

On campus



Mascot town hall meeting

Page 3

A & E



"YayBig Southwest" exhibit

Page 5

Sports



Women's soccer in WAC tourney

Page 9

Home Games

Volleyball



Thursday, Nov. 5

Volleyball
vs. Grand Canyon University

7 p.m.

UTRGV Fieldhouse

Saturday, Nov. 7

Volleyball
vs. CSU Bakersfield

Noon

UTRGV Fieldhouse

Basketball



Saturday, Nov. 7

Men's Basketball
vs. Texas A&M
International University

7 p.m.

UTRGV Fieldhouse



Highlighting environmental concerns

Experts cite potential impact of proposed liquefied natural gas plants in Port of Brownsville

Oscar Castillo
THE RIDER

Stefanie Herweck, an executive committee member for the Lower Rio Grande Valley Sierra Club, spoke last Thursday night at the UTRGV Environmental Studies Symposium about the risks of having liquefied natural gas (LNG) plants in South Texas.

"Our impression of the most pressing issue that we think we are facing here in the Valley is the liquefied natural gas export and terminal complex proposed for near the Port of Brownsville," she said. "It's really important that we not underestimate the magnitude of these projects, and the way that they could profoundly affect our coastline and our communities."

Rio Grande LNG, Texas LNG and Annova LNG are three of five proposed plants that are expected to begin construction

See Letter to the editor,
Page 4

if they pass the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission review process. The FERC reviews a company's impact on the environment and safety, which takes approximately two years to review.



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Stefanie Herweck, an executive committee member of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Sierra Club, speaks on the potential impact that the proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) complex could bring to the Valley. Herweck's lecture was part of the Environmental Studies Symposium held Thursday in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus.

"LNG is just natural gas at tremendous concentration, so it is flammable," Herweck said. "When it spills, it can create a vapor cloud that at the right concentrations can be flammable. Scientific models have shown that that vapor

cloud can travel as much as a mile away and still be at ignitable concentrations. And, keep in mind that this is colorless and odorless gas, so there is no way to know whether there is a flammable vapor cloud around you."

Herweck said the Lower Rio Grande Valley Sierra Club is the largest and oldest environmental organization in the U.S., and the local group encompasses about 300

See SYMPOSIUM, Page 8

When Patricia hit

Ena Capucion

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Typhoon Haiyan had about 195 mph winds when it hit the Philippines Nov. 8, 2013. After five weeks, the death toll rose to over 6,000 and about 1,800 people were still missing. When Hurricane Patricia made landfall in southwestern Mexico Oct. 23, the 165 mph storm dissipated into a tropical storm with 35 mph winds--leaving the death toll at zero.

During the formation of Patricia, the hurricane's winds rapidly intensified--from 85 to 200 mph winds within a 24-hour window in the early morning of Oct. 22. Tim Smith, chief meteorologist for KRGV-TV Channel 5, said the mountains in Mexico played a big part in decreasing the intensity of what was once a Category 5 hurricane.

"It is difficult for any storm to maintain such severe conditions for an extended period of time," the Batesville, Ind. native said. "Likely, even without the mountains, it would have lost at least some of its strength. Once the center of a storm moves over land, it moves away from the warm ocean, which is the fuel for a tropical system. So, all storms weaken when they move over land. It's just that the mountains made it happen much more quickly. The mountains destroy the circulation of a hurricane. The



JACQUELINE ARIAS/THE RIDER

South Seventh Street in Donna flooded after rainfall from Hurricane Patricia reached the Rio Grande Valley Oct. 24.



ANGELA CANTU/THE RIDER

A flooded Raymondville neighborhood affected by severe rain that hit the Rio Grande Valley.

taller the mountains, the more the circulation gets interrupted. The mountains in Mexico are quite tall and led to the demise of the storm."

UTRGV computer science junior Carlos Braña is a native of Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas,

Mexico, and experienced Hurricane Alex in 2010. He filmed the aftermath of Alex and documented heavy floods and fallen billboards--however, nothing directly affecting the

See PATRICIA, Page 10

Answering the call

Student donates stem cells to help cancer patient

Rick R. Ramirez

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR



PABLO PUNDOLE

It didn't take long before Pundole registered as a stem cell/marrow donor with GenCure to help patients with leukemia and similar cancers.

The GenCure Marrow Donor Program has partnered with Be The Match to host a donor drive on the UTRGV Brownsville campus this month.

Steve Machner, a physician assistant for UTRGV Health Services, said November will mark the third year that the Brownsville campus hosts the event. Last year, legacy school UT Brownsville had the highest number of student donors in Texas.

The Be The Match donor drive registers members of the campus community for bone marrow and stem cell transplants. These donations generally help patients suffering from leukemia and lymphoma.

