

On campus



McAllen music ban

Venue owners plan to address City Commission.
Page 3

Sports



Mi casa, su casa

UTRGV Vaqueros shared field with RGV FC Toros.
Page 6

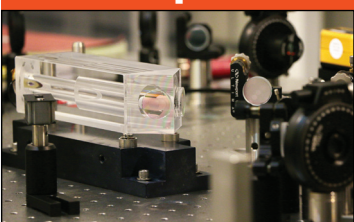
A & E



Valley summer camps

UTRGV offers youth recreational activities.
Page 7

On campus



Special Breakthrough Prize

UTRGV physicists are among the recipients of \$3 million award.
Page 3

Opinion

Campus Q & A

What are UTRGV's strengths and weaknesses?

>> EDITORIAL CARTOON
Page 4

Stay updated!



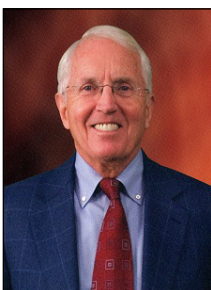
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Top psychologist to speak at UTRGV

Bryan Ramos
THE RIDER

"What's holding you back? What would your life be like if you were doing the things you wish you could do?"

These are the types of questions the School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling is helping to answer by focusing on behavioral changes.



James Prochaska

On Thursday, the Distinguished Speaker Series hosted by the School of Rehabilitation and Counseling welcomes James Prochaska, one of the three most pre-eminent clinical psychologists in the world, to the UTRGV Edinburg campus to speak about behavioral change and his work as one of the most influential authors in

psychology.

The Distinguished Speaker Series will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the International Room of the International Trade and Technology Building on the Edinburg campus. The reception will begin at 6:30 p.m., Prochaska is scheduled to start his presentation at 7 p.m., and refreshments will be provided at 8 p.m. The event is by invitation only.

Prochaska's area of work in behavioral change and the

Transtheoretical Model focuses on confronting addiction and substance abuse issues by changing behavior to resolve the problem. He is a professor of clinical health psychology at the University of Rhode Island, in addition to his role as the director of the Cancer Prevention Research Center. He is also the first psychologist to win a Medal of Honor for clinical research from the American Cancer Society.

See SPEAKER, Page 2

School of Music clears issues

Administrators say program is staying in Brownsville



ANA CAHUICHE/ THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Music Lecturer Kenneth Drobnak conducts a student brass ensemble during the "Can You Dig It?" event March 22 on the Main Building's lawn in Brownsville. The event celebrated the construction of the 102,551-square-foot, \$54 million Academic Building that will consist of two three-story structures.

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

Commuting to class can be one of the many challenges students face every day. For Monica Garza, this would be more of a hassle if UTRGV were to move its music program to the Edinburg campus.

Garza was among the more

than 60 students and faculty who attended a College of Fine Arts meeting last month to talk about students' concerns, including a rumor that the program was moving to the Edinburg campus.

"I asked the question of, 'What if I live in Matamoros and I have to go to Edinburg to take my classes?'" the music sophomore said. "What if my

classes start at 9:25 or 8 a.m.? At what time do you think I'm going to get up to go the bridge and cross on bike and then go to the bus station?"

Steven Block, dean of the College of Fine Arts, and Kurt Martinez, interim director of the School of Music, listened to the concerns of faculty and students. The program is composed of 420 students,

160 in Brownsville and 260 in Edinburg.

"The meeting came about because there were several students, and maybe faculty also, that for some reason or another, they felt like the music in the Brownsville campus was not going to exist anymore, but that is the furthest thing from the truth," Martinez said.

See MUSIC, Page 2

#keep17amplified battle continues

McAllen residents seek compromise on ban of outdoor, all-ages shows downtown

Marissa Rodriguez
THE RIDER

In the early morning light, Carlos Vela sat rocking his newborn daughter back to sleep while writing a Facebook post that spawned #keep17amplified, a tag that now has more than 1,000 people talking about the importance of protecting the Rio Grande Valley music scene.

Vela has produced music with hundreds of RGV artists and is co-directing a documentary about the history of local music culture titled "As I Walk through the Valley" with Ronnie Garza.

On May 23, the McAllen City Commission voted to ban all

amplified outdoor music and anyone under age 21 from the 17th Street Entertainment and Cultural Overlap District, citing several reasons for its necessity.

The fight for creativity, Page 3

An online petition written by McAllen resident Andres Sanchez that asks the city to reconsider its decisions sprang up shortly on social media after news of the ordinance spread, and received over 2,000 signatures in less than 24 hours. District 5 City Commissioner

John Ingram told a local TV station he received numerous complaints about the noise from neighboring residents, which was the main reason he pushed

for the venue Yerberia Cultura in downtown McAllen. He told a local newspaper he is willing to make changes to the ordinance, along with



PHOTO COURTESY PATRICK GARCIA

McAllen trio Sick/Sea performs on the outdoor stage of music

several members of the city commission.

See BAN, Page 5

THE RIDER

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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ON CAMPUS

Monday, June 13, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flag Day

A **Flag Day** celebration will take place from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus and on the Commons on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Game-A-Palooza

The **Student Union** invites students to **Game-A-Palooza** from noon to 2 p.m. Thursday in the Student Union's La Sala on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Game Room tournaments

A **Texas Hold'em Tournament** will take place from noon to 2 p.m. Thursday and an **Air Hockey Tournament** will take place June 22 in the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Burger Bash

Students will be served free burgers during **Burger Bash** from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday on the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus and on June 23 on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Vaquero Pins and Bracelets

Students are invited to create their UTRGV **Vaquero Pins and Bracelets** from noon to 2 p.m. June 30 in the Student Union's La Sala on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Hydration Station!

