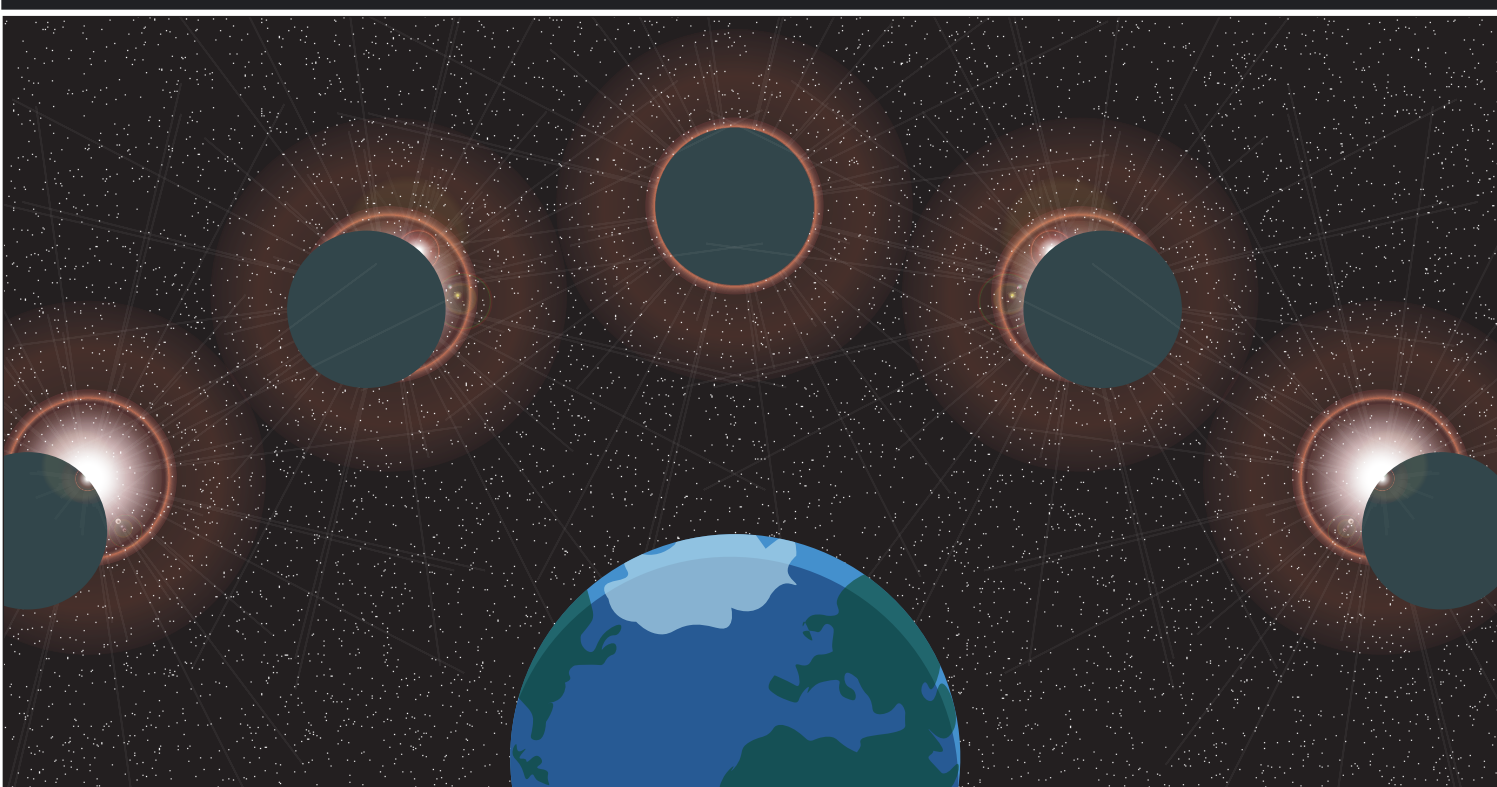


# TOTAL ECLIPSE



Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER ILLUSTRATION

## Natalie Lapsley EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Today, various locations in Mexico, the United States and Canada will be blanketed in darkness as a total solar eclipse crosses the planet.

The moon's shadow will creep along a stretch of Earth that is known as the "band of totality," resulting in total darkness along that path. Although the Rio Grande Valley does not sit within

the "band of totality," residents will still be able to view the moon passing between the earth and sun.

Constantine Poulos, a junior and astrophotographer, told The

Rider in an interview Thursday that he plans to travel to Kerrville, which is north of San Antonio, for a better view of the eclipse.

"This time, the moon will completely block out the sun See **ECLIPSE**, Page 3

[A journey to the stars, Page 3](#)

## The SB 4 court battle

On Dec. 18, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed SB 4 by state Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock), which led to a complaint from the U.S. Justice Department.

On Jan. 3, the U.S. filed a lawsuit against the state of Texas, Abbott, the Texas Department of Public Safety and its director, Steven C. McCraw, complaining that SB 4 "creates purported state immigration crimes for unlawful entry and unlawful reentry, permits state judges and magistrates to order the removal of noncitizens from the country, and mandates that state officials carry out those removal orders."

On Feb. 29, Senior U.S. District Judge David Alan Ezra temporarily blocked the Texas law. The bill was originally set to go into effect March 5.

Texas immediately appealed to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals after Ezra's ruling.

On March 19, the U.S. Supreme Court gave the green light on the bill, allowing SB 4 to take effect immediately in the state for several hours. But later that day, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals blocked the bill and scheduled a last-minute hearing.

"There was a back and forth between various legal systems," Alvaro Corral, an assistant professor in the UTRGV Department of Political Science told The Rider during a phone call on March 5. "... The [U.S. Supreme Court], of course, allowed for the law to not so much to go into effect but rather they allowed for the lower appeals court to rehear the case because, of course, they said that they had made a procedural error. So they simply had them rehear the case again."

During the hearing, the panel of judges did not issue a decision and the state law remains on hold.

SB 4 prevents police from arresting migrants in public or private schools, churches and health-care facilities.

See **BATTLE**, Page 3

# Appeals court hears arguments over SB 4

SB 4 would make it a state crime to cross the Texas-Mexico border between ports of entry.

If a police officer believes they have evidence that a person illegally crossed the Rio Grande, that person could be charged with potential penalties ranging from a misdemeanor to a felony.

A judge could drop the charges if a migrant agrees to return to Mexico.

Source: United States of America vs. State of Texas, order granting preliminary injunction



## Fatima Gamez Lopez SPANISH EDITOR

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments Wednesday from Texas and the federal government on whether Senate Bill 4, a law that aims to establish state crimes and penalties for migrants who illegally enter the state, should remain on hold.

