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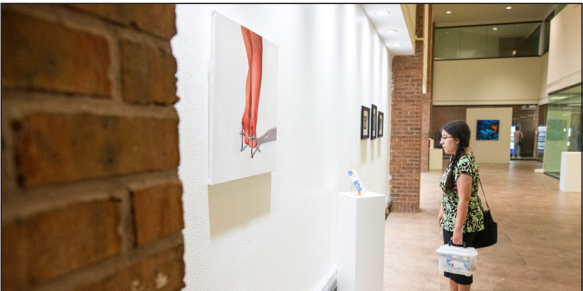
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STATE

APPEAL DENIED

LOCAL

Rally in home territory

GAEL ESPINOZA
THE RIDER

District 49 Texas Rep. Gina Hinojosa returned home to build support for the upcoming 2026 midterm elections, where she will face Republican incumbent Greg Abbott for the governor seat.

Hinojosa held a rally Sept. 14 at The Gremlin in McAllen and Tuesday at the Santa Fe Event Center in Brownsville.

Tommy Kubitschek, Hinojosa's communications director, said the candidate's main goal is to "bring back the American dream" for Texas residents.

"We are working hard, hitting counties all across the state," Kubitschek said. "She is an incredible messenger for letting Texans know that we're looking to build a state where we can have the American Dream back and put money back in Texans' pockets ... saving our public schools that are under threat."

After the Brownsville rally, Hinojosa answered questions from the media and said it was great to be home in the RGV.

"It's so good to be in family," Hinojosa said. "I swear to God, everywhere I show up, people are like, 'Eres mi prima, Gina.'"

See **RALLY**, Page 3

ELECTIONS

Midterms are around the corner

HUGO A. SEPÚLVEDA
COPY EDITOR

University and county officials are preparing for the upcoming early voting and Election Day by encouraging students and residents to participate in the electoral process.

The UTRGV Center for Student Involvement and Vaqueros Vote organization hosted National Voter Registration Day events Tuesday on the Brownsville campus and Wednesday on the Edinburg campus.

Brandon Sanchez, program coordinator for Civic Engagement and Leadership, said the event's goal was to get students to register to vote and be eligible to participate during the next election cycle.

He added it is "very important" for students to do their civic duty in elections because they have the ability to make a difference within their community, state and country.

"We just want them to know that they're empowered, and we're here to help them throughout the process," Sanchez said.

Early voting for the 2026 general elections will take place Oct. 19-30, and Election Day will be on Nov. 3.

The deadline to submit a new voter registration application or to make changes to an existing application is Oct. 5.

See **VOTE**, Page 3

WHAT WAS THE TEXAS DREAM ACT?

- Established in 2001
- Allowed qualifying undocumented students to pay in-state tuition



WHAT NOW?

- Undocumented students will now have to pay the full out-of-state rate.
- Federal appeals court denied a rehearing request



TUITION COST DIFFERENCE

\$5,411.60
Resident tuition

\$10,547.60
Non-resident tuition

DIEGO VITA /THE RIDER GRAPHIC

New hearing denied in Texas law case that gave undocumented students in-state tuition

MARIAH LYDIA ESCOBAR
THE RIDER

A federal appeals court denied a request to rehear the case of the Texas 2001 law that allowed certain undocumented students to pay in-state tuition, making higher education more expensive for some.

On Sept. 8, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit denied the rehearing request for the Texas Dream Act case after the initial invalidation of the law on June 4, 2025.

The decision affects undocumented students who pay in-state tuition at public Texas colleges and universities.

Mark Kaswan, a professor for the School of Political Science, Public Affairs, Legal and Security Studies, said Texas was the first state to adopt such a policy.

Kaswan said the loss of in-state tuition for undocumented students could have an immediate financial impact on students who want to continue their education.

"If they intend to continue their education journey, they will have to pay for it at the full out-of-state rate," he said.

As of the 2026-27 academic year, UTRGV's nonresident tuition is \$10,547.60 for the fall or spring semesters compared to \$5,411.60 for resident students, including additional fees, according to the university's website.

Kaswan added undocumented students also face restrictions on federal and state financial aid, making it difficult to deal with increased tuition.

"It'll eliminate, or nearly so, eliminate enrollment from undocumented students," Kaswan said.

The issue could affect students who are undocumented as it may also put a target on them from Immigration and Customs Enforcement if they are providing their information to a state agency when trying to continue their education, according to Kaswan.

OUT-OF-STATE TUITION

Undocumented students will now pay non-resident tuition of \$10,547.60 for full-time enrollment.

Mariel Rodriguez, a criminal justice sophomore, said the news was shocking and the student's legal status should not prevent them from pursuing their education.

"I think legal status shouldn't have to somehow get involved in our pursuit for a better education," she said.

Rodriguez added she has friends under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and these changes may discourage them from pursuing college at UTRGV.

"Many of our students, many of our community members ... are children of immigrants," Rodriguez said.