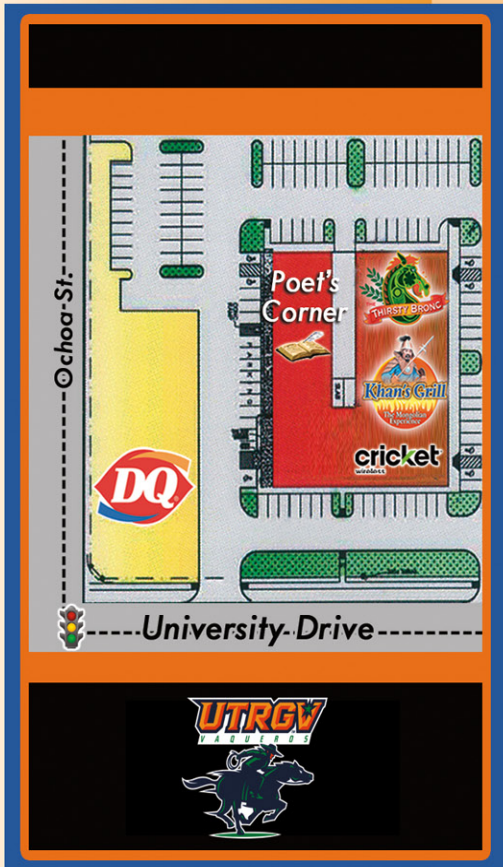
See MATCH, Page 10

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Happy birthday, USMC!

Service branch celebrates 240th year



Angela Cantu
NEWS EDITOR

The U.S. Marine Corps is turning 240 years old this year and to celebrate, all Marines are invited to a party at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8788 in McAllen Nov. 10 at 1800 hours, or 6 p.m.

In 1775, a committee was formed to create a resolution calling for two battalions of Marines, at sea and on shore. On Nov. 10, 1775, the resolution was approved and the Continental Marines officially formed.

Jump ahead 240 years, a group of five individuals, including Marine veteran Belinda Sumner, came together to make sure the important event was celebrated.

“The committee was formed because the Marines were at risk of not having the celebration due to lack of funds,” Sumner said. “Five of us formed the group to raise money for these Veterans of Foreign Wars.”

The VFW of McAllen, located at 4321 Pecan Blvd., will also accept cash donations or items for a drawing and auction. The event is open to all Marines for an evening of food, music and camaraderie. For more information, visit the Facebook page, VFW Rio Grande Valley Memorial Post No. 8788.

Vaquero: a work in progress

SGA gathering student input for mascot’s image

Andrea Torres
and Angela Cantu
THE RIDER

The Student Government Association hosted two town hall meetings last week, gathering input for the look of the Vaquero mascot. About 15 students attended, with only one-third speaking on the matter.

During the Edinburg town hall meeting last Wednesday, SGA President Alberto Adame explained the importance of students providing feedback instead of allowing the association to decide.

“The students have to choose by themselves if this is going to be something they’re going to care about or just something they’re going to show up at the end and say their opinions weren’t taken into consideration,” the economics major said. “It’s very frustrating having low turnouts, so we need to figure out what we’re doing wrong. ... But again, it’s really the students that are going to have to decide if this process is going to be more important.”

Jorge Gonzalez, the Edinburg SGA vice president, explained the process for choosing a new mascot.

“The first step is we’re gonna gather information from the students in events like this, like town halls, like this one,” Gonzalez said. “So, let’s say we get a list of 100 different mascots and we’re gonna try to bring down the list to something smaller and then we’ll send a survey to the students.”

The Vaquero Mascot Development Committee was created to assist in the student-led decision process.

“The purpose of the committee is to develop a proposal which will be voted on by the student



ANDREA TORRES/THE RIDER

Jorge Gonzalez, Student Government Association vice president for Edinburg, details the timeline for the development of the Vaquero mascot look.

body for the Vaquero mascot,” said Denisse Molina, UTRGV SGA vice president for the Brownsville campus.

The mascot development committee is composed of representatives from the SGA, Campus Programming Board, alumni, athletes, student leaders, residence hall students, faculty and staff from Marketing and Creative Services, Athletics, Admissions, Student Life and the spirit program.

“The committee will compile students’ input and provide recommendations,” Molina said at the Brownsville town hall held last Tuesday. “Students will have a vote on the recommendations and then students’ top choices are going to be sent to a mascot designing firm for the creation of the final renderings. The final renderings

will be put on for vote by the student body; the top selection is unveiled at the campus at a UTRGV event.”

Virginia Vasquez, a political science senior, was among those who attended the Brownsville town hall.

“I think that it’s a good idea that, you know, we’re getting the opinions from more than just the students but also faculty and everybody from the university,” Vasquez said.

The SGA created the Vaquero Mascot Development survey that asks multiple-choice and open-ended questions. A costumed mascot, an inflatable costume or a real person wearing the costume are the options students rank in the survey. Based on their selection, students are asked to describe their top two choices from the

following: tough/aggressive, cute/friendly, serious/respected, limber/active, big/hulky and other. Students may also write in what UTRGV icons or symbols they think should be integrated into the mascot.

Vasquez asked what would be the criteria if the mascot were to be a real person, what would happen when that person graduates and how difficult would it be to replace that person.

The survey is available at: <http://studentvoice.com/uota/utrgvmascot> until Tuesday.

For questions or concerns regarding the mascot image, send an email to spirit@utrgv.edu and use the subject line Vaquero Mascot Development.

A taste of knowledge

RiSA celebrations begin with ‘Art and Science of Wine’



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Angela Ramos and Marco Larrillo enjoy wine samples during the “Art and Science of Wine” event.

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

A dimly lit room in the Brownsville Historic Museum was filled last Wednesday night with more than 50 people tasting a variety of three wines while they listened to the music of Frank Sinatra.

“The Art and Science of Wine” was part of the Rio Grande Valley Science and Arts (RiSA) festival hosted by UTRGV.

“The purpose of [this event] was to bring light to the different types of wines, the chemistry, the art and science of wine, the difference between red and white and basically just everything else that comes with it,” said Melissa Vega, an art senior and event organizer.

