

KEEPING UP WITH THE CENSUS

MARIAH ESCOBAR
THE RIDER

Census Day for Fall 2025 at UTRGV was Sept. 17 with “more than 35,100 students” registered for the semester, according to the University Registrar Sofia Almada.

Almada said Census Day is an “important academic milestone” in the semester and is mandated by the state of Texas in which students must finalize registration and credit hours for the semester.

“[It] impacts what UTRGV’s final enrollment is, and it gets reported to the state of Texas for funding purposes,” she said.

With record enrollment this year, the university is excited as it enhances the college experience for students, according to Almada, and the registrar anticipates to see further growth in the spring semester.

Griselda Castilla, vice president for Strategic Enrollment, said Census Day is the 12th class day of the fall and spring semesters by which students must be enrolled.

“Our enrollment has continued to grow, so course demand is very high,” Castilla said. “So, the sooner ... they can register for classes the better.”

She said registration for next semester begins at the end of October and students can use Plan Ahead, a feature of Banner ASSIST that allows students to build possible schedules in advance of registration, according to the U Central website.

“Students can go in and start registering for classes,”

“Our enrollment has continued to grow...”

—Griselda Castilla, vice president for Strategic Enrollment

Castilla said. “... So, when registration does open, they already have those courses and are ready to go and are able to submit it.”

She said “it’s not too late” for students that have not applied for financial aid and may require it.

“[Students can] ensure that their financial aid file is complete, so that they don’t have to worry about, ‘How am I going to make a payment for the spring semester?’ so, they can have their financial aid ready,” Castilla said.

Almada said the university has done a great job at adjusting to the influx of students by going over degree programs and classes to find the best times to schedule classes.

She encouraged students to visit the UTRGV webpage and the academic calendar to keep up with important dates, such as Census Day and the last day to drop classes.

“We want students to get the classes they need so they can graduate on a timely basis,” Castilla said.

For more information, students can visit U Central at The Tower in the Main Building on the Brownsville campus, in the Student Services Building on the Edinburg campus or its website.



JOSE RODRIGUEZ/THE RIDER

Joshua Ortiz, a chemistry junior, spends the time Wednesday in the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

GEOLOGY CLUB

—Compiled and photo by Emma Castillo



FULL STORY ON OUR WEBSITE

SPORTS

CONFERENCE PLAY BEGINS

—Ali Halloum, Sports Reporter



FULL STORY ON OUR WEBSITE

OPINION:

Leave everything behind

SPORTS:

Break point for tennis

ESPAÑOL:

Por un futuro con seguridad energética

LOCAL:

\$28M for the RGV

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.

WRITING FOR YOUR SOUL
Baptist Student Ministry will host a writing event at 11 a.m. in the Health Affairs Building West gazebo on the Edinburg 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 and Thursday 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 can discuss **important topics** about the club.

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

PRE-DENTAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
The Pre-Dental Society will meet from 5 to 6 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Academic

Building Room 2.220 on the Brownsville campus. Attendees can learn and discuss **important topics** about dental school. **Free food** will be provided.

SUNDAES ON MONDAYS
The Student Union will host Sundaes on Mondays from noon to 1 p.m. on the Edinburg campus. A **student ID** is required.

Tuesday
SEOUL-MATE MEET UP
The Center for Student Involvement will host a Seoulmates Meet-Up from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Bronc Room on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can **explore and learn** about Korean culture and **traditions**. **Free food** will be provided.

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.

RUN CLUB MEETING
Club Running-Vaquero Runners will meet 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
PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST
The Student Union will host a **Pumpkin Carving and Painting Contest** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the East Patio of the Student Union on the Edinburg campus and at the same time on the Student Union veranda on the Brownsville campus. **Winners will be awarded V Bucks**.

ALPFA GENERAL MEETING
The Association of Latino Professionals of America will host their **first general meeting** of the semester from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship Room 121 on the Edinburg campus.

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**.

Thursday
SABOR, CULTURA, Y ARTE
The Center for Student Involvement will host Sabor, Cultura, y Arte from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. Attendees can celebrate

Hispanic Heritage Month by experiencing the culture through **food, music and activities**.

FIRST YEAR MASH-UP
The Learning Center will host a **First Year Mash-Up** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Quad lawn on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can **meet other students and learn about the services provided**.

ACJA MEETING
The American Criminal Justice Association Iota Kappa Chi will meet from 3 to 5 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus.

Friday
MIND & BODY RESET: A MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR
The Counseling Center will host **Mind & Body Reset: A Mental Health & Wellness Fair** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Dining & Ballroom Complex on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can celebrate **World Mental Health Day** and **learn about campus resources**. **Free food and T-shirts will be provided**.

--Compiled by Mariah Escobar



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 15 and 20.

Sept. 15
9:04 a.m.: Officers responded to a disturbance in the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus. They spoke with a student and his mother, who was trying to retrieve her laptop. The situation was resolved.

5:05 p.m.: A non-affiliated person reported a farm animal left unattended in the bed of a truck in Lot E-9 on the Edinburg campus. The animal's owner was contacted and agreed to take it home.

8:01 p.m.: A student reported her wallet was taken from a table in the Visual Arts Building on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

Sept. 16
10:42 a.m.: A former student told a faculty member that his UTRGV photo and information were used on a social media post. He was

only concerned about his photo. The case is under investigation.

4:37 p.m.: Officers responded to three students who reported being assaulted by a non-affiliated man who left the area in the University Recreation center on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

Sept. 17
12:05 p.m.: A facilities employee reported accidentally breaking a vehicle window with equipment while trimming grass in Lot E-38 on the Edinburg campus. The vehicle's owner was notified.

3:20 p.m.: Officers and Emergency Medical Services responded to a student having a seizure at the University Library on the Edinburg campus. The student refused transport after feeling better.

8:40 p.m.: A student reported possible narcotics after smelling marijuana in his Heritage Hall room on the Edinburg campus. Officers tried to contact the roommate

but was absent.

