal has to be open for a vote even though the bond would not result in a tax increase for Hidalgo County taxpayers, as stated in the presentation.

“The district cannot incur debt without a voter approval, so anytime we have to incur debt for improvements, we have to put it out for the voters,” Sesin replied.

Diaz also asked if the areas improved

are based on severity of need.

Sesin replied that they are based on historical information that the district has.

“This bond will interconnect those two projects, one in the east, one here in the central part of Edinburg that initiates from Canton Road going north and north of Monte Cristo [Road] and from that connection going all the way east, almost to Monte Cristo [Road] and Ingle Road,” he said. “That’s just one project of many that we’ve identified to continue developing based on all the projects that are ongoing.”

He also updated the status of the 2018 drainage bond program, saying 23% of the projects are in the design process, 27% are completed and 50% are under construction.

For more information on this year’s proposed bond issue program and 2018’s bond program, visit: www.hcddi.org.

During the mayor’s report, Mayor Ramiro Garza Jr. talked about

working on a task force after the city received feedback from resident and self-advocate Juan Lopez regarding accessibility on new city buildings for people with disabilities.

“We’re going to call it a task force with the purpose of just accessing our buildings, maybe giving us some feedback on new buildings that we’re looking to build so that they’re equally accessible to everybody, especially people with disabilities,” Garza said.

Lopez has cerebral palsy and utilizes a wheelchair, said Marissa Pecina, a speech-pathologist and disability consultant who the mayor invited to speak during the meeting.

Pecina said the Americans With Disabilities Act is the “bare minimum.”

“There are people who are deaf,” she said. “There are people who are blind and have low vision, as well as people who have physical limitations. We just want to look holistically at everyone to create a more united, inclusive

community ... because, in a nutshell, that’s what inclusion is.”

Garza said the next step is to appoint the task force members at the next city meeting.

In other business, the city will request a \$99,000 grant over a two-year period, beginning Sept. 1, 2023, and ending Aug. 31, 2025, that, if awarded, would continue to support the Crime Victim Liaison position after the city council voted in favor of the resolution.

The city would receive \$49,500 per year and the award notification is expected in September.

“This position ensures victims of violent crimes are protected,” reads a document from the agenda packet. “The Crime Victim Liaison provides community education and victim advocacy by referring them to available resources. All victims that are experiencing grief, domestic violence or the loss of a loved one is offered supportive services.”

PACTO

Continuación de Página 6

“Les abre la oportunidad de quedarse cerca de casa”, dijo Guzman. “Hará crecer la industria médica aquí. Entonces, lo más probable es que se queden aquí, haciendo del Valle un lugar más grande para la innovación médica, en lugar de ir al norte del estado o a algún otro lugar fuera del estado”.

Hocker dijo que los programas de capacitación elevarán la calidad de la atención médica en el área.

“La medicina académica y estos programas de capacitación solo elevarán la calidad de la atención médica y el acceso a los especialistas”, dijo Hocker. “Es una victoria para RGV, es una victoria para HCA. Lo que es más importante, es realmente una victoria para los pacientes del Valle del Río Grande”.

BAND

Continued from Page 10

necessarily majoring in music, want to continue being in marching band and that was never an option here,” Adame said. “They were always having to go to Kingsville or San Marcos. ... It is a huge opportunity for this passion of marching band to thrive at the university level here in the Rio Grande Valley.”

Adame, who was a high school marching band director from 1996 to 2014, and Torres are good friends and are both alumni from legacy institution University of Texas-Pan American.

Adame asked Torres if UTRGV would have an exhibition marching band at competitions later this year, to which Torres replied with an immediate yes.

“So, for that to be possible so early,

even before the football program, is very exciting,” Adame said. “I know that’s a venue and an opportunity to advertise that program ... to as many as 10,000 people.”

Emily Castillo, a music education junior, said she is excited for what is to come, from simply being in a marching band again to increased funding, enrollment and recognition in the School of Music.

“I already submitted my interest form,” Castillo said. “I play clarinet, but I also want to, hopefully, be one of the drum majors. Me and my friends are all talking about it, how we’re all gonna do the Vaquero marching band, and it seems really fun and exciting.”

She said any student interested in joining the marching band should not be scared to do so.

“If you’re really interested, totally

reach out to someone who is in the music department,” Castillo said. “... Come and have fun. Share a love of passionate music making. ... That’s what it’s all about.”

For more information on the marching band or to fill out an interest form, visit link.utrgv.edu/marchingband.

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Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning



Julie Mustard (right), an associate professor in the Department of Biology, teaches information systems senior Gisela González about the type of cardboard used as a recycling material during the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning at the Pollinator Cantina on March 31 on the Brownsville campus. The purpose of the garden is three-fold: 1) the conservation of butterflies and other pollinators 2) to act as a platform for experiential learning and research projects for students and 3) to engage the community by providing information on the importance of pollinators and what they can do to help conservation efforts, according to the garden's webpage on V Link.

Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER

Teresa Hernández, a social work junior, removes weeds from the Pollinator Cantina on March 31 to prepare the soil for spring during the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning on the Brownsville campus.

Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER



UTRGV sustainable agriculture sophomore Katy Amador (left) and history sophomore Joseph Esparza listen to agroecology program Manager Stephanie Kasper as she delivers instructions on what they will be working on during the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning at the Edinburg Hub of Prosperity Farm on March 31. The Hub of Prosperity provided tools and gloves for the volunteers.

Isabel Morales/THE RIDER



Rehabilitation services and counseling graduate student Tori Livingston (from left); Angie Rocha, environmental science and art junior; and business graduate student Juan Cantu collaboratively cut the strings for the tomato plants March 31 at the Hub of Prosperity Farm in Edinburg.