Vega helped serve samples of Cabernet sauvignon, chardonnay and shiraz provided by Jones Liquor.

“I think this is a very a good event because it brings exposure to a different kind of science,” said attendee Janeth Rio.

Jones Liquor owner Michael Jones presented the seminar.

Cabernet sauvignon, one of the heavy red wines, is a better partner with a steak, chicken or pork plate, Jones said.

“We’ll discuss how we’re going to eat that, how we’re going to take that steak and when you put it in your mouth,” he said. “It’s going to be fat. It’s going to be juicy. It’s going to be real nice. Then you take your red wine, a cabernet; it’s going to dry out your mouth a little bit. This is what they call the art of wine, the marriage.”

When a wine is marked as made in the United States, the contents of the bottle must be 100 percent produced in the country as well as when it is produced in a specific state. A wine labeled as being from the Napa Valley must be 80 percent from the region and 20 percent may come from the rest of

See RISA, Page 10

Elections office prepares for primaries

Nearly 10,000 early votes have been cast in 2 counties for constitutional amendment election



OSCAR CASTILLO/THE RIDER

A couple walks outside the early voting site at the Cameron County Courthouse in Brownsville. Early voting for the Constitutional Amendment Election ended last Friday. Election Day is Tuesday.

Oscar Castillo
THE RIDER

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley’s Brownsville campus will not be a voting site for Tuesday’s Constitutional Amendment Election due to costs and resource allocation.

Cameron County Elections Administrator Remi Garza

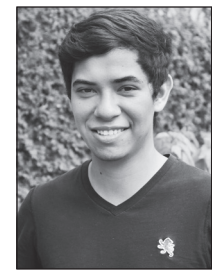
told The Rider there are fewer locations available during the Constitutional Amendment Election because voting sites are distributed evenly throughout Cameron County.

Asked why there were fewer voting sites for the election, Garza responded, “During the

See POLLS, Page 10

May the hype be with you

Mario Gonzalez
PHOTO EDITOR



We are getting closer to the end of the year. Aside from thinking about the usual holiday season, many people are anxiously waiting for December to come. This is not because they are eagerly waiting for their presents, nor for the family gatherings. Instead, they are anticipating being able to watch the long-awaited seventh “Star Wars” movie in theaters.

“Star Wars: The Force Awakens” is the seventh episode in the Star Wars saga and a direct sequel to “Return of the Jedi,” which was released in 1983. Naturally, because the movies in the second trilogy were prequels to the original trilogy, the fans have been waiting for more than 30 years for a chronological sequel. That is why fanatics went mad on Oct. 20 when the second movie trailer for “The Force Awakens” was released, and with it, news that pre-order tickets are now available.

After watching the movie trailer, I did what every fan is supposed to do: I went to buy the tickets online for the premiere. Because of the huge number of people trying to access each movie theater website at the same time, the servers could not handle the traffic and as a consequence, people all over the world reported problems and errors while waiting for pages to load. The process was tedious and stressful and I was able to buy my tickets after a long and frustrating hour. Aside from the ticket buying experience, I am excited to watch this movie, though I don’t know much about the plot.

I believe the editors handled the release of both movie trailers well; they serve only as a way to build hype without giving away major plot points or show the most interesting scenes. I was very young at the time, but I know that “Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace” created similar hype among fans prior to its release in 1999. Episode I was the beginning of a new trilogy set a few decades before the originals and nobody knew what to expect from it. In the end, the movie could not live up to its high expectations. According to the movie review website, Rotten Tomatoes, “The Phantom Menace” received a 57 percent rating by critics, whereas the most popular Star Wars film, “The Empire Strikes Back,” received a 95 percent rating.

It is certainly dangerous to get this excited about “The Force Awakens” because nobody wants to walk out of the theater disappointed, but let’s hope for the best. We do know that Jar Jar Binks is not going to be in this movie and that the movie is not going to rely as heavily on computer generated images (CGI) as the previous trilogy did. That is why I would say we are safe. Either way, I hope to see many of you Vaqueros there, having a great time and sharing a few tears of joy while enjoying the premiere Dec. 17. May the force be with you.

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UTRGV students during mascot reveal



Mascot Development Townhall meeting



Campus Q & A

What do you think the Valley will look like in five years?

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles



Mario A. Saenz
Computer science
sophomore

“Brownsville, the city, just seems to be expanding more to the north side. They’re like building more lots toward that way. They’re building more stores and some other stores are getting more popular. We just got a Dick’s Sporting Goods store and some people just thought it wasn’t going to be a hit here, but I guess it is.”



Jameli L. Echiveste
Biomedical sciences freshman

“I think with the new medical school here in the Valley, it will increase the population and it will bring a lot more people to the Valley.”



Gael Figueroa
Social studies composite
senior

“The Valley in five years, I see it growing bigger with the new medical school at UTRGV.”



Jessica Estrada
Biomedical sciences freshman

“I think with the expansion that they are doing in the university and the medical school we are going to have fresh faces, fresh minds, something that we are not used to. It’s a big change, and I think that it’s going to be a good change. It’s bringing more attention to us and I think that it’s good because we are going to need that in order to advance within the community.”

Letter to the editor:

LNG article lacks opposing views

I was dismayed to read your article on the LNG panel discussion in the Oct. 19 edition of *The Rider*, which failed to emphasize the true nature of the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce “Public Affairs Luncheon” held Oct. 13. Its headline insinuated the representatives of three LNG companies, who are beholden to no one but their shareholders, honestly answered questions regarding the environmental and economic impacts of their proposed projects.