Sept. 18
12:06 p.m.: A student reported another driver hit the back of her vehicle and left the scene in Lot E-7 on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

2:24 p.m.: A student reported a pair of jeans stolen from her locker at the Soccer and Track & Field Complex on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

5:37 p.m.: A student reported she left her ring in a restroom in the Interdisciplinary Engineering and Academic Building on the Edinburg campus. When she returned, it was missing. The case is under investigation.

Sept. 19
12:35 a.m.: Officers responded to a fight in Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus. A student reported being pushed and punched by another student who had already left. The case is under investigation.

12:22 p.m.: An officer responded to a report of a

suspicious woman in the International Trade and Technology Building on the Edinburg campus. She had left before police arrived but was identified as a former employee who had been reported before.

3:53 p.m.: A student reported seeing a man view an obscene video on a laptop that was visible to passersby in the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus. The man left before officers arrived.

Sept. 20
2:42 p.m.: An officer saw a suspicious man at the bus stop near Sabal Hall on the Brownsville campus. The non-affiliated man was taken into custody by Border Patrol.

5:48 p.m.: A non-affiliated man was found with cocaine while attempting to enter the Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium in Edinburg. He was arrested and booked into the Edinburg Municipal Jail.

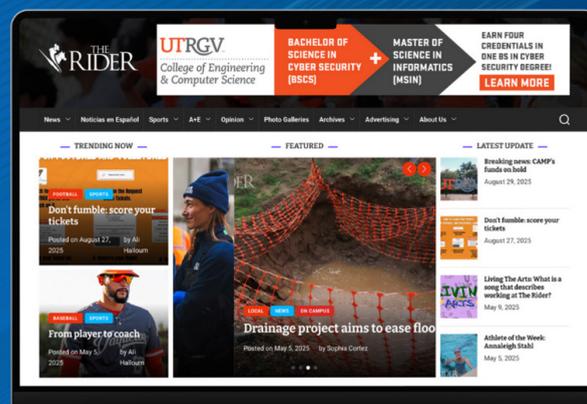
--Compiled by Dayra Gonzalez

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A JOURNEY OF SHARED HEALING

EMMA CASTILLO
THE RIDER

In honor of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, students and faculty gathered to hear a personal message from a couple of Rio Grande Valley's authors: no one has to face their struggles alone.

The event, hosted by the Counseling Center, took place Tuesday in the UTRGV PlainsCapital Bank Theater on the Edinburg campus.

It featured a presentation by the husband-and-wife duo Arlene Cantu and Shawn Elliot Russell, who for the first time shared their stories of survival and growth together on stage. Their presentation featured moments from their journey that highlighted the strength they found in each other and the tools they use to keep moving forward.

Russell said it was the second time Cantu had ever spoken publicly about her experiences.

"One of my biggest fears is being vulnerable in front of people," she said. "[But] I want it to be normal, so that everybody can feel what they're going through and, hopefully, work it out a lot younger than we did and have a lot easier life after that."

Cantu and Russell talked about their personal stories and the learning moments that were born from them.

Through their journey, they said they found the importance in things such as celebrating small victories,

allowing yourself to act in a way that is comfortable to yourself, and mental strategies used to overcome anxiety and depression.

The presenters are authors of illustrated books born from their personal struggles. Cantu described her writing as a way to offer comfort and pause to readers, a gentle reminder that storms eventually pass.

"I really sincerely hope that it gives people a chance, that they give themselves a chance," she said.

Russell said his work, which began as a PDF he shared with friends, grew into a published book after demand from readers. Written in a flow of consciousness in just a few hours, his story captures raw emotion and reflection.

"I knew it was something that might connect with people because I cried when I read it," he said.

They said while both approach the message differently, their goal is the same: to inspire hope.

"Sometimes you'll read something or hear something from somebody, and it'll just kind of change your whole mindset in that moment," Cantu said. "That's what I want people to take away."

Ultimately, the couple said they hope their presentation sparks action among students.

"I kind of hope it's like a conversation starter," Cantu said. "I hope that somebody took away one of the six things we shared and thought, 'OK, I'm



DRAYA RIOS/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Arlene Cantu, a local author of the mental-health book "What If," speaks in the event A Journey of Shared Healing Tuesday in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater on the Edinburg campus. The event was hosted by the UTRGV Counseling Center and was held in honor of National Suicide Prevention Month.

going to try that."

Christopher Albert, director of the

"I knew it was something that might connect with people..."

--Shawn Elliot Russell,
local author

UTRGV Counseling Center, said any students seeking help can utilize the university's free counseling services.

"We're all human, and we all have basic emotions," Albert said. "No matter what views we have or what

backgrounds ... we all sometimes struggle, and there are times when we need to reach out for help. That's OK."



Shown are Arlene Cantu (right), a local author of the mental-health book "What If," and Shawn Elliot Russell, author of "Be Still, Little Tree, Be Still" and illustrator of Cantu's book.

SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY



KARLA HERNANDEZ/THE RIDER

Shown is the children's area at the Counseling and Training Clinic in the North Office Building on the Brownsville campus.

SOPHIA CORTEZ
THE RIDER

The Counseling and Training Clinic provides enhancing experiences, preventative and early treatment for emotional difficulties. Services are offered completely free to the Rio Grande Valley community by graduate counseling students under the supervision of licensed professional counselors.

The clinic offers services for the community, from 1 to 9 p.m. Monday to Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday in the North Office Building on the Brownsville campus and in Education Complex Room 1.270 on the Edinburg campus.

Patricia Fernandez, supervising clinical therapist for the Counseling and Training Clinic, explained its two main purposes.

Fernandez said graduate students acquire an opportunity to do their

hours that they require to obtain their license as therapists such as a professional counselor or as a school counselor.

"The other purpose is the community since access to services is limited in certain situations," she added. "Some places can only admit clients with certain issues, and other places the same."

The clinical therapist told The Rider the clinic offers services from age 6 and above, offering plans for needs such as anxiety, depression and other mental-health-related concerns.

"It's a whole variety nowadays," Fernandez said. "We have even more issues, and a lot of the counseling we do is family and elderly care. So, our goal is to help as much as possible at no cost."