"What Texas has done here is they have looked at the Supreme Court's precedent, and they have tried to

develop a statute that goes up to the line of Supreme Court precedent, but allows Texas to protect the border," Texas Solicitor General Aaron Lloyd Nielson said during the hearing. "Now, to be fair, maybe Texas went too far. And that's the question this Court's gonna have to decide. But that's the context of which we are here."

Nielson said Texas had looked at the Supreme Court precedent and the laws that Congress has enacted to develop a law that goes "up to the edge, but no

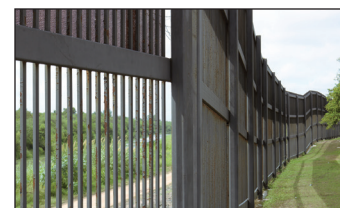
further."

He went back to some of the questions Chief Judge Priscilla Richman asked Nielson during a hearing over the law on March 20.

"Your Honor asked, What would happen if Texas delivered someone to the port of entry ... and the United States says, 'OK, all right. Go back into Texas.' Can Texas rearrest? What do you do in that circumstance?" Nielson said.

He said Texas is in disadvantage See **BILL**, Page 4

## NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL:



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UTRGV dominates at Big Texan

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## 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**  
Natalie Lapsley

**ONLINE EDITOR**  
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**SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR**  
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**SPANISH EDITOR**  
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**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS**  
Ana Sanchez  
Maggie Castillo

**CONTACT:**  
**EDINBURG CAMPUS**  
1201 West University Dr.  
ELABS 170  
Phone: (956) 665-5085

**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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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Today Study Bites

The **Student Leadership Academy** and **Center for Student Involvement** will host mini leadership lessons from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Student Union Room 1.300 on the Edinburg campus and at the same time in Main Building Room 1.005 on the Brownsville campus.

### Lotería

The **Student Union Game Room** on both campuses will host a **Lotería game** from 1 to 2 p.m. Students must bring their UTRGV ID to register.

### S.A.R.E. Fundraiser

The **Society of Aerospace and Robotics Engineers** will sell **marranadas**, corn in a cup and lemonade from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus. The club is raising funds to keep constructing nationally awarded projects.

### Piano Concert

Pianist **Christian Alberto Restrepo Sánchez** will perform at UTRGV from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.217 on the Brownsville campus. Admission is free. Restrepo,

a native of Colombia, holds a doctorate in piano collaboration, from the University of Houston. The concert is part of the **Guest Artist Series**.

### Percussion Ensemble Concert

The **UTRGV Percussion Ensemble** will present a program of chamber music for percussion instruments, spanning a wide range of music styles from 7 to 9 p.m. in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free.

### Tuesday Destress Express Event

The **School of**

**Rehabilitation Services and Counseling** will host an event where attendees can make **flower pens** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Student Union Room 1.300 on the Edinburg campus.

### ACJA Meeting

The **American Criminal Justice Association Sigma Kappa Chi** will meet from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building North Room 106 on the Edinburg campus.

### Cosmic Canvas

The **Student Union** will host an art event where attendees will **paint "masterpieces"** under the guidance of Art and Design Professor Lilia Cabrera from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

### Wednesday BAP Meeting

Members of **Beta Alpha Psi** will meet from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Mathematics and General Classrooms Room 1.206 on the Edinburg campus.

### Edinburg Bible Study

**Christians at RGV** will host a **Bible study** from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Student Academic Center Room 1.103 on the Edinburg campus.

### Thursday Exercise Science Club

The **Exercise Science Club** invites students to participate in volleyball's king of the court, basketball, pickleball and table tennis games from 5 to 6:15 p.m. in the Texas Southmost Recreation Center in Brownsville.

### Delight Chapter Meeting

**Delight Ministries** will host a devotional from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building South Room 177 on the Edinburg campus.

### Friday 'Google and the World Brain'

The **University Library**, in observance of **National Library Week**, will show the film "Google and the World Brain" from 11:30 a.m. to noon in University Library Room 3.117 on the Edinburg campus.

### Saturday Brunch Workshop

**Talk About It UTRGV** will host a workshop to learn about **sexual and reproductive health** from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building North Room 106 on the Edinburg campus.

### Tuba Concert

**Scott Roeder**, a professor of tuba and euphonium at UTRGV, will perform a recital of standard new **tuba repertoire** from 3 to 5 p.m. in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. The recital is part of the **Faculty Artist Series**. Admission is free.

--Compiled by Alfredo Garcia Jr.



## POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between March 26 and April 1.

### March 26

**10:44 a.m.:** A student reported her non-affiliated ex-boyfriend grabbed her by the arm as she tried to walk away from him in the Life and Health Sciences building on the Brownsville campus. The student's ex-boyfriend also attempted to contact her outside her classroom on March 25. On March 27, the UTRGV Police Department obtained an arrest warrant for stalking and an emergency protective order. The man was later apprehended and booked into the Brownsville Municipal Jail.

**12:03 p.m.:** Officers responded to a patient who made threats toward the clinic staff at the Academic and Clinical Research Building on the Harlingen campus. A Texas Tropical Behavioral Health screener evaluated the patient and determined she did not meet the requirements for an emergency mental health detention. After further investigation, the woman was arrested on a charge of terroristic threat and transported to the Harlingen City Jail.

**5:06 p.m.:** A student reported almost being struck by a vehicle

while he was crossing Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez Drive near Lot E-21 on the Edinburg campus. The review of closed-circuit TV cameras confirmed the student account of the event. The case is under investigation.

### March 27

**10:46 a.m.:** A non-affiliated man reported he lent his car to a non-affiliated man and woman while at the Veterans Affairs Clinic on the Harlingen campus. The vehicle was not returned as agreed and was later recovered by the Harlingen Police Department. The case is under investigation.

**2:40 p.m.:** A student received a message via social media demanding money or intimate photos of him would be released. The case is under investigation.

### March 28

**1:15 p.m.:** An officer responded to a fire alarm in the Casa Bella apartments on the Brownsville campus. Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management checked the area and deemed it safe for reentry.

**11:01 p.m.:** An officer responded to a non-affiliated man acting suspicious inside the University Library on the

Edinburg campus. After further investigation, it was determined the man was attempting to locate his non-affiliated ex-girlfriend who was also at the library. Both parties left the area without further incident.

### 11:13 p.m.:

An employee reported a suspicious man with a young child in the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus after hours. The area was checked and officers were unable to locate the individuals. The case is under investigation.

