

# BROWNSVILLE ADDS 3,000+ SEATS



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

**DAYRA GONZALEZ**  
THE RIDER

The City of Brownsville and UTRGV continues to work through initiatives from the Task Force of the Future, focusing on expanding academic offerings, improving student life and planning programs that meet the area's workforce needs.

The Task Force, created through a Memorandum Of Understanding signed earlier this year, has met monthly since March to discuss strategies for enhancing UTRGV's Brownsville campus.

Among its priorities are reducing student travel between campuses, ensuring equitable resource distribution and strengthening UTRGV's collaboration with the city to support local economic growth, according to university officials.

Patrick Gonzales, vice president of Marketing and Communications and

spokesperson for the Task Force of the Future, said one of the most significant accomplishments so far is the addition of nearly 3,500 new seats in courses for Fall 2025 in Brownsville to minimize the need for students to travel to Edinburg.

"We want to make sure that students can get their entire schedule on the Brownsville campus," said Janna Arney, member of the Task Force of the Future.

Edna Desilos Hinojosa, an English senior, said having more classes in Brownsville makes a difference.

"Before, I had to wake up at four or five in the morning to cross from Matamoros and catch the bus to make it to a 9 a.m. class in Edinburg," Desilos Hinojosa said. "It was exhausting. Now, with more offered here, it's much easier."

Carlos Ramirez, a computer engineering sophomore, said having more classes on the Brownsville

campus means he has to travel less and can focus on his studies.

"It feels like the university is finally listening to what we need in

"It feels like the university is finally listening to what we need in Brownsville."

--Carlos Ramirez, computer engineering sophomore

Brownsville," Ramirez said.

Gonzales said the Task Force is also planning to expand engineering programs in Brownsville to meet the growing demand from local employers, including SpaceX and companies at the Port of Brownsville.

Arney said the university was able to

use research results to "create a plan to better serve the workforce needs."

In addition to academic initiatives, the Task Force is exploring ways to enhance student life on the Brownsville campus.

Possible future housing projects, increased student engagement opportunities, and upgraded facilities for intramural and collegiate sports are included in discussions, according to Gonzales.

He said the collaboration has also opened conversations about long-term infrastructure planning.

"It's exactly the type of partnership you want with the city," Gonzales said. "We're working together to create more opportunities for students and to make sure graduates can find careers right here in Brownsville."

The Task Force will continue to meet monthly to evaluate progress and discuss upcoming priorities.



FULL STORY ON OUR WEBSITE  
ANOTHER WIN FOR UTRGV FOOTBALL



JOSE RODRIGUEZ/THE RIDER PHOTOS

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New arts building in the works

www.utrgvrider.com

## 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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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Today

#### MONDAY TABLING

**Christians at RGV** will host a tabling event from 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. on the University Library lawn on the Brownsville campus.

#### K.I.S.S MEETING

The **Korean International Student Society** will meet from 3:15 to 4:45 p.m. and at the same time Wednesday in the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus.

#### RGV GERMAN CLUB MEETING

The **RGV German Club** will meet from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Academic Building Room 1.204 on the Brownsville campus. Attendees will discuss **topics about the club and everyone is welcome.**

#### DELTA ZETA MEETING

**Delta Zeta** will meet from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Bronc Room on the Edinburg campus.

#### CIRCUIT BASICS

**University Recreation** will host Circuit Basics from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Texas Southmost College Recreation Center Multipurpose Room 1.202 in Brownsville. Attendees can learn of **beginner friendly circuit basics that improve strength, endurance and coordination.**

### Tuesday

#### CROSS LINGUISTICS

The **Office for Bilingual Integration** will host a **Puro 956: Slang in the RGV seminar** from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Health Affairs Building West Room 1.406 on the Edinburg campus, at the same time in Sabal Hall Room 2.211A on the Brownsville campus and via Zoom. ID: 449 301 4031. Attendees can enjoy **free pizza and drinks.**

#### BAP MEETING

**Beta Alpha Psi-Xi Phi Chapter** will meet from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Health Affairs Building West Room 1.406 on the Edinburg campus.

#### A JOURNEY OF SHARED HEALING

Local authors **Shawn Elliot Russell** and **Arlene Cantu** will talk during A Journey of Shared Healing from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Student Union PlainsCapital Bank Theater on the Edinburg campus. The conversation about their **personal journeys with mental health** is hosted by the Counseling Center.

#### ACJA MEETING

The **American Criminal Justice Association Sigma Kappa Chi** will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. in Education Complex Room 1.534 on the Edinburg campus.

### SOUL PAINTING

**Baptist Student Ministry** will host **Soul Painting** from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. outside Troxel Hall on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can enjoy **painting and fostering community.**

#### RUN CLUB MEETING

**Club Running-Vaquero Runners** will host a club running from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and at the same time Thursday outside the Life and Health Science Building on the Brownsville campus. Attendees can enjoy a **20-minute run.**

#### Wednesday

#### ENACTUS

**Enactus** will meet from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship Room 121 on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can enjoy **free food.**

#### SEOULMATES

The **Center for Student Involvement** will host a **SeoulMates Meet-Up** from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus. Attendees can **explore and learn about Korean culture and traditions. Free food** will be provided.