She acknowledged even though the services offered are entirely free, some people remain hesitant to seek counseling.

"I think that we have to help whatever part of the community we can, ensuring that they can live their lives at the fullest level, and that is especially urgent to me in young people," Fernandez said.

Brianna Garcia, administrative assistant at the Brownsville clinic, said interested clients can first sign up through the clinic's website.

Garcia mentioned the most common mental-health concerns seen at the clinic include anxiety, depression, anger management, and family or couples counseling.

"One main way we differentiate from other counseling services in the area is that we are free to the public," she said. "We get seen once a week for about 50 minutes. I do believe that we are the only free clinic here in the Valley in Brownsville."

"Our goal is to help as much as possible at no cost."

--Patricia Fernandez,
supervising clinical therapist for
the Counseling and Training Clinic

The administrative assistant added while the clinic is free and accessible, there are limits to ensure the patients safety.

"We don't accept everyone—anyone who is suicidal, homicidal or psychotic is referred to another clinic," Garcia said.

For more information, visit the Counseling and Training Clinic website.

PHOTO GALLERY

CONNECTIONS AFTER HOURS



VALERIA TOKUN HAGA/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Valeria Garza, a graduate student, plays arcade games during the Union After Hours event Wednesday in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus.



Michelle Mendez (left), an integrated health science junior, and Elias Alvarez, a civil engineering junior, play arcade games during the Union After Hours event Wednesday in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus.

COLUMN OF THE WEEK

RUN, FORREST, RUN



KARLA HERNANDEZ
PHOTOGRAPHER

In our daily lives, we're often so full of responsibilities and activities that we rarely pause to ask ourselves how we're truly doing. That's something I have personally experienced. I've always led a busy life, but there came a point when I neglected my mental health and inner thoughts. That's when anxiety found its way into my life.

Throughout this journey, I've learned to run not just physically, but mentally from thoughts and situations that aren't healthy for my well-being. I discovered that running, both metaphorically and literally, has been incredibly helpful in the process. It became one of my favorite hobbies because, every time I ran, I felt like

I was leaving everything behind and escaping that overwhelming feeling of anxiety.

I began running more seriously and, to this day, I've completed two 5K races. Soon, I'll be running my first 10K and, then, another 5K.

Through this experience, I've learned that even in the not-so-good things, we can find something meaningful. There is always something to learn in every season.

As a believer, I trust that everything that happens in life has a purpose, even the difficult moments. One verse that has given me hope is 1 Peter 5:7: "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

There will be hard days and not-so-

good days, but there is always hope. I know I have nothing to fear because my trust is in God, and He cares for me.

"I have nothing to fear because my trust is in God."

It's important to take a moment in our day to simply breathe and calm our minds. And if at any point in your life you feel like you need help, don't hesitate to reach out to someone you trust or a mental-health professional.

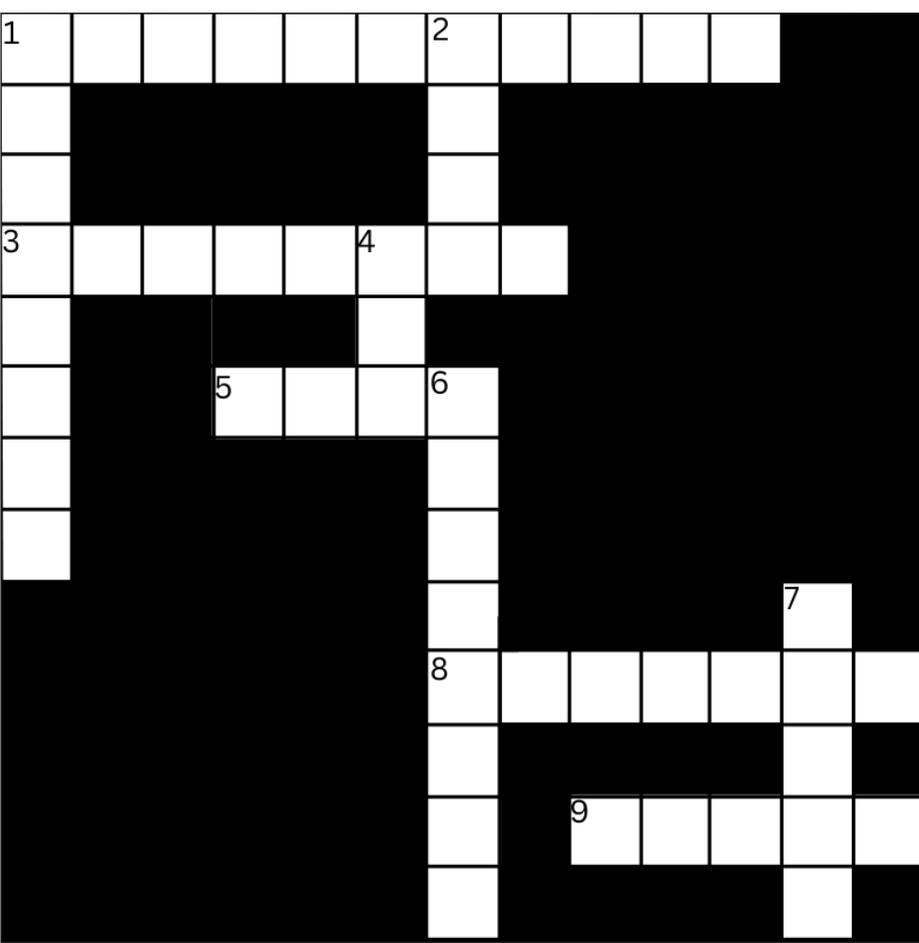
Always remember that things do get better. There is a future, and there is hope. Everything will be OK.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



09/29

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Pop artist who recently got engaged to a football player from the Kansas City Chiefs.
3. Artist who won "Artist of the Year" at the VMA's.
5. Acronym of a TV series where celebrities pair with professional dancers to compete by performing choreography.
8. Famous Youtube show where celebrities eat hot wings with host Sean Evans.
9. Bad_____, Latin music artist who did 30 show dates in Puerto Rico.