### March 30

**2:40 p.m.:** An employee was bitten while attempting to remove a trapped dog from a water fountain on the Brownsville campus.

The employee received medical attention and the dog was safely removed and taken by Brownsville Animal Control.

### March 31

**2:48 a.m.:** Officers responded to a fire alarm in the Marialice Shary Shivers building on the Edinburg campus. The Edinburg Fire Department arrived and determined the alarm was triggered by dust emitting from the smoke detector. The building was

deemed safe for reentry.

**4:41 p.m.:** An officer observed a disturbance between two men at the intersection of International Boulevard and Ridgely Road. The officer spoke with both individuals and de-escalated the situation until the Brownsville Police Department arrived and took over the investigation.

### April 1

**12:39 a.m.:** An officer observed U.S. Border Patrol agents detaining five Mexican nationals near the brush area by Lot B-9 on the Brownsville campus. A Border Patrol agent requested assistance with searching the area for several subjects who crossed the border fence unlawfully. The officer searched the area but did not find the men.

**12:12 p.m.:** An officer responded to a minor traffic collision between a vehicle and a university VOLT cart on Gorgas Drive in Brownsville. No injuries were reported and all parties declined emergency medical services.

**5:51 p.m.:** A student reported a bag containing two laptops was stolen after it was left unattended in a hallway at the Science Building on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Rebeca Salinas

## SCAVENGER HUNT

**ATTENTION READERS:** This marks the start of The Rider's Scavenger Hunt! Here, you will find the first clue for each campus. The riddle will lead you to a location on campus. Take your copy of the April 8 issue of The Rider and snap a photo of it at the location. Then, come to the Student Media office with the photo to receive your next clue. Each campus will have three clues leading to three on-campus locations. Be the first to visit all three locations to win a \$50 Tango gift card.

Pick up a copy of the April 8 issue to read the first clue for each campus.



# A journey to the stars

**Yamilet Galvez**  
THE RIDER

Jose Hernandez, a former astronaut and book author, will be the speaker for the Distinguished Speaker Series at 7:30 p.m. April 16 in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

Admission is free, with doors opening at 7 p.m.

Hernandez said his experience as a former NASA astronaut was memorable.

"I think it was a great experience," he said. "I spent 12 years at NASA training

and then going onto the second-to-last mission to finish the construction of the International Space Station."

After returning from space, Hernandez said the shuttle was retired.

"I spent 14 days up there,"

**"Blastoff. You do a revolution around the Earth once every 90 minutes once you're up there. In those 14 days, I think I did about 270 revolutions."**

**--Jose Hernandez, a former astronaut and book author**

he said. "When we came back, they announced the retirement of the shuttle fleet, so the only way to go back into space was with the Russians for the next 10 years. And, that involved a three-year training program where 80% of the time you're in Russia. And me having five kids, most of them

around the Earth once every 90 minutes once you're up there. In those 14 days, I think I did about 270 revolutions."

Watching the Apollo 17 mission at age 10 made Hernandez want to become an astronaut.

"I was 10 years old watching the very last Apollo program," Hernandez said. "You can envision a 10-year-old kid hanging onto rabbit ear antennas to improve his reception on a black-and-white TV, watching the very last man to walk the moon, Eugene Cernan."

Hernandez's physics professor inspired him to continue his studies at the University of the Pacific.

"I think my physics professor in my undergraduate studies is what inspired me," he said. "... He did a lot to motivate me and kept me going. He

See **ASTRONAUT**, Page 8



Jose Hernandez, a former NASA astronaut

COURTESY PHOTO

# Lane expansion at Los Tomates

**Sofia M. Cantú Saucedo**  
THE RIDER

In 30 days, commuters traveling between Brownsville and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, will be able to experience the new four lanes at the Veterans International Bridge at Los Tomates.

On Wednesday, the City of Brownsville and Cameron County hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Veterans International Bridge Primary Lane Expansion Project, where officials spoke about the upgrades.

The additional four lanes completed a gap that was included in the original General Services Administration master plan for the Border Station at a total project cost of \$18 million.

There are also eight new additional secondary inspection bay spaces and a new head house included in the expansion project.

Los Tomates has facilitated the movement of passenger and commercial vehicles between Brownsville and Matamoros for over 20 years, according to the ceremony program.

The project first broke ground in



**Estefania Ramirez**/THE RIDER

Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño Jr. (left) and U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) perform the ribbon-cutting for the opening of four new lanes at the Veterans International Bridge at Los Tomates in Brownsville.

2022, made possible by U.S. Sen. John Cornyn's (R-Texas) legislation that authorized the Donation Acceptance Program.

The DAP is a "partnership mechanism to collaboratively explore and implement tangible solutions to trade and travel facilitation and

enforcement challenges," according to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website.

During the opening ceremony, Cornyn said he is "happy to see this project come to fruition."

The senator said the project has been in the plans for "almost" eight years and in construction for the last two years and it is an "all hands on deck effort from the collaboration of public and private partnerships."

"As we all know, Mexico is our No. 1 trading partner," he said. "This lane expansion will not only strengthen this important relationship but will lead to even greater economic prosperity for our two countries and our border communities."

During his speech, Cornyn said that for Fiscal Year 2023, CBP processed nearly 12 million passengers and nearly 5 million private vehicles at the International Bridges just in Cameron County.

"By doubling the number of lanes, we will significantly reduce wait times, a goal we all share, improve air quality and boost the trade between our two countries," he said.

See **BRIDGE**, Page 8

**BATTLE**  
Continued from Page 1

However, it does not restrict arrests on college or university campuses.

If SB 4 goes into effect, people could be charged with a class B misdemeanor, which carries a punishment of up to six months in jail if an officer believes a person illegally crossed the Texas-Mexico border.

If someone were to cross from Mexico without authorization again, that misdemeanor would now be a second-degree felony of up to 20 years in prison upon conviction. A judge could drop the charges if the person agrees to return to Mexico.  
--Fatima Gamez Lopez

**ECLIPSE**  
Continued from Page 1

and it will cast a huge shadow," Poulos said. "It will be very impressive. You will be able to see the sun's atmosphere."

The junior photographed October's annular eclipse and stitched together a sequence of the process, as previously reported by The Rider. Today, he plans to do the same.

"I'm using the same camera, which is a Nikon D50, but this time, I purchased a telephoto lens so we can get a little closer images," Poulos replied when asked about his camera equipment.

Total eclipses cross the country once every 20 years and "are quite rare," he said, adding

that he has been told "it is a very shocking event."

"This will be my first time," Poulos said. "I'm very excited. I'm looking forward to witnessing it, like, the awe and the amazement."