Free refreshing drinks will be distributed to students from noon to 1 p.m. July 14 on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville and on the Student Union Commons in Edinburg. For more information, call 665-7989.

--Compiled by Monica Gudiño

POLICE

C

POLICE REPORTS

POLICE

C

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between May 20 and June 2.

May 20

7:35 p.m.: University Police assisted City of Edinburg police in arresting a student who allegedly assaulted another student in parking Lot C. The victim reported the student knocked him to the ground, causing scrapes to his back, and afterward followed him in a vehicle around the city. The suspect was upset because the victim is now in a relationship with the suspect's ex-girlfriend. The suspect was arrested on a charge of assault, a class A misdemeanor, and jailed.

May 22

4:49 a.m.: University Police stopped a suspicious vehicle leaving The Village apartments. The operator, a non-affiliated male, made conflicting statements about why he was on campus. The truck bed had three bikes and patio furniture that the driver said he retrieved from the trash dumpster and a pair of 36-inch bolt cutters behind the truck bench seat that the operator attempted to hide. Two bikes had UTPA bike permits on them. University Police contacted one of the bike owners who said his bike should be secured with a lock to a bike rack at The Village apartments. The operator was

arrested and transported to jail. Officers found three cut locks and chains near the bike racks. In interviewing the suspect, it was learned he was in the country illegally and a member of a Mexican prison gang. Two days after the incident, another student came forward and reported his bicycle was stolen during the incident. The detective obtained an arrest warrant for theft, a class B misdemeanor, on the suspect. The suspect was arraigned in the Edinburg Municipal Court and received a \$5,000 cash surety bond. He was returned to the Hidalgo County Jail.

May 31

6:34 p.m.: A staff member reported that he and his wife had arrived at work together the morning of May 31 and after work he noticed their vehicle was gone from the parking lot. He called his wife who advised him she had left and was en route to San Antonio. He said they had been arguing the night before and that he is concerned about his wife's behavior and that she has no family or friends in San Antonio. Hospitals and local law enforcement agencies were contacted and an administrative welfare concern message was sent out. The Jim Wells County Sheriff's Office contacted

University Police and reported the woman was located in that county and had run out of gas.

June 1

9:53 a.m.: An international student reported a phone call scam she received on May 31 while off campus. She said she was told to make payment to specific accounts or she would be arrested and deported. She paid \$2,896 and later received another call for a similar payment amount and decided to hang up. She reported the incident to the international student adviser and was told to contact the Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division and the Federal Trade Commission.

June 4

1:58 a.m.: An officer conducted a status check of parking lot N2 after the police dispatcher received a phone call from the emergency phone in the lot. While checking the status of a portable building, the officer discovered that someone had broken the window with a rock. Review of the video footage showed a group of males near the emergency phone, with one activating the phone. The group then walked away.

--Compiled by Andrea Torres

SPEAKER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lynn Fischer, a lecturer in the UTRGV School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling, spoke about the importance of Prochaska's work and how the school implements it.

"People know what they want to do, but it's the change part of it that's hard. His work helps people build a positive vision of what would be by focusing behavioral

change on the positive instead of the negative," Fischer said. "Dr. Prochaska is one of the most frequently cited authors in the area of change and a lot of the faculty here at UTRGV make reference to his material."

On Friday, the community will have an opportunity to hear Prochaska at the School of Rehabilitation annual conference, scheduled from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. at the Community Engagement & Student Success Building, located at 1407

a copy of the memo he sent to the music faculty and staff on May 13.

"Please rest assured, no one is doing anything to 'dismantle' the UTRGV Brownsville Campus music program, quite the contrary," the provost wrote in the memo. "We are actually working to build and strengthen our music programs, across the Rio Grande Valley, including in Brownsville."

The School of Music will be housed in the new 102,551-square-foot, \$54 million Academic Building under construction in Brownsville, according to a university

E. Freddy Gonzalez Dr. in Edinburg. Conference registration is \$100.

When UT Pan American and UT Brownsville merged to form UTRGV, the department of Rehabilitation Services became a school in the College of Health Affairs. In its first year, the school offers doctoral, master's and undergraduate programs with concentrations in general rehabilitation, addiction rehabilitation and deaf rehabilitation and hopes to continue to build in the future.

news release.

"The building was designed with extensive feedback from the music faculty, and it speaks highly of our strong commitment to the music program on the Brownsville campus," Rodríguez wrote in the memo.

Although the program will stay in Brownsville, there will be a change. Instead of an orchestra on each campus, there will be only one, Martinez said.

"We're going to create a premiere

See MUSIC, Page 3

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14 at UTRGV to share physics prize

Award is for contribution to gravitational waves discovery

Monica Gudiño
THE RIDER

Fourteen professors, students and former students in the UTRGV Physics department are among 1,015 people recognized with a \$3 million Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics.