Isabel Morales/THE RIDER



That night, after the day's events, we find Miles Morales, Millie, Kole, and Ivy walking in the park in their spider-suits for a friendly catch up.

"I think he likes her," Miles finished off to the girls. Kole was in the background slowly getting fired up. Ivy jumps in complete shock, making hand gestures, "Woah, woah, woah, woah. You mean to tell me that Cristian – the dude that's been picking on V since forever – was being soft on her? And brought a daisy! Now I'm confused."

"Same," Millie agreed.

Kole, not able to take any more, finally spoke, in a threatening tone. "Did he kiss her?"

Miles immediately lied, sounding confident, "No. He didn't."

Kole rolled his eyes. "If not him, maybe you. You're always with her, speaking soft, and holding hands with her I'm assuming?" This annoyed Miles.

"Okay, Kole. I'm serious. You gotta stop."

"You must've kissed her sometime," Kole added, anger rising. "You had to have kissed her when we weren't looking." Miles couldn't play nice any longer.

"What the heck's gotten into your mind man? I'm not falling for her! I'm just trying to help her return to normal. She's not mine for the taking." Kole stepped up to Miles, crossing his arms defensively.

"Is she now?"

Ivy got queasy with the tension.

KOLE'S BETRAYAL IS REVEALED BY: MADELENE TRUJILLO

"Kole, this is a bad idea."
"Shut up Ivy!" Kole snapped, silencing her.
Millie stepped in. "Kole, please!"
"As does you!" Kole yelled. He turned back to Miles.
"So you could've at least told me you're together."
Miles took in a deep breath. "Kole, please. Why would I steal her from Super Blue?"

That was it. Kole was about to punch Miles when something in the bushes got their attention, activating their senses.

"What's that?" Kole asked, scanning the bushes.
"I don't know," Ivy filled in behind him, "but it's not good."
Miles made the move. "We know you're there! Show yourselves!"

From the bushes all around came the Greyhounds, who were uniformly dressed in dark grey suits and pants with black shoes and glasses, hair combed exactly the same. Most of their forms were skinny but with slight differences. There was a husky-looking Greyhound that was apart from the others. It was the zombie-looking attorney that set Kole free. Miles was in disbelief.

"You gotta be kidding me..."
The zombie attorney smiled at Kole. "Hello Kole. Miles's eyes widened and turned to Kole. "Kole, who's this?"

"Your interrogator," the attorney smiled, stepping toward them. "I just have one question from my master; where's V Hunter?"

"She's not with us! That much I can say," Miles replied defensively.

The attorney laughed a little, "You're one to play dumb." He then snapped his fingers to cue the battle. "Too dumb."

The Greyhounds lunged at the four of them on the snap. The Spider-team leaped into response.

"Miles, run!" Ivy shouted, taken down by the first Greyhound.

Millie picked her battle, yelling, "I got this Miles!"

A few Greyhounds were heading in Miles's way when Kole stepped in to help. Miles spoke, terrified, "What did you do?"

Kole faced him with dull eyes, "I'm sorry."

A Greyhound leaped on top of Miles and was about to shoot him when Miles shocked it. Ivy dealt with three others, thwipping poisonous webs and thrashing around to be set free. Millie was throwing powerballs at two other Greyhounds, trying to cast spells and fend them off. The attorney Greyhound was dealing with Kole, grasping him by the throat.

"Now," he said, "You're going to tell me where she is."

"Please," Kole spoke hoarsely, "I gave you what you

wanted. They know where she lives." He gasped for air before continuing, "Just don't terrorize her like I did."

The attorney laughed, "Terrorize her? Why of course not. The boss just wants a friendly chat with her is all."

"What do you want from me?" Kole whispered.

"We had a deal," the attorney mumbled coldly, "Don't mess it up now."

Kole gave in, "I can bring her to you. I know how."

The attorney eyed him closely and coldly before responding, "Two weeks' time. Here. You and her."

"No," Kole spoke, losing strength. "Cristian," Kole's throat got clutched harder. "He likes her. She doesn't know. I can get them together."

The attorney glared at him. "Very well." He tossed Kole aside to a nearby tree, making Kole go limp. He shot his gun thrice, and the Greyhounds backed off. Millie was severely scratched. Ivy cradled her left arm. Miles limped and dragged his right foot along. Kole used all his strength to stand erectly and meet the attorney's eyes. Before leaving, the attorney spoke, "Two weeks. Same time. Her and Cristian or else." They all clicked a button on their watches and immediately 1's and 0's appeared all about them. They returned to Miguel's universe. Kole went limp almost immediately; Ivy came up to him.

"Kole!" She lifted him up. "Kole are you okay?" She noticed a deep gash on his side. "Oh my gosh! Are you alright?"

"I'm alright," Kole gritted through his teeth, "Are they gone?"

Miles walked up to Kole in pain. "What...did you... you work for them?"

"What?" Millie replied in shock.

"After the incident with V at the hospital, he got arrested. Two months later, he was set free by that husky Greyhound. They're after V," Miles filled in. He then turned to Kole, "He set us all up. Even himself."

Kole felt terrible. "I'm sorry, I just..."

"Don't!" Miles yelled. "You've said enough. I'm going with V!"

Kole tried to stop him. "Miles, please!"

Miles was irritated. "I said I'm going with V! At least I'll die fighting to protect her unlike you! She means as much to me as to Super Blue. I'm not going to let you or your zombie friends from stopping me or hurting her." He began to walk away when Kole spoke hoarsely.

"Miles!"

Miles stopped with his back to Kole and walks into the darkness, his silhouette fading into the collapsing night.



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