THE
RIDER

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

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A NNOUNCEMENTS

Today
Rise & Grind
University Recreation will host a morning workout session including indoor cycling and interval training from 7:15 to 8 a.m. and at the same time Wednesday in University Recreation Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus.
Vaqueros Clubs Training
The Center for Student Involvement will host a workshop from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and at the same time Wednesday in the Student Union Sage Room on the Edinburg campus. Attendees have the opportunity to learn about officer elections and transition processes.
Club Boxing Practice
Club Boxing will meet from 1 to 2 p.m. and at the same time Wednesday in the Boxing Room on the Brownsville campus. The club will also meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday at the same location. Another practice will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and at the same time Wednesday in University Recreation Studio 2 on the Edinburg campus, and also from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday at the same location.
Farmers Market
The Environmental Awareness Club will host a farmers market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Main Building Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. Attendees can purchase produce, pastries, rocks and crystals, and obtain free swag.
Mortal Kombat Tournament

The Student Union will host a Mortal Kombat tournament from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Game Room on the Edinburg campus. Attendees have the chance to win **V-Bucks**. A **student ID** is required.
RGV German Club Meeting
The RGV German Club will meet from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. in Sabal Hall Room 1.106 on the Brownsville campus.
Tuesday
Meet the Team
Talk About It RGV will host a Meet the Team event from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Student Union Sage Room where students can learn about workshops, meet staff and craft together.
Union After Hours
The Student Union will host Union After Hours from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. The event will feature live music, arcade games, tournaments, game shows, movie showings, free food and free T-shirts. A **student ID** is required.
Wednesday
Get in the Picture with **CAB**
The Campus Activities Board will host a Polaroid event from noon to 1 p.m. at the Main Building East Front Lawn on the Brownsville campus. Attendees can take instant photos and customize them at a decorating station.
Redbull Fundraiser
The Pre-Physician Assistant Society will host a Redbull fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and at the same time Thursday

at the University Library on the Edinburg campus.
Thursday
Express Circuit 30 GX
University Recreation will host a beginner-friendly interval training workout from noon to 12:45 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room 1.202.
Marine Life Scholars Club Meeting
The Marine Life Scholars Club will meet from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Student Union Salón Jacaranda on the Brownsville campus.
ASCE Lunch & Learn
The American Society of Civil Engineers will host a Lunch & Learn event from 3:15 to 5 p.m. in Engineering Building Room 1.272. Attendees can learn about the geotechnical engineering field and hear from industry professionals.
Crime Scene Investigation Training
The American Criminal Justice Associate (Iota Kappa Chi) will host a crime scene investigation training from 4:15 to 6 p.m. in Music Science & Learning Center Building Room 1.105. Attendees can learn skills including photography, scene sketching, crime scene analysis, fingerprinting and more.
Vaquero Motorsports Meeting
The Society of Automotive Engineers will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Engineering Building Room 1.300.
Family Academy

The Center for Student Involvement will host Family Academy from 6 to 7 p.m. in the University Center second floor lobby. The session will offer information about UTRGV resources, academic support programs and how families can actively support student success.
Camping on Campus
University Recreation will host a camping event from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. at the University RecreationIntramural Field. Attendees will be able to spend the night outdoors, play games, make paracord bracelets and make s’mores. Attendees are welcome to bring their own camping gear, or register to use a university tent.
Friday
Leading Yourself
The Center for Student Involvement and NextGen Leaders will host a session from 10 a.m. to noon at Main Building Room 1.224 on the Brownsville campus. Attendees can learn how to build leadership skills.
Club Badminton Practice
Club Badminton will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the University Recreation Multipurpose Activity Court on the Edinburg campus. Club Cricket Practice Club Cricket will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the University Recreation Softball Court on the Edinburg campus.

--Compiled by Emma Alegria Castillo

The Rider encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. Letters for The Rider may be sent to therider@utrgv.edu. All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of letter’s author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in The Rider are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rider or UTRGV administrators.

‘You’re not alone’

UTRGV Counseling offers a variety of services for Vaqueros

Gael Espinoza
The Rider

One UTRGV student says National Suicide Prevention Month means awareness, taking action, looking after friends who are struggling and taking care of oneself more than ever during September.

The Counseling Center offers group counseling, couples counseling and Brief Supportive Counseling to students on both campuses, with counselors who can provide services in Spanish.

The Counseling Center is open to all students and aims to address their mental health and promote personal growth, according to its website.

The center has locations at the Student Health Center (Building 19) on the Brownsville campus and University Center 109 on the Edinburg campus.

Richard Clayton, a clinical therapist for the Brownsville campus, said students are welcome and what they discuss with counselors is confidential, subject to applicable exceptions.

“One of the things they’re always worried about is, ‘Is this going to go in my transcript? Is this going to follow me? Are my parents going to find out?’ And the answer is no,” Clayton said. “If you’re 18 or older, no. Your parents, nobody finds out. This doesn’t go in your transcript.”