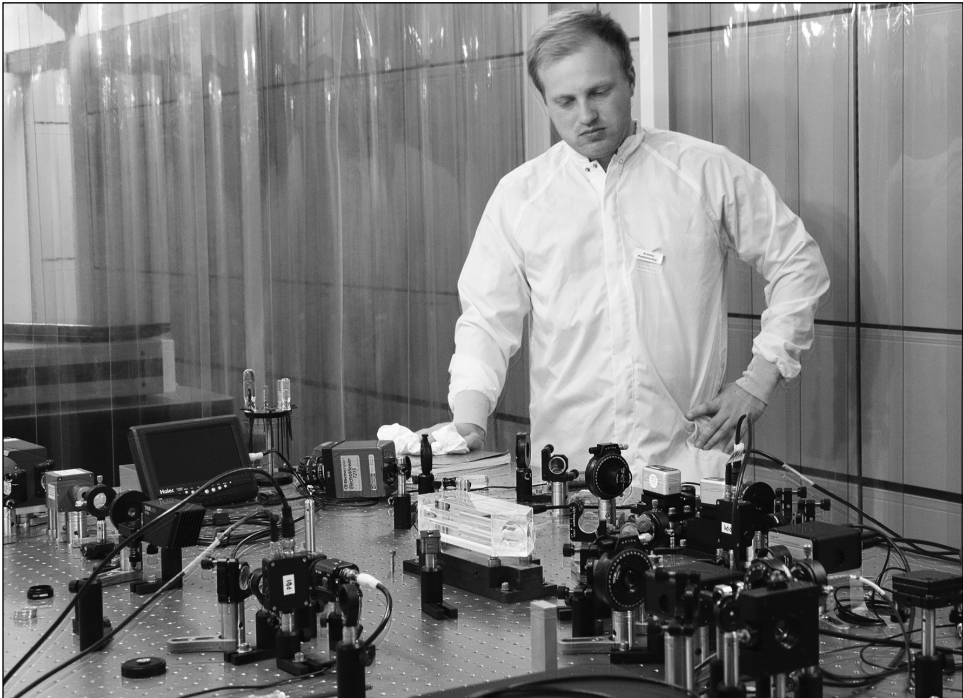
The Special Breakthrough Prize is an award from the Milner Global Foundation in recognition of an extraordinary scientific achievement.

Gravitational waves were predicted by Albert Einstein’s theory of relativity. Their existence was demonstrated in the ’70s but the first observation of the waves themselves occurred last September.

The discovery was made by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO), which was built to search and detect gravitational waves. The facility consists of detectors that are located in Livingston, La., and Hanford, Wash.

“Gravitational waves are, basically, changes in gravity ... that are emitted when very massive objects in the universe move around or collide,” said Teviet Creighton, an associate professor in the UTRGV Physics department and contributor to the LIGO project. “In this particular case, the collision that was observed was between two black holes, two large objects, each about 30 times more massive than the sun.”

The crashing of the black holes caused their gravitational field to change and ripple out. The observation was made about a billion years later because that’s how long it took for the waves to reach Earth, Creighton said.



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Artemiy Bogdanovskiy, a UTRGV doctoral student in physics, stands next to the triangular ring resonator experiment setup June 6 at the Optics & Nanophotonics Lab.

By observing and discovering the existence of gravitational waves, it confirms that black holes exist because since they emit no light, there was always just indirect observations of them, said Volker Quetschke, an associate professor in the UTRGV Physics department and chair of the Lasers and Auxiliary Optics working group.

“The fun part about these new developments is we don’t know what we are going to see because it’s completely

new,” Quetschke said.

The prize money will be shared between the three founders of LIGO, Ronald W. P. Drever, Kip S. Thorne and Rainer Weiss, who will each equally share \$1 million; and 1,012 contributors to the experiment, who will each equally share \$2 million.

This discovery not only opens a door to the world of physics, but it gives great opportunities for students here at UTRGV because they can be part of the

team at the Optics & Nanophotonics Lab, which is run by Malik Rakhmanov, an associate professor in the Physics department and contributor to the LIGO project.

The lab has a triangular ring resonator; this is a device that was on one of the actual LIGO detectors, which discovered the existence of gravitational waves.

Yelbir Kazhykarim, a master’s student in physics, and Artemiy Bogdanovskiy, a doctoral student in physics, work along Rakhmanov and conduct experiments with the resonator.

“This is actually a great lab, very well equipped, much bigger universities don’t have such labs,” Kazhykarim said. “Here, graduate students have a very unusual opportunity to improve their basic skills and have lot of guidance from Dr. Malik. In a lot of other places, you wouldn’t get as much attention of your supervisor as you can get here.”

Besides Creighton, Quetschke and Rakhmanov, members of the UTRGV Physics department who made contributions as co-authors of the scientific paper “Observations of Gravitational Waves from a Binary Black Hole Merger” and who will share the prize are Professors Mario Diaz, Soma Mukherjee and Joe Romano; Research Assistant Professor Joey Key; former graduate students Pablo Daveloza and Sean Morris; UTRGV-UT San Antonio cooperative doctoral students Marc Normandin, Robert Stone, Darkhan Tuyenbayev and Guillermo Valdes. The late Research Assistant Professor Cristina Torres, who died March 9, 2015, also is listed among the award recipients.

The fight for creativity

Ena Capucion
NEWS EDITOR

Downtown McAllen is the home to good times and good music. With the music ordinance in effect, some venue owners plan to attend today’s city commission meeting in hopes of a compromise.

In August 2015, four people came together and decided to create Yerberia Cultura, a venue at 613 S. 17th St. that offers a variety of outdoor music including rock ‘n’ roll, punk and indie.

#keep17amplified battle continues,

Page 1

One owner, Patrick Garcia, has been an event coordinator and promoter for nearly 10 years and is in charge of showcasing artists.

“We wanted this space to sort of capture a hybrid of different cultures and genres,” Garcia said. “We didn’t want to become labeled as a particular sound of the venue; there’s definitely a niche that we kind of stick with. We wanted to make it a point to work within the alternative--like underground stuff.”

Another owner, Eric Guerra, found other investors willing to help open up Yerberia Cultura. Guerra agreed on the condition that Garcia join him as a business partner.

“It’s amazing [and] a dream come true,” Garcia said. “I could tell you that I’m one of the most passionate people ... so having a venue refers to that dedication. It feels really good to validate it in that sense. It doesn’t feel like work, I can tell you that much. A lot of people come into the scene ... lose money and quit. For me, it’s a labor of love ... whether it makes money or not. I’m also juggling a full-time job and it still doesn’t feel like work. Some people tell me that I have two jobs, but I say, ‘No, I have a job and I have a passion.’”

