

