He added the center provides a space where students feel free to speak about what is going on.

“All our records that we keep are encrypted and secure, just like if you went to your medical doctor or an outside mental health provider,” Clayton said. “All of our counselors are state-certified, board-certified.”

Clayton said students can call the Vaquero Crisis Line or use the TimelyCare app.

“The Vaquero Crisis Line is just, is kind of what it says, it’s for a crisis,” he said. “They can call in and talk to a licensed clinician,

NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?

Support is available at UTRGV

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Counseling Center



- Confidential mental health services & support groups.
- Edinburg: EUCTR 109 | [\(956\) 665-2574](tel:9566652574)
- Brownsville: BROBL | [\(956\) 882-3897](tel:9568823897)
- Email: counseling@utrgv.edu



Vaqueros Crisis Line: [\(956\) 665-5555](tel:9566655555)

- For emotional distress, panic or suicidal thoughts.
- You are not alone.



24/7 Virtual Care: TimelyCare

- FREE for UTRGV students
- TalkNow: Immediate 24/7 emotional support & chat.
- Download the app or visit online.



Academic Coaching

- Goal setting, time management & study tips.
- Walk-ins accepted + Flexible Zoom hours.
- Edinburg: [\(956\) 665-2585](tel:9566652585)
- Brownsville: [\(956\) 882-8208](tel:9568828208)
- Email: aceprogram@utrgv.edu

VALERIA TOKUN HAGA / THE RIDER GRAPHIC

just like us, and get through that next level and then hook us up the next day.”

According to Clayton, TimelyCare is an online service with clinicians and costs are covered by the department.

“Let’s say you have students and the scheduling doesn’t work out for us. Maybe they’re non-traditional students where they’re working all day and then go to school at night and all that,” he said. “ ... They can enroll in TimelyCare, and again, it would be just the same as seeing [a licensed clinician,] except it’s online.”

Kylie Torres, a biology senior who has used the Counseling Center at UTRGV, said she struggled with mental health throughout her journey at UTRGV.

“I didn’t realize it was so bad until, you know, I had to drop a class because it was so hard to even get into the bath, to wash myself, to brush my teeth, and so, I had reached out for help at the Counseling Center,” Torres said.

She said the UTRGV Counseling Center was welcoming. Torres added the confidentiality of the center reassured her.

“They have to abide by [the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act], confidentiality agreement” she said. “And I have very good confidence in that, seeing as I’ve been to other counselors, and my parents have never found out certain things.”

Torres said she has used the TimelyCare app before.

“[It] gives you 20-minute sessions that are free, and then if you have appointments, then that takes from your nine vouchers that UTRGV does give you,” she said.

Clayton said he also recommends people use the suicide and crisis lifeline. The lifeline is a national line anyone can call for help with their own or someone else’s mental health concerns.

“You don’t have to be the person in crisis thinking about suicide to call 988,” he said.

RALLY

Continued from Page 1

She said big corporations have been disrespecting the people of Texas and it is time to put Texans first.

“The corporations that are here need to respect the people of Texas,” Hinojosa said. “We need to make sure we’re investing in Texans and not global corporations, and that will be the difference when I’m governor.”

The democratic hopeful said she wants to help the public education system in

Texas and make it right for the people.

“We have more than 150 school districts that only have four days of class because they don’t have enough to have five days of class,” Hinojosa said. “So, we save schools by canceling all the corrupt contracts and using that money to pay teachers here in Texas.”

She added people from Texas have economic struggles.

“That money is ours,” Hinojosa said. “And right now the government is bankrupt. We have to start using that money to build the government that is

working for us.”

Nora Jaramillo, UTRGV political science senior and member of the UTRGV College Democrats, said it was great to attend the rally.

“I believe it’s important for the younger generation to stay informed, and overall see what the other candidates have to say about their ongoing races,” Jaramillo said. “I believe the vibes are really amazing and uplifting. I felt really inspired overall.”

As the election gets closer, Jaramillo said she hopes people go out and vote.

VOTE

Continued from Page 1

According to county officials, as of 2026, Hidalgo County has 466,557 registered voters and Cameron County has 241,000 registered voters.

Hilda Salinas, elections administrator for Hidalgo County, said Hidalgo has 32 polling locations open throughout the county, including the UTRGV Edinburg campus. The location will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., with the exception of Oct. 25, when the campus location will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. during early voting.

Salinas said UTRGV’s Edinburg campus is a permanent Hidalgo polling location that attracts a high voter turnout.

“I encourage, you know, students, faculty as well as constituents of voters to visit that location as well as all the others during early voting and 69 that we do have open on election day to cast their ballot,” she said.

For Cameron County, there are 21 polling locations throughout the county, including the UTRGV Brownsville campus, according to the Cameron County Elections & Voter Registration website.

As reported by The Rider on Oct. 21, 2025, UTRGV Brownsville campus was not a polling location during early voting.