THE MUSIC BAN

McAllen Mayor Jim Darling signed off on several downtown-related ordinances pertaining to outdoor music and a 21-year-old age limit, Garcia said. This will affect nearly all of the venues and bars in downtown McAllen such as Mezzanine, The Flying Walrus, My Bar, Roof 324 and Frida.

The city will host a workshop today to discuss the concerns of the community and how to address the issue. Garcia hopes to take on similar ordinances from cities such as Austin and New York City that impose a curfew.

“Right now, the ban is in place, but it’s not being enforced,” Garcia said. “So, a lot of people think our show on June 11 is going to be the last show ever, but it’s not. We meet June 13 with the city

were only being offered in Edinburg or they were just not being offered at all,” Zendejas said. “I have two jobs down here. ... There’s literally, like, no travel time for me. Like, I barely have time to do my homework.”

Asked about Zendejas’ concern, Martinez replied: “There’s a lot of issues at the Registrar’s, so like, we submit all of the classes we want on both campuses to be put up in the system for next fall. ... What I tell students is, ‘If there is a class you need and it’s not not up, it will be up.’ We’ll figure out some kind of solution.”

The School of Music also has five faculty vacancies, which was another concern presented in the meeting. The faculty vacancies are in vocal (two), violin, flute



ENA CAPUCION/THE RIDER

to work out a compromise--what the compromise is depends on how much strength we can have in numbers. We respect the community and people that live close by the venue tremendously, so we are proposing to take on similar ordinances that other cities have taken on. We’re going to fight for that.”

Another ordinance that is not being enforced is the age limit. Several other venues downtown allow all ages and have been hosting family oriented shows for the last five to six years.

“We really disagree with that because we think that’s going to directly cripple

accessibility that young people have to creative outlets like music,” Garcia said. “We’re totally opposed to that and ... a lot of people that are for the 21-age limit is that people are getting drunk and getting into car accidents, but there really is no proof that suggests that that’s coming out of downtown. And even if that is coming from downtown, then there’s nothing to suggest that certain venues aren’t taking precautions already. I’ve been [promoting] shows all my life. We’re not going to stop. We’re going to figure it out.”

Today’s city commission meeting will take place at 4 p.m. at City Hall.

MUSIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ensemble ... because what we’re doing is we’re pulling the resources of both campuses. We’re getting the best students from Edinburg and the best students from Brownsville.”

For students who do not make it into this ensemble or do not want to be part of it, there will be secondary orchestras on a minor scale for each campus, Martinez said.

Music junior Iliana Zendejas also attended the meeting and said the classes she needs to graduate were not being offered in Brownsville.

“A lot of the classes that I needed

and music theory. The provost will make the final decision in the faculty hiring and needs for the School of Music, Dean Block said.

In his email to *The Rider*, Rodríguez wrote: “We are currently in the review process and will make final determinations within the next week or so.”

Block said to solve any future issues students might have within the school he hopes to create a student council that can represent them among their campuses and can communicate with administration.

“The students’ voices should be heard,” he said. “They will have student representatives they can go to. ... I

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Campus Q & A

What are UTRGV's strengths and weaknesses?



"One of the strengths that I really like is the academic plan for all the majors. Personally, I can give my opinion on exercise science and that they offer, you know, courses to prepare you for future careers or future paths you want to take, like, OT, PT or any other minors or majors you want to take. And the weakness is that that information gets to you whenever you go and ask for it. They don't provide it. There's no like organization or student organization that gives you the information or go up to you with that information you need."

Gabriela Soto
Exercise science senior



"I'm thinking that the different courses that students need to take and that they have to go to the other campus to be able to complete it and that's a weakness. And some strengths, that the university is well organized and have plenty of organizations and services if you, I don't know, maybe want to enroll in any way, anything you want."

Isac Lambarri
Engineering technology junior



"Well I don't know for a fact, but maybe none of the people that graduate do anything worth writing about or worth talking about. Why does everybody from MIT or why is that school prestigious? I guess because a lot of people go there and they go on to do other stuff. That would be one of my weaknesses. The strength lies in the professors and teachers. I had a math professor once that was very good. He wanted people to learn and everything. Commitment is one of the strengths of this place."