### UNION AFTER HOURS

The **Student Union** will host Union After Hours from 5 to 9 p.m. on the Brownsville campus. Attendees can enjoy **live music, movies, games, prices and snacks.**

#### TALK ABOUT IT: MEET THE TEAM

**Talk About It RGV** will host a **Meet the Team** from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Bronc Room on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can enjoy **games, food and prizes.**

#### Thursday

#### IMA MEETING

The **Association of Accountants and Financial Professionals in Business** will meet with a guest speaker from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Math and General Classrooms Building Room 2.416 on the Edinburg campus.

#### Friday

#### IEEE ESB- GENERAL MEETING

The **Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers** will meet from 4 to 6 p.m. in Engineering Building Room 1.268 on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can discuss **upcoming events, workshops and fundraisers.**

--Compiled by Mariah Escobar



## POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 8 and 14.

#### Sept. 8

**2:02 a.m.:** A resident assistant reported hearing a woman scream, a loud bang and heavy footsteps in the Casa Bella apartments on the Brownsville campus. Security cameras later showed a man and woman running, but no signs of distress or criminal activity.

**12:43 p.m.:** A student injured himself with workout equipment at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. He refused medical services.

**5:42 p.m.:** An officer responded to a two-vehicle crash in Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. One student reported an injury but refused transportation after Emergency Medical Services arrived.

#### Sept. 9

**7:53 a.m.:** An officer assisted Border Patrol after an undocumented woman entered the Interdisciplinary

Academic Building on the Brownsville campus. A woman officer found her in a restroom on the second floor. She was taken into custody by Border Patrol.

**3:14 p.m.:** An employee reported a driver ran over the tip of his shoe damaging it in Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. He reported no injuries but said the driver did not stop.

**10:38 p.m.:** An officer responded to two students seen pushing each other in Lot B-4 on the Brownsville campus. One student reported being assaulted by contact but refused to file charges. Both left without further incident.

#### Sept. 10

**10:40 a.m.:** An officer responded to a loose dog in the University Library on the Brownsville campus. The dog was secured in the Police Department kennel until Animal Control arrived.

**6:10 p.m.:** Officers responded to a report of a man seen drinking alcohol at an outdoor table in the Village Apartments on the

Edinburg campus. A resident assistant said the man refused to identify himself and left before police arrived. Officers could not locate him.

**11:06 p.m.:** Officers responded to a report of two dogs in the area in the University Library on the Brownsville campus. The dogs were secured in the Police Department kennel until Animal Control arrived.

#### Sept. 11

**1:20 p.m.:** An employee reported seeing an unknown man manually open the Casa Bella gate on the Brownsville campus. The incident is under review.

#### Sept. 12

**4:14 p.m.:** An officer responded to a student accidentally spilling a beaker in the Science Complex on the Edinburg campus. No injuries were reported. Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management was notified.

**11:35 a.m.:** Officers and McAllen Fire Department responded to a fire alarm at UT Health RGV Cancer

and Surgery Center. It was determined a smoke detector was activated by a vacuum cleaner. The building was cleared and safe, and Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management was notified.

**7:31 p.m.:** An officer found a non-affiliated woman lying on the sidewalk near Lot E-36 on the Edinburg campus. She said she collapsed after feeling dizzy and was transported to the hospital by Emergency Medical Services.

**8:38 p.m.:** A man reported an event staff member disposed of his cigarettes after he left them at check-in at the Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium in Edinburg.

#### Sept. 14

**9:23 p.m.:** Officers responded to a student who reported finding a snake in her dorm in Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus. The officer removed the snake and released it outside without incident.

--Compiled by Dayra Gonzalez

## wacky web poll

Live on 52.4%

Break down 47.6%

### How would You react to a breakup?

Do You think it's important to question authority? Let us know what You think!

SCAN to answer!

# TAKING THE 'FIRST STEP'

**SOPHIA CORTEZ**  
THE RIDER

The Office for Advocacy and Violence Prevention provides confidential support and trauma-responsive counseling for students, faculty and staff who have experienced any kind of violence or crime, according to university staff.

"We do what we need to get someone to wherever is they need to be," said Cynthia Jones, OAVP director and professor of philosophy. "That includes [any] sort of crime that has a victim: sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, harassment, even things like theft and robbery."

OAVP offers services after hours, which Jones said are important for survivors who may require help after the 8-to-5 schedule, acting as an accessible advantage for students, faculty and staff.

"Our groups are most support based, so our services aren't limited to just licensed counseling," Jones said. "We do wrap-around services for people, so we can work with people and all the issues they're facing."