“... It’s an opportunity for people [who] find themselves sort of landlocked at the university to be able to get to a polling place and cast their ballot,” Remy Garza, elections administrator for Cameron County, replied when asked about having a polling location at the Brownsville campus.

He said he hopes students take advantage of having the polling location on campus during early voting and election day.

“It’s something we want to do for future elections and hopefully we’ll be able to continue it,” Garza said. “The challenge we always have is that sometimes the elections fall within finals week, or times when the students aren’t on campus.”

Garza said Cameron County has important local races, such as county judges and county commissioners.

“Locally, we’ve got 11 other jurisdictions that are holding elections at the same time,” Garza said. “But specifically, if you live in the Brownsville area, or you’re registered to vote in Brownsville, there are a number of charter amendments that are being submitted and they’re very lengthy.”

He added that it is “extremely important” for residents to look at sample ballots so they can read them in advance.

“So, you’re not trying to read them when

you’re actually standing in the voting booth, and if you can, print the sample ballot yourself so that you can carry that into the polling place,” Garza said.

He said the sample ballots will be available at the beginning of October for residents to start looking at what will be on their ballot.

Salinas said Hidalgo residents will see federal, state and county and local entity elections on their ballots.

“Right now, we are finalizing the sample ballots,” she said. “So, once they are finalized, they will be shared on our social media accounts as well as our web page, so we ask voters to keep a lookout for that.”

The 2026 general election includes state and federal races, which are for the Texas Senate and Texas Governor elections.

Salinas said Hidalgo County is expecting a high voter turnout during this election.

Garza said Cameron County is expected to have a higher turnout than usual and estimated that 42% to 47% of registered voters may participate.

For more information on early voting and election day, visit hidalgocounty.us or call 318-2570 for Hidalgo residents. Visit cameroncountytexas.gov/elections for Cameron residents.



MICHELLE HERANDEZ / THE RIDER

Flor Yáñez, art senior, registers to vote at the National Voter Registration Day event Tuesday at the Main Building Courtyard on the Brownsville campus.

SEND US A STORY IDEA TO [THERIDER@UTRGV.EDU](mailto:therider@utrgv.edu)

COLUMN OF THE WEEK

Sneezie Shelby



TIMOTHY DAVID
SPORTS REPORTER

If I were to ask you if you were comfortable with death, what would you say? This sounds like a self-explanatory question, even a pretty rude one at that. However, at what point, if there is one, is it acceptable to be comfortable with it? In this column, there is a picture of my dog, Shelby.

She is a 17ish-old dog my family rescued at the pound and adopted as a puppy when I was 1. I remember ever since we got her, she has always been a chronic sneezer. She will sneeze multiple times in one go and to my family, it seems like a form of language from her. Ever since then, she has been living with my family and I have basically grown up with her as the years went on. When I was a kid, I had always come to a sudden and unfortunate realization that as the days, weeks, months and years went by as we were growing up, at some point her years would start to catch up to her. I had always dreaded that realization and knew that at some point in the future I would

be in the position where it would start to come true, and it has sadly caught up to me.

“... to me Shelby feels more like a family member than just a pet.”

This current feeling of what I knew would eventually happen has been a collection of unwanted but needed emotions. Time for Shelby is probably moving as slow for her as it is for me. One day, it’ll come and I genuinely don’t know what to expect out of it considering I

have been preparing for it in my mind for so many years, especially recently. I have prepared similarly with other people in my life I have lost. Yet, the sadness hits me every time. Although, somehow, I wonder why I’m expecting something different this time. Death to me is the most muddled event to go through. It comes for everyone. As much as death gives purpose to living, it takes away. Even thinking about that is arguably confusing. In a way, Shelby answers my confusion to that phrase. As she gives me so much life and impacts the way I live deeply, I know when she is gone, a part of me will also leave. This amount of reflection may sound weird to others, as a dog is just another pet to some. The