James Attwood
English junior

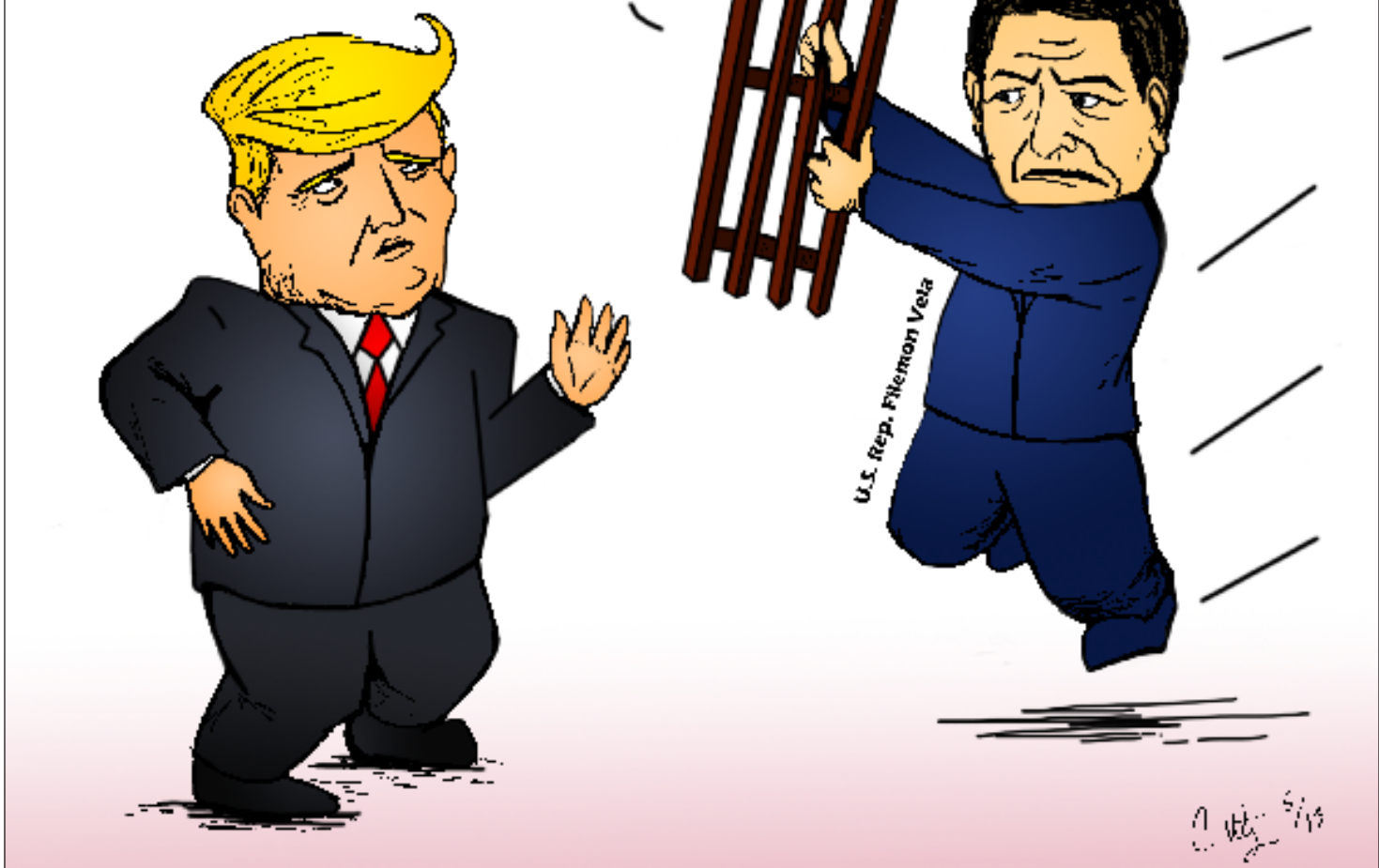


"Creo que las cosas que hacen mejor a la universidad es la organización, como algunos maestros en verdad se preocupan por los estudiantes y tratan como que hacerlos mejor. Creo que hay muchas cosas como Career [Center] que te ayudan como estudiante para que la experiencia sea mucha más fácil. Pero, algo malo es que no están muy promovidas o las vemos como un poco aburrido entonces no vamos. Entonces muchas veces no sabemos o no nos informa nadie. Yo pienso que será mejor de cuando vienes a orientación en vez de ser juegos y esas cosas que te informen de las cosas que en verdad importan como Career [Center] y ese tipo de cosa que yo siento que en verdad te va ayudar".

Estefania Fernandez
Estudiante de servicios de rehabilitación y consejería de tercer año

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles

Take your border fence, Trump!



With her or without her

Marissa Rodriguez
THE RIDER



This presidential campaign has been quite a trip and as of now, the only thing that anybody can agree on is that they want it to be over already. It appears that the two final contenders will be Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.

Each side insists that the opposing candidate contains multitudes of supervillain-level evil and it seems to me that this is clearly the darkest time humanity has ever endured. However, if society is crumbling, the internet can't stop laughing about it. The most apt political commentary is coming from the funny and frustrated millennials behind the memes.

Memes have somehow become the voice of our generation. The simple thought that Ted Cruz looks like the Zodiac Killer had thousands of voices cackling in unison, causing enough commotion that Cruz's wife was forced to address the unseemly allegations.

From the wildly inane to the wildly accurate, they encapsulate the many emotions that we have running around in

our heads at any time and make it funny.

Our cultural consciousness on media, entertainment, justice and politics are defined by trending hashtags and the endless GIFs and running jokes that come with them. Rather than being written off

“ In 2016, nothing expresses the complicated feelings that come with the whirlwind of this election quite like a picture of a teary-eyed Chihuahua. ”

as cheap humor, youth culture with all of its boundless creativity and goofiness has become the cornerstone of social media.

Memes are a force that several campaigns have suffered from and more have tried to capitalize off of. Only millennials could turn a pun as bad as #FeelTheBern into a phenomenon. A large part of the public perception is now defined by social media and politicians are often subject to criticism and ridicule. But more frequently, these memes and trending hashtags fuel public discourse driven by marginalized communities in a way that would not ordinarily be explored in mainstream media.

In 2016, nothing expresses the

complicated feelings that come with the whirlwind of this election quite like a picture of a teary-eyed Chihuahua. Civil disobedience is alive and well, it's just a lot funnier now.

More recently, in response to Bernie Sanders falling behind and Clinton taking a definite lead as the presumptive Democratic nominee, #GirlIGuessImWithHer began trending. The black community on Twitter voiced their ambivalence toward Clinton using countless GIFs of women from reality shows in all states of distress and various pictures of sad puppies.

As absurd as it sounds, for many, that's what the election has come down to. For example, rather than going into an exhausting discussion on why Clinton's take on mass incarceration and foreign policy is troubling to me, my feelings are better defined by a picture of a sad otter wrapped in a blanket.

No matter how the election turns out, it is safe to say that memes will remain an outlet for marginalized communities to voice criticisms and to initiate public discourse. Begrudgingly voting Hillary or Trump into office is only the beginning of a renaissance of dumb jokes that will never cease and I for one feel very sly moon-face emoji about it.