No mention was made of the fact that this luncheon was not open to the public, nor that the cost to attend (unless you were a student of the moderator) varied from \$40 for chamber members to \$500 for “Urban Leaders.” Besides quoting the moderator of the event on Page 4,

no indication was made that public opposition to LNG companies coming to the Rio Grande Valley is strong.

Unlike the All Member Combined Port Isabel and South Padre Island Chambers of Commerce meeting on Oct. 2, the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce refused to allow a local group called “Save RGV from LNG” to present opposing views. No mention was made of municipalities, school districts and other civic groups passing resolutions opposing the LNG companies.

It would be ideal if you or one of *The Rider’s* journalists could present the other side of the story, beginning with publishing the URL for the website of at least one opposition group: <http://rgvstoplng.wix.com/rgvstoplng>. The

state and local chapters of the Sierra Club could also provide alternate views on this topic. A little research into an issue to present all sides is good journalism.

Kristen Davis Kline
Brownsville resident

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utrgvrider.com

All about prints

Collector brings exhibit to campus

Monica Gudiño
THE RIDER

“Printmakers without Horses” will be featured in the “YayBig Southwest” exhibit, which will open at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Art Gallery at Rusteberg Hall.

The print collections is owned by Karl Whitaker, an Albuquerque, N.M., artist and art collector.

YayBig Southwest started as an exchange of art between Tucson and El Paso artists inspired by Mexican art.

“Karl enjoys getting prints of each artist, and so ... he is going to display around 26 prints on Tuesday,” said Alejandro Macias, a lecturer in the UTRGV Visual Arts Department. “You are going to see a variety of works from different artists and you are going to see different aesthetics, so it’s going to be a very exciting, eclectic show.”

Zeke Peña, one of the 25 artists whose prints will be displayed in the exhibit, will conduct a printmaking workshop at 5 p.m. Tuesday in Eidman Hall I. Admission is free.

“He even said it himself: He is not a printmaker per se, but he is an artist so he will do a variety of things,” Macias said about Peña.

Other prints in the exhibit are by Jesus “Cimi” Alvarado, Carlos Barberena, Chris Bardey, Michael Contreras, Karsten Creightney, Francisco Delgado, Gonzalo Espinosa, Juan R. Fuentes, Manuel Guerra, Daniel Gonzalez, Devon Inglee, Eli Levin, Danny Martin, Joe Marshall, Juan de Dios Mora, Henry Morales, Marogon, Victor Muheddine, Martin Quintanilla, Rezizte, Michael Roman, Tanya Rich and Toru Sugita.

The artists are from across the Southwest and Mexico.

“It’s been a while since I have seen a printmaking show, especially a really good one,” Macias said. “I have seen the work already and it varies in style and so for me that’s really exciting to have everyone as an individual artistic style.”

The gallery’s hours for Fall 2015 are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday and noon-4 p.m. Friday.

Admission is free for Patron of the Arts members. General admission is \$1 and student semester passes are \$3. The exhibit continues through Nov. 25. For more information, call 882-7025.

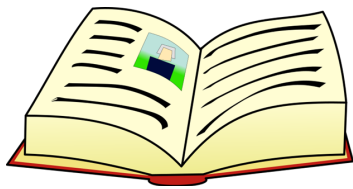


PHOTO COURTESY ZEKE PEÑA

“Orale” by Zeke Peña



Turning pages



McAllen Public Library hosts book festival

Astrid Gonzalez
THE RIDER

The second annual McAllen Book Festival will take place Saturday at the Main Branch of the city’s public library, located at 4001 N. 23rd St.

The festival will feature local authors and publishers who will take part in panel discussions, book signings and readings.

Last year over 1,000 people attended the festival.

Guest authors will include Chris Barton, Jennifer Ziegler, Diane Gonzales-Bertrand, Sarah Rodriguez-Pratt, Lupe Ruiz-Flores and poets Amalia Ortiz, Brenda Nettles Riojas, Edward Vidaurre, Jan Epton Seale, Priscilla Celina Suarez, Roberto de la Torre and Rossy Evelin Lima.

UTRGV professors Janine Schall, Mary Ann Escamilla, Elizabeth Garcia and Marlene Galvan will take part as moderators and session introducers.

“The McAllen public librarians really inspired me,” said Amy Cummins, an associate professor in Literatures and Cultural Studies and a member of the planning committee for the festival. “I teach children’s and young adult literature at UTRGV (then UTPA). I jumped at the chance to help bring



PHOTO COURTESY McALLEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bilingual picture book author Lupe Ruiz-Flores reads to children during last year’s book festival.

authors to the Valley so other people could meet them. My hope for this year’s festival is that it will be a wonderful celebration of stories, families and books. People will come together as they laugh and learn in a friendly place.”