UTRGV physics doctoral candidate Richard Camuccio, also a graduate researcher for the Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy on the Brownsville campus and the Transient Optical Robotic Observatory of the South in Cordon Macón, Argentina, said the "band of totality" is "about 115 miles wide."

Camuccio said the entire eclipse process takes a couple of hours, but those in the "band of totality" will experience "about four and a half minutes" of total

darkness.

He said total eclipses are rare in the United States because the moon "doesn't orbit perfectly parallel."

"Sometimes, it's at an angle," Camuccio said. "Sometimes, it's above the Earth. Sometimes, it's below. ... Because of that, there's only a few times where the moon actually perfectly aligns."

Poulos and Camuccio each encouraged the use of special solar eclipse glasses to avoid eye damage, including blindness.

Other than eclipses, Camuccio said meteor showers are another astronomical event to look forward to.

"There's seasons of meteor showers that pretty much happen ... the same time every year," he said. "Just look up in

the sky during the right time. You'll be able to see little fireballs and little pieces of debris coming into the atmosphere."

The Lyrids meteor shower takes place from April 15-29. The shower will peak April 21-22, according to amsmeteors.org.

"Though not as fast or as plentiful as the famous Perseids in August, Lyrids can surprise watchers with as many as 100 meteors seen per hour," according to science.nasa.gov.

The Lyrids meteor shower radiates from the Lyra constellation and can best be viewed from the Northern Hemisphere during the "dark hours," which take place after moonset but before dawn, according to NASA's website.



# How do you find happiness?



**Jose Medina**  
SPORTS EDITOR

As far as I can remember, I was happy growing up. I only had to worry about simple stuff that most kids worry about.

Then, after a certain age, I started to realize I was growing up and soon I had to start making my own life. I had to lay the foundation for what my life will become. Most of us have to do this at a certain point.

As my day of graduation grows closer, I begin to feel slightly more anxious. At first, I thought I was afraid of not finding a job or career afterward, and that's certainly part of it, but I was afraid of not feeling fulfilled with my life. I was afraid of not being completely happy.

Now I realize a lot of people feel this way, too. However, now the question is how does everyone find happiness?

What makes this question so difficult to answer is a few different things. Different people find happiness in different things.

Sometimes the things that make us happy change.

What if some people find happiness traveling the world, going from place to place in a nomadic lifestyle, but someone else finds happiness settling down somewhere and building a permanent home?

Everyone has something different that makes them feel fulfilled and content.

I think something that widely brings happiness is

There are different types of happiness, and I think this is one of the most fulfilling ways to enjoy life.

Our lives revolve around achieving this feeling of joy.

Another aspect that should be considered is that in life, you won't always be completely content or satisfied. There will always be something that could be better or something else you want.

This is why I think another important habit we should practice is changing our mentality to be appreciative of what we have.

However, you should still endeavor for more if striving for more will truly make you content. The most important things aren't even tangible. Sometimes support, love and words of encouragement have a deeper impact on people than money.

It seems so complicated, but at the same time so easy, when I ask the question: How do you find happiness?

I can't tell you what steps to take to be content in life, so you should do what you think will bring you long-term joy and fulfillment.

Whatever it may be that brings you joy, I hope you all find happiness.

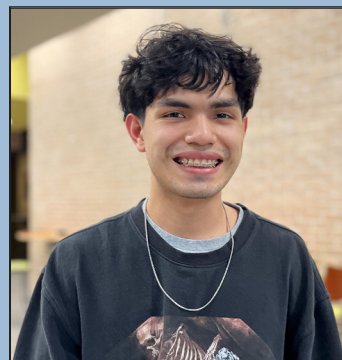
I can't tell you what steps to take to be content in life, so you should do what you think will bring you long-term joy and fulfillment.

being surrounded by your loved ones; I want to suggest to everyone reading this to tell yours how much you appreciate and think about them.

I guarantee this will make you and your loved ones happy.



## How has the registration process for Fall 2024 been for you?



"It's been pretty easy. I feel like it was easier registering this semester, because I've done it before and I knew what classes I needed to take because of my DegreeWorks, and it was also helpful meeting with my adviser."

**Bryan del Angel**  
civil engineering sophomore



"I am grateful that we have more slots these days. Another thing I am really thankful for is the fact that the server speed has improved a lot. Before, as soon as 8:30 a.m. hit, for example, and registration time opened, it would be a disaster; everybody would have to go ahead and register for classes as fast as possible before the server crashed. This semester and this past year, honestly, it's improved so much."

**Juan Pablo Hernandez**  
biology junior



"Luckily for me, it's been pretty smooth. I know some classes get filled up pretty quickly. Luckily, if I have any problems, I am able to email the [Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship] advising email, and they reach out to me pretty quick. Thankfully, this semester, I've had a pretty easy experience."

**Skyler Howell**  
entrepreneurship and innovation junior



"It's been fairly easy; I didn't have too many issues. I only got waitlisted for one class, but I feel like for these upcoming months, maybe there will be some room. But other than that, it was really easy, very convenient to choose my schedule and I am so happy."

**Alexis Uscanga**  
mass communication sophomore

--Compiled and photos by Aura Velasquez and Daniela Martinez Salazar

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**BILL**  
Continued from Page 1

because no Texas court has yet interpreted SB 4.

"I can say on behalf of the Office of Attorney General, we have looked at this provision and it is our position that in that circumstance that Texas could not rearrest the person," Nielson said. "The reason so is section 5104, which says that an alien must refuse to comply with the order, which would not be the case if the United States or Mexico says no. ... It's not a secret that if a federal law allows Texas to go further, Texas would go further. But that is the line that Texas perceives federal law. And that is as far as it goes."

He said Texas does not deport anybody.

"Texas takes them to the port of entry and the United States then decides what to do," Nielson said. "That issue just isn't going to come up if the United States says we're not sending you to Mexico or some other place, because there's pending proceedings."

Richman asked Nielson if the U.S. decides whether the immigrants cross to Mexico or not.

"So I think [what is] critical about this is [that] this portrayed as Texas is, you know, ourselves, just like flying people off to some other place and that's not accurate," Nielson replied. "The Port of Entry provision, and especially the declarations that how Texas understands and intends to enforce SB 4, that's not how it's going to be. It's going to be people are taken to the port of entry, and the United States controls the port of entry."

Daniel Bentele Hahs Tenny, a Justice Department attorney, highlighted

Nielson's arguments during the hearing.