DOWN

1. Vampire movies coming back to theaters in the U.S. from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2.
2. Name of Justin Bieber's album released in July 2025.
4. Name of the "Song of the Year" at the VMA's.
6. Ariana Grande's tour name that recently released, "The Eternal _____ Tour"
7. _____ Han, author of the book trilogy "The Summer I Turned Pretty."

VAQUERO VOICE

How do you feel about the series finale of 'The Summer I Turned Pretty'?

--Compiled and photos by Venisha Colón and Mykel Del Angel



Audrey Silva
nursing junior

"I thought it was really good. I just didn't like how it was so rushed. Like, I didn't. We didn't really get to see Conrad and Belly at the end, how their relationship dynamic turned out. But other than that, it was good."



Kaelin Bynum
nursing junior

"I really liked it. I ship Conrad and Belly a lot. So, finding out they ended up together was happy for me. I'm very big on happy endings, but I didn't like Jeremiah at all."

IMPULSANDO UN FUTURO SEGURO

DAYRA GONZALEZ
THE RIDER

El proyecto RESCUE de UTRGV fue nombrado uno de los 10 finalistas en el Gulf Futures Challenge el 9 de septiembre. La iniciativa recibió \$300,000 en fondos de planeación y, ahora, tiene la oportunidad de competir por uno de dos premios de \$20 millones de la competencia.

“Como universidad pública para el Valle del Río Grande, nuestra responsabilidad es mejorar la calidad de vida y apoyar la salud, seguridad y futuro económico de la comunidad que servimos”, dijo el presidente de UTRGV Guy Bailey en un comunicado de prensa del 10 de septiembre.

En el comunicado de prensa, Bailey destaca el trabajo que la facultad y el personal de la universidad están liderando con socios regionales para “mejorar la seguridad energética de las familias, comunidades marginadas y negocios a través de la región”.

El proyecto RESCUE, Energía Renovable para Ecosistemas Sostenibles, Continuos e Ininterrumpidos, por sus siglas en inglés; tiene como objetivo señalar la inseguridad energética combinando tecnología avanzada con participación de la comunidad, de acuerdo a uno de los líderes del proyecto.

Cecilio Ortiz García, profesor de ciencias políticas y uno de los co-investigadores principales del proyecto, dijo que RESCUE está diseñado no solo para hacer más fuerte la infraestructura física pero también para “aumentar la resiliencia de nuestra región” contra climas extremos como heladas, inundaciones

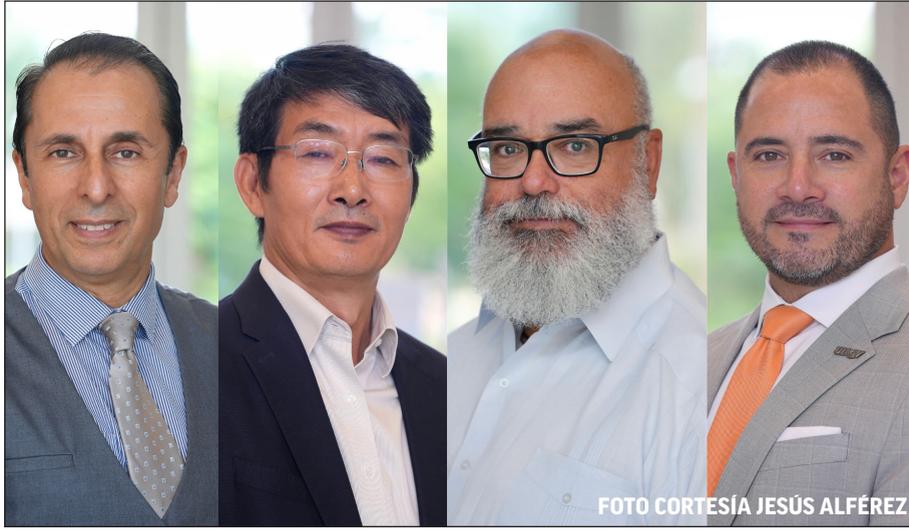


FOTO CORTESÍA JESÚS ALFÉREZ

El proyecto RESCUE de UTRGV fue nombrado uno de los 10 finalistas en la competencia de Gulf Futures el 9 de septiembre. En la foto se muestra a Can Saygin (de izquierda), investigador principal; Jianzhi James Li, co-investigador principal; Cecilio Ortiz García, co-investigador principal; y Ron Garza, co-investigador principal.

y olas de calor.

Ortiz García dijo que la iniciativa busca encontrar métodos efectivos e innovadores para mejorar la tecnología y las partes comunitarias del sistema.

Otro de los objetivos es preparar al personal de trabajo, de acuerdo al profesor.

Ortiz García agregó que la transición a la energía renovable tiene que venir acompañada de oportunidades de entrenamiento y caminos seguros a nuevos trabajos, asegurando que los residentes del Valle están incluidos en el cambio global a la energía sustentable “en una forma que no deje a nadie atrás”.

El almacenamiento de energía también es parte central del plan, de acuerdo a Sergio Perez, director de

Programas de Sustentabilidad.

Perez dijo que la energía renovable no puede ser verdaderamente confiable sin los sistemas adecuados para guardarla. Mientras que la energía solar es abundante durante el día, agregó, el almacenamiento extiende sus funciones a horas de la tarde y noche.

El director también señaló que hay una posibilidad de un sistema de baterías sin litio, que podría reducir impactos ambientales y vulnerabilidades de la cadena de suministro.

La energía renovable ofrece un beneficio financiero a las familias del Valle que constantemente gastan porciones más altas de su salario en utilidades comparado con el

“Nuestra responsabilidad es mejorar la calidad de vida.”

--Guy Bailey, presidente de UTRGV

promedio nacional, de acuerdo a Sergio Perez. Soluciones innovadoras de almacenamiento podrían ayudar a reducir estos precios.