Letter to the Editor

Praising 'Le Petit Prince' production



The classic of French literature, "Le Petit Prince," was presented as a dramatization in French on May 7 and 8 in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center. This remarkable event was prepared as a course project by Professor Suzanne LaLonde with the participation of her spring semester French Theater students as actors, production assistants, costume and stage-set designers, and handlers of the complex activities that a public event requires.

LaLonde wrote the libretto extracted from the famous novel, a task made possible by her familiarity with the text

by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry published in 1943. To be present in Brownsville at a performance of a theater piece in the original French language was a distinct privilege. The true measure of the accomplishment becomes evident when one realizes that the actors are third-year undergraduate students who are in the French minor and major programs.

Among the 11 students who performed the various roles of the play, one cannot fail to mention, as a case apart, Rebeca Salomón, *le petit prince*. She was the central figure to whom the various character types converged. Each of them would find wisdom in the questions and the comments of the innocent child so well performed by Salomón. While a great deal of intelligence, work and determination had to go into the memorization of the text in a language being learned and not yet familiar for

improvisation, it was really impressive to see and hear Salomón deliver her succession of parts flawlessly, confidently and clearly, as she did.

The other lead actors—Francisco Arredondo (the aviator and narrator), Berenice Saenz (the fox) and Yolanda Vidaña Rentería (the rose)—complemented Salomón's role by performing with emotion and provoking emotions through music and visual props. Other student actors included Sarai Madrigal (the geographer and the queen), Maria Fernández González (the vain woman), Mariana Arredondo (the drunk), Marisol Córtez (the businesswoman and the flower), Claudia Ramírez (the lamplighter), Mary Morgan (the snake) and Dania Ruíz (a rose).

Aside from his literary genius, Saint-Exupéry is remembered as an aviation

See LETTER, Page 5

BAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Rider could not reach Ingram for comment.

McAllen City Public Information Interim Director Roy Cantu posted on Facebook May 28 that any ordinance changes that were approved on May 23 by the city commission are not in effect until the the establishment's permit expires.

In his Facebook post, Vela argues that in not first considering a compromise, the city commission is "keen to stamp out pockets of positive cultural growth," and public support for these venues is vital to their survival.

"Over the last 30 years, the greatest periods of growth in youth culture, and by extension Valley culture, have been when these artists have places that welcome them," he said. "As a community, we should be encouraging their expression so we can all continue to enjoy the vibrant culture they'll inspire."

The ordinance will be considered again during today's city commission meeting.

"Without diminishing the full force and credit of the ordinance ... in my capacity as the presiding officer of the May 23 meeting, it is my opinion that the language of the ordinance does not accurately reflect the intentions and desires of the McAllen City Commission with respect to its intended application to the economic and cultural overlay district," Darling stated in an "Executive Signing Declaration" attached to the new ordinance, according to a May 31 news release from the city.

The declaration further states that Darling is instructing staff to place this item on the agenda for today's city commission meeting for clarification and reconsideration.

"Furthermore, I am requesting staff to abstain from implementing or enforcing any changes under the ordinance until the city commission has the opportunity to provide further guidance," Darling wrote.

Vela and several other concerned members of the outdoor music community have many questions for

them. They have petitioned the city through the Freedom of Information Act to acquire records regarding the neighborhoods most affected by the noise to see how sound travels and if monitoring decibel levels will provide a sufficient solution.

"I'm strongly in favor of gathering data about decibel levels because for all we know, the disturbance is isolated to one particular block of the downtown district," Vela said. "The city claims that enforcement is difficult, but has failed to demonstrate why. This is a growing pain all cities have, and McAllen is in a position to benefit from the body of knowledge accumulated by these other cities and be a shining example of governing done right."

Cities such as Austin and New Orleans, with thriving entertainment districts surrounded by residential areas, have successfully managed to control noise and facilitate compromise between entertainment venues and neighboring locals, Vela said. He hopes that through these efforts they can better reach a compromise that satisfies the city and does not hurt live music venues.

Patrick Garcia, the owner of Yerberia Cultura, an all-ages outdoor cultural arts venue that was recently credited in an issue of Texas Monthly for "[giving] kids in the Rio Grande Valley a voice," feels that prohibiting outdoor amplification, and especially the 21-and-over rule, could hurt his business.

"We'd gladly move everything indoors if we had the space, but we don't have the literal space or the resources to make such a huge adjustment, so this would be a deathblow," Garcia said. "The 21-plus would be the nail in the coffin for us as a legit music venue. ... People of all ages come here for shows, specifically. An all-ages ban would deny young people the opportunity to perform and to experience different mediums of expression that I feel all-ages should have accessibility to."

Garcia credits the city's initial unwillingness to compromise to its overall drive for bigger, more commercial endeavors rather than cultivating cultural, artistic business opportunities.

"There are places like us, and Cine El

Rey, who have gotten national recognition for the city of McAllen, but then you have a clump of city leaders who seem out of touch [with] the good we're doing," Garcia said. "[These city officials] orchestrated millions of dollars in tax incentives for a chain restaurant called Dave & Buster's, when Main Event is down the street--in Pharr. ... It's just tough to trust certain city leadership at the moment considering the record some have cultivated."

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

pioneer. He, and his colleague and friend Henri Guillaumet, extended the reach of airmail service to the remote Andes of Argentina and Chile. They were the airmen of Aeropostale. From the ashes of Aeropostale would eventually rise Air France, the emblematic airline of France. In Buenos Aires, Saint-Exupéry met Consuelo Suncín, a Salvadoran woman,

The outdoor music community urges people to show their support by showing up to McAllen City Hall at 4 p.m. today or by emailing Mayor Darling and others who voted in favor of the ordinance--City Commissioners John Ingram, Aida Ramirez and Hilda Salinas--to compel them to factor compromise into their decision.

whom he married, and who preserved his literary legacy after his death in 1944. While serving in the resistance to the German occupation of France, he crashed his plane into the sands of the Sahara desert. His work still captivates and lives on, however, in the hearts of many as made manifest in the thoughtful staged production of "The Little Prince" at UTRGV.

