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THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

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SPORTS

COMMITTEE COMPLETE

Commission approves final appointment

Arisbeth Rodriguez/THE RIDER

The Brownsville City Commission approved the district drawings presented by Rolando Rios (left), Brownsville's redistricting consultant, on the adoption of the 2022 City Commission Single Member District Boundaries. Also shown is Rick Vasquez, the Brownsville Planning and Redevelopment director.

Natalie Lapsley
THE RIDER

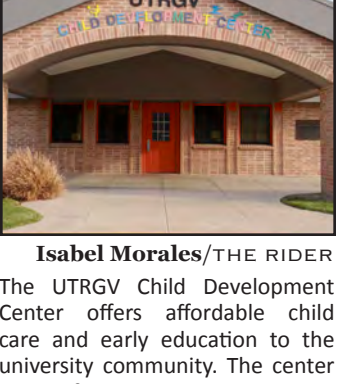
During last Tuesday's Brownsville City Commission meeting, commissioners approved the appointment of Tomas Tijerina, a local attorney, to the Charter Review Committee, a motion made by District 3 Commissioner Roy De los Santos.

The city charter currently allows the Brownsville Public Utilities Board to act as its own entity with full authority over the utilities systems.

The appointment of a review committee and plans to amend the charter come in light of the Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC Forensic Examination report, which investigated BPUB's activities leading up to and after an agreement with Tenaska Inc. to build a local natural gas-fired generating station,

See **BROWNSVILLE**, Page 10

Child development center impacting Vaqueros



Isabel Morales/THE RIDER

The UTRGV Child Development Center offers affordable child care and early education to the university community. The center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Teresita Dominguez
THE RIDER

The Child Development Center at UTRGV has received nearly $4 million in grant money from the U.S. Education Department to provide much-needed assistance to all UTRGV student parents across Willacy, Starr, Cameron and Hidalgo counties, university officials say.

UTRGV Survival Guide: Fourth in a Series

The center, which is located on the Edinburg campus, assists students with children.

Director Raquenel Sanchez said the center is looking into partnering with different local child care centers with the help of the grant so students can be served not only in Edinburg but also across the four counties.

"We're partnering with quality centers," Sanchez said. "They do have to be rated a four star rating through the Texas Rising Stars. ... It's

See **CENTER**, Page 10

Addressing humanitarian crisis

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

A learning framework lecturer has partnered with River Ministry, 13:2 Initiative and Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) at UTRGV to assemble 750 kits as part of an Adult Hygiene Kits Project.

Erika Perez, a lecturer in the University College, said her learning framework students have been conducting service learning projects throughout the semester.

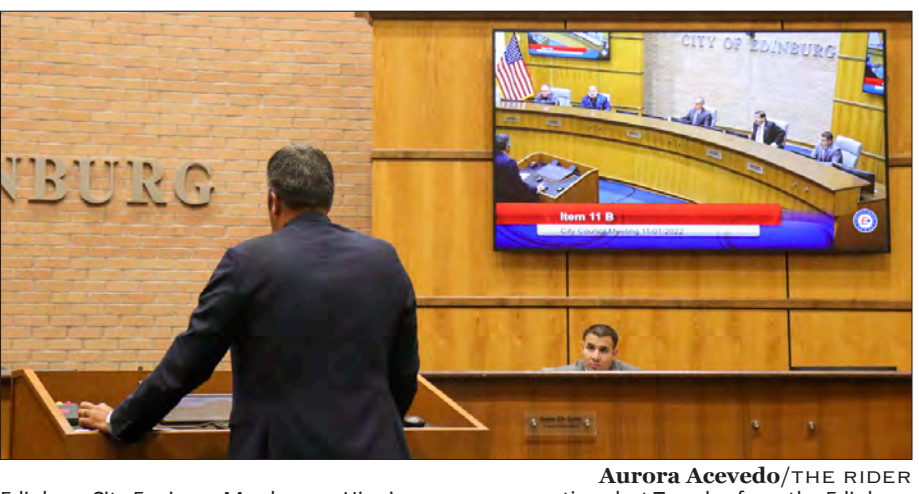
"[It's] all about connecting them with community agencies that have a need and, as students, responding to that need," Perez said. "So they serve at the community agency. They provide nine hours of service hours to that community agency, and then they go about reflecting and conducting other assignments as part of the service learning project."

She said it is important for students who are moving from a high school to a college environment to build connections and feel empowered and prepared to be future young professionals in their field.

"If I have a student who is a first year student and wants to one day be in the health professions career, I would like for them to start thinking early about that and thinking, 'What are some community agencies that I can connect to that match my career interests that will help build my experience in that field?,'" Perez said. "So not only does it raise civic engagement and civic responsibility for the student, but also helps them align better to their career

See **HUMANITARIAN**, Page 10

Edinburg City Council approves small business loan program



Aurora Acevedo/THE RIDER

Edinburg City Engineer Mardoqueo Hinojosa answers questions last Tuesday from the Edinburg City Council regarding the awarding of a contract for the construction of a multipurpose building to Gerlach Builders. Asked if the projects are managed by the engineering department, Hinojosa replied it is a two-step process. "Every project that is not designed in-house for this, like, in this case, by our architects, they act as a project manager," he said. "We have a consultant that's on board with management."

Andrea Flores
THE RIDER

During its meeting last Tuesday, the Edinburg City Council approved a Small Business Loan Program with LiftFund, a local nonprofit organization that provides loans to underserved business owners.

The organization has partnered with local governments, such as McAllen for eight years and Corpus Christi for 11 years, to equip young entrepreneurs with an interest buy down program, which offers borrowers reduced-interest loans.

The Edinburg Economic Development Corp. and the city will provide a total of $100,000 for the program. The city will supply $50,000 of funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The EEDC will supply another $50,000, according to agenda documents.

"With a $100,000 interest buy down participation through the City and EEDC, LiftFund can disburse $450,000 in capital loans to up to nine (9) small businesses with an average loan amount of $50,000 at a 2.5% interest rate," the documents state. "The number of small businesses may vary depending on the loan amounts."

In an interview with The Rider last Thursday, Nelda Ramirez, Edinburg assistant city manager, said the city is moving forward with this program to lower the loan interest rate from 8% or 9% to 2.5%.

"So it makes it more cost effective for them to be able to obtain funds that they need [to] pay back on a loan, but the interest rate is a lot, a lot lower than it normally would be," Ramirez said.

See **EDINBURG,** Page 11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday

HOST Club Guest Speaker

Yolanda G. Torres, owner of the restaurant María Curandera, will be a **guest speaker** at the **HOST Club's general meeting** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship Room 110 on the Edinburg campus.

Hot Dogs and Hot Cheetos

The **Society of Automotive Engineers-RGV Baja Racing Team** will sell **hot dogs and Hot Cheetos** from noon to 2 p.m. on the Science Promenade on the Edinburg campus and at the same time and place Thursday.

Texas Rising Chapter Meetings

Texas Rising will hold a meeting for **informational** and **planning sessions** from noon to 1:30 p.m. on the Brownsville campus. There will be **free food**.

Tuesday

Book Launch

Rio Grande Valley author Felicia Lopez's book launch for "**In Space and Time**" will take place at 11 a.m. in Liberal Arts Building South Room 304 on the Edinburg campus. There will also be a **poetry presentation** and **discussion** with Lopez. For questions, email felicia.lopez01@utrgv.edu.

Meet the Deans

The **Student Government Association** will host "**Meet the Deans**" for students to meet with the college and school representatives to ask questions about opportunities in their field from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.

Wednesday

Free Lunch Wednesday

The **Catholic Student Association** will hold a **free lunch** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Newman Catholic Student Center in Edinburg.