“Este tipo de innovación es fundamental a medida que buscamos cómo hacer que nuestras comunidades y campus sean más resilientes y sustentables”, dijo.

Los \$300,000 en fondos de planeación apoyan a estudiantes de posgrado y grupos focales de la comunidad mientras que UTRGV desarrolla toda la propuesta.

Ortiz García dijo que el equipo se mantiene optimista a pesar del proceso competitivo. Más que un proyecto de universidad, dijo, RESCUE se trata de ayudar a los residentes del Valle a imaginarse un futuro donde la energía es accesible, segura y sustentable.

“No solo para que la universidad tenga este honor, sino para que nuestras comunidades se sientan más resilientes y visualicen un futuro más resiliente en términos de seguridad energética y de su salud y bienestar”, Ortiz García dijo.

Los ganadores serán anunciados a principios del 2026, de acuerdo a la planeación de Gulf Futures Challenge.

--Traducido por Sofía Cantú Saucedo

VALLEY SPOTLIGHT

JESUS TREVIÑO: ALGO ‘MÁGICO, INALCANZABLE’



FOTO CORTESÍA JOSIE DEL CASTILLO

El artista Jesus Treviño presenta su pintura “Una multa que nunca saldrá de un Hogar que nunca volverá a ver” (óleo sobre papel arcilla, objetos) el 19 de septiembre en la exhibición de arte del Mes de la Herencia Hispana en el Museo Histórico de Brownsville, ubicado en 641 E. Madison St.

SOFÍA CANTÚ SAUCEDA
THE RIDER

Jesus Treviño, nacido en San Antonio, con padres del Valle del Río

Grande creció a ser pintor, dibujante y profesor de medio tiempo de fundamentos 2D y dibujo en UTRGV.

Cuando tenía un mes de edad, su familia se mudó a la frontera México-

Estados Unidos, en Brownsville, donde creció.

Treviño dijo que el dibujo y la pintura siempre fueron algo que le interesaba.

“Siempre sentía que era una cosa mágica inalcanzable”, dijo. “Siempre iba a museos por mi cumpleaños”.

Treviño dijo que, gracias a profesores en la preparatoria y la universidad, se dio cuenta que el arte era “realizable” y que podía “pintar lo que sea”.

En ese momento, fue cuando él empezó a confiar en sí mismo y pensar que estaba en el camino a cumplir lo que pensaba “inalcanzable”.

Treviño dijo que el Valle es parte de como se ha desarrollado como artista.

“Me he desarrollado como quien soy”, dijo. “Pienso que somos un reflejo de todo a lo que hemos sido expuestos y acordado con eso. He pasado la mayoría de vida aquí, entonces todo lo que soy es parte del RGV”.

Actualmente, Treviño tiene una organización sin fines de lucro llamada Frontera Arts in Bloom que comenzó en el 2023 en Brownsville.

Frontera Arts in Bloom tiene un programa de residencia para otros artistas financiado por medio de donaciones y aplica para recibir becas y fondos de la ciudad.

“Invito a artistas de otros países a venir a Brownsville, quedarse en el edificio histórico en Jefferson Street llamado Flower Shop”, Treviño dijo. “Tiene tres cuartos arriba y abajo es un lugar grande abierto que era un supermercado, entonces viven ahí por

cinco semanas”.

En el programa, hacen pláticas y hablan con estudiantes de arte sobre sus prácticas.

Treviño recibió una licenciatura en artes de estudio en UTRGV en el 2018 y compartió que su trabajo nace de su experiencia de haber crecido en la frontera.

“En la licenciatura, siempre estaba dándole vueltas a los temas de los que quería hablar porque hay un tipo de vergüenza implícita de ser de la frontera”, dijo.

Treviño añadió que a veces la forma en la que pensamos sobre la relación entre el lugar donde vives y contigo mismo te afecta personalmente y a tu propia autoestima.

Hasta que él se mudó a Austin, fue cuando se dio cuenta de su contexto más grande y que “estos temas son importantes y no son tan ampliamente abordados como pensamos”.

Sus mayores influencias artísticas son Alejandro Macias, Gil Rocha y Cande Aguilar—todos artistas del Valle.

Treviño dijo que su proceso artístico comienza haciendo bosquejos y a veces con fotografías, tratando de “recrear recuerdos”.

El mayor consejo que le puede dar a cualquier persona que aspira al arte es “tienes que amarlo”.

“Como en cualquier trabajo, tienes que ser alguien con quien las personas quieran trabajar, estar cerca y conectar”, Treviño dijo. “El arte es una extensión tuya”.

THE ELECTRIC SOUL OF CHERRY CHROME

EDUARDO ESCAMILLA
A&E EDITOR

There are often stories told by previous generations of a moment that shaped music. For anyone making their rounds at music venues today, they might recognize something similar taking shape in the Valley.

The artists emerging from the scene are pulsating with a primal energy that is both calculated and authentic. One group entering the ring with a fresh point of view and introducing a sound as mysterious and vibrant as its creators is Cherry Chrome.

In an interview with The Rider, the duo, composed of Hannah Rocha and Anthony Perez, pulled back the curtain on its creative process, revealing a world shaped by friendship, community and a refusal to be confined by a single genre.

The duo's genesis began about two years ago when they met through a mutual friend. After a few jam sessions, they "clicked," according to Perez.

Rocha said her interests in high school were always musically inclined, but it was not until she started attending more shows that she felt the drive to form her own band.

"It was always so inspiring to see how people can come together and just put on a show and create amazing music together," she said.

When Rocha shared her inspiration with Perez, Cherry Chrome was born.

Describing its sound as a "slush" of musical genres, with an ethereal quality that shifts into a more electronic form, its music prominently features synth elements alongside acoustic work.

The duo is also known for their DJ sets, which is another facet of its musical identity. It is more of a "party mode," where they play music that is more Euro and funky.

"I like the duality of having songs that we write to be a lot more intimate and structured," Perez said. "But when it comes to DJ sets, I think we like to have fun and kind of keep it, like, more, not outgoing, but crazy."

The duo said the creative process for Cherry Chrome is deeply collaborative and communal.