She noted OAVP collaborates with Title IX, Housing and Residence Life, campus police and even district attorneys' offices to guarantee students get what they need.

The office also has a toiletry supply and may help with financial aid issues or course changes caused by students' circumstances, making assistance available on numerous levels.

The subdivision also offers specialized services such as a forensic exam, which can assist survivors in gathering evidence and accessing medical care when necessary.

"The thing that's unique about forensic exams is that they are admissible in court," Jones said.

Students who seek mental health support can also opt to speak with a licensed counselor.

Margarita Gonzalez, counselor at the office, explained to The Rider how she works with students seeking these services, providing a confidential space.

"I tell my clients they're not broken; you're out of practice," Gonzalez said. "A lot of the skills that they're unfamiliar with, it's just that they're out of practice, and every journey is different."

"It takes a lot of bravery..."

*-Margarita Gonzalez,  
counselor at OAVP*

She said counseling services are exclusive to students whereas advocacy services are available to students, faculty and staff.

Gonzalez encouraged students to take the first step.

"It takes a lot of courage and bravery to even just walk through our doors," she said. "... I commend the people that do even think about coming in because that is the initial first step."

Marco Huerta, a UTRGV police officer, explained to The Rider the process followed after receiving a call regarding any type of violence.

"We will then send an officer to the location, get all the information, make contact with the victim and list any suspects or witnesses that they may have known have information



PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE FOR ADVOCACY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
Shown are Mayra Varela (from left), assistant for the Office for Advocacy and Violence Prevention; Amanda Quintanilla, Victim Services Specialist for the UTRGV Police Department; Alyssa Reyes, OAVP program coordinator; and Eddie Quintanilla, health education coordinator for UTRGV Student Health; during the 2025 Denim Day event April 23 on the Main Building courtyard on the Brownsville campus.

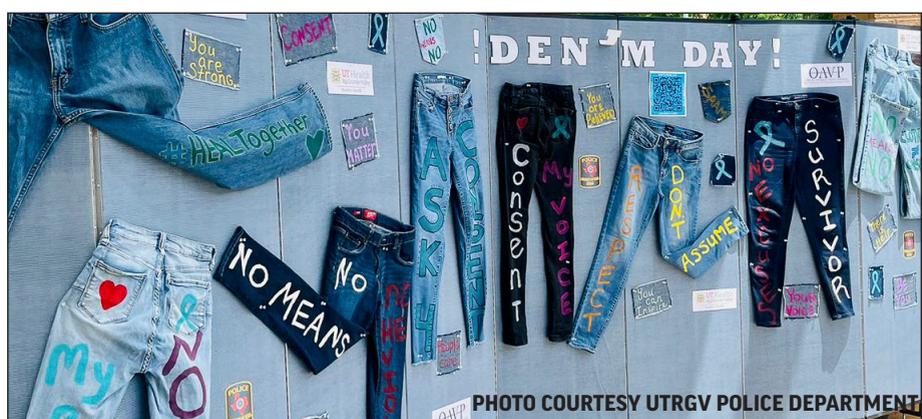


PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Shown are denim jeans accumulated over the years from the Office for Advocacy and Violence Prevention and donations, which have powerful words written on during the 2024 Denim Day at the Quad on the Edinburg campus.

regarding the call," Huerta said.

The police officer encouraged students to reach out and take advantage of their free services offered

24 hours, 365 days a year.

For more information, visit the Office For Advocacy and Violence Prevention social media or its website.

# PLANTING THE SEED OF WELLNESS

**MARIAH ESCOBAR**  
THE RIDER

The Center for Student Involvement hosted Rooted in Wellness, where students were able to experience an easeful and calm environment to help with beginning-of-the-semester nerves, according to UTRGV staff.

The event took place Tuesday in the Bronc Room on the Edinburg campus and Thursday in the Main Building Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus.

"A big part of the event was to get students to network with each other," said Giovanna Granados, CSI program coordinator. "...We understand, sometimes, it's difficult to make friends and meet new people."

Attendants took a plant-personality quiz while engaging in crafts, such as painting a plant pot or tile, tying into "mental and self-care," according to the program coordinator.

Manola Yanez, a student assistant at the CSI, said students were paired up with those "that have different plant personalities" to get them to interact with each other.

"I got a cactus which makes sense to me," Yanez said.

Granados said a big part of mental health is getting to know oneself.

"We understand there's different personality types, but there's things you can have in common ... that you



DRAYA RIOS/THE RIDER PHOTOS  
The Center for Student Involvement hosts Rooted in Wellness Tuesday in the Bronc Room on the Edinburg campus. The event started with attendees taking a quiz on what plant they are and then decorated a plant pot or garden tile.

might want to learn from somebody else that could help build your skills," she said.

The Rider asked students in attendance what intrigued them about the event and what they hoped to take away.

"I thought it would be good for my mental health, and I also wanted to learn more about plants," replied Layla Trevino, an integrated health science freshman.