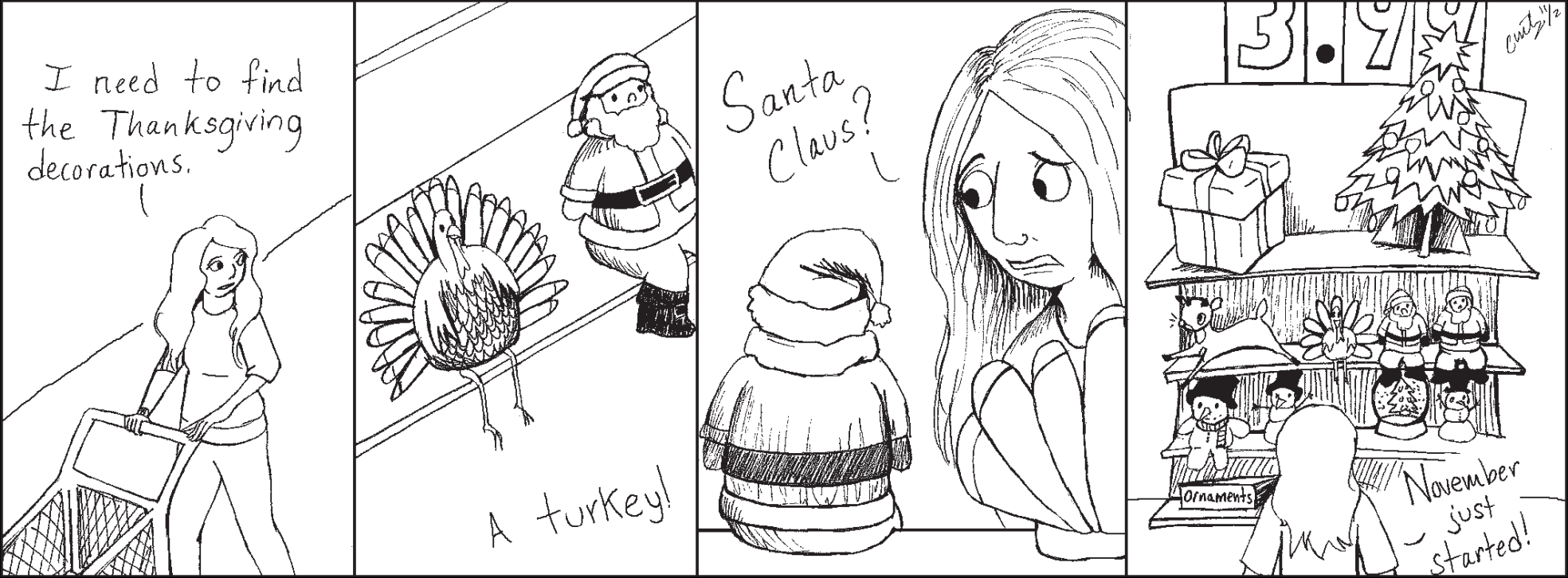
There will also be performances by

the Navarro Guitar Ensemble, MPL Teen Theatre, Nadia’s All That Dance, McAllen High School Choir, Crescendo Music Showcase, Camarata Cellista and the UTRGV Flautistas Ensemble.

The festival will have food trucks such as El Rodeo Taco Express, Country Cafe

on the Road, and Krazy Dogz Gourmet. The McAllen Farmers Market will also be featured at the festival.

The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for more information contact the McAllen Public Library 681- 3000 or their Facebook page.





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THE RIDER

THE RIDER

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ON CAMPUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brownsville or 665-7991 in Edinburg.

RiSA Festival
The **Rio Grande Science and Arts (RiSA) Festival** continues with **Latina Day**, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and **Student Day**, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, on the Brownsville campus; **Community Day**, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday at Linear Park, 1338 E. Eighth St. The **STEMS Fun Run** has been rescheduled for Saturday and registration starts 6 a.m on the Main Lawn. For more information, call **Joey Shapiro Key**, director of education and outreach for the Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy, at 882-6665.

RGV Climate March
The second annual **Rio Grande Valley**

Climate March will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday at McAllen City Hall, 1300 W. Houston Ave. There will be speakers, live music, food and games. For more information, call 453-0754.

UT Law School presentations
Dean **Ward Farnsworth** will meet with students interested in applying to the **University of Texas at Austin School of Law** at 1 p.m. in the Main Building’s Salón Cassia in Brownsville and at 3:30 p.m. in the Engineering Building Auditorium, Room 1.300, in Edinburg Nov. 17. For more information, email **Jerry Polinard**, faculty adviser for the **Pre-Law Society**, at jerry.polinard@utrgv.edu.
--Compiled by Monica Gudiño



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 16 and 25.



October 16
4 p.m.: A student reported he had been the victim of an aggravated assault by a fellow student while at a local grocery store. The student said he feared for his safety because the suspect is enrolled in one of the his courses, had posted bail and been released from the city jail.

6:46 p.m.: A student requested after-hours access to the Physical Science West building because he was working on an experiment inside. The student presented a faculty ID and explained that the faculty member had lent it to him so he could access the room. Police confiscated the ID.

10:53 p.m.: University Police responded to a photograph that was posted on the “UTPA Book Trade” Facebook page, which showed a handgun on a toilet roll dispenser. Its caption said the gun was inside a restroom in the Mathematics and General Sciences building. Officers searched and cleared the building and surrounding area but noted that the restroom displayed in the photo did not match any of the restrooms searched on campus.

October 17
8:25 p.m.: A driver was stopped on West University Drive in Brownsville after not stopping at a red light. The driver, who presented an expired driver’s license, and his female passenger had outstanding arrest warrants. The man was taken to Edinburg and the female was taken to the Hidalgo County jail.

October 18
6:45 a.m.: A driver was stopped after driving aggressively into the entrance of the Casa Bella student housing complex. Officers detected a strong odor of alcohol in the vehicle and both occupants admitted to drinking. The driver was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated, the passenger was charged

with public intoxication and both were later taken to the Brownsville City Jail.