Their music is born from countless jam sessions with friends who are also musicians. The bonding through musical experimentation was a crucial part of shaping their distinct sound.

With the "privilege and honor" of having a platform, Rocha said they hope to share the stage with their friends and incorporate their music, be it a violin or cello, into the performances.

Spanish also plays an important role in the duo's music, according to her, who was born and raised in Mexico and finds her native tongue more expressive and comfortable.

Rocha said she enjoys the "poetic nature of Spanish lyrics," which allows for a more nuanced and creative songwriting. Though they are not limited to it, they also create music in English and sometimes mix both languages.

For them, singing in Spanish is a way of expressing their cultural roots and personal experiences.

"Whenever it comes to, like, writing songs, I feel like getting things written in

Spanish provides a lot more fluidity in the music," Perez said.

The duo strives to create a live atmosphere where everyone feels a personal connection to the music and believes music is a "universal language" that can transcend barriers.

Perez added they want their fans to have fun and feel safe.

The experience is designed to be a dynamic mix of "high energy dancing and intimate, low-key moments."

Ultimately, their message is "come as you are," and they hope the point that the human experience is a unifier comes across in their music.

"Everybody is safe in the cherry bubble," Rocha said.

Looking to the future,

Cherry Chrome is working on an EP with the goal of releasing it before the end of the year.

As independent artists and self-proclaimed perfectionists, they are taking their time to ensure the music is the best it can be.

To learn more about Cherry Chrome, visit its Instagram @chxrrychrme.



PHOTO COURTESY CHERRY CHROME

Shown are Anthony Perez (left) and Hannah Rocha from Cherry Chrome, an independent duo from the Rio Grande Valley.

A BLEND OF DIFFERENT SOUNDS

SOFÍA CANTÚ SAUCEDA
THE RIDER

Larry Hammett, an American jazz guitarist, and Oscar Herrero, a Spanish flamenco guitarist and composer, will perform "A Jazz Flamenco Duo" 7 p.m. Friday in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

Hammett and Herrero will spontaneously select pieces from their compositions and combine their very different styles of music, according to the event's description in Showpass.

Hammett said they were together all summer creating new "supply" for several upcoming concerts with this one being the first together.

He said the main challenge was to take Herrero's pieces and add his background to put a piece together.

"It was challenging but, in the end, we both did it

together," Hammett said.

The jazz guitarist said they are both "excited and prepared" for the concert as both have separate projects to do before and after the jazz flamenco duo concert.

"It will be really a delight to just have somebody on stage that's my friend and be able to play stuff that we had a lot of fun creating," he said.

Herrero and Hammett met 15 years ago after Hammett took an online lesson from him.

"We discovered some things that we have in common outside of music," Hammett said.

The American musician described the idea of the duo as a "natural thought after a brief time."

Hammett said the audience can expect two veteran guitar players with unique music while performing.

"[The recordings] are very unique; they're very pretty,



PHOTO COURTESY LARRY HAMMETT

Shown are Oscar Herrero (left) and Larry Hammett, a Flamenco and Jazz duo set to perform at 7 p.m. Friday in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

also," he said. "It's very enjoyable, very powerful for people who've done anything about music and people who don't know a lot about music."

Hammett said the

experience will be something "inclusive" for everyone in the performance and invited students to "come out and have some fun." Admission is free.

For more information, special accommodations and/or RSVP, visit the event's Showpass page.

NEW SEASON, NEW FACES



JOSE RODRIGUEZ/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Junior guard Koree Cotton is from Miami, Florida, and a member of the UTRGV Men's Basketball Team. The Vaqueros had their first practice Sept. 22 in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.



Redshirt junior guard Always Wright runs half-court drills Sept. 22 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

DANIELA CHAPA-REYES
THE RIDER

Sneakers squeaked for the first time in the school year as the UTRGV Men's Basketball Team returned to practice on

Sept. 22. The Vaqueros also welcomed 10 new faces into the drills.

Head coach Kahil Fennell said the first day of practice feels like "a little bit of a holiday." "We can get in here for an

"... I keep my guys' energy up at all times."

--Koree Cotton,
junior guard

extended period of time and really do everything we can to get better," Fennell said.

He said when recruiting the players, they tried focusing on players who have had success winning at other programs and who value winning.

"What we try to do as a team is the most important thing," Fennell said. "I think the guys that value those things are more successful with us in our program."

Graduate forward Kwo Agwa is one of three returning players. Agwa said being a returner means leading and showing the expectations of the squad.

"I feel like we're a long, defensive team," he said. "Everybody in the roster, from the point guards to the bigs, can shoot. I feel like we can stretch the floor and be there defensively."

Agwa said an improvement made during the summer and the offseason was being able to finish.

"I feel like, last year, a lot of those games, we led in the first half and kind of fell short in the second half," he said. "I feel like this year kind of emphasizes finishing and getting better in that aspect."

Junior guard Koree Cotton previously played with Jacksonville State University and is one of the new faces on the team. Cotton said the experience with UTRGV has

"been real good."

"I feel like coach Fennell recruited a great group of guys," he said. "From Day One, we've just been clicking; it's been amazing."

Cotton said the team is looking at winning the Southland Conference Championship.

"A lot of these guys have experienced it before, and I've been at the Division I level before; I feel like I could do what it takes to take these guys to that place," he said.

Throughout practice, Cotton said he has kept the energy up for himself and the team. He said he does the best he can, keeping the energy up and making sure there are no "die downs."

"When somebody's got bad energy, it affects the whole team," Cotton said. "I make sure I'm not that guy, and I make sure I keep my guys' energy up at all times."

Another new face on the team is redshirt junior guard Always Wright, who previously played with the University of Rhode Island. Wright said coming onto the team feels like "a breath of fresh air."

"Getting to meet new people and just collab with the guys," he said. "I feel like the summer was really great for us, and we have a lot of momentum heading into the season. So, I'm really excited."

Wright said the team has a big focus this year.