Lara Rodríguez
Brownsville resident

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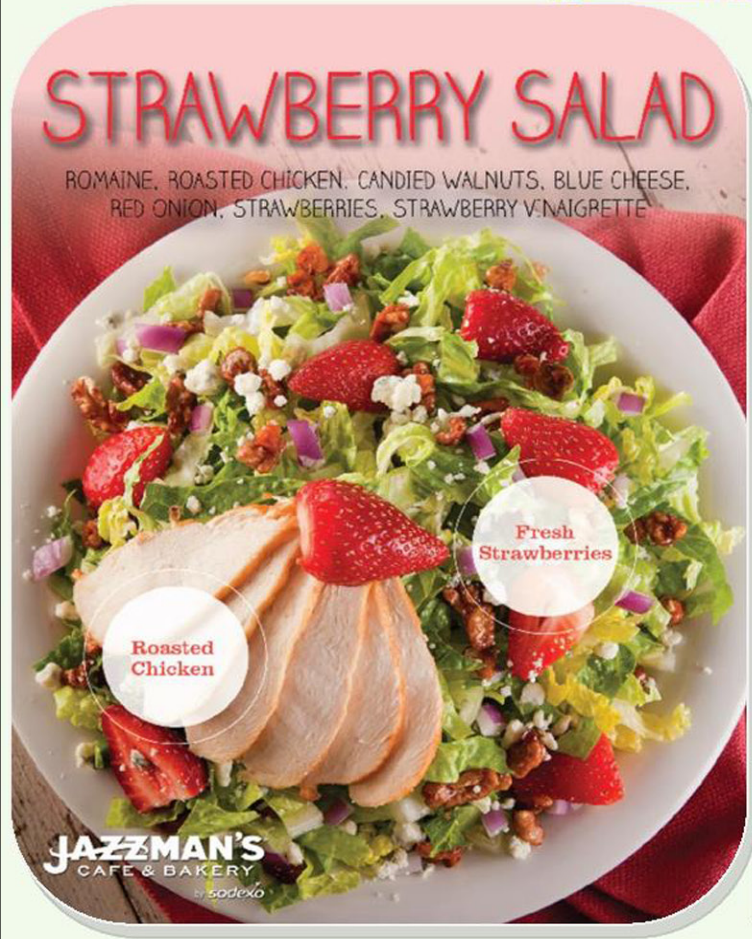


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Decision on football months away

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

The prospect of a football program went from a strong desire to a possibility this February. With the announcement of a feasibility study of a football team at UTRGV, the wheels began to spin.

The biggest name on the feasibility study committee is Mack Brown, former coach of the University of Texas Longhorns, who is a special adviser to the UT System. He has visited the Rio Grande Valley at least once to meet with UTRGV President Guy Bailey, Athletics Director Chris King and members of the feasibility committee.

The feasibility study committee is composed of prominent community members, such as developer Alonzo Cantu, builder of the Doctors Hospital at Renaissance and the RGV Toros' and Vipers' new facilities, and Bob Vackar, CEO of Bert Ogden Auto Group. The committee also

includes individuals with ties to the university, such as student-athlete Lew Stallworth and economics Professor Alberto Avila.

King said Brown, who chairs the committee, and special advisers spearhead the group with other members providing support if it looks like football has a chance to move forward.

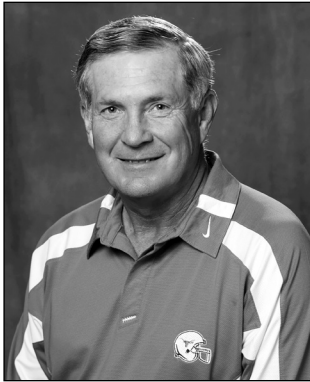
"When you look at the chair, Mack Brown, and the special advisers, they're really the ones with the expertise and the background of football, what it takes to start a football program and then maintain and sustain it," the athletics director said. "The rest of the committee is, basically, influence with our constituent groups if it's something that's viable for us to do, particularly the community members for private funding, student body representatives to talk to the student body in regards to what football brings to the greater good of the university."

Brown and Oliver Luck, the NCAA executive vice president of Regulatory Affairs and feasibility committee special adviser, threw out the first pitch during UTRGV's final baseball series of the season. They fielded questions from the news media regarding the study moving forward.

Luck, a former NFL quarterback, said the study can draw from other universities'



Chris King



Mack Brown

starting football programs.

Besides speaking of the excitement and growth of the university, Brown and Luck said there is a lot of work to be done and that most of

the resources to gather information is in place. They said the consulting firm, separate from the study committee, will do most of the heavy lifting in terms of providing monetary estimates based on the startup costs of football at programs across the country.

"The good news is that there have been a number of programs that have taken this step," said Luck, the former West Virginia University and Houston Oilers quarterback. "I think there will be plenty of data to make a solid decision. The consultant and team will do a bulk of the work in terms of looking at other universities in all various divisions and conferences, all the issues that need to get sorted out so that there's good information to make a good decision."

Luck's perspective is unique because of his knowledge of the inner workings of the governing body of college athletics.

Brown had high praise for those in charge at UTRGV, saying the organization leaves him no doubt that if football happens, it will be a high-quality production.

"These guys know what they are doing, they're organized," Brown said. "They want it to be great for the university, with the growth they want it to be great for the Valley. I don't think you'll see anything that's no first class out of them. If they decide to move forward with football at one point, it will be a first-class program."

He said the pace was a positive for UTRGV; there is not a sense of rush that could hurt them.