Coffee, Cookies and Ethics

The **Student Leadership Academy** and the **Center for Student Involvement** will host a conversation about ethics over **coffee and cookies** from 2 to 3 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus and from 5 to 6 p.m. in the University Center Cenizo Room on the Edinburg campus.

Coffee and Careers

Students can ask the **Career Center** about careers from 2:30 to 3 p.m. via Zoom.

Thursday

K.I.S.S. Fundraiser

The **Korean International Student Society** will sell **Asian snacks** from 12:30 to 3 p.m. on the Outdoor Grounds on the Edinburg campus.

Friday

Veterans Mental Health

The **Counseling Student Association** will host **Elda Arriaga**, director of the UTRGV Military and Veterans Success Center, and **Richard Clayton**, a clinical therapist for the **Counseling Center**, to speak about the **mental health** of veterans and active military from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

--Compiled by Landon Burns

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 27 and Nov. 2.

Oct. 27

9:26 a.m.: A male student reported his shoes were stolen from the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus while he was playing basketball. The case is under investigation.

9:27 a.m.: An employee reported being stung by a bee while driving a VOLT shuttle near Vaquero Plaza on the Brownsville campus. Brownsville Emergency Medical Services arrived and provided first-aid treatment.

10:44 a.m.: A staff member reported possible unauthorized access to an exercise equipment storage area due to unusual activity in the Texas Southmost College Garza Gymnasium in Brownsville. The area was checked and there were no signs of theft or forced entry.

2:37 p.m.: A student reported his Apple AirPods earpiece was stolen from the Science building on the Edinburg campus while in class. The case is under investigation.

4:48 p.m.: An employee reported being struck on her forehead by a tiedown cord that broke off from some boxes she was moving on a dolly in the Academic Support Facility on the Edinburg campus. The injury consisted of redness and swelling to the forehead. The employee declined emergency medical services.

9:21 p.m.: The City of Edinburg Police Department notified the UTRGV Police Department to be on the lookout on campus for a non-affiliated woman who reportedly committed a theft near campus. A UTRGV officer located the woman matching the description at the bus stop located on campus in front of the Visitors Center. While speaking with the woman, she was found to be highly intoxicated and was placed under arrest on a charge of public intoxication. While attempting to place the woman inside a patrol unit for transport to jail, she resisted by kicking and spitting on the officers. Officers utilized soft, empty-hand control techniques in order to secure the woman inside the unit. The woman was subsequently transported and booked into the Edinburg Municipal Jail. No injuries were sustained by any involved parties.

Oct. 31

9:24 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to Lot E-16 on the Edinburg campus in reference to a two-vehicle collision. No injuries were reported.

11:47 a.m.: An employee reported being concerned about the well-being of a student after receiving an email from them. The Harlingen Police Department was sent to the student'saddress and verified the student was OK.

1:27 p.m.: A student in the Main Building on the Brownsville campus reported being stung by a venomous caterpillar and requested emergency medical services. The student was evaluated and provided first aid but declined transportation to the hospital.

2:43 p.m.: A female student on the Edinburg campus reported past negative incidents on and off campus with a non-affiliated man during 2015 and 2016. The student is concerned that the individual will return to campus. At 5:39 p.m. the same day, the student reported she is concerned that the man, who was banned from a UTRGV student organization group chat, may attempt to contact her or come to campus.

Nov. 1

1:45 p.m.: A student reported that she was approached in Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus by her ex-boyfriend, also a student. The man left the area before the officer's arrival. The woman said he wanted to talk to her. No criminal offense occurred. The report was made for documentation purposes. At 12:24 p.m. Nov. 2, an officer made contact with the student's ex-boyfriend in the University Bookstore on the Brownsville campus to inform him that she no longer wants any contact with him.

3:44 p.m.: A student reported someone striking his vehicle with their vehicle and then leaving the scene in Lot E-9 on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

3:54 p.m.: A student reported an unknown person had stolen his wallet and prescription glasses from his backpack while it was left unattended in the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship building on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

5:24 p.m.: A UTRGV cashier in the Student Services Building on the Edinburg campus reported that, at the end of their shift, they were $100 over in cash. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

8:26 p.m.: A student reported that he was called abusive/profane names the previous day by an unidentified woman in the University Library on the Edinburg campus.

Nov. 2

8:56 a.m.: An employee found a plastic bag that contained two marijuana joints in Lot E-25 on the Edinburg campus. An officer recovered the items and logged them into evidence for destruction.

2:11 p.m.: Veterans Affairs police officers requested assistance with an adult male patient causing a disturbance at the VA Clinic in Harlingen. No criminal offense occurred, and the man subsequently left the area with a family member.

3:41 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to Student Rights and Responsibilities in the University Center on the Edinburg campus in reference to a concern about a student's well-being. Contact was subsequently made with the student's father, who said the student was OK.

4:15 p.m.: A student reported his AirPods were stolen from the University Library on the Edinburg campus.

--Compiled by Arisbeth Rodriguez

THE RIDER

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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Abigail Ollave

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A&E REPORTER
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SPORTS REPORTERS
Matthew Gonzalez
Jose Medina

SPANISH EDITOR
Fatima Gamez Lopez

REPORTERS
Brigitte Ortiz
Landon Burns
Andrea Flores
Teresita Dominguez
Juan Villarreal

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Roxanna Miranda
Daniela Martinez Salazar
Ramiro Castro Jr.
Aura Velasquez
Isabel Morales
Aurora Acevedo

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANTS
Jesse Valencia
Jesus Solis

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
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STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR
Azenett Cornejo

STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM ADVISER
Jesus Sanchez

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
Ana Sanchez
Maggie Castillo

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

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

Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu

Ask the Expert: Third in a Series

UTRGV professors talk cybersecurity

Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Landon Burns
THE RIDER

Nobody wants a computer virus. Even fewer want to lose information to criminals. Yet, it can be all too easy in today's world to make a costly mistake. Several professors offered tips on how to avoid cyber scams.

"The most important thing is that, try to be aware of what's happening because this [is] not something that you can simply ignore," said Liyu Zhang, a professor in the Computer Science department. "It is related to every single aspect of your life, especially nowadays. Most people throw so much information in their device. You just cannot not afford to ignore anything about your security."

Zhang said a fake website that mimics a common one can trick people into entering their username and password. This will give hackers access to the account, and through the account, they can potentially gain access to more information.

A more sophisticated method would be tricking a user into installing a program that will then monitor for personal information.

"The thing is, they don't [always] succeed ... within a certain probability," Zhang said. "Let's say 20% [or] 50%, but that would be good enough for them."

Mahmoud Quweider, a professor in the Informatics and Engineering Systems department, said the most famous scam is phishing. In phishing, a hacker will attempt to trick a user by sending them an email posing as somebody else. From there, a hacker might trick them into entering a false website or downloading malware.

Quweider also said that hackers can use Bluetooth and Wi-Fi to attack users. This can be achieved by giving Wi-Fi a false name to trick users into using the incorrect signal.

Asked why people fall for scams, Quweider replied that "trust is usually the biggest factor."

"A lot of times, we do not question," he said. "If somebody right now picks up the phone and tells me, 'I am John Doe from IT,' a lot of people, they would accept that answer, but you should always ... check those answers. ... Most proper channels, they will not ask for your user[name] and password."

However, if one gets scammed, their first priority should be to change their passwords. Even if there is no scam, individuals should change their passwords on a regular basis. Another action a student should take when they fall victim to a scam is to contact an administrator to help them deal with it.

Asked his thoughts on computers, Danny Lopez, an accounting junior, said "the majority of college students ... seem to understand" basic computer functions.

"There are some that are slower to catch on, because there is a lot of advanced functions that computers are capable of, and most of us are just capable of the ones that are helpful to us," Lopez said.