"The statute says that there will be an order that requires the non-citizen to return to the country from which the non-citizen entered the United States," Tenny said. "They now say, I guess that you don't actually have to do that, that maybe you just go to the port of entry, and that's good enough."

He then read what Texas initially intended to do.

"If Mexican authorities do not accept the entrance of an alien subject to an order to return, the escorting DPS officer will deliver him to the American side of a port of entry and observe the alien go to the Mexican side," Tenny read. "Upon witnessing the aliens cross to the Mexican side of the international bridge, the officer will consider the aliens who have complied with the return order and will cease monitoring the alien."

Judge Andrew Oldham said never in the history of the nation has the United States achieved what they have achieved in the SB 4 case.

"Which is a facial invalidation of a statute that never went into effect with no cause of action," Oldham said. "... In order to preserve it, you have to show me that every single application of every single provision is unconstitutional in every single way."

Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a news release March 21 on behalf of the government of Mexico, stating its dissatisfaction with SB 4.

"Mexico will continue to use all legal and consular resources to provide timely, humane and dignified consular assistance and protection to all Mexican people in Texas," the news release states.

The court ended the hourlong hearing without making a decision on the law.

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- Newspaper Editorial Cartoonist/Graphics Artist
- Newspaper Copy Editor
- Newspaper Spanish Editor
- Newspaper Reporter
- Newspaper Sports Reporter
- Newspaper Arts & Entertainment Reporter
- Newspaper Photographer

## KVAQ-TV

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

## Vaquero Radio

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- Radio Assistant Station Manager
- Radio News Director
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- Radio Reporter
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- Magazine Writer
- Magazine Photographer
- Magazine Graphics Designer

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# Corte de apelaciones escucha argumentos sobre SB 4

## La batalla judicial sobre SB 4

El 18 de diciembre, el gobernador de Texas, Greg Abbott, firmó SB 4 del senador estatal Charles Perry (R-Lubbock), lo que dio lugar a una queja del Departamento de Justicia de Estados Unidos.

El 3 de enero, Estados Unidos presentó una demanda contra el estado de Texas, Abbott, el Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Texas y su director, Steven C. McCraw, quejándose de que SB 4 “crea supuestos delitos de inmigración estatales por entrada ilegal y reingreso ilegal, permite a los jueces y magistrados estatales ordenar la expulsión de no ciudadanos del país, y exige que los funcionarios estatales ejecuten esas órdenes de expulsión”.

El 29 de febrero, el juez federal de distrito David Alan Ezra bloqueó temporalmente la ley de Texas. Originalmente, el proyecto de ley debía entrar en vigor el 5 de marzo.

Texas apeló inmediatamente ante el Tribunal de Apelaciones del Quinto Circuito de Estados Unidos tras el fallo de Ezra.

El 19 de marzo, la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos dio luz verde al proyecto de ley, permitiendo que SB 4 entrará en vigor inmediatamente en el estado durante varias horas. Pero ese mismo día, el Tribunal de Apelaciones del Quinto Circuito de Estados Unidos bloqueó el proyecto de ley y programó una audiencia de último minuto.

“Hubo un vaivén entre varios sistemas legales”, dijo Álvaro Corral, profesor asistente en el Departamento de Ciencias Políticas de UTRGV, durante una llamada telefónica con The Rider el 5 de marzo. “La [Corte Suprema], por supuesto, no permitió que la ley entrará en vigor sino que permitió que el tribunal inferior de apelaciones volviera a escuchar el caso porque, por supuesto, dijeron que habían cometido un error de procedimiento. Así que simplemente les hicieron volver a escuchar el caso”.

Durante la audiencia, el panel de jueces no emitió una decisión y la ley estatal permanece en suspenso.

SB 4 impide que la policía arreste a inmigrantes en escuelas públicas o privadas, iglesias e instalaciones de atención médica. Sin embargo, no restringe los arrestos en campus universitarios.

Si SB 4 entra en vigor, las personas podrían ser acusadas de un delito menor de clase B, que conlleva una pena de hasta seis meses de cárcel si un oficial cree que una persona cruzó ilegalmente la frontera entre Texas y México.

Si alguien volviera a cruzar desde México sin autorización, ese delito menor ahora sería un delito grave de segundo grado de hasta 20 años de prisión tras ser declarado culpable. Un juez podría retirar los cargos si la persona acepta regresar a México.

–Fatima Gamez Lopez

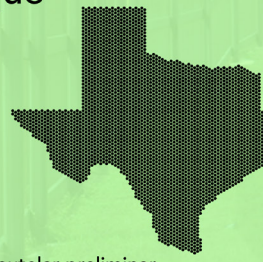
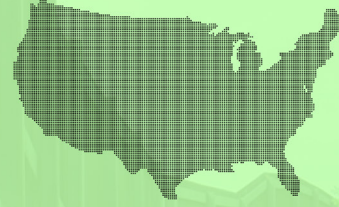
## ¿Qué es el proyecto de ley 4 del Senado?

SB 4 convertiría en delito estatal cruzar la frontera entre Texas y México entre puertos de entrada.

Si un oficial de policía cree que tiene evidencia de que una persona cruzó ilegalmente el Río Grande, esa persona podría ser acusada de posibles sanciones que van desde un delito menor hasta un delito grave.

Un juez podría retirar los cargos si un migrante acepta regresar a México.

Fuente: Estados Unidos de América vs. Estado de Texas, orden que otorga una medida cautelar preliminar



Aura Velasquez/GRÁFICA RIDER

**Fatima Gamez Lopez**  
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El Tribunal de Apelaciones del Quinto Circuito de Estados Unidos escuchó el miércoles argumentos de Texas y del gobierno federal sobre si el Proyecto de Ley Senatorial 4 (SB 4), una ley que apunta a establecer delitos y sanciones estatales para los inmigrantes que ingresan ilegalmente al estado, debería permanecer en espera.

“Lo que Texas ha hecho aquí es analizar el precedente de la Corte Suprema y tratar de desarrollar un estatuto que se ajuste a la línea del precedente de la Corte Suprema, pero permite a Texas proteger la frontera”, dijo el Procurador General de Texas, Aaron Lloyd Nielson durante la audiencia. “Ahora, para ser justos, tal vez Texas fue demasiado lejos. Y esa es la cuestión que este Tribunal tendrá que decidir. Pero ese es el contexto en el que estamos aquí”.

Nielson dijo que Texas había analizado el precedente de la Corte Suprema y las leyes que el Congreso ha promulgado para desarrollar una ley que llegue “hasta el límite, pero no más allá”.

El volvió a responder algunas de las preguntas que la Jueza Principal Priscilla Richman le hizo a Nielson durante una audiencia sobre la ley el 20 de marzo.