8 p.m.: A Casa Bella resident reported a past incident of harassment. She said her ex-boyfriend had made several attempts to reach her and had been seen in the area of her apartment.

October 19
1:47 a.m.: A driver was stopped at 2801 West University Dr. in Edinburg for not having a front license plate. The driver had an outstanding warrant from the City of Edinburg for unpaid fines. He had no license or vehicle liability insurance. He was arrested and booked into the Edinburg municipal jail.

1:52 p.m.: A staff member at The Woods satellite campus in Brownsville reported two five-piece patio dining sets missing. The value of the furniture was estimated at \$1,400.

3:21p.m.: A student reported a possible natural gas leak in lot B2 in Brownsville. Facilities and Environmental Health and Safety staff said the smell of gas was due to a periodic pressure release and deemed the meter safe.

6:28 p.m.: A student reported to a counselor that she wanted to kill herself by overdosing on her antidepressant medication. UTRGV Counseling staff recommended an emergency detention and the student was later screened by Tropical Texas Behavioral Health staff who said she did not meet criteria for hospitalization. The student was allowed to leave with her father.

8:57 p.m.: An officer witnessed a hit-and-run traffic accident at the intersection of Sugar and Schunior roads in Edinburg. The officer stopped the suspect vehicle and detained the suspect who had fled the accident. Edinburg Police arrested the suspect.

October 21
11:56 a.m.: A staff member reported accidentally puncturing a refrigerated hose from his refrigerator, which leaked an unknown chemical into his office in Southwick Hall. Environmental Health and Safety was contacted and confirmed there was no cause for concern.

October 23
1:27 a.m.: A deported felon, who was stopped on the 2800 block of West University Drive in Edinburg for having a defective head lamp on his vehicle, was arrested on charges of no driver’s license, no insurance and failure to identify himself.

4:55 a.m.: A U.S. Border Patrol agent detained an intoxicated adult male in front of the UTRGV Physical Plant facilities on the Brownsville campus. The suspect was arrested and charged with public intoxication and transported to the Brownsville City Jail.

October 24
1:25 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of a group of people smoking marijuana outside Troxel Hall. One student was arrested on a charge of misdemeanor possession of marijuana. Another student was arrested after officers confirmed a warrant for his arrest in the City of Edinburg. The report was forwarded to the Dean of Students Office.

2:20 a.m.: A group of four student residents were reported to be smoking marijuana outside Troxel Hall. One student over the age of 21 was found to be in possession of an open container of alcohol. Two students, under 21, were cited for possession of alcohol by a minor.

October 25
8:08 p.m.: A student who was stopped on Fourth Avenue and West Van Week Street after failing to signal was arrested for possession of marijuana.
--Compiled by Andrea Torres

SYMPOSIUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

members across the Valley.

In an interview with *The Rider* after the symposium, Herweck said most people who travel to South Padre Island do it because of its pristine waters and natural habitats. She worries that if the LNG plants establish themselves near Port Isabel, it will diminish tourism on the island.

Environmental Studies Program Coordinator and UTRGV Associate Professor Amy Hay said one of the purposes of the symposium was to promote the program on both campuses.

“It really is to highlight the kind of issues that environmental studies is concerned about and what we bring to the table,” Hay said about the event. “I think that humanities really problematize things in the right way. We push to make sure that people’s voices get heard. ... We’re committed to issues of social justice,

environmental justice and trying to make sure that it’s a fair playing field, and that if this is gonna happen we’re gonna push them to make it as safe as possible.”

Rob Nixon, chairman of the Surfrider Foundation, South Texas Chapter, told the audience about his organization’s projects, which include dune restoration.

“South Padre Island, back in the ’80s, after Hurricane Allen, was pretty much wiped clean of all dunes,” Nixon said. “The developers loved that because their first-story visitors could see the beach no matter what. Basically, back in 2008, after Hurricane Dolly and Hurricane Ike, everyone kind of decided, ‘OK, this is a bad idea, we have to get these dunes back.’”

Since then, the foundation has received funding from the City of South Padre Island and the state to restore the sand dunes.

Asked by fellow presenter James Frost, an associate professor in the Writing and Language Studies Department, what is

the best thing one can do while visiting the beach, Nixon replied: “The best thing you can do is pick up trash, take pictures. We’ve encountered, especially with the Texas General Land Office, the best evidence we’ve ever had is just users taking pictures.”

Those interested in joining the Surfrider Foundation may visit www.southtexas.surfrider.org/get-involved.

Kaitlynn Lavallee, president of the Environmental Awareness Club at UTRGV, talked about the multiple restoration and activism projects her organization has been a part of, including the Save RGV from LNG event last summer.

The Edinburg-based club is looking to expand to the Brownsville campus. For more information, email eac.org@gmail.com.

For more information on the Lower Rio Grande Valley Sierra Club, email lrgvsierraclub@gmail.com.

TOURNEY TIME

Women’s soccer back in the WAC tournament

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

There’s a bit of déjà vu with the upcoming women’s soccer postseason. A year ago, women’s soccer entered the Western Athletic Conference tournament as a No. 6 seed. Last season’s tournament in Seattle put UTPA’s team head-to-head with Utah Valley, the No. 3 seed.

This season, as UTRGV, they’re back in. With a 1-0 win over Chicago State Oct. 25 the Vaqueros qualified for the second consecutive WAC tournament. Now their tickets are punched to Bakersfield, Calif., the site of this year’s matches.