Inflation's impact on small businesses

PHOTO COURTESY ARRIANNA GUERRA

Arrianna Guerra, a psychology senior and owner of Crafted by Arri, participates in a pop-up market on May 7, hosted by Jitterz Coffee Roasters in Mission.

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

Since COVID-19 began in 2020, small business owners and consumers have been dealing with inflation and supply chain crises that have raised prices.

A small business is "a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation" that has fewer than 1,500 employees and less annual revenue than a corporation or regular-sized business, according to the U.S. Department of State.

Arrianna Guerra, a psychology senior, is the owner of Crafted by Arri, a small business focused on custom products, such as T-shirts, stickers, tote bags, tumblers and much more. Guerra started her online shop in April 2020.

To continue her business, she had to choose between her dreams and her job.

"I started to work at an office at the beginning when I started UTRGV

See **BUSINESSES**, Page 11

Aurora Acevedo/THE RIDER

Criselda Garcia (left), associate dean for Initial Preparation Programs for the College of Education and P-16 Integration, and James Jupp, a professor for Teaching and Learning, attend the "Meet the Deans" event hosted by the UTRGV Student Government Association last Tuesday in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. Students spoke with their academic college dean and asked various questions regarding their fields of study.

Meet the deans

Juan Villarreal
THE RIDER

On Nov. 1, the UTRGV Student Government Association hosted "Meet the Deans" in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus, during which students asked questions about their chosen major.

"We are here to discuss any questions and concerns and ideas for degree options, academic programs and internships," Kassandra Garcia, SGA senator for the College of Sciences, said during the opening statements.

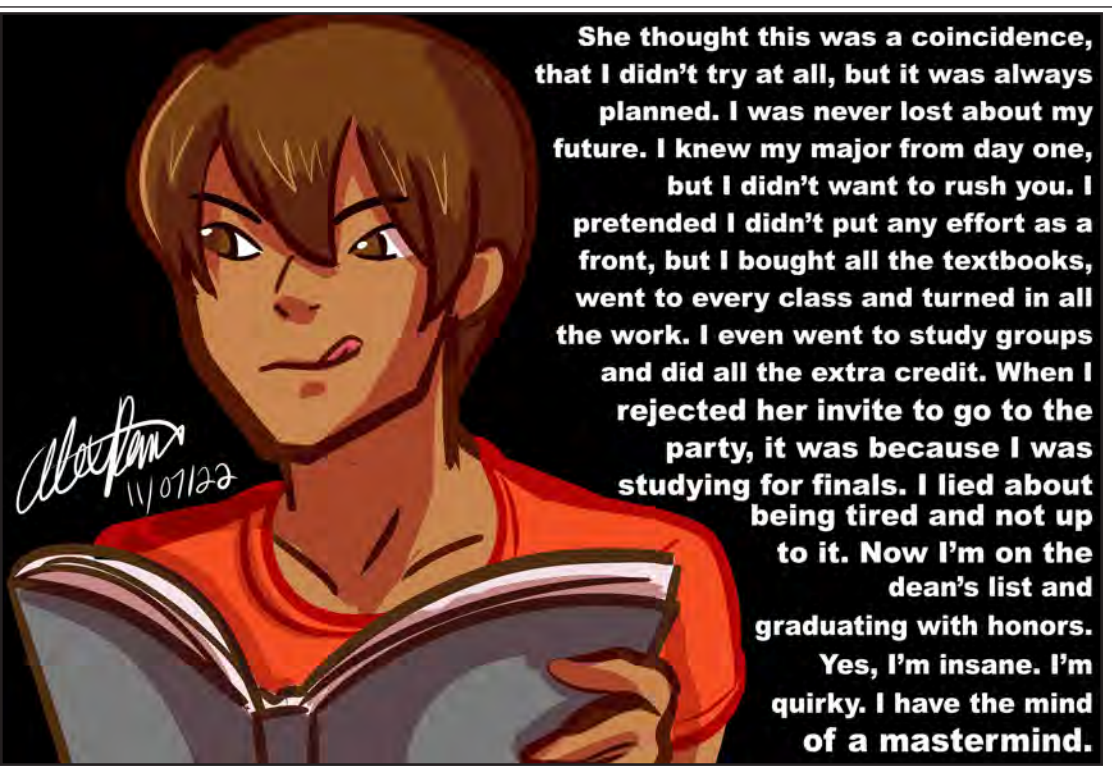
Members of the SGA felt that this event would be beneficial to students and faculty.

"The faculty that is here at UTRGV really cares about its students and [Meet the Deans is] an opportunity for students to get to know about who's in charge of their education and how they can form connections," said Jonathan Dominguez, SGA president and a biology senior.

Having a dean in attendance from every college that UTRGV offers was not an easy task, according to Dominguez.

"It required a lot of teamwork [and] a lot of communication," he said. "It was a three-to-four-month process. I think we started planning for this since August. ...

See **DEANS**, Page 11



A day in the life of a Brownsville art major

Aura Velasquez
PHOTOGRAPHER

As I ride the 7:30 a.m. shuttle bus to Edinburg, trying to take a nap in the cold and most uncomfortable seats, I think to myself, "This could have easily been an online class."

As I arrive at the main campus in Edinburg, I buy breakfast at the Student Union and take my online class, where I have to hear the professor disclose a student's GPA (illegal, by the way) and compare it to their work.

Once class (soon-to-be-lawsuit) finishes, I run to catch the bus to the Visual Arts building that is off campus for some reason.

The bus times don't even correlate with the class hours, so I arrive five minutes late.

I get to class, where we watch YouTube tutorials, a website where I can watch these videos for free. I am paying tuition for YouTube tutorials.

During the class, I have to leave early because I just might miss the shuttle bus back to Brownsville, so I check the screenshots of the bus schedule and calculate which bus I have to catch.

I leave class around 45 minutes in (the class runs two hours and 40 minutes), which is the latest I can stay to catch the city bus back to the Edinburg campus.

Hopefully, this time the city buses are on schedule. Oh, no! It's five minutes late and there's a strange man riding inside, talking about how COVID-19 is a hoax to control people.

I missed the shuttle bus back to Brownsville but, hey, that gives me an hour and a half to eat food comfortably.

> As I'm looking at my choices, it seems that I have no choice but to do it all over again next semester.

Once I finish my lunch/dinner, I line up to take the 5 p.m. shuttle back to Brownsville. Tuckered out, I go to my next class. Actually, this class isn't that bad. It's a studio class that started 15 minutes ago. I stay a bit later to compensate for the time that I missed and work on my art project.

Then, I go home and remember that I need to register for classes. As I'm looking at my choices, it seems that I have no choice but to do it all over again next semester.

VAQUERO VOICE

What topics do you wish you could learn about in college?

Antonio Gonzalez
computer science junior

"Probably about, like, the cultures that are here at the university, of other people. It would be nice to learn about the diversity here at the university. Pretty cool."

"I would like to learn [more] about creative writing, publishing and, I guess, art in general. More art."