“Su Señoría preguntó, ¿Qué pasaría si Texas entregará a alguien en el puerto de entrada [...] y Estados Unidos dijera, ‘OK, está bien. Regrese a Texas ¿Puede Texas volver a arrestar? ¿Qué haces en esa circunstancia?’” dijo Nielson.

Dijo que Texas está en desventaja porque ningún tribunal de Texas ha interpretado todavía la SB 4.

“Puedo decir en nombre de la Oficina del Procurador General que hemos analizado esta disposición y nuestra posición es que, en esas circunstancias, Texas no podría volver a arrestar a la persona”, dijo Nielson.

“La razón es la sección 5104, que dice que un extranjero debe negarse a cumplir la orden, lo que no sería el caso si Estados Unidos o México dijeran que no. [...] No es un secreto que si una ley federal permite a Texas llegar más lejos, Texas iría más lejos. Pero esa es la línea que Texas percibe en la ley federal. Y hasta ahí llega”.

Dijo que Texas no deportará a nadie. “Texas los lleva al puerto de entrada y luego Estados Unidos decide qué hacer”, dijo Nielson. “Ese tema simplemente no va a surgir si Estados Unidos dice que no lo enviaremos a

Daniel Bentele Hahs Tenny, un abogado del Departamento de Justicia, destacó los argumentos de Nielson durante la audiencia.

“El estatuto dice que habrá una orden que requerirá que el no ciudadano regrese al país del cual entró a los Estados Unidos”, dijo Tenny. “Ahora dicen, supongo que en realidad no tienes que hacer eso, que tal vez simplemente vayas al puerto de entrada, y eso es suficiente”.

Luego leyó lo que Texas pretendía hacer inicialmente.

“Si las autoridades mexicanas no aceptan la entrada de un extranjero sujeto a una orden de regreso, el oficial del DPS que lo escolta lo entregará al lado estadounidense de un puerto de entrada y observará cómo el extranjero se dirige al lado mexicano”, leyó Tenny. “Al presenciar a los extranjeros cruzar al lado mexicano del puente internacional, el oficial considerará a los extranjeros que han cumplido con la orden de retorno y dejará de monitorear al extranjero”.

El juez Andrew Oldham dijo que nunca en la historia de la nación Estados Unidos había logrado lo que logró en el caso SB 4.

“Lo cual es una invalidación facial de un estatuto que nunca entró en vigor sin causa de acción”, dijo Oldham. “[...] Para preservarlo, tienen que demostrarme que cada aplicación de cada disposición es inconstitucional en todos los sentidos”.

La Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de México emitió un comunicado de prensa el 21 de marzo en nombre del gobierno de México, expresando su descontento con la SB 4.

“México seguirá empleando todos los recursos legales y consulares para brindar una asistencia y protección consular oportuna, humana y digna a todas las personas mexicanas en Texas”, afirma el comunicado de prensa.

El tribunal finalizó la audiencia de una hora sin tomar una decisión sobre la ley.

“Ahora, para ser justos, tal vez Texas fue demasiado lejos. Y esa es la cuestión que este Tribunal tendrá que decidir. Pero ese es el contexto en el que estamos aquí”.

–Procurador General de Texas, Aaron Lloyd Nielson

México o a algún otro lugar, porque hay procedimientos pendientes”.

Richman preguntó a Nielson si Estados Unidos decide si los inmigrantes cruzan a México o no.

“Así que creo que [lo que es] crítico acerca de esto es [que] esto retratado como Texas es, ya sabes, nosotros mismos, como llevar a la gente a otro lugar y eso no es exacto”, respondió Nielson. “La disposición sobre el puerto de entrada, y especialmente las declaraciones de que Texas entiende y pretende hacer cumplir SB 4, no será así. La gente será llevada al puerto de entrada, y Estados Unidos controla el puerto de entrada”.



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# Award for excellence



Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER

Shirley Wells, UTRGV occupational therapy chair and professor, holds the Dr. Lela A. Llorens Award of Excellence for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion 2024 from the American Occupational Therapy Association. The award was established in 2023 to honor Llorens, an occupational therapy pioneer. The purpose is to honor a member of AOTA who has utilized Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, Accessibility, and Belonging (DEIJAB) principles to address the needs of marginalized, under-resourced, and/or underrepresented persons, groups, and populations, according to the AOTA website. Shown with Wells are College of Health Professions and Occupational Therapy faculty and staff: Gracie Jimenez (front row, from left), administrative assistant I; Dahlia Castillo, assistant professor; and Jennifer Ross, administrative assistant I. Middle row: Eva-Maria Anger, clinical assistant professor and academic fieldwork coordinator; Thelma Ochoa, clinical assistant professor; and Lou Rutigliano, assistant professor and doctoral capstone coordinator. Back row: Jack Ruelas, clinical associate professor; Wen-Pin Chang, assistant professor; John Luna, Department of Occupational Therapy program coordinator; and Roel Garcia, clinical assistant professor.

**ASTRONAUT**  
*Continued from Page 3*

believed in me, and with his encouragement I continued with that first semester as well.”

Later on, Hernandez began his master’s degree at University of California, Santa Barbara.

He created Tierra Luna Engineering LLC, an aerospace company in Stockton, California, after his retirement from NASA.

Dario Nava, a communication studies junior, said Hernandez is an inspiration for the Hispanic community.

“It’s also a huge step forward for the Hispanic community to get inspiration and see that they can also do anything that they want to, and anyone pursuing that degree that it’s not impossible, that there are people who are going to succeed,” Nava said.

Student Activities will host multiple events on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series.

Vaqueros can attend Cosmic Canvas from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the University Ballroom on the

Edinburg campus.

Canvases will be provided for students to paint, along with free mocktails and light snacks.

Lilia Cabrera, a lecturer in the School of Art and Design, will guide students in painting.

“A Million Miles Away,” the biographical film about Hernandez’s journey into space and co-developing the first digital mammography screening, will be shown from noon to 2 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the PlainsCapital Bank Student Union Theater on the Edinburg campus. It will also be shown from noon to 2 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. in the Student Union’s Salón Gardenia on the Brownsville campus.

The university offers programs on campus for those interested in space exploration.

Teviet Creighton, a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and former director of the Center for Advanced Radio Astronomy, develops technologies for space exploration.

STARGATE, which stands for Spacecraft Tracking and Astronomical Research into Gigahertz Astrophysical

Transient Emission, is a research and development program within the center.

Students, faculty and staff have been participating in technology development for STARGATE.