The team will try to improve the outcome and length of its tournament run. In 2014, the first-round game against Utah Valley became the final one of the season and it took overtime to decide the winner. It was a dramatic, disappointing end but it proved that despite seeding and regular-season finishes, every game in a conference tournament provides an opportunity.

This year’s tournament will see Head Coach Glad Bugariu’s second-year program face University of Missouri-Kansas City, the No. 3 seed, in the first round Nov. 5. The two teams met recently in the Midwest where the Kansas City Kangaroos earned a 2-0 victory with both goals coming within 10 minutes of the opening whistle.



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Andreyra Barrera dribbles the ball in a home match against Prairie View A&M University earlier in the season. Barrera, a sophomore, leads the team in goals.

Sophomore midfielder Andreyra Barrera, whose goal against Chicago State lifted UTRGV into the tournament spot, spoke on UMKC’s early starts and how to weather the storm.

“I feel like within the first 10 to 20 minutes of the game there’s a time where one play could change everything,” Barrera said. “If we can come in and set the tempo before they set it for us, we can get a hold of the game.”

She mentioned the parity of soccer and that anything could happen in the sport.

“I feel like in soccer, with any team or any opponent, anything can happen on any day,” Barrera said. “Any player can come out and make a play and the whole game changes.”

She compared the attitude going into the tournament from a year ago and now and highlighted key similarities.

“Last year, when we went into that tournament, we said, ‘We have nothing to lose but we can gain so much from this game.’ So, we went in with that mentality and we were ready to fight. We weren’t going to let them slide with an easy win,

and this year it’s the exact same thing.”

The women’s soccer team has been outscored this season 13 goals for and 28 conceded (as of press time Friday) but the tournament gives a fresh chance to make a run at a conference championship. The WAC tournament allows one team to automatically qualify for the NCAA tournament.

Keeping the ball out of the net will be especially important against a team known to score early. Harlingen South alumna and second-year student-athlete Erica Gonzalez has three shutouts this season. She will be ready, if her number is called, to start in goal during the must-win match.

Seeding in the bracket is the only thing that carries over past the regular season and goalie Gonzalez stressed having a fresh approach.

“We just need to completely forget about [the regular season] and move forward,” she said. “We’ve played UMKC twice now and I think we’re going to be really well prepared. We need to come out hard from the beginning and keep it there. Our defense needs to be strong as usual and we need to get goals. The first 20 minutes is the most vital part of the game; their intensity goes down from there. If we can make it past the 20, they start getting frustrated.”

Team captain Hanna Spets

See SOCCER, Page 10

Athlete of the Week



JACQUELINE ARIAS/THE RIDER

Name: Erica Gonzalez
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Biomedical sciences
Sport: Women’s Soccer
Position: Goalkeeper
Hometown: Harlingen
Who is your favorite athlete? “Ronda Rousey.” Rousey is an American mixed martial artist, judoka and actress.
Who is your role model? “My grandpa.”
What is the best advice you’ve ever been given and by whom? “Sleep is for the weak, by my grandma.”
What do you like to do for fun? “I like art, so I sculpt, paint and draw.”
When did you begin playing soccer and why did you start playing? “I was 3 or 4, right after my older sister started.”
Did you play in high school and did you get any awards? “All-District.”

What are your goals for the season? “Our goals for the rest of the season is to beat out New Mexico and compete in the playoffs, and beat Kansas City.”
What is your favorite movie? “The Dark Knight.”
Is there a song that gets your head in the game? “I listen to David Bowie.”

What are your plans for the Fall 2015 semester? “Hopefully, get an A in my physics class, to finish out the season strong and to not let any goals through.”
How do you feel about being part of the first UTRGV Women’s Soccer Team? “It’s always really great to be a part of something new. I was on the first UTPA team too, and it’s really nice to see how the program is growing. So it’s really nice to be a part of something that’s going to be big.”

--Compiled by Jacqueline Arias

Hoop Madness



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Women’s basketball team members Amanda Ramirez (from left), Shawnte’ Goff, Lile Havili and Mary Savoy watch a “V’s Up” video during Midnight Madness Oct. 23 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse.



Vaquero forward Shaquille Hines finishes a reverse two-handed dunk.



The men’s basketball team prepares to watch teammates compete in the dunk contest.



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RISA
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3
California, Jones said.
Drawing the shape of a bull’s-eye in the air, Jones explained that the closer the wine is to the center, the finer it is.
“Oakville, Napa Valley, *Mis en bouteille au château*, French term for estate grown and bottled,” he said. “This is the bull’s-eye of wine. I own the estate, I make the wine, I bottle it and serve it to you.”