Elijah Medrano
English junior

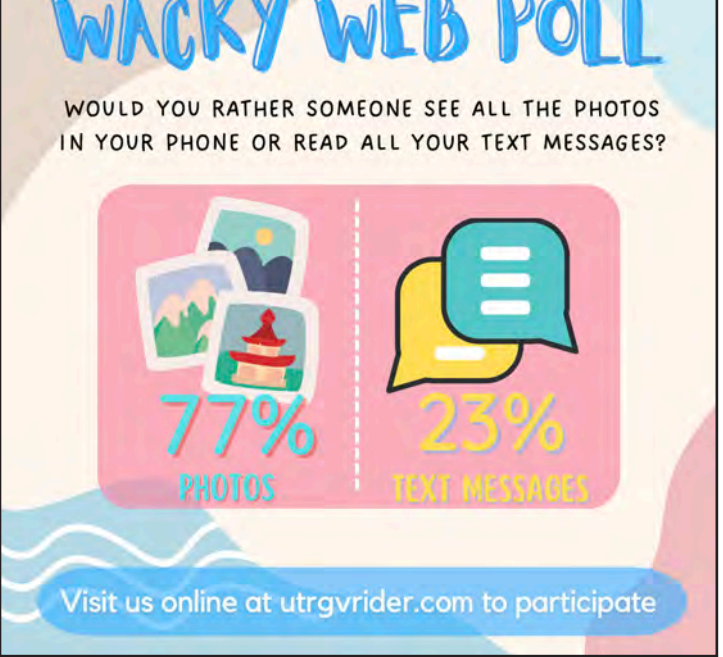
Aidaly Alvarado
biology junior

"I would say how to manage time for your classes and your assignments, 'cause I'm actually having that issue right now. So, I wish there [could] be, like, some sort of, like, course that would teach you guys how to better prepare yourself and … I guess, release your stress so that you could function properly and not, you know, go crazy."

"Pues a mí me gustaría aprender sobre todo sobre las ciencias porque mi carrera es sobre medicina. Entonces, me gustaría saber todo lo que tenga que ver con el cuerpo humano y, pues, ciencias en sí".

Alejandro Rodriguez
estudiante de primer año de biología

--Compiled by Abigail Ollave
--Photos by Fatima Gamez Lopez



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

Impacto de la inflación en las pequeñas empresas

Fatima Gamez Lopez
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

Desde que comenzó COVID-19 en 2020, los propietarios de pequeñas empresas y los consumidores han estado lidiando con la inflación y las crisis de la cadena de suministro que han elevado los precios.

Según el Departamento de Estado de los EE. UU., una pequeña empresa es "una propiedad única, sociedad, corporación" que tiene menos de 1,500 empleados y menos ingresos anuales que una corporación o una empresa de tamaño regular.

Arrianna Guerra, estudiante de último año en psicología, es propietaria de *Crafted by Arri*, una pequeña empresa enfocada en productos personalizados, como camisetas, calcomanías, bolsas de tela, vasos y mucho más. Guerra abrió su tienda en línea en abril de 2020.

Para continuar con su negocio, tuvo que elegir entre sus sueños y su trabajo.

"Empecé a trabajar en una oficina al principio cuando inicié UTRGV [y] comencé mi negocio al mismo tiempo", dijo Guerra. "Y renuncié a mi trabajo para hacer mi negocio tiempo completo. Ese fue un gran paso para mí. Estaba muy nerviosa, pero realmente no podía equilibrar todo junto".

Después de casi tres años, dijo que la inflación está afectando su negocio.

"Todo ha estado subiendo y hago todo lo posible para que mis precios no sean demasiado altos", dijo Guerra. "A partir de ahora, todavía no he subido mis precios. ... Puedo decirte que mis márgenes de ganancia cuando comencé eran mucho más altos de lo que son ahora y hago todo lo posible para mantener mis precios bajos".

FOTO CORTESÍA ARRIANNA GUERRA

Arrianna Guerra, estudiante de último año de psicología y propietaria de *Crafted by Arri*, participa en un mercado el 7 de mayo, organizado por Jitterz Coffee Roasters en Mission.

Gautam Hazarika, presidente del Departamento de Economía y profesor asociado, dijo que la inflación afecta principalmente a los consumidores.

"Se considera que [la inflación] está perjudicando a los consumidores", dijo Hazarika. "Las empresas pueden transmitir el aumento en el costo de los materiales que compran. Sin embargo ... con el aumento de los precios, los consumidores pueden volverse más selectivos. Es posible que comiencen a comparar precios más. Entonces, es posible [que] una empresa [aumente] sus precios porque sus propios ... proveedores están cobrando más".

Guerra dijo que es difícil manejar el aumento de los precios.

"Es difícil, porque piensas, 'Oh, si subo mis precios, estará bien'", dijo. "'Pero no sé si voy a perder los clientes que ya tengo.' Tal vez no puedan pagar unos dólares extra, y lo entiendo totalmente. No voy a avergonzar a nadie. Es difícil como dueño de un negocio y también como un simple [cliente]".

Guerra dijo que sus ventas han disminuido desde que la ciudad de McAllen cambió las restricciones a los mercados (*pop-up markets*). Los dueños de negocios que organicen un mercado en McAllen deben obtener un permiso temporal que será válido por solo 10 horas por un día.

En la ciudad de Mission, "la gente se quejaba de que [los mercados] ocupaban los lugares de estacionamiento", dijo.

"Después de todo el drama de [las ciudades] de McAllen y Mission ... [los mercados] se han parado mucho", dijo Guerra. "Eso ha afectado a muchas pequeñas empresas, incluyéndome. Solo he estado en quizás tres mercados desde el verano, lo cual es muy bajo porque solía ir a uno todos los fines de semana".

Lora Martinez se graduó de UTRGV en el 2016 con una maestría en administración pública y es copropietaria de Moboba junto con su esposo, Tony Innouvong y su hermana, Emily Innouvong. Moboba es una tienda de postres y té boba de propiedad familiar en Edinburg que abrió sus puertas en julio de 2022.

"Entonces, la esencia es ser un auténtico té boba para el Valle del Río Grande", dijo Martinez. "Hay un deseo, especialmente de la generación más joven aquí, [por] más productos inspirados en Asia, como el té boba".

Martinez dijo que algunos de los cambios que enfrenta Moboba son el costo de los bienes.

Vea **INFLACIÓN**, Página 10

UTRGV students' costume contest

Leon Kennedy, a music performance junior (left), and Damian Oviedo, an accounting freshman, pose before they are called to perform on stage during the costume contest Oct. 31 in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

Isabel Morales/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Melanie Lizzotte, an environmental science senior (from left); Katherine Chapa, a biology freshman; Adolfo Garza, a psychology senior; and Heriberto Santoyo, a mechanical engineering junior, wait to participate in the costume contest Oct. 31 in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

Early voting rock painting

Interdisciplinary studies freshman Arely Agado participates in the rock painting event hosted Oct. 31 by Texas Rising RGV to create awareness of voting and to celebrate Halloween on the Library lawn on the Brownsville campus.

Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Texas Rising RGV campus organizer Estrella Torres (left) and deputy field Maria Rodriguez explain the rock painting activity in celebration of Halloween and to bring attention to early voting. The event was held Oct. 31 on the Library lawn on the Brownsville campus.

A beacon for film and archives in the Valley

Omar E. Zapata
A&E REPORTER

ENTRE, a film center and regional archive in McAllen with a focus on workshops centered on filmmaking, film screenings and the collection, preservation, digitization of home movies and oral histories, hopes to plant and expand these ideas about film throughout the Rio Grande Valley.

Founded in October 2021 by Andres Sanchez and C. Díaz, *ENTRE* has hosted a variety of events in the last year throughout the Rio Grande Valley, from workshops and film screenings to Home Movie Day, where community members were welcomed to bring their old home movies to view.

Receiving a $20,000 Interchange Artist Grant from the Mid-America Arts Alliance, the founders said *ENTRE*'s first introduction to the community was at the McAllen Art Walk in October 2021, which was followed by a community *plática* for anyone interested in the organization.

The founders, having been friends for several years, said they had both been dreaming and scheming up the idea of *ENTRE* since March 2021.

Previously living in Los Angeles, Díaz told The Rider that being active in the Echo Park Film Center, a community film center in the Echo Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, is one of the biggest models for the blueprint for *ENTRE*.

Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

Andres Sanchez and C. Díaz are the co-founders of *ENTRE*, which is located in the McAllen Creative Incubator. *ENTRE* is an artist-run community film center that helps to educate other creatives in the art of film preservation.

Seeing how involved Sanchez was with the community and the arts, Díaz said, "I shared [with Sanchez] this, like, big manifesto that I had written about the film center and, like, what kind of things we would offer and our values. ... I asked if he was down to go in and start making this thing become a reality. ... And ever since then, we've just been kind of working towards it, applying for grants ... brainstorming ideas for workshops, and screenings and stuff like that."

Some of the workshops recently involved direct animation, cameras, lighting and, most recently, an eight-week intensive workshop focused on documentary filmmaking over the summer.

"We met every Saturday in the afternoon for about four hours," Díaz said. "And we talked about the ethics of documentaries, different documentary styles, camera, lighting, sound 101, editing 101. ... We wanted people to experiment and play around with storytelling and find their voice through that experimentation."

On Sept. 3, *ENTRE* screened the documentaries at COMMONSPACE in McAllen for the community, which brought their biggest crowd yet.

"[The audience was] really engaging with the filmmakers after the screen at the Q&A panel," Díaz said. "So that was really awesome to give the filmmakers that time to answer questions and kind of think about their work in different ways and just celebrate them for all the

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Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez
ONLINE EDITOR

Aries-Now that you understand your purpose in life and where you are meant to be, go after what you've been holding yourself back from. Fortune is on your side just waiting for your next move. Keep the momentum and energy you have and implement it in your lifestyle to reach true happiness.

Leo-Don't be afraid to welcome new opportunities into your life, as it will help you grow in the long run. Be open to changes that may happen and learn to embrace them. Sometimes, all we need in our life is a little change. Small adjustments will take you in a better direction.

Sagittarius-Although the year is coming to an end, don't let it affect your productivity. Learn to finish off the year with a bang, instead of barely making it through. There will be plenty of time to rest and enjoy the winter break afterward. For now, stay focused and take charge. It will certainly pay off.

Libra-The next couple of months will be fulfilling toward your needs. Therefore, don't doubt if what you're doing is right. Stay on the path that you are on without worrying what will happen next. Just know that the universe has your back and all your hard work will pay off soon.

Gemini-Many relationships, whether it be with a partner, family member or friend, can take time to flourish. When first meeting an individual, we tend to hide most of ourselves until we feel comfortable. Therefore, instead of being quick to judge on first impressions, give it some time. Not all connections start off strong.

Aquarius-Now that you have gotten back from your small vacation, it is time to focus on reality. Be on top of your tasks and start getting things done before they pile up. Make sure everything has been cleared and your boundaries are still aligned with your goals.

Scorpio-This week will spice things up for you, so be prepared to take on that challenge. Set aside unnecessary things that are distracting you from making progress. Remember that time is always moving forward, so decide what the next measures you need to take are.

Pisces-Having problems can make life difficult to enjoy at times. For this reason, it is crucial to spend a couple of moments in solitude to figure out where you stand. Once you've developed a plan, adjust your mindset and don't let it get to you. Remember: mind over matter.

Cancer-Because you wear your heart on your sleeve, you are prone to getting heartache. For that reason, get to know who you are connecting with before becoming vulnerable. As you start testing the water, decide if you can handle what you're getting into.

Taurus-Be vocal about your needs and wants in certain situations. Instead of being stubborn and reserved about what you desire, be real with those around you. Communication can solve most issues. Only then will people know what is expected from them.

Virgo-Don't worry about fixing what is out of your reach. Shift that focus to what is within your parameters. Everything else will start to fall into place in its own natural way. Stay patient throughout the time you are figuring things out, but most importantly, don't lose hope.

Capricorn-Taking a break is much needed to reenergize yourself. By now, your mind and body are starting to feel burnt out and that is affecting you more than you know. Use any free time in your schedule to hang out with old friends and reconnect.

Sudoku

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

Last week's puzzle answer key:

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

Dibble Dabbles

by Alejandro Peña

Athlete of the week

Janie Delgado

Photo Courtesy Vashaun Newman

Janie Delgado, an accounting sophomore from McAllen is a long-distance runner on the UTRGV Women's Track & Field Team.

Q: What do you like to do in your downtime?
A: "Work. I don't really have a lot of free time. [I work at] Academy Sports + Outdoors. You're always on the move and being productive. There's really no break time. So, I like being up on my feet."

Q: What is your favorite show/ movie?
A: "I like 'Gravity Falls' on Disney XD. It's full of conspiracy theories and I'm really into that."

Q: How did you get into track?
A: "Well, I first started [in] seventh grade. And ever since that, I took off and I noticed that it became a passion of mine. And senior year is when I got scouted to run [at UTRGV]."

Q: What are you most looking forward to in your first season with the team?
A: " I've been, at most meets, improving my times. Like, better than before. And I'm excited to see how fast I could get."

Q: Who has been your biggest inspiration or role model?
A: "I'm not sure. There's not an individual in mind. But I just keep seeing the girls in front of me who I could be with. My teammate [Samantha Gonzalez], she's right up there. She plays a good part in my motivation to get up there and stay with her, you know."

Q: What is your favorite food?
A: "Anything potatoes, and mashed potatoes."

--Compiled by Matthew Gonzalez

Women's basketball ready for new season

Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

Junior guard Jena' Williams works defensive techniques against freshman guard Aaliyah McMillan during practice Oct. 31 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Teammates Burcu Soysal (from left), Charlotte O'Keefe, KaCee Kyle and Tiffany McGarity look on.

Jose Medina
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Women's Basketball Team ended last season with a conference record of 8-10 WAC and 14-19 overall. The team began to pick up the pace near the end of the season and hopes to carry that momentum into this new season.

Head coach Lane Lord said they had a really good end-of-the-season performance.

"We offset the two top teams in the league on the road," Lord said. "Grand Canyon [University] and Stephen F. Austin [State University]. We actually broke Stephen F. Austin. They had the longest winning streak in the country, 34 games, I believe, in a row at home, and we were able to beat them the last game of the regular season."

Lord said he is excited for the season to start.

"Oklahoma State [University] is a great challenge for us, and we're real excited about the matchup," he said.

Asked what he is excited about in the new season, Lord replied that he is excited that out of the 29 games, they will play 15 at home.

"We have the kids game against Texas A&M [University]-Corpus Christi that we'll play at home in front of 2,800 screaming little kids, so that's gonna be fun.

"The South Padre Island is also always a highlight for us and then our conference schedule," Lord said.

The UTRGV South Padre Island Battle on the Beach and the UTRGV South Padre Island Classic are basketball games hosted by UTRGV in the South Padre Island Convention Center.

The Vaqueras' kids game will take place Nov. 29 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus against Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Children from throughout the Rio Grande Valley area will visit UTRGV to learn about the campus and watch the basketball game afterward.

> "We offset the two top teams in the league on the road."
>
> ***--Lane Lord***
>
> ***Women's Basketball Head coach***

Lord said the team will get to play conference teams twice and will have a "true champion in the league."

He said they stay motivated by making the players believe in themselves and how good they can be.

"Because we really have a lot of talent, we just got to make sure they ... work hard every day, and we got to keep each other accountable," Lord said.

He said the returning players have done a good job and that they help teach the new players. This season has seven returning and nine new players.

One returning player is junior guard Jena' Williams, coming back for her third year with the program.

Asked about the team chemistry, Williams replied that it is good, but it started off slow because they had a lot of new people.

"Over time, we've developed it," Williams said. "I think we're in a good place. Everyone gets along. We have fun. It's a very goofy team, a lot of personality. Just different backgrounds kind of mixing together."