Ana Sylvia Chow, a psychology freshman, replied she attended because she wanted to learn more

about how other people deal with their mental health.

Granados added the CSI collaborated with the Dean of Students and the Office of Wellness & Support to bring the event to life, making it a great opportunity to showcase and highlight the resources available on campus.

"[We are] trying to get students to network, make a friend, mingle [and] learn about UTRGV services," she said.

For more information on upcoming events, students can look for flyers around campus or visit V Link.



Manila Yanez, a marketing junior, works for the Center for Student Involvement and helps put together Rooted in Wellness Tuesday in the Bronc Room on the Edinburg campus.

COLUMN OF THE WEEK

# THE ART OF BEING ALONE



**MYKEL DEL ANGEL**  
ONLINE EDITOR

I moved to San Juan not too long ago, hoping to be closer to Edinburg and start a new chapter in my life. I had this whole vision in my head of how the semester would play out, what it would feel like to finally be here. But within a couple of weeks, that vision fell apart. I'm still confused, still hurting and, honestly, a little numb after all the tears I've already let out.

Life here has been lonelier than I expected. I live in a house in a new neighborhood, and I go to classes on a campus where I don't really know anyone yet. The silence gets heavy sometimes. I cook dinner for myself, eat alone, and walk around town with no one to share the small, everyday

moments with. My closest friends are back in Brownsville or off at schools far away. I thought moving to the upper Rio Grande Valley would feel like a fresh start but, instead, it's been isolating.

Still, these last few weeks have taught me something I didn't see at first. That, even when you feel alone, you are not completely alone. There are always people who care, who are willing to listen, who remind me that I matter when I forget.

I've found that in Student Media. In the newsroom, surrounded by coworkers who root for me, I've found something like a family. They see what I'm capable of, they push me to grow,

and they've shown me I don't have to get through this on my own. Even if I don't make friends in every class or every club I try, I know I belong here.

"... even when you feel alone, you are not completely alone."

And maybe that's enough. One safe place, one community that makes you feel at home again. A reminder that even through the tears, I'm not facing this chapter of my life by myself, at least not anymore.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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VAQUERO VOICE

**How do you feel about a potential deal between the U.S. and China to allow TikTok to continue operations in the country?**

--Compiled and photos by Venisha Colón



**Edlenny Velazquez**  
psychology freshman

"I think it's a useful tool for knowledge, especially since we're in college and we're learning about our term or how our democracy has been changing. And I think that it is useful. I think TikTok can be a useful tool for us, for college students."



**Yaneiru Lopez**  
psychology senior

"I feel like TikTok is really useful [in] knowing a lot of information about, like, political stuff. ... Sometimes, I don't watch the news like that. So, I feel like I learn a lot on TikTok about that."



**Christopher Ruiz**  
mechanical engineering sophomore

"I mean, it could be worth it because everybody uses TikTok right now, especially sometimes for news. Like, I see a bunch of stuff that's happening around the world. Sometimes, it's not just for, like, the fun of it, but it can be informational, also."

# BROWNSVILLE APUESTA POR EL FÚTBOL

HUGO SEPÚLDEVA  
THE RIDER

La Ciudad de Brownsville anunció el martes en una rueda de prensa en el Sports Park la negociación exclusiva entre la ciudad y la United Soccer League para la posibilidad de traer un equipo varonil y uno femenino de segunda división de fútbol.

La negociación tomará lugar durante el próximo año para evaluar la viabilidad del proyecto y también incluiría la remodelación del Sports Park en Brownsville como un distrito de entretenimiento que estaría anclado por un estadio moderno y multiusos.

El alcalde John Cowen dijo que la relación entre la ciudad y la USL comenzó con una discusión de lo que podría pasar en Brownsville y su comunidad de fútbol.

Cowen agregó que si las negociaciones avanzan, la división podría catalizar trabajos, ayudar a pequeños negocios y crear amenidades durante todo el año para familias mientras inspiran a la próxima generación de atletas locales.

Dan Holman, el director de operaciones de la USL, dijo que la liga tiene "aproximadamente" 50 clubes profesionales activos y más de una docena de clubes en expansión que comenzarán en los próximos años.

Holman dijo que USL es la organización de fútbol de crecimiento más "grande y rápido" en el país.

Agregó que están comprometidos a expandir el acceso al "hermoso juego" y aseguran que las familias tendrán un club local para apoyar.

"Nuestra liga pública total abarca más de 200 comunidades en todo el país", dijo el director. "[...] Y somos la primera organización social conocida



Dan Holman, director de operaciones de la United Soccer League, habla durante la rueda de prensa el martes sobre la posibilidad de que la United Soccer League venga a la ciudad de Brownsville en el gimnasio del Sports Park.

que brinda servicios a jóvenes para un camino profesional para hombres y mujeres".