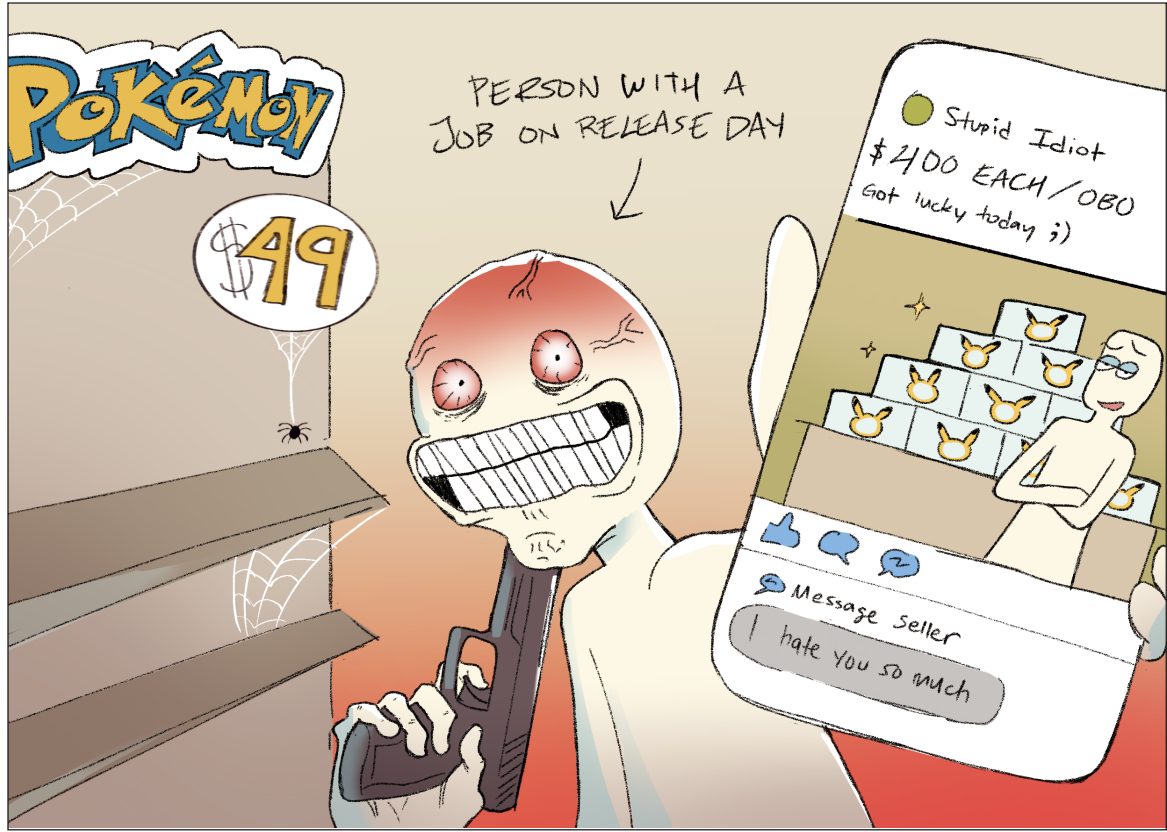
idea for pets to just come and go is already cemented in people, but to me Shelby feels more like a family member than just a pet. I’m not sure if I believe in a dog’s heaven, but I should start. She deserves that. I love you, Sneezie Shelby.



Shelby
Timothy's dog

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Scalpers won't see heaven



VAQUERO VOICE

--Compiled by Alizzaya Guel



Alexandra Gonzalez
political science junior

Q: What would you say is the most enjoyable part about volunteering at events like “Late Night at the REC?”

A: As being an RA. I think it’s very important to see my residents come together and unite and finding a community for themselves that isn’t from home but their home for now.

Q: What are some of the benefits students can look forward to while living on campus?

A: I think while you are living on campus you have so many benefits such as making new friendships, finding a newer community maybe finding a club or an organization that suits to your liking and your hobbies uh I think that’s very uncommon to find especially if you are traveling maybe finding it in college can be more beneficial because you are around people your age and maybe some of those like correlate towards your likings and that’s how you build long life friendships.

A: And would you say that you, yourself that you found life long friendships, here as an RA?

A: Yes, I have. As an RA everybody around my community is super welcoming and their friendship has meant so much to me and I know I will carry those forever.

Q: What was something that was hard about volunteering at this event, and how did you overcome it?

A: I guess, making sure people just come out of their shell. Making sure they are feeling welcomed and warm. Finding a space like that can really change somebody’s perspective on something. So I guess just making sure you provide that environment for somebody can be really helpful. And yeah, that’s how I overcame it basically by making sure I’m being social towards everybody. Making sure I’m talking to them, just getting to know them a little bit more on the personal level.

WACKY WEB POLL

LAST WEEK’S RESULTS:

IS A HOTDOG A SANDWICH?

75%

No, it is its own category

25%

Yes, it's meat between two bread layers

THIS WEEK’S QUESTION:

OCTOBER’S ALMOST HERE; WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED FOR?

CHECK OUT THE POLL ON OUR SOCIALS! @UTRGVRIDER

Reciente audiencia niega la ley de Texas que daba matrícula estatal a estudiantes indocumentados

MARIAH LYDIA ESCOBAR
THE RIDER

La corte federal de apelación negó la petición de audiencia del caso de la ley del 2001 de Texas que permitía a ciertos estudiantes indocumentados pagar matrícula estatal, haciendo que la educación superior sea más costosa para algunos.

El 8 de septiembre, la Corte de Apelaciones de los Estados Unidos para el Quinto Circuito denegó la solicitud de una nueva audiencia para el caso del Texas Dream Act.

Esta decisión afecta a estudiantes indocumentados que pagan matrícula estatal en universidades y colegios públicos de Texas.

Mark Kaswan, profesor de la Escuela de Ciencias Políticas, Asuntos Legales, Estudios Legales y de Seguridad, dijo que Texas fue el primer estado en tener una política así.