"As long as we focus on the internal factors and not the external, I think we'll be great just handling any adversity that comes our way," he said. "We're not the biggest team, but we're definitely gonna be the most physical on a day in, day out basis."

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:

DIMITRA NANOU



PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

Dimitra Nanou is a biology freshman from Kozani, Greece, and an outside hitter for the UTRGV Volleyball Team. In the 2025 season, she has had a total of 87 kills.

Q: What is a fun fact about yourself?

A: "I can't go a day without listening to music."

Q: Who or what got you started in volleyball?

A: "My family, because my mom and my dad are also my coaches, so it's like a family thing."

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

A: "My inspiration is my grandpa."

Q: Who is your favorite volleyball player?

A: "My favorite volleyball player is Sarina Koga."

Q: How do you mentally prepare for a game?

A: "I usually have fun with my teammates making TikToks, and also listening to trap and Greek or English music."

Q: What kind of music do you listen to?

A: "I listen to all types of music. It depends on the day, my mood and everything."

Q: Which shows or movies do you like to watch?

A: "I don't have time to watch shows or movies."

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: "I really like dancing and watching other sports."

Q: What do you like most about UTRGV?

A: "I like the culture, and it feels like a family because everyone helps me. It feels like a home."

Q: What are your biggest goals?

A: "My biggest goal is to become a professional volleyball player, and to help my family [and] my sister. I think one of my biggest goals also is to have a family."

--Compiled by Mariajose Garza

FIRST CONFERENCE W, A 'STEPPING STONE'

ALI HALLOUM
THE RIDER

The Vaqueros (6-6, 1-0 SLC) began conference play with a 3-0 sweep against Lamar University at home Wednesday, seeking to capitalize on the momentum for the rest of this portion of the schedule, according to a team player.

UTRGV Volleyball head coach Todd Lowery told The Rider that although the team was "up and down" during non-conference play, it has found consistency lately, and it reflects on the court.

"I really like where we've kind of been the last two weeks," Lowery said. "We've definitely seen a lot of improvement. A lot of the things that were really causing us fits early on seemed to be kind of getting them under control."

He added although he knew entering the season with nine new players and integrating them into the game plan would be difficult, the team has done better at clicking in recent games.

Lowery said working on having junior setter Isabella Costantini utilizing the middle of the court has really

balanced the team's offense in recent games as balance can help them in conference play.

"We probably are playing as a balanced offense as we have here in a really long time," he said. "Just spreading the load and staying healthy, I think, is going to be key. And also, just making it a lot harder for teams to scout us."

In their sweep over Lamar last week, all parts of their offense clicked, with two

"...we're on top of the world..."

--Eddie Lee Marburger,
redshirt senior quarterback

outside hitters, freshman Dimitra Nanou and senior Valentina Sarti Cipriani both tallying 11 kills.

A middle-blocker duo stepped up big time in the game, with juniors Aaliyah Snead and Julianna Bryant both setting the tone defensively and tallying 6 and 7 kills a piece.

The match also included come-from-behind wins, falling behind in the second set 5-0 and the third 3-0 before roaring back against

the Cardinals to take those sets 25-19 and 25-17 respectively.

Snead said the team was "ecstatic" to begin conference play with a sweep, and it is looking at seizing this momentum and applying it through the end of the season.



PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

Senior right side Valentina Sarti Cipriani setovers the ball against Lamar University during the Wednesday game in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

"I feel like we're on top of the world right now," she said. "I feel like it's a confidence booster for all the girls, and it's a stepping stone for the rest of the season. We're projecting ourselves to go really far during the season."

Snead added the team is also looking forward to playing and winning against conference rivals, such as Stephen F. Austin State

University and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

"We're looking forward to the rivalries," she said. "Being able to play against some hard teams and know that we're going to be able to give it our all and still get the dub."



UTRGV played its second conference game at home against Stephen F. Austin Saturday. Results were unavailable as of press time.

The team will next play the Northwestern State University of Louisiana Demons at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. The game will be available to stream via ESPN+.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO READ

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

BROWNSVILLE GOES ONLINE

HUGO SEPÚLVEDA
THE RIDER

The Brownsville Parks and Recreation Department launched a public free Wi-Fi initiative at Southern Pacific Linear and Dean Porter parks for the public use of city residents.

This initiative will bring digital connectivity to the entire city with a 5G network due to the collaboration between the city and Omni Fiber.

Sean De Palma, director of Parks and Recreation, said the purpose is for people to be able to be connected when they visit parks in Brownsville.

De Palma added Linear Park and Dean Porter Park already have the system built-in but are pending for the Wi-Fi to go live. Residents will have to login and have access to “high-speed” Wi-Fi in mentioned parks.

The department plans to go live this week, according to the director.

De Palma said the planning of this project has been going “very well” and is almost done. The technology built in the initiative is part of the Parks, Health and Recreation Master Plan.

He said the department is also adding cameras with “high-tech” and AI technology that would connect to the Brownsville Police Department to make the spaces safer.

De Palma added during the first

“Public parks with Wi-Fi, it’s actually a great idea.”

--Itzak Garib, a UTRGV nursing junior

phase of the initiative more parks would be added to the network within the next 18 months.

He said residents can expect high-speed internet, safety and functionality when visiting city parks.

Itzak Garib, a UTRGV nursing junior, said it was the first time he heard about the initiative but thinks public Wi-Fi is a good idea.

“It gets more people going to parks outside rather than just being stuck in a coffee shop and just staying there,” Garib said.

He added it is “nice” going out to a public park and having some nature behind you.

“Public parks with Wi-Fi, it’s actually a really great idea,” Garib said. “This would make me go out to a park more often.”

Israel Rios, a biology sophomore, said he was not aware about the city project but thinks it is “good” for people without internet access.

“It’s just another spot where people can have access to internet if they can’t afford it,” Rios said.