Holman dijo que la United Soccer League es una liga impulsada y basada en la comunidad con clubes que hacen una gran diferencia a su ciudad.

"Cuando buscamos actividades para expansión, priorizamos el crecimiento de las ciudades, transformación de proyectos [...] socio-cívicos que se

"... priorizamos el crecimiento ..."

--Dan Holman, director de operaciones de la USL

alinean a nuestra visión de crear un legado duradero", dijo.

Brownsville "firmemente cumple estos objetivos", de acuerdo a Holman.

"Sentimos fuertemente que Brownsville sería una maravillosa adición a nuestro interés", dijo.

Tino Villarreal, comisionado de Brownsville At-Large "A", dijo que aprecia "demasiado" el rol que los deportes juegan en el desarrollo de la vida de los jóvenes.

Villarreal dijo que nada le daría "mayor satisfacción" que traer equipos varonil y femenino de fútbol y se imagina como el Brownsville Sports Park y los equipos profesionales se verían en el futuro.

"Este lugar es bueno para infraestructura, con drenaje, con electricidad, con todo lo que necesitamos para construir algo hermoso", dijo.

Gustavo De León, comisionado del distrito 3, dijo que cree en la juventud porque ellos son el futuro de Brownsville. De León agregó que fútbol no es solo un deporte en el área sino parte de la cultura de la ciudad, su identidad y orgullo.

"Construyendo un futuro más brillante para Brownsville crea un espacio donde nuestros niños puedan soñar en grande y logren más", dijo.

--Traducido por Sofía Cantú Saucedo

## VALLEY SPOTLIGHT

# JESSE CAVAZOS: COCINAR 'ME SALVÓ LA VIDA'

SOFÍA CANTÚ SAUCEDA  
THE RIDER

Nacido y criado en Dallas, Jesse Cavazos, chef ejecutivo de Mujinzo en McAllen, comenzó su carrera en el Four Seasons haciendo sándwiches para ahora crear un menú completo de fusión japonés-estadounidense.

Cuando Cavazos hacía trabajos manuales como construcción y mecánica, dijo que nunca estaba feliz.

"Nunca estaba feliz haciendo esos trabajos", dijo. "Me metía en muchos problemas de niño. [...] Hubo un punto donde me pregunte a mi mismo, '¿Qué voy a hacer con el resto de mi vida? ¿Qué es lo que amo hacer?'"

Cavazos recordó que, cuando era niño, le gustaba ver a su madre cocinando el desayuno y, cuando empezó a cocinar para el mismo, fue donde dijo "quiero ser chef".

"Cuando era joven, pasé por mucho", dijo. "Drogas, pandillas [...] cuando concentraba toda mi energía en cocinar, sentía que me alejaba de todo eso; entonces, en realidad me salvó la vida".

Un mes después de comenzar la escuela culinaria en el Instituto de Arte de Dallas a los 24 años, encontró un trabajo en el entonces resort Four Seasons y Club Dallas en Las Colinas donde comenzó haciendo ensaladas y sándwiches.

Cavazos comentó que comenzó la escuela a una edad muy avanzada.

"Comencé tarde", dijo. "Idealmente

sería después de graduarse de la preparatoria y después ir directamente a la escuela culinaria para que así puedas ir subiendo de rango".

Con semanas de 80 a 90 horas de trabajo y escuela de tiempo completo, Cavazos compartió que eso fue lo más difícil que ha hecho en su vida.

Más adelante, comenzó a trabajar en el Hotel W, donde trabajó por siete años para Tom Colicchio, el famoso chef americano.

Cavazos dijo que esa experiencia fue "impresionante, de siguiente nivel y con estándares muy altos". Lo que aprendió de Colicchio y que aún sigue aplicando en su trabajo es "siempre alcanzar la perfección".

Su estilo de cocina se describe en francés clásico, influencia italiana y nuevo americano y eso se refleja en el menú que creó para Mujinzo.

"Estaba tratando de crear algo diferente para [el Valle del Río Grande]", Cavazos dijo. "Entonces, estoy muy feliz de cómo salió todo".

El chef recomendó varios platillos que son sus favoritos, entre ellos los camarones crujientes y picantes, las alitas de pato y las carrilleras de cerdo.

Dijo que su menú lo basó en varios sabores conocidos del Valle, como los churros que son el sabor base para el postre de donas que preparan en el restaurante.

Cavazos dijo que espera que las personas que visiten el restaurante se vayan satisfechos.

"Vengan a comer y disfruten, el

concepto es diferente y es fascinante", dijo.

El chef también compartió un consejo para otros chefs en la escuela culinaria.

"Todavía hay una montaña que debes de escalar para que sigas creciendo y estés en esta trayectoria profesional", Cavazos dijo. "Que hayas llegado hasta aquí no significa que estés en la cima. [...] Aún tienes mucho más, así que es una continuación de aprendizaje y crecimiento".