Kaswan dijo que la pérdida de matrícula estatal para los estudiantes indocumentados puede tener un impacto financiero inmediato en estudiantes que busquen continuar con su educación.

“Si intentan continuar su trayectoria educativa, ellos tendrán que pagar la tarifa completa para no residentes,” dijo.

En base al año académico 2026-27, la matrícula para no residentes en UTRGV es de \$10,547.60 para el semestre de otoño y primavera, comparado con los \$5,411.60 para estudiantes residentes, incluyendo costos adicionales, de acuerdo al sitio web de la



universidad.

Kaswan agregó que los estudiantes indocumentados también tienen restricciones en ayuda financiera del estado o federal, haciendo más difícil lidiar con el aumento de matrícula.

“Lo eliminará o casi hacerlo, eliminará la inscripción de estudios indocumentados”, Kaswan dijo.

El problema podría afectar estudiantes que sean

indocumentados y también los pueden poner como objetivo ante el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) si se les proporciona su información a la agencia del estado cuando intenten continuar su educación, de acuerdo con Kaswan.

Mariel Rodriguez, estudiante de segundo año de justicia penal, dijo que las noticias eran alarmantes y que el estatus legal de un estudiante no debería

impedirles de continuar su educación.

“Creo que el estatus legal no debería estar involucrado en nuestra búsqueda de una mejor educación”, dijo.

Rodriguez agregó que ella tiene amigos que están bajo la Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA) y estos cambios pueden desalentar de continuar la universidad en UTRGV.

“Muchos de nuestros

estudiantes, muchos miembros de nuestra comunidad ... son hijos de inmigrantes”, dijo.

Rodriguez dijo que ella espera que universidades y legisladores continúen haciendo que la educación superior sea más accesible para los estudiantes.

Katie Garcia, estudiante de primer año de biología, dijo que ya es difícil para los estudiantes que son residentes pagar la matrícula, entonces será aún más difícil para los estudiantes indocumentados pagar su matrícula debido a su financiamiento limitado.

“Legisladores deberían considerar a quién afecta”, Garcia dijo sobre cuando se pasan o se niegan las leyes.

Kaswan dijo que los argumentos históricos que rodean el Texas Dream Act están centrados en sí el estado debería dar beneficios a estudiantes indocumentados.

Partidarios argumentan que el acceso a la educación da mejores oportunidades a estudiantes de tener dependencia financiera y oportunidades de trabajo, mientras que opositores argumentan que los recursos del estado sólo deberían beneficiar ciudadanos estadounidenses.

Kaswan dijo que muchos estudiantes bajo esta política fueron traídos a los Estados Unidos desde niños y tenían poco control sobre su estatus de migratorio

Para estudiantes que tienen barreras financieras, Kaswan dijo que pueden intentar aplicar a préstamos privados, aunque estas tienen tarifas de intereses más altos.

—Traducido por Hugo Sepúlveda

Las raíces hispanas están presentes



VALERIA TOKUN HAGA / FOTOS RIDER

Viridiana Zúñiga (de izquierda), directora de la Oficina de Traducción e Interpretación, conversa con Mercedes Torres, subdirectora de la Oficina para la Integración Bilingüe durante el evento en conmemoración del Mes de la Herencia Hispana en el patio del Edificio Principal en el campus de Brownsville



Estudiantes hacen fila para recibir su playera conmemorativa y un pedazo de pizza en conmemoración del inicio del Mes de la Herencia Hispana el miércoles en el patio del Edificio Principal en el campus de Brownsville.



Emily Ramírez, estudiante de tercer año de contabilidad, firma en la mesa de registro el miércoles durante el evento en conmemoración del Mes de la Herencia Hispana en el patio del Edificio Principal en el campus de Brownsville.

Fruits take bloom

Creative Writing Department premieres art exhibition for Gallery magazine

KAYLA MARTINEZ
THE RIDER

On Sept. 9, the Creative Writing Department unveiled a series of visual artworks submitted to its annual Gallery magazine in the Charles and Dorothy Clark Gallery in Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus for the exhibition titled “The Fruits of the Valley.”

“A lot of the art and the writing is talking about students’ experience in the [Rio grande] Valley,” said Heather Cox, a graduate assistant with the College of Fine Arts who supported the Creative Writing Department in organizing the exhibition event. “We are definitely supportive of, you know, student writers and student artists that live here.”

The Gallery magazine is a yearly production put on by the Creative Writing Department in which all UTRGV students are able to submit their creative works such as paintings, poems, short fiction and digital art for the students in the Gallery class to select for publication.

Gisselle Rodriguez, a studio art senior at UTRGV, said she submitted her painting “La Trabajera Mas Fuerte” in February through the Gallery magazine’s Submittable page online after seeing a flyer calling for submissions on campus.