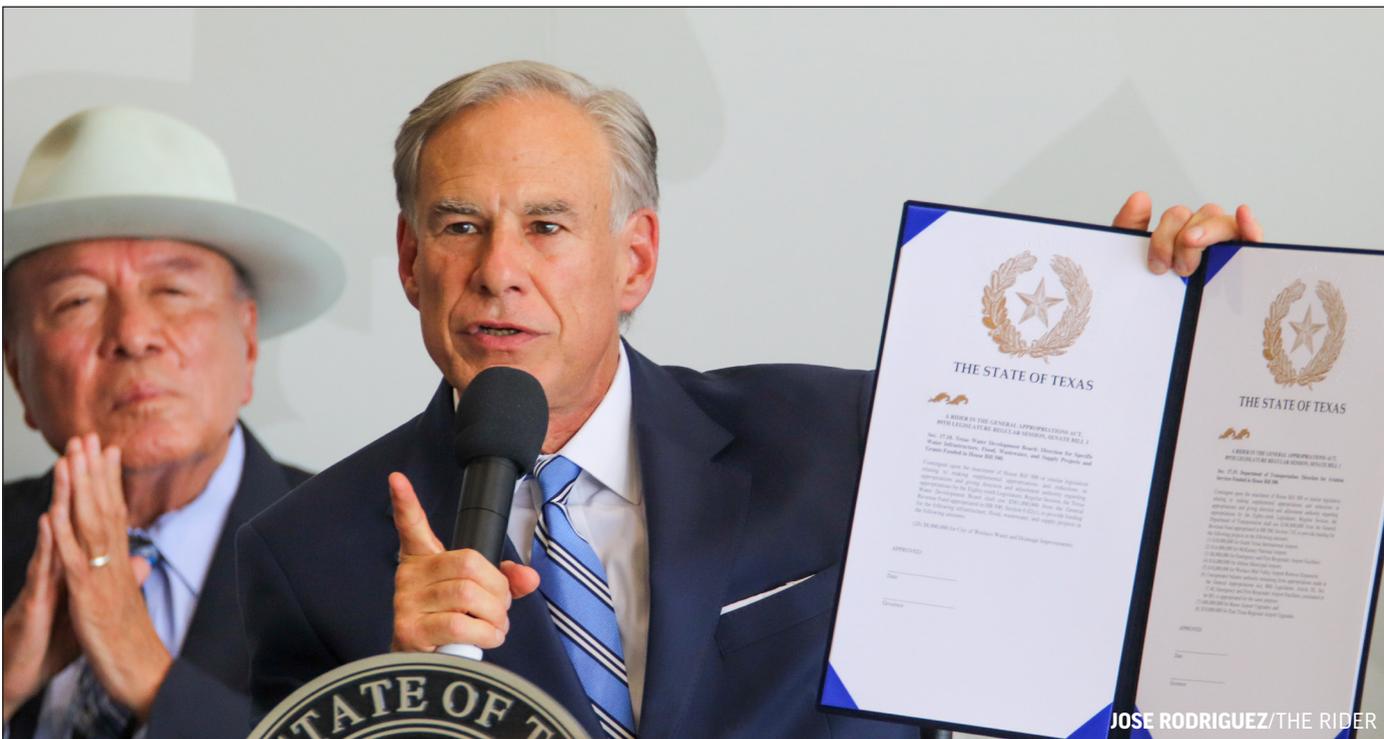
VALERIA TOKUN HAGA/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Sean De Palma, director for the Brownsville Parks and Recreation department, speaks with Hugo Sepúlveda, The Rider reporter, on Sept. 19 at Linear Park located at East 6th and Ringgold Streets. The park will be among the first public spaces in Brownsville to offer free internet access through the department’s initiative.



Shown is Linear Park, located at East 6th and Ringgold Streets in Brownsville.

ABBOTT ANNOUNCES \$28M INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT



JOSE RODRIGUEZ/THE RIDER

Gov. Greg Abbott presents “A Rider in the General Appropriations Act, 89th Legislature Regular Session, Senate Bill 1” Tuesday inside the Payne Aviation Hangar at the Mid-Valley Airport in Weslaco.

ETHAN MALDONADO
THE RIDER

Gov. Greg Abbott announced Tuesday granting more than \$100 million in funding to infrastructure across the state. It includes \$28 million allocated to the Rio Grande Valley.

The investment includes the expansion of Weslaco’s Mid-Valley Airport, a facility that city leaders say could become a major driver of economic growth in the Rio Grande Valley.

The fund allocation was made public during the 2025 Legislative Appropriations event.

Abbott presented two state senate bills representing budget authorizations for the funding. One section directs \$8 million for Weslaco’s water and drainage system and another one allocates \$10 million for the Weslaco airport runway expansion and \$10 million for the South Texas International Airport in Edinburg.

“The Rio Grande Valley is absolutely booming,” he said. “The millions of

people who work and live in the Rio Grande Valley are truly instrumental to the future success of our state. Because of who you are, and because of everything that you contribute to the state of Texas, you are an important part of the Texas economic juggernaut. Texas will be part of the growing Rio Grande Valley every step of the way.”

State Rep. Armando Martinez (D-Weslaco) said Mid-Valley Airport, while less known than Valley International in Harlingen or McAllen International, plays a crucial role in disaster response, border security, and

“Catalysts for economic growth”

--Texas Gov. Greg Abbott

private and corporate aviation.

It is also home to the Texas Department of Public Safety, National Guard facilities, and Customs and Border Protection operations.

Weslaco Mayor Adrian Gonzalez said the improvements will help the airport attract new businesses and strengthen its role as a regional hub.

“This is huge,” Gonzalez said. “The \$10 million for the runway ... and \$8 million for drainage will do great things not just for Weslaco but for the entire Rio Grande Valley.”

Abbott compared the project to the creation of Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and the expansion of Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, both of which helped transform their regions into “catalysts for economic growth.”

He noted the Valley’s population is projected to double by 2045, making infrastructure investments such as the Mid-Valley expansion critical.

The announcement drew a packed crowd of state and local leaders, including state Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen), state Sen. Adam Hinojosa (R-Corpus Christi) and Weslaco Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Barbara Garza.

The event concluded with Gonzalez presenting Abbott a key to the city in recognition of his support for the Valley.