Mujinzo está ubicado en 7100 N. 10th St. en McAllen.



Jesse Cavazos, chef ejecutivo de Mujinzo, ubicado en 7100 N. 10th St. en McAllen. Cavazos estudió en la escuela culinaria del Instituto de Arte de Dallas.



SOFÍA CANTÚ SAUCEDA/FOTOS RIDER

Se muestra el platillo de camarones crujientes y picantes, uno de los favoritos del chef ejecutivo Jesse Cavazos.

# 6 Arts & Entertainment

## 'IT WAS A VIBE'

**EDUARDO ESCAMILLA**  
A&E EDITOR

GLARE made waves with its sold-out show on Sept. 12 at The Gremlin in McAllen, with one fan calling it a "crazy-awesome" performance. The concert, originally scheduled to take place at Cine El Rey, was moved after the City of McAllen temporarily shut down the venue. But the last-minute change did not disrupt the vibe for fans.

"The energy was off the roof," said Donna resident Idaly Luna,

who attended the show. McAllen resident Randy Almazan agreed with Luna, noting his favorite song from the band's setlist was "Void in Blue."

Both fans described the song as a classic that "just always hits."

In a previous interview with The Rider, guitarist and vocalist Cesar "Izzy" Izaguirre said the band's sound is a reflection of the group's "likes and taste."

The band, with roots in Brownsville, developed its authentic sound as a

blend of music that was influenced by friends and by the isolation from major music scenes that "forced them" into its own style.

The night ended with the band signing autographs on records, T-shirts and even their own setlists. The honest connection with its fan base was clear, and it is a major reason for its success.

It is the authenticity that transcends the stage and builds a lasting bond with the audience.



Guitarist and vocalist Toni Ordaz of the band GLARE performs fan favorites off its setlist on Sept. 12 at The Gremlin in McAllen.



Bassist and vocalist Homer Solis from GLARE gives an electric performance on Sept. 12 at The Gremlin in McAllen.



EDUARDO ESCAMILLA/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Guitarist and vocalist Cesar "Izzy" Izaguirre of the band GLARE plays during a sold-out performance on Sept. 12 at The Gremlin in McAllen.



Guitarist and vocalist Cesar "Izzy" Izaguirre (top left) and bassist and vocalist Homer Solis greet fans and autograph memorabilia.

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# BIG GAINS IN THE AIR

## UTRGV'S WIDEOUTS EMERGE IN INAUGURAL SEASON

ALI HALLOUM  
THE RIDER

Through their first three games in the history of the program, the Vaqueros have certainly lit up the scoreboard in their winning efforts, looking great on offense.

In addition to attacking on the ground, going to the air for UTRGV has yielded great results, as shown by the scores of the games that the Vaqueros have played: 80-0 on Sept. 13 and 66-0 on Aug. 30.

It is worth noting that both of these high scores have come against opponents not in the Football Champion Subdivision, playing against the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Langston University and Division II Sul Ross State.

Vaqueros head coach Travis Bush said he and his staff have a game plan for how the team attacks on offense, and that he adjusts who plays based on the in-game situation.

"[There's] a lot of good guys to choose from, but we really want to roll those guys in to keep them fresh for the fourth quarter if it's a four-quarter battle, and then fresh and healthy for down the road in conference," Bush said.

He has involved several receivers in the offense, as six Vaqueros wideouts have over 50 receiving yards. Despite



Eddie Lee Marburger, redshirt senior quarterback, looks for an open receiver during the game against the Langston University Lions on Sept. 14 at the Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium in Edinburg.

this, one has clearly emerged as the primary deep threat for UTRGV.

Sophomore wide receiver Xayvion Noland transferred from Texas State University and leads the team in receiving yards (367) and receiving touchdowns (4), including the first touchdown in program history.

Noland averages 122.33 receiving yards per game.

"I'm really just focused on practicing [and] getting better with the guys," he said. "Building chemistry, and focusing on our new opponent each week."

Noland said he prepares for games with his roommate and fellow redshirt freshman wideout Tony Diaz, who

is behind him in receiving touchdowns with three. Noland receives treatment and eats before listening to Hillsong Worship music ahead of games, crediting his faith in God for his success on

"... best receivers in the country,"  
--Eddie Lee Marburger,  
redshirt senior quarterback

the field.

Noland said it is not a competition between him and Diaz but, instead, both push each other to succeed, envisioning each other's gameday success.

"It's just a trust factor that

we both know that we want the ball," he said. "We both know that whenever we have the ball in our hands, we're going to make a play and that the team can rely on both of us."

Bush said he is looking to involve the other receivers, such as redshirt freshman Kyran Lee, redshirt freshman Cameron Glenn and redshirt junior Tavian Cord in the Vaqueros' offense.

Starting quarterback Eddie Lee Marburger has done his part in being a part of the Vaqueros' passing attack, averaging 300.67 yards a game and completing 76.6% of his passes.