“We write down the info, the statement of the piece, not including [the] name or anything, because [the magazine doesn’t]



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ / THE RIDER PHOTOS

Gisselle Rodriguez, a studio art senior, looks at the art gallery Tuesday in the Charles and Dorothy Clark Gallery in the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus.

want to be biased at all,” Rodriguez said. “And yeah, we just waited until [the magazine] emailed us.”

In order to get the art up for the exhibition, Cox said the School of Art and Design was responsible for displaying the art.

“So the gallery ... it’s kind of a collaborative effort that comes from the people that are writing for the magazine

and putting their art in the magazine, and then the fine arts [are] displayed by the [School of Art and Design,]” she said. “So it’s definitely a collaborative thing.”

Britt Haraway, Gallery faculty adviser and Creative Writing associate professor, said the idea for the exhibition was proposed by the art students featured in last year’s magazine launch party.

“They were like, ‘Oh, wouldn’t it be great

if the originals were actually on the wall,’ and so we kind of took that as, you know, maybe they’re right,” Haraway said.

Rodriguez’s painting, a piece done in oil on canvas, was initially painted for her Advanced Painting class, part of a series titled “The Spendings of Our Savings,” and depicts her mother as the primary subject.

Rodriguez said she aimed to portray the time of uncertainty regarding immigration and ICE presence in the Valley through her mother’s profession as a cleaning lady.

“We have so much to express about being in the world now,” replied Haraway when asked about the importance of Gallery magazine. “We have a world right now that feels like division ... The publication is always good to remind us of these common human themes.”

Fernanda Escobedo, the editor-in-chief for the issue, said in her editor’s note she hoped to make it aware to the artists who submitted that “even if they didn’t get accepted, they were loved.”

Haraway added Gallery tries to tell applicants that do not make it in the magazine to try again due to the revolving students or the editors that turn over every issue.

“You never know if the next [Gallery staff] will be a better audience for your work,” he said.

Copies of the 2026 Gallery Magazine “The Fruits of the Valley” are available across campus, and the exhibition will be available for viewing until Friday.

For more information, visit @utrgvartgalleries on Instagram and Facebook.



The UTRGV Gallery magazine Showcase Exhibition “The Fruits of the Valley” opened its doors to the public Sept. 9. The reception took place Friday in the Charles and Dorothy Clark Gallery in the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus.

Cadaver Conversations: Coworkers #3

MAN, NOW I GOTTA WORK OVERTIME...

THIS SHOULD BE QUICK, WE JUST GOTTA GET YOU IN THERE TO TALK TO HIM.

WELL, THINGS COULD BE WORSE! I **COULD** RUN INTO MY LEAST FAVORITE COWORKER EVER.

Kayla M 9/21

WHAT'S UP, VALERIE? YOU IN A RUSH? HOPE YOUR DAY IS GOOD.

OH, CORVIS!

OH MY GOD, THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY.

THAT BIRD DINOSAUR COWORKER THAT I HATE! JUST MY LUCK...

WE'LL SEE YOU LATER. C'MON, FLACO!

OH L.O.L. THIS FOSSIL DUDE IS NAMED FLACO 'CAUSE HE'S A SKELETON. THAT'S HILARIOUS.

Cross Country surges after season opener



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ / THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV junior mid-distance runner Nirmit Dahiya runs laps around the track Wednesday at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex on the Edinburg campus.