“There are a few that we are currently actively pursuing,” Creighton said. “One of the main ones is a new form of communication system called a phase array communication system, which is a way of communicating with spacecraft using collections of small antennas, rather than the big satellite dishes.”

The Space Engagement, Entrepreneurship & Research (SEER) program allows students to participate in group research activities.

“It’s a place for students to get together,” Creighton said. “We give talks, we give trainings, seminars on how to do research and talks about the actual research that the various students are doing in their projects.”

The SEER meetings are held at 2 p.m. each Thursday in the SEER room on the Texas Southmost College campus in Brownsville.

For more information about STARGATE and SEER, students can email [teviet.creighton@utrgv.edu](mailto:teviet.creighton@utrgv.edu).

**BRIDGE**  
*Continued from Page 3*

U.S. Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D-Texas) said he was “proud” to vote in favor of the bipartisan infrastructure law that invested in the project.

The law “invested \$10.6 million in this project and will bring billions of future dollars to our region, which I’ll be proud to usher in on future projects just like this,” Gonzalez said.

He said the new lanes are a “huge improvement” for the border’s infrastructure and a “great example” of the collaboration between local, state and federal governments.

Jared Bradley, deputy regional director of the General Services Administration, thanked the organizations that were involved in the project.

Bradley said the GSA is the “landlord” of the government.

“Our mission is to deliver facilities to support the missions of other federal agencies and the American people,” he said.

Bradley said the GSA is also working with CBP on over \$2 billion in projects on the border by the bipartisan infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act.

The project will be to “modernize ports of entry to meet modern infrastructure

and security needs while using low embodied carbon construction materials and emerging and sustainable building technologies,” Bradley said.

He said the GSA is “excited” to continue working with CBP and the community around them.

Michael B. Reyes, acting director of the Brownsville Port of Entry, said that a “milestone” like this project reflects teamwork.

“As we cut the ribbon, let us remember not only our mission, but also our continued commitment to the public to provide safe, efficient trade and travel between our two countries,” Reyes said. “Together, let us continue to chart forward, embracing the promise of tomorrow with unwavering commitment and boundless enthusiasm.”

During the news conference, Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño Jr. said the new four lanes are set to operate in the next 30 days.

Treviño said there will also be more CBP personnel to operate these lanes.

“The Veterans International Bridge is the link to making our communities safer and our economy stronger,” Cornyn said.



# Nutella Sandwich

By: *Hanna Cardenas*

The soft, creamy taste of the chocolate-flavored sandwich swirled around my mouth, fulfilling my heart. One Nutella sandwich was all my heart needed to regain its lost pieces. Maybe, it was my body telling me it was time to eat or the love my mom put into making the sandwich that helped me realize my lack of empathy and kindness. That sandwich believed that I was capable of loving and changing my views on the world. It put together the pieces my Hamy, my younger self, destroyed because she never wanted to get hurt again.

When Hamy was seven, her family broke apart. She saw the love between her parents dissolve into thin air. She saw love get ripped apart by situations that should not have had more importance than love itself. She shut herself away from the world because she thought if her parents could leave each other, then why should another person stay? Rage and confusion consumed her. She started to perceive the world in a way a little seven-year-old girl should not be able to. She did not understand why people loved when in the end love did not win. She treated people with no compassion and became heartless because she thought that if she could not feel love, then no one deserved to feel it. Love did not hold Hamy's hand when she needed it most.

One afternoon, I had almost finished my daily routine when I remembered I had forgotten to eat my Nutella sandwich. I did not notice my stomach growling for food because my head

kept thinking of Hamy. When I took a bite out of that sandwich, it tasted different than other Nutella sandwiches. It was the same bread, the same Nutella, but it was made by my mother. My mother had distanced herself from me when the divorce had recently happened, so she hired a nanny to take care of me. My mother did not show much interest in loving me, but that day, she made me lunch for the first time in years. I could savor the richness of the chocolate in the sandwich. I could taste the love slowly coming back. One moment of thinking about Hamy and feeling

the love my mom was trying to bring back helped me realize that love was hidden deep in my heart but not gone forever. Every day after that, I asked my mom if she could keep making them for me, and she did. My friends would say, "Why do you always bring a Nutella sandwich? Do you not get tired of them?" They never understood how much those sandwiches meant to me nor understood that I could eat them every day for the rest of my life and never get tired of them. Slowly but surely, love came back to my heart, and my Hamy was able to feel the love she deserved to feel as a child.

I shared love with the people that needed it most, and I was able to regain the relationship I had lost with my family. Nowadays, my family and I have turned Nutella sandwiches into acts of service. It is a way that I can go and give the most needed gifts full of love in the hope that some families can regain their love the way Hamy did. What Hamy loved most were



Nutella sandwiches filled with love.



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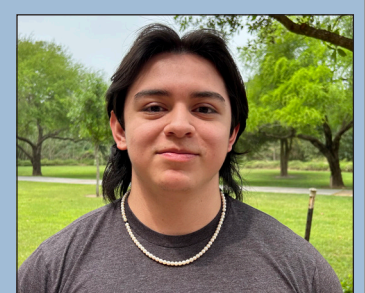
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Axel Rodriguez  
computer science sophomore  
Cancún, Quintana Roo, México

--Compiled and photos by Silvana Villarreal and Teresita Dominguez

# Students represent at theatre conference

**Silvana Villarreal**

A&E REPORTER

Two UTRGV students attended the Stage Management Mentorship Program at the prestigious United States Institute for Theatre Technology conference, held March 17 to 24 in Seattle.

The program not only provides hands-on opportunities for students to stage manage conferences, but also mentorships, round-table discussions and guest speakers.

Karina Molina, a theatre (film production) senior, and Maximilian Cano, a theatre (performance) senior, submitted a letter of interest, recommendation and resume to be considered for the program. The program accepts 12 undergraduate, graduate and young professional stage managers on board, according to a Nov. 16 post made by Program Coordinator Nykol DeDreu in the Year of the Stage Manager: The Afterglow Facebook page.

Molina said that out of thousands of applicants, five were originally selected but 13 participants attended the program in the end.

Cano said he ran the exposition for events and Molina ran the award show.

"We would have production meetings with producers because we were the ones alongside the other mentees running the event at the conference," he said. "That was kind of the biggest, I think the most fun part of it for us."

Technicians, designers and entertainment personnel from the theater world gather annually for the conference to conduct workshops and interviews for student internship opportunities for professional jobs, allow students to network and build relationships, as well as gather information about



PHOTOS COURTESY KARINA MOLINA

Karina Molina (left), a theatre (film production) senior, and Maximilian Cano, a theatre (performance) senior, pose in front of "Rogers: The Musical" costumes during the Stage Management Mentorship Program at the United States Institute for Theatre Technology conference in Seattle.

graduate schools.