Marburger, a redshirt senior, said the goal and mentality of the team is to finish 1-0 at the end of every week, regardless of who catches the touchdowns or what the stat sheet reads at the end of a game.

"We're not worried about who's catching touchdowns, who's running touchdowns," he said. "It's just a matter of fact, if we can go 1-0 every week, that's all that matters to this team."

Marburger told The Rider he is "blessed" to have "some of the best receivers in the country," particularly calling Noland "pretty talented."

"I've been having so much fun with those guys," he said.



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**THIS WEEK IN SPORTS**

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:

### YISELLE BERNAL



Yiselle Bernal, a psychology junior from Dallas, is a defensive player for the UTRGV Women's Soccer Team. The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics named Bernal Student-Athlete of the Week on Sept. 8.

**Q: What is a fun fact about yourself?**

**A:** "I would say I'm both left footed, and I'm left handed."

**Q: Who or what got you into soccer?**

**A:** "My dad. But I would say watching [Cristiano] Ronaldo and Messi, Neymar."

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

**A:** "My mom, but soccer-wise it would be Ronaldo for sure."

**Q: Who is your favorite soccer player?**

**A:** "[Cristiano] Ronaldo."

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

**A:** "I like a lot of R&B, but I listen to jazz, and I listen to reggaeton."

**Q: What shows or movies do you like to watch?**

**A:** "I'm into anime, so I always say 'Black Clover.' I like 'Demon Slayer,' but I've been watching 'The Night Agent.'"

**Q: Do you have any hobbies?**

**A:** "I like going on walks, journaling and reading."

**Q: Are there any sports that you like to play other than soccer?**

**A:** "I play a lot of volleyball."

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

**A:** "The environment and my team and my coaches, for sure."

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

**A:** "I would say I do want to play professionally. So, I would say that and just have a bond with, like, my people or, like, my family and the friends I create."

--Compiled and photo by Jose Rodriguez

# STRUGGLES ON THE PITCH

DANIELA CHAPA-REYES  
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Men's Soccer Team has had a rough 2025 season losing their last five games. As of press time Friday, the team last fell to Houston Christian University 1-0 on Wednesday.

Prior to HCU, the team had fallen against University of the Incarnate Word 2-1 on Sept. 12 after leading the first half of the game.

Assistant head coach Sheldon Cipriani said the team has the capability to play well in prolonged periods of time.

"The last three games, we've had two moments of indiscretion that have cost us the game," Cipriani said. "We have reiterated to the guys that [the] level of focus has to be sustained for 90 minutes. We want to eliminate the little errors that are costing us the games."

When facing Oral Roberts University on Sept. 4, junior midfielder and Mission-native Emiliano Abboud was handed a red card during the first half of the match, which led the team to play with only 10 men for the rest of the game.

Cipriani said the team needs to be sharper and clinical in the final third.

"Our team is very young," he said. "To be honest, the young players have exceeded our expectations in terms of their readiness, talent and willingness. We're very optimistic regarding the future of the program."

Redshirt junior midfielder Eduardo De Oliveira marked 3 shots on goal against Incarnate Word.

"One was in the post, so I think I'm getting closer and closer [to scoring]," De Oliveira said. "Just keep practicing, just work harder. I know if you work hard, one time, I'm going to score, and that's it."

Prior to the match, he scored the only goal made against Oral Roberts before the team fell short 2-1.

"It happened, like, two games in a row already where we have the first half 1-0 and, then, they score 2 goals on us," De Oliveira said. "I think we just need to be more focused. We need to want more, we have the team, we have the quality. ... We just need more consistency."

Sophomore forward Koren Klein made the goal against Incarnate Word, and said he is very happy to have scored.

"We're obviously trying to get more goals in each game," Klein said. "We did get goals



Eduardo De Oliveira (right) battles for the ball during an exhibition game against St. Mary's University Aug. 19 at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex on the Edinburg campus.

in the last two games, which is good. We need to get more hands [on], be better on the defensive side, so we can actually win games."

He said the first half against Incarnate Word was one of the team's best halves, so far.

"We have to keep going for the whole game and not just for some period of it," Klein said.

Freshman forward Michael Chaves, like Klein, said the first half against Incarnate Word was "one of the best bits of football we've played so far."

"We just need to be more focused."

--Eduardo De Oliveira,  
junior midfielder

"I think we were quite dominant," Chaves said. "The only issue in that first half was we just didn't put away our chances. We created a lot, but we just didn't get our final finishing touch to finish it."

# MCALLEN STEPS UP BAR ENFORCEMENT

**ETHAN MALDONADO**  
THE RIDER

The City of McAllen named The Flying Walrus among 20 downtown bars said to lose special use permits in a Sept. 2 crackdown on underage drinking and safety violations. The bar's owner said the venue is in compliance and wants clearer communication from city officials.