"The good thing right now is it's in such early stages they don't have to worry about, 'Is it next year, is it five years, or is it at all?' That's all ahead of the committee and the feasibility study to make sure they're doing it right," the current ESPN and ABC college football analyst said.

The idea of a football team at UTRGV has generated excitement among the community and student body along with serious concerns. King explained that this study may not come to the conclusion that football is feasible over the next five to 10 years. While growth was a major theme from Luck and Brown's visit, King maintained that growth must meet strategic goals.

"Now ... that we're one year under UTRGV, the sky's the limit for this school. We're looking at what programs for the students do you want to put in place for the long-term success of this university," said King, the former associate athletic director at the University of Alabama. "That's where we ask, 'Does football align with the university mission, vision and future values of the school?' It may be a deal where this is one or two of the major initiatives over the next five years

See FOOTBALL, Page 7

Vaqueros, Toros build unique bond

RGV FC calls UTRGV Soccer Complex early home

Bryan Ramos
THE RIDER

The bright lights of the UTRGV Soccer Complex are beaming, the stands are full of roaring, flag-waving fans, and tables border the sideline of the soccer field to provide extra seating.

It's another home game for the RGV FC Toros, the first-year United Soccer League hybrid affiliate club of the Houston Dynamo.

In March 2015, the USL awarded Edinburg a professional soccer team to be part of the now 29-team United Soccer League. The first-year franchise began play this year but is still in the process of building a 10,000-seat home stadium, located at 1616 S. Raul Longoria Rd. in Edinburg, the former site of Super Splash Adventure Waterpark.

With the stadium not being completed by the beginning of the Toros season this March, a backup plan for home games was needed and that's where UTRGV came in. The Toros and UTRGV reached an agreement in which RGV FC rented the UTRGV Soccer Complex from the university to play its first four USL home matches.

In addition to sharing the facility for practice and home games, the Toros scrimmaged the UTRGV Men's Soccer Team once in March and once in April to build on the connection between the two neighboring soccer teams.

Donovan Dowling, assistant coach of the UTRGV Men's Soccer Team and who also spends his time as a goalkeeper coach for the RGV FC Toros, provided a unique perspective on the relationship between the Toros and Vaqueros in their inaugural year.

"It's great to have the opportunity to be able to work with both teams," said Dowling, who joined UTRGV as assistant coach in January 2015. "It provides a great experience for the players on both teams to learn from each other and get



PHOTO COURTESY ONYDIA GARZA

RGV FC midfielder Emilio Garcia looks to create offense against San Antonio FC June 4 at the UTRGV Soccer Complex. The Toros won 1-0.

better. To be able to build with each of these programs and these players in their first year is really special."

The Toros home stadium was initially supposed to be ready for play on June 22, but that could be a long shot considering the expanded additions under construction in the stadium to provide more seating, suites and locker rooms are not yet completed. With the four-game rental agreement of the UTRGV

Soccer Complex set to end to give the field recovery time before the university soccer teams begin their season, the Toros might have to look elsewhere for a home stadium until theirs is ready.

Toros Head Coach Wilmer Cabrera, who played for the Colombian national soccer team in the 1998 FIFA World Cup, talked about the experiences of a first-year soccer franchise.

"I'm not sure if we're going to get to

play in our stadium this year, but it's been a huge benefit having UTRGV to have this relationship with," said Cabrera, who coached Chivas USA in Major League Soccer in 2014. "Soccer is important to this region of the country and I think that's why we've had a great show of support from the fans, so far, in our first year, and we hope it continues."

See TOROS, Page 7

Summer camps in the Valley



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Children practice during a violin session last Wednesday at the Art & Music Summer Camp in the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art. The 10 one-week sessions continue through Aug. 12 for children ages 6 to 15. Besides violin and guitar, the camp offers piano and art classes. For more information, call 542-0941.



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

Guitar instructor Hugo Aranda guides his group of students last Wednesday during a session at the Art & Music Summer Camp in the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art.



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Summer Youth Camp participants walk on balance beams during the Fit Kids class held last Tuesday at the UTRGV Wellness and Recreational Sports Complex in Edinburg.



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Summer Youth Camp participants are shown in volleyball class last Tuesday at the UTRGV Wellness and Recreational Sports Complex in Edinburg. Assistant Director Art Cabrera believes the activities and inclusivity keeps the children wanting to come back the next summer. There are a total of four sessions in the summer averaging more than 500 campers per year.

FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

or it may be one of the major initiatives in the back end of the decade.”

King said his role includes handling an exciting possibility and still remembering to be cautious when the study wraps up in the fall.

“They may say, ‘Let’s do it,’ but I know there are some major strategic goals we still have with our other 16 sports,” King said. “Football is a big big deal on major college campuses and there’s a lot of good reasons for it. But, at the end of the day, not done right, it can become a massive drain to the university.”

The study is projected to end in the fall and sometime in October, November or December may be the time the public finds out the fate of college football at UTRGV.

TOROS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The Toros played their final home game against OKC Energy FC last Saturday at the UTRGV Soccer Complex. Results were not available at press time. Their next scheduled home game is June 22 versus Arizona United SC, yet it is not clear where they will play as their rental agreement with UTRGV will have ended.

Visit us online at
utrgvrider.com

For information on the RGV FC Toros future schedule and plans, visit RGVFC.com.

UTRGV soccer will kick off in the dog days of summer when the women’s soccer team begins its practice Aug. 4 and the men begin theirs on Aug. 11. The Vaqueros will officially begin their season when the men’s team hosts a home friendly at 7 p.m. Aug. 17 against the St. Edward’s University Hilltoppers,

while the women’s home opener is at 7 p.m. Aug. 19 against the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Islanders. Keep up with all UTRGV athletics by visiting GoUTRGV.com.

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