Asked what has been some motivation for the new season, she said they started doing well at the end of last season and the team wants to return to the feeling of belonging and being one of the best teams in the conference.

"It was a good feeling, the buzz around our team, people stopping us in the hallways," Williams said. "Even once we got back to campus, people were talking about it for a couple months."

Asked how the team felt about Madness, she said she loves it and thinks it is one of the coolest events.

Madness is a UTRGV event in which the basketball teams are introduced. The event includes music, performances, dance competitions

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BROWNSVILLE

Continued from Page 1

which never came to fruition despite rate increases to fund the project.

Amendments cannot be made until May 2023 because charter elections are limited to once every two years, according to City Attorney Victor Flores. However, the commission has the option of holding a special election if the proposed revisions are not ready by May, Flores said during an Oct. 18 meeting.

The committee, which will propose amendments to the charter, also includes Carlos Cascos, appointed by Mayor Trey Mendez; Gerardo Martinez, appointed by City Commissioner At-Large "A" John Cowen Jr.; Daisy Zamora, appointed by City Commissioner At-Large "B" Rose Gowen; Michael Gonzalez, appointed by District 1 City Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizaña; Evaristo Cardenas, appointed by District 2 City Commissioner Jessica Tetreau, and David Merrill, appointed by District 4 City Commissioner Pedro Cardenas.

In an interview with The Rider, De los Santos said in his search for an appointee, he looked for people with "a decent understanding of what the charter is."

"While I know the Tenaska and PUB audit has been what's driving the push for a charter review, the charter is so much more comprehensive than just PUB," he said. "I don't want someone who's just going to be focused on that."

De los Santos said he wanted someone who was going to "think outside the box." His decision process consisted of hearing recommendations, including some from residents, reviewing resumes and interviewing potential appointees.

"I just had a really strong sense for how [Tijerina] would serve on this committee," De los Santos said. "He wasn't someone who was seeking it out. He was someone that was recommended. He doesn't have a history of serving on a lot of city boards that I've seen and, in talking to him about PUB, he was talking about things that I wouldn't normally consider, and I sort of like that. I don't want someone that's just going to be a carbon copy of what I would do in that position."

During the meeting, Flores clarified that because the commission is creating the committee, it can allow committee sessions to take place remotely if it chooses.

"Given the nature of the work that we're talking about, and I don't want to see the work rushed, but by the same token, we would like to try and make the May elections of next year," De los Santos said during the meeting. "That being the case, I want to make sure we're not absolutely required to [have] the quorum present in person, are we? ... I think I would like to see that exception so that these committee members can meet remotely as much as possible with, of course, the stream being open to the public for transparency."

Mendez agreed, and the commission unanimously approved both the appointment and the proposed exceptions.

A Charter Review Committee meeting was scheduled for 5 p.m. last Wednesday.

Commissioners also listened to and approved a presentation by Rolando Rios, Brownsville's redistricting consultant, on the adoption of the 2022 City Commission Single Member District Boundaries.

"As you know, after the census, everyone has to redraw their election districts," Rios said. "I have to compliment the elected officials here, because redistricting can be a very contentious process. However, in this case, we went through a give-and-take process. Everybody had an input and came to an agreement."

He said that after applying the 2020 census data to existing districts, there was a deviation of over 60%, which means there was "a lot of growth" in Districts 3 and 4. Deviations exceeding even 10% require redistricting, according to the presentation.

"The 60% deviation was clearly unconstitutional, and clearly you had to redistrict," Rios said.

He said he drew a new district plan using input from the elected officials that has only a 5% deviation, which is "clearly constitutional." The new drawing leaves room for growth in each district and equalizes the population in all of them.

Galonsky Pizaña asked if the proposed boundary lines can be used to "more equitably distribute resources across the city."

De los Santos said the distribution of resources should be about "where the greatest needs are for the citizens of Brownsville."

The commission unanimously approved the district drawings on first reading.

CENTER

Continued from Page 1

not just any center that we're going to partner with. It's centers that are four-star-quality rating and that are committed to becoming an accredited [center]."

The new grant will assist eligible UTRGV students in paying for full-time child care at the center as well as daycares contracted throughout the Rio Grande Valley, according to Letty Benavides, associate vice president for Auxiliary Services.

"The importance of it, obviously, is just removing the financial obstacle for student parents to have reliable child care," Benavides said. "If we could remove those kinds of obstacles for our own students, it'll help them complete their higher education."

With 60 to 65 slots available on the Edinburg campus, the center wants to open opportunities throughout the Valley, and they used the grant to do so, she said.

"We're going to impact more students that way and, hopefully, it'll translate to increased retention and graduation rates," Benavides said.

The center accepts children ages 3 months to 5 years.

"We have two infant classrooms and then we have 33 toddler classrooms and one preschool," Sanchez said.

In order to receive the grant, which waives the tuition of the center, the student must be eligible for the Pell Grant.

"Our teachers all have their associate's degrees or their CDA's ... which is a child development credential that they have to go to school for as well," Sanchez said. "Most of our assistants are student workers that are either going towards child development or they're going to be working with children in their future."

Registration for the Child Development Center is open throughout the year.

"If anyone is interested, all they need to do is go into our website and there is a registration form that they fill out and so we receive that right away, and if we do have a space available, we'll call the student right away," Sanchez said.

Parents are required to pay a $50 registration fee every semester.

Registration can be done through the center's website.

Sanchez said there is currently a waitlist for infants, but some spots are available for toddlers.

The center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, as well as during spring break and semester breaks.

HUMANITARIAN

Continued from Page 1

match that they're trying to look for. So it serves various purposes as part of that project."

Perez said students assemble the kits at the BSM Global Blends Deli across from the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus.

"So it started with [BSM] having a need," she said. "They didn't have the staff for it, but I had a class and we all went to the BSM and assembled all those kits."

Frances Doria, BSM associate director, said this is the first time the organization has partnered with learning framework students to work on the hygiene kits.

"Our mission is to show God's love to students, so that is one way we're doing that," Doria said. "And we know that there's a lot of need in the community, a lot of need with students. Just being there for the community and providing them with resources they need."

She said BSM is thankful to be able to partner with UTRGV because they want to walk students through their college journey.

The Office of Engaged Scholarship and Learning Office provided Perez's class with the items for the project this semester, Perez said.

"So we have the River Ministry and 13:2 Initiative, who are a coalition of organizations along the border who are trying to meet the urgent needs of the humanitarian crisis, and one of the questions that I asked was, 'What's the main need at the border?'," she said. "And they said hygiene. So, you have people who are traveling from Guatemala, from Mexico, sometimes all parts of the world, who are coming and joining us at the border. And a lot of the time, they're not bringing a big backpack or all their stuff."

The hygiene kits contain shampoo, a toothbrush, toothpaste, a bar of soap and deodorant.

"So then, I connected a team of my students who want to be health care professionals [with the project] so that team is the one that assembled the adult hygiene kits because it matches and aligns with their career field," Perez said. "And then also it meets the needs of our border. And there's impact not only for the students who are assembling it, but for the people that are going to be benefiting from the kit."

With donations from the Office of Engaged Scholarship and Learning, students will be able to assemble 700 kits next semester, she said.

"I think one thing that is important that we're doing through this project is to empower young professionals to jump-start a lifetime of service," Perez said. "And that is what we're doing through this project. ... If we can generate that mindset through this project early on in the semester, I can only imagine what they'll do in the sophomore year. Like, maybe they'll go back and serve. ... So it really widens their opportunity and experiences that they can have on campus. So, hopefully, that's also another opportunity for them to enrich their student life ... while they're here at UTRGV."