The enforcement followed an Aug. 29 city workshop in which residents urged officials to address underage drinking downtown. Less than 12 hours later, McAllen announced that it had revoked permits for 20 bars citing operators who failed to implement safeguards such as ID scanners and ultraviolet ink to mark minors, according to a Sept. 5 Facebook post on the City of McAllen TX Government page.

On Sept. 12, the city also said in a news release, it disconnected power to more than a dozen businesses that lacked certificates of occupancy.

"The City of McAllen monitors downtown establishments through inspections and enforcement by Code Enforcement, Police, Fire and Building officials to ensure compliance with permit conditions, city ordinances and state regulations," wrote Irma Chapa, the city's director of Public Information, in a statement to The Rider Sept. 12.

Chapa said bars operating under Special Use Permits are subject to inspections and compliance reviews, including checks on hours of operation, occupancy limits, noise levels and safety requirements.

City officials said enforcement will continue as long as operators are out of



JOSE RODRIGUEZ/THE RIDER

Shown is the entrance to The Flying Walrus bar, located at 204 S. 17th St. in McAllen. The Flying Walrus hosts open mic nights every Wednesday from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m.

compliance.

"McAllen will not tolerate businesses that put profit ahead of public safety," Mayor Javier Villalobos said in the Sept. 2 news release. "The rules are clear, and they exist to protect our youth, our families and the future of our community."

The Flying Walrus owner James Alexander said he was surprised to see his bar included in the Sept. 2 news release. He said the venue had received two citations on Aug. 30 but no direct notice that its permit would be revoked.

"The word 'revocation' came as a shock," Alexander said.

"Accountability isn't a bad thing."

--James Alexander,  
The Flying Walrus owner

He said the bar already had age-verification technology and ultraviolet ink on hand, and began using them the same day as the Aug. 30 citation. Alexander said the city did not clearly explain when those safeguards had to be in place.

"We want accountability and we want safety, but the communication hasn't been clear," he said. "Our door remains open to the city, and we'd like to have a constructive conversation about solutions moving forward."

Alexander also said the bar has installed cameras, hired security and provided harm-reduction resources such as Narcan through a vending machine.

"Accountability isn't a bad thing," he said. "But when the rhetoric gets out of hand and becomes demonizing, that's where it gets dangerous."

Alexander said the Walrus has also worked with student groups and community organizations, hosting fundraisers and offering space for open discussion.

"What we do is provide a space for open exchange of ideas and for people to feel safe in doing so," he said.

In a news release Sept. 15, McAllen announced that permitting specialists from departments including Planning, Building Inspections, Health and Code Compliance, and the Fire Marshal's Office would be available to downtown business owners at the McAllen Development Center through the end of the week.

City officials said the effort is intended to clarify procedures and expedite pending permits.

"The Entertainment and Cultural Overlay District is not only a vibrant cultural hub but also a significant economic driver for our community," Villalobos said in the announcement. "Ensuring compliance with permitting requirements is essential to public safety and the continued vitality of our downtown district."

PHOTO GALLERY

## THE ART OF WRESTLING AT THE CITRUS LIVE



JOSE RODRIGUEZ/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Referee Sgt. Dave Blackwell starts the count as Criss Austin attempts to put Brick Savage into submission inside the ring during the GENESIS wrestling event Sept. 12 at The Citrus Live, located at 108 N. 12th Ave. in Edinburg.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE THE FULL PHOTO GALLERY

Shown above is Criss Austin performing an air kick on Brick Savage during the GENESIS wrestling event Sept. 12 at The Citrus Live in Edinburg.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

## PSYCHOLOGY CLUB

**EMMA CASTILLO**  
THE RIDER

The Psychology Club is a student-run organization dedicated to helping students explore psychology while also providing academic, professional and personal support, according to Kassandra Flores, the club's vice president.

Flores added the organization serves as a space where students can learn about research opportunities, internships and career paths, while also connecting with peers across different majors.

"We want to help everybody," she said. "When I started ... I didn't know what a research lab was, and I didn't know what an internship was. We want this to be a space to say, 'Hey, this is what you need; this is what you can do. I can help you out.'"

Flores said membership has grown rapidly, with more than 50 active participants this semester. The club meets at 3:30 p.m. every other Thursday, offering activities, guest panels, and information sessions. Upcoming meetings will feature graduate student speakers and a



PHOTO COURTESY KASSANDRA FLORES

Shown are psychology club officers Samantha Solis (from left), fundraiser coordinator; Itzel Rodriguez, public relations; Kassandra Flores, vice president; Roel Villarreal, treasurer; and Emmanuel Arevalo, member liaison.

research fair.

To join, students can attend a meeting and pay a \$15 membership fee per semester.

"We hope to leave the impression that we're actually helpful around here," Flores said. "A lot of people think psychology is not a science, or not important, but it really is. We hope every time [students] go [to meetings] they actually look forward to it."

For more information, students can find the Psychology Club on V Link or attend an upcoming meeting.

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