Some panelists were opera, dance company and Broadway stage managers who gave demonstrations to participants on financial literacy and how to properly "call cues."

"[It] helps us because we do musicals here so, now, we learned how to properly do that," Molina said. "We had sessions on emergency steps and how to stop a show as a stage manager."

She said it was intimidating being at the conference, but they later proved that they deserved to be there.

"I think we both felt a little intimidated with who we were surrounded by," Molina said. "It was a lot of students from Ivy League schools or just universities with a much bigger program, or just more experience."

**"That's a huge thing, to have all those people apply and then these two great folks to get accepted."**

--Theatre Professor Brian Warren



Karina Molina (left), a theatre (film production), and Maximilian Cano, a theatre (performance) senior, pose in front of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology sign during the Stage Management Mentorship Program in Seattle.

Molina and Cano were the only students chosen from the same university.

Theatre Professor Brian Warren said both students have the skill to be able to succeed among professionals and supports all that has happened in their favor.

"That's a huge thing, to have all those people apply and then these two great folks to get accepted," Warren said. "To me,

that's just really cool."

Cano felt confident in having applied to the program, having the passion and the experience for it.

"Being in Seattle and doing those events, after feeling nervous, scared, defeated, felt like I didn't belong," he said. "In the moments of running those events and succeeding, I just felt like I was where I belong. ... This is where I am meant to be."

# SUDOKU



April 1 puzzle answer key:

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

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



# UTRGV dominates at Big Texan



UTRGV Men's Golf Team Assistant coach Paola Cortes (from left), freshman Esteban Gonzalez, senior Javier Neira Garcia, redshirt junior Taj Sutherland, junior Juan Luis de Bethencourt Duque, freshman Emilio Gil Leyva, freshman Eddie Lai and head coach Houston Moore pose at The Big Texan at Riverhill Country Club in Kerrville. The Big Texan was held March 25 and 26.

PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

## Jose Medina

SPORTS REPORTER

The UTRGV Men's Golf Team retained its first-place finish at The Big Texan, hosted March 25 and 26 at the Riverhill Country Club in Kerrville.

The team was first out of 15 teams, with Vaquero senior Javier Neira Garcia earning the Individual Title after shooting 205 over three rounds.

Garcia said winning the Individual Title means a lot to him since it is his first since he got to UTRGV in 2022.

"It's my first title here," he said. "[The] thing is really hard to win because to perform the three days your best is definitely not easy. Especially on the first day, it was a little windy. ... The key is to stay there, stay focused and if you have the shot, take it."

Head coach Houston Moore said the team was familiar with the course since UTRGV hosted The Big Texan there last year.

"We had a string of tournaments leading up to the event," Moore said. "Mentally and physically, these guys

were in tournament mode coming in."

UTRGV's 854 finish was 11 strokes ahead of Abilene Christian University, which placed second.

Asked if an 11-stroke lead was a lot, Moore replied it was.

"It's a pretty significant stroke difference there," he said. "If you go through and see some of the differentials from tournaments, they're normally pretty close. It's just a testament to how good these guys played."

Garcia said it attests to how good of a

team won by two strokes last year.

"I think that last year helped us a lot, because I think we only won by one or two last year," he said. "I think knowing that we can do it kind of helped us on that last day, especially to perform under that pressure and get it done in the end."

Garcia said the team will carry the momentum from this win onto upcoming events.

"Going to the next tournament knowing you just won is always good for ... confidence," he said. "What we

needed as a team is to gain confidence. We knew we could do a great job."

Next up for the Vaqueros is the University of Northern Colorado Spring Invite at Raindance National Resort April 15 and 16.

Moore said the team leaves for the

Western Athletic Conference Championship eight days after they come back from the UNC Spring Invite.

"Another quick turnaround, but these guys are used to that," he said. "Excited about what conference is going to look like this year."

The tournament will be held from April 27 to 29 at the Chaparral Pines Golf Club in Payson, Arizona.

# "Mentally and physically, these guys were in tournament mode coming in."

--Men's Golf Head Coach Houston Moore

job the team did.

"It proves we did a great job," he said. "... Especially the last day, we get a strong start, we get ourselves in a good spot and finish strong. Eleven strokes is a pretty good margin."

UTRGV redshirt junior Taj Sutherland finished in second place.

Sutherland also said it proved how good the team performed, noting the

## Athlete of the week

Armani Raygoza



Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER

Armani Raygoza is a communication studies redshirt freshman from El Paso. Raygoza is an infielder for the UTRGV Baseball Team. He recently earned the Western Athletic Conference Hitter of the Week award for the week ending March 31 by posting a 1.600 OPS, including two home runs and eight RBI in four games at designated hitter.

**Q: Can you tell us a fun fact about yourself?**

**A:** "My favorite food is definitely sushi or Mexican food."

**Q: Who or what got you started in baseball?**

**A:** "When I was little, my mom just put me in at the YMCA, and I just started going from there. I didn't have many family members who played [baseball]."

**Q: Who's been your biggest inspiration or role model?**

**A:** "Definitely both of my parents. ... They both started from nothing and both started their own different businesses. Watching them fail and grow has both helped me keep my head down and keep going."

**Q: What kind of music do you like to listen to?**

**A:** "Definitely Latin music. My favorite artist is Bad Bunny. And if we go rap, I like Drake."

**Q: Any shows or movies you like to watch?**

**A:** "Not a big show guy, but movie, definitely. We were talking about it earlier in the locker room, 'Major Payne' or I would have to say 'The Benchwarmers.'"

**Q: Do you have any hobbies outside of baseball?**

**A:** "I love to eat food. We usually tend to grill out every weekend."

**Q: What is your biggest motivation?**

**A:** "Definitely my parents. That's pretty much it. My parents and family, for sure."

**Q: What do you like the most about UTRGV?**

**A:** "As a team, I love the guys, everybody; we all have a close bond. The campus is tough. I think it's pretty nice. The weather we get and the crowd we definitely get in our games, it's a big factor."

**Q: What are your biggest goals?**

**A:** "My biggest goal as a team is to get to the WAC tournament and, hopefully, we win it all. And yeah, to keep going."

--Compiled by Ali Halloum

**THIS WEEK IN SPORTS**

**BASEBALL**

6:30 p.m. Friday  
6:30 p.m. Saturday  
Noon Sunday

**vs. Utah Valley University**

AT THE UTRGV BASEBALL STADIUM

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