Isabel Morales/THE RIDER

Biology freshmen Karla Mora (from left), Illanely De Los Santos and Rosemary Luna help prepare about 750 adult hygiene kits. They are students in Lecturer Erika Perez's Learning Framework class who are participating in the Adult Hygiene Kits project as part of their service learning.

INFLACIÓN

Continuación de Página 5

"Con el aumento del costo de los productos, nos hemos dado cuenta de que ... ha venido menos gente a la tienda solo porque todo se está volviendo más caro", dijo. "Entonces, me imagino que la gente tiene menos ingresos disponibles para gastar en cosas como el té boba o un postre".

Moboba tuvo que adaptarse al incremento de precios.

"Solíamos usar purés frescos de una empresa ... pero descubrimos que si lo hacíamos nosotros mismos, reducía los costos", dijo Martínez. "Eso nos animó a hacer nuestro propio puré, nuestros propios condimentos en casa, pero eso viene con más tiempo que se necesita para preparar esas cosas".

Hazarika dijo que las subidas de precios afectan a los consumidores.

"La inflación básicamente perjudica a nuestros consumidores", dijo. "Si sus ingresos no cambian, si obtiene la misma cantidad de dólares de ingresos todos los meses y su costo de vida está aumentando, naturalmente se verá afectado por esto".

EDINBURG
Continued from Page 1

Mayor Ramiro Garza Jr. asked Ramirez to focus on small businesses on East University Drive around the Hidalgo County Courthouse since they will "be affected during the construction or reconstruction of [State Highway] 107 because there's drainage going to be put in there."

"If there's a way to target those areas, a lot of the small businesses, you know, I think they're going to need a little bit of help and I think this program may help them," Garza said.

The mayor also said he will be asking the EEDC board to increase next year's amount offered by the city so that more small businesses have access to the program.

Marlene R. Rodriguez, LiftFund senior business development officer, said the organization has already begun to reach out to the Small Business Administration for a community walk-through to inform small business owners about the program.

LiftFund will administer the loans and will provide business owners with several services, including program design and promotion, demographic and impact reporting and website design.

The Small Business Loan Program will start in about two weeks and will last for a 12-month period, Ramirez said.

The Edinburg Police Department gave a presentation on the launch of Socrata Citizen Connect, a map site created to inform and alert visitors and residents of police activities, such as minor accidents, in a specific area.

Police Chief Jaime Ayala clarified what a minor accident entails as he said it is a call for service, such as a person calling the police regarding loud music or a suspicious person in the area.

Ayala told The Rider during an interview last Thursday that the site will also track reported car crashes in an area.

"There are some crimes, some offenses that you won't see on there, sex crimes, some drug offenses, some of the information that we just don't need to be putting out in the map, but for the most part, everything that somebody would be really interested in is going to be available for them to search," he said during the council meeting.

Carla Bautista, a crime analyst for the Police Department, said the site will be updated every 15 minutes and users have access to obtain daily, weekly and monthly reports via email, if desired.

"The activity occurring in the neighborhood and the transparency that we are projecting is to give members of the community or members that moved to Edinburg the ability to look at what crimes are happening in their neighborhood," Ayala told The Rider.

During the meeting, he said the site might be available as early as today to the public and will appear as a link on the city's website.

BUSINESSES
Continued from Page 3

[and] I started my business at the same time," Guerra said. "And I quit my job to do my business full time. That was a big step for me. I was really nervous, but I really could not balance everything all together."

After almost three years, she said inflation is affecting her business.

"Everything has been going up and I try my best not to have my prices too high," Guerra said. "As of right now, I haven't yet raised my prices. ... I can tell you my profit margins when I first started were much higher than they are right now and I just try my best to keep my prices low."

Gautam Hazarika, chair of the Economics department and an associate professor, said inflation primarily affects consumers.

"[Inflation] is considered to be hurting consumers," Hazarika said. "Businesses can pass on the rise in the cost of the materials they buy. However ... with rising prices, consumers might become more choosy. They may start to comparison-shop more. So it's possible [for] a business [to] raise its prices because its own ... suppliers are charging more."

Guerra said it is difficult to manage the increase in prices.

"It's hard, because you think, 'Oh, if I raise my prices, it'll be OK,'" she said. "'But I don't know if I'm going to lose the customers I already have.' Maybe they can't afford a few extra dollars, and I totally understand that. I'm not going to shame anyone. It's just hard as a business owner, and also as just a [customer]."

Guerra said her sales have decreased since the City of McAllen changed the restrictions on pop-up markets. Business owners hosting a pop-up market in McAllen are required to obtain a permit that will be valid for only 10 hours for one day.

In the City of Mission "people were complaining about [pop-up markets] taking up the parking spots," she said.

"After the whole [cities] of McAllen and Mission drama ... [the pop-up markets] have been really slowing down," Guerra said. "That's affected a lot of small businesses, including me. I have only been to maybe three markets since the summer, which is very low because I used to go to one every weekend."

Lora Martinez graduated from UTRGV in 2016 with a master's in public administration and is co-owner of Moboba along with her husband, Tony Innouvong and his sister, Emily Innouvong. Moboba is a family-owned specialty boba tea and dessert shop in Edinburg that opened in July 2022.

"So the gist of it is being authentic boba tea to the Rio Grande Valley," Martinez said. "There is a desire, especially from the younger generation here, [for] more Asian-inspired goods, such as boba tea."

Martinez said some of the changes Moboba is facing are the cost of goods.

"With the cost of goods going up, we have noticed that ... less people have been coming to the shop just because everything is getting more expensive," she said. "So, I imagine people have less disposable income to spend on things such as boba tea or a dessert."

Moboba had to adapt to rising prices.

"We used to use fresh purees from a company ... but we found that if we made it ourselves, it does bring the costs down," Martinez said. "So that has encouraged us to make our own puree, our own flavorings in house, but that does come with more time that [is] needed to prep those things."

Hazarika said price hikes affect consumers.

"Inflation basically hurts our consumers," he said. "If your income does not change, if you get the same dollar amount of income every month, and your cost of living is going up, you are naturally going to be hurt by this."

DEANS
Continued from Page 3

It was a long process, but it was also a very rewarding process."

A goal for the event was to get representatives from all colleges on both campuses.

"Some deans have told us, 'Oh, I can't go to Edinburg, but somebody else is going to go. But I'll be at [this event in] Brownsville,'" Garcia said. "If the dean ... was not able to be here, they send either an associate dean or somebody who can really convey that information."

The event focuses on answering students' questions about their majors.

"Usually, the deans are just so busy," Garcia said. "Their calendars are probably booked. ... So, during the semester, it might be hard to get a one-on-one meeting. When you're here, you really can network, bring up any concerns, any questions. You can ask about any opportunity they may have within the college."

The deans in attendance agreed.

"I want to be approachable and let [students] know they can give us their input and feedback," said Criselda Garcia, associate dean for Initial Preparation Programs and Academic Affairs. "We are here to receive it and use it. We need clear feedback. You be as honest as possible. ... Just be completely honest."

Criselda Garcia spoke about specific issues that students in the College of Education and P-16 Integration tend to face and why interacting with students directly is important to address these concerns.

"For example, I know we found out that messaging on the [content] test is very difficult," she said. "It's deflating. I am from this region and I feel like ... I can relate to a lot of their experiences."

Other deans agreed.

"Answering [students'] questions in a timely way is very important," said James Jupp, professor and chair of the department of Teaching & Learning.

Asked if these types of events were beneficial for students, Dominguez replied that they are.

"It would be beneficial ... for all students in the government, and also for all the students in the university in general," he said.

Kassandra Garcia said meeting with a dean can be intimidating.

"However, deans are really interested in hearing what students want to know, what they want from the college, what they want from the school," she said. "It's really going to help the university get to a better place. ... Student [voices are] very important."