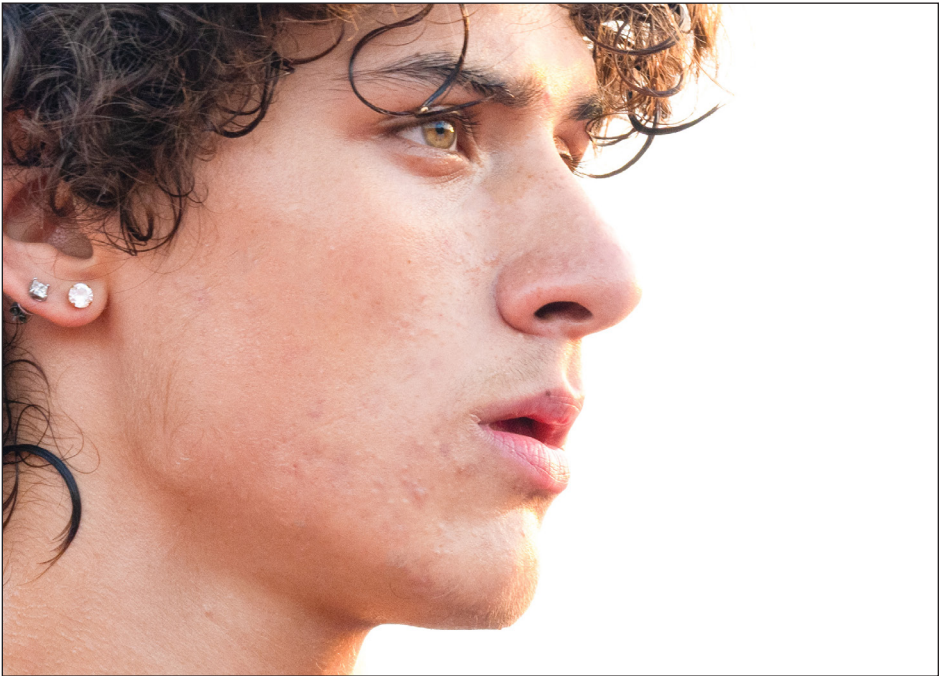
TIMOTHY DAVID
THE RIDER

The Men’s and Women’s Cross Country teams have begun their season with two women finishing in the top 15 of the University Incarnate Word Invitational Sept. 12 in San Antonio. Senior Kailey Salazar led the women’s team with a sixth-place finish (17:33) in the 5K, followed by fellow Vaquero Mia Picazo, who finished 10th (17:51) in the same race. The performance from Salazar led to her cutting over a minute off of her personal-time best and marked the second-fastest 5k run in program history, just behind Dorcas Koech who set the record of (17:10) back in October 2019. Junior Maddison Surita took 31st (18:37); junior Daphne Kausz, 51st (20:21); senior N Vanee Anchike, 65th (21:48).

The women’s team finished sixth of 11 in the invitational tallying 163 points. Salazar said she is dedicated to going above and beyond for her performance, and her goals are to run with no hardship to the best of her ability. “My goals are to run fearless and do the best to my ability to, hopefully, drop some records,” she said. Running for Salazar is something she enjoys for the challenge of pushing herself and improving her endurance, but she also applies that skill toward her life. “Running a long distance for such a long time, and then racing it, too, is definitely challenging,” Salazar said. “So, I feel like being able to push myself and know that I could do all of that, all of those hard things also apply in my life as well.” The men’s team ran the 8K. In his first collegiate race, freshman

Brock Morales set the example for the Vaqueros with a 26th-place finish (26:51). Behind Morales was senior Kevin Cardenas, who took 60th place (28:04). The men’s team finished seventh out of 10 in the invitational with 219 points. Morales said he felt a bit nervous going into his first collegiate race knowing the competition, but in the end found the overall experience great. “I was a little nervous at first, obviously, being a freshman and going out there, racing with the top guys but I just did my best and went out there and performed,” he said. According to Morales, having a positive mindset and confidence, despite self doubt, was crucial for his performance and state of mind for the race. “Mindset was mainly the main thing. I had to go in there feeling strong and to just tell myself that I belong up there

with the guys,” Morales said. “Try to be positive and you know being positive doesn’t mean you don’t experience negative thoughts, especially when you’re out there.” Asked if he had any goals for the season, Morales replied he wanted to be the best of his class athletically and shake up the UTRGV cross country scene. “I really just want to be the top freshman, break freshmen records and try and put a name for UTRGV,” Morales said. “I wanna make UTRGV a household name.” The women’s team has one more meet, slated for Oct. 16 in College Station, before the conference championships. The men’s team will have two chances to prepare for the Southland Conference Championships, first Saturday in Louisiana and then Oct. 16 in College Station.



UTRGV Men’s Cross Country freshman distance runner Brock Morales runs during practice Wednesday at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex on the Edinburg campus.



UTRGV senior distance runner Kailey Salazar speaks about what she is excited for this year Wednesday at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex on the Edinburg campus.

Picnic at the chapel lawn



EMMA ALEGRIA CASTILLO / THE RIDER PHOTOS

Amarissa Marrero, marketing student assistant for the Center for Student Involvement, leads a follow-along painting activity for the Center for Student Involvement’s Picnic at the Lawn Wednesday on the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus.



Alexandria Cordova (left), integrated health science junior, and Lorena Martinez, finance senior, paint together Wednesday during a painting activity for the Center for Student Involvement’s Picnic at the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus.



Jesse Perez (left), criminal justice junior, and Laura Reyes, bilingual education junior, grab snacks offered at the Center for Student Involvement’s Picnic at the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus.

Hello, darkness, my old friend

EDINBURG CAMPUS EXPERIENCES POWER OUTAGES

ADRIAN HERNANDEZ
THE RIDER

On Friday, UTRGV experienced a power outage. As of press time Friday, there has not been word of when the outage started or the cause. Multiple students waited in buildings that were open to get away from the heat and await further university updates on the outage. “ I came in the 6 a.m. bus to campus for my political

civil engineering sophomore Marco Ruiz said. “I didn’t know there was an outage until I received the email.” The campus was empty as many students received a text at 9 a.m. Many left campus while others remained hopeful and waited longer to work on class assignments. Power on campus resumed at 10 a.m.



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ/ THE RIDER PHOTOS
Civil engineer sophomore Marco Ruiz looks through campus updates about the power outage Friday. “I had an exam at 12, thank God this happened,” Ruiz said.



Simon Garcia, a biology junior, scrolls through social media during the power outage Friday on the Edinburg campus in the University Library. “I found out about the outage through email, I had class today,” said Garcia.