POLLS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3
constitutional election, it’s a matter of cost and resource allocation.”
This election takes place in November on odd-numbered years and voter turnout is normally low. The Texas Legislature proposed amendments in its recent session, ending June 1.
As of last Tuesday, 2,691 early votes had been cast in Cameron County and in Hidalgo County, 6,434 had been cast, 167 from the Edinburg campus polling site, according to each county’s website. Early voting began Oct. 19 and ended last Friday.
Cameron County voters may cast ballots on Election Day at one of 36 polling sites. For a complete list of polling locations, visit www.co.cameron.tx.us/Polling_Locations1.pdf.
While only seven early voting sites were available in Cameron County, The Department of Elections & Voter Registration plans as many as 20 early

MATCH
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
The Hispanic community tends to struggle when it comes to finding a match due to the low number of registered donors.
“Donors typically match better from similar races,” Machner explained. “We are fertile ground for them to recruit Hispanic donors, which is really where they have one of the biggest deficits in the registry.”
GenCure cannot directly compensate an individual for a donation, but the organization does help to accommodate donors in various ways. The organization reimburses donors for their travel costs, including fuel, food and hotel expenses.
The clinic in San Antonio informed Pundole of common side effects from the procedure and performed physical and clinical tests to ensure his safety.
“It’s voluntary. You can say no if you want to,” he said. “The accumulation of

SOCCER
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9
spoke during practice on facing UMKC and also on the opportunity to make some noise in the tournament.
“The tournament overall is very special. It’s win or lose, you’re in or you’re out. Obviously, we have a great opportunity to qualify for the next stage” said the Karlstad, Sweden, native. “Both teams have the same position at the beginning of the game. It doesn’t matter

Heather Otte, a UTRGV biology graduate student attended Jones’ seminar.
“I enjoyed it because he went into more detail about the different kinds [of wine],” Otte said. “I already had little bit of wine history. When I was in college the first time, I took a wine appreciation course. So, I knew a lot about the basic stuff. He went into a lot more detail and more personal, I liked that. ... I liked the chardonnay but that’s because I prefer

voting polling locations for next spring’s primary elections.
“We are getting set to decide those voting sites,” Garza said about the primary elections. “Not only the [Brownsville campus] but also the [Texas Southmost College] campus and the [Texas State Technical College System] campus in Harlingen as well, getting the students engaged in the process and making the sites available.”
The last time the Brownsville campus was a voting site was May 9, during the Municipal Election, where the campus community cast 290 of 5,627 votes throughout the city of Brownsville.
“The surest way to have a voting site on campus is to vote when it’s there,” Garza said. “It really is a use-it-or-lose-it type of situation.”
For more information about voting sites, call the Elections & Voter Registration department at 544-0809 in Cameron County and 544-0830 in Hidalgo County.

stem cells caused me some lower back pain. But they told me to expect these side effects, so I wasn’t worried.”
During his five-day stay in the clinic, local news media interviewed Pundole about his experience donating stem cells.
“People called me a hero. I’m not a hero,” Pundole said. “I’m just a person who got called on. We all have our own calling and mine was to help this person.”
He does not know the identity of the stem cell recipient. “Some transplant centers may provide up to three anonymous updates on the status of the recipient within the first year after transplant,” according to bethematch.org.
Asked if he would donate again, Pundole responded, “Of course. Definitely.”
The Be The Match drive will take place Nov. 9 through 11. Registration tables will located in the Main courtyard, library and Student Union.

where you finished in conference, if you lose you’re out. For us, it’s a great chance to try to win and do something special, and for them, it’s pressure because they are supposed to win against us.”
The Vaqueros will try to string together wins in a tournament where they will be underdogs in every matchup. It’s win or go home and the first opportunity to make the trip a successful one comes Thursday. The entire tournament will be available for viewing online on the WAC Digital Network.

whites, so obviously the chardonnay was good, and the Beringer, as far as chardonnays go, it’s good, it’s good for what you pay for.”
Other RiSA events:
--Latina Day, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday; Student Day, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday; and STEMS Fun Run, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, all on the Brownsville campus;
--Community Day, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday at Linear Park, located between

PATRICIA
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
community. With Hurricane Patricia, Braña understood that the intensity was much worse than Hurricane Alex, but was assured of his safety.
“Usually [the] poor are the only ones affected by hurricanes,” the 22-year-old said. “People that belong to the lower middle class and up, all have houses made out of concrete. Almost always the damage is reduced to only windows broken and maybe house flooding.”
According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Mexico learned to prepare for the worst. While officials kept watch of the formation of Patricia, warnings were displaced on the radio as well as television broadcasts across the region. For those without access, government pickup trucks with speakers made their way around.
Other precautions included the dispatch of about 3,000 soldiers and 800 federal police officers to areas that were in line with Patricia’s route as well as 1,200 shelters to accommodate 240,000 people.
In the aftermath, Patricia affected several coastal states that include

Sixth and Seventh streets;
--Science Café, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Nov. 9, at El Hueso de Fraile, 837 E Elizabeth St.;
--Port Isabel Science Café, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 13, at the Causeway Café, located at 418 E. Queen Isabella Blvd. in Port Isabel.

Colima, Jalisco, Michoacan and Nayarit. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto said, about 3,500 homes were damaged and about 200,000 people lost power--however, nearly half of them regained electricity quickly.
Not only did Patricia affect Mexico, but the hurricane also brought heavy rains to the Rio Grande Valley, mainly hitting Weslaco and Donna.
Between 1 and 2 p.m. Oct. 24, UTRGV theatre junior Kristin Valdez was driving home from a gathering with friends until her car engine became submerged in water on Salinas Boulevard in Donna--with about three to five other vehicles also stranded.
“We weren’t prepared. ... All we thought was [that] it was going to rain a bit, but not on the scale that it did,” the Donna native said. “Being stuck in the middle of the road, with the rain pouring down and a car that’s dead and a phone on 10 percent, I was honestly very scared and slightly panicked since I was alone.”
With the help of the tall mountains that reside in Mexico and the two strangers that assisted Valdez, Patricia didn’t do all the damage it could have done.

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