"Meet the Deans" on the Brownsville campus will be held from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. Tuesday in Student Union PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón. Snacks will be served.

BASKETBALL
Continued from Page 9

and giveaways. This year, it was held on Oct. 28.

"I know, like, other schools do stuff like that, and it is never as fun," Williams replied. "Like, on visits when you're coming out of high school, they bring you to stuff like that, and it doesn't compare to Madness. I mean, the people show up, they're loud, they're energetic. We absolutely cannot get enough of Madness."

Asked how they stay motivated, sophomore guard KaCee Kyle said they have a lot of new players, so it became a sort of reset.

"A lot of new players, so we can continue to have the same exact goal, and we're able to accomplish that goal," Kyle said.

She said the team chemistry is good.

"I think what I like is everyone has their own people, but it's not super individual," Kyle said. "Like, when we're together, we're together."

The Vaqueras' opening game is against Oklahoma State University today in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The team is set to play its first conference game against the University of Northern Colorado on Nov. 15 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

Sophomore guard KaCee Kyle works defense as she attempts to steal the ball away from guard Tierra Trotter during practice Oct. 31 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Also shown are teammates Mele Kailahi, Halie Jones, and Tiffany McGarity.

ENTRE
Continued from Page 8

hard work they were doing."

Set on hosting film screenings each month for the community, Sanchez said the first screening happened in April with "Late Spring," a 1949 black-and-white Japanese drama directed by Yasujirō Ozu.

Hoping to have multiple screenings per month for 2023, Díaz said it is important to show films not normally seen in the Valley.

"They're mostly films that are either indie underground, avant-garde or obscure, or community made," she said. "... We're trying to bring [an] alternative type of screening menu to the RGV ... the things we see that people have more access to in larger metropolitan areas. And the thing is that we deserve to have all those things, too."

Sanchez agreed with Díaz, saying growing up in the Valley without access to a lot of alternative films is why the focus on screenings is to provide the community with access to those types of films.

"Growing up in it ... seeing how things have kind of, like, always, you know, resisted a lot of more fringe or more, like, experimental, not as accessible or not as easily digested types of art and media, the Valley always, you know, felt like it's just been missing something and not to mean that kind of art hasn't been made here," he said. "There's always people who are pushing the envelope and trying new things and expressing new ideas, but finding the support system and the infrastructure to support that has always been a challenge."

Sanchez added that until folks are exposed to an idea, they may not come across it naturally so he cannot expect people to immediately embrace the avant-garde but, by providing access to these types of films, skills, knowledge and even the idea of an archive, he hopes it expands support for these ideas in the community.

Recently hosting an event for Home Movie Day on Oct. 15 at the McAllen Creative Incubator, *ENTRE* let community members view their old home videos from 8-mm to VHS, educated attendees on how to preserve them and also introduced the service of digitizing and archiving home movies.

With the archival center starting off a bit slow with not many opportunities for people to donate their films, Sanchez said *ENTRE* is working on providing transfer facilities for people to come in and digitize their films.

"I think folks in the Valley are well aware of the fact that our history is important to document, and [in] an effort to preserve that and help more people become aware of our history and ... also just the life and times of this place, I think, so far, has been supported as an idea," he said.

Those interested in transfer services may contact *ENTRE* at its Instagram @entre.tx or via email at info@entrefilmcenter.org to set up appointments. *ENTRE*'s office is located at the McAllen Creative Incubator and also offers rental equipment, such as projectors, cameras and a film library. Rental fees vary by equipment.

"An issue in our region is that there is not much documentation from people of color living here, because that's the problem with archival institutions," Díaz said. "They come from an extractive and exploitative background. ... What we're hoping to do with the archive is open that back up to the people who were living during those times, whether that be through oral history documentation ... through home movies, which are time capsules of a place and culture and can tell us so much about our history."

Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER
C. Díaz and Andres Sanchez, co-founders of *ENTRE*, hold Super 8 and MiniDV cameras Oct. 28 in their office, which is located in the McAllen Creative Incubator.

Boca Chica, *Corazón Grande*, a community archival project focused on collecting and documenting the history of Boca Chica, has an open call for home movies, photographs and documentation.

Only finding a handful of photographs of Boca Chica in the 1920s and '30s from the Brownsville Historical Association's archive, Díaz said she knew there had to be materials out there of people going to Boca Chica.

"We're hoping in the future for, like, other sort of community-led archival projects like that ... and to work with people in those communities," She said. "... So that way ... these collections are made up from the people who are living in these communities rather than other people going into our communities from outside of the region and documenting what they deem is important."

Asked what long-term goals they have for *ENTRE*, the founders replied they want to have their own space to better facilitate all of their services, events and workshops, and set up a co-op membership for people who want to get more involved in the organization.

ENTRE's next event will be its second community film screening consisting of 30-second direct animation shorts from 17 different participants at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3 at IMGN Park, located at 719 Ragland St. in Mission.

The admission price is yet to be determined.

LOST AT SEA

BY: ADHIRA TIPPUR

Brrrrrrr. Short and stubby twelve-year-old Sandro, cold from the piercing Caribbean wind, sat on the starboard of a small brown tour boat called, "Cancun Express." Shaking in his hard wooden seat, Sandro rocked back and forth as the boat took sharp turns to accommodate the waves that came crashing at the boat-like thunder striking trees. Finishing his long and boring safety instructions, the tour guide finally said, "Okay y'all, time to get in," with a sly smirk on his broad face. Sandro, not paying any attention to the instructor's directions, glared into the vast ocean that was behaving crazier than a toddler having a temper tantrum, just to snorkel.

As he was about to jump in, Sandro suddenly got the chills that traveled throughout his entire body as fast as an eagle swooping down to find prey. He looked around and was pleased to see the others in his tour group equally nervous. *Wouldn't it be cool if I got in first*, he thought. "1..2…3!" As Sandro daringly jumped in the monstrous ocean, he felt the rush of cold water crawling on his dry bare skin. Little did Sandro know what he was about to face. One by one, everyone from the tour jumped into the boundless water like fish being tossed in the water by fishermen. "Ahhhhhhh." Sandro screamed, suddenly engulfed in white-crystal foamy bubbles. As soon as he jumped in the water, the waves overpowered him, and suddenly, he found himself drifting away from the group. "Help me!" he shouted, struggling, at the top of his lungs, but there was no one in sight. Fighting the supernatural, dark blue ocean waves, Sandro thrust his arms, up and down, combatting the overwhelming waves slamming him, bullying him left and right, like two hungry lions fighting over an appalled antelope. It was hopeless.

A perplexing sensation of eeriness gave him an unsettling feeling. Unexpectedly, Sandro felt a crystalline razor-sharp object perforate his right leg. *Shark*, is the first thing that came into his mind. From his salty eyes and out of his peripheral vision, Sandro spotted a dark-gray bulky blunt torpedo shaped figure about four feet below the jagged surface of the frigid water. *Maybe I am just hallucinating.* Sandro nervously reassured himself. Out of the blue, Sandro started getting dragged underwater. He frantically kicked his legs back and forth. *If only I would have been paying attention when the tour guide was giving us instructions,* Sandro regrettably thought.

About to give up, he let out his last piece of energy and screamed at the top of his lungs, "HELPPPP!" Just as he was fading in and out of consciousness, he felt an arm grab his elbow. The tour guide swiftly sprang into action and, with the help of a buoy, grabbed Sandro and pulled him out of the water. Sandro flapped over the rescue buoy gasping for air. *Did that actually just happen?* Sandro wondered. Breathing heavily, he gave a quick prayer thanking God for helping him through this nightmarish situation. *Maybe, I should've jumped last.*

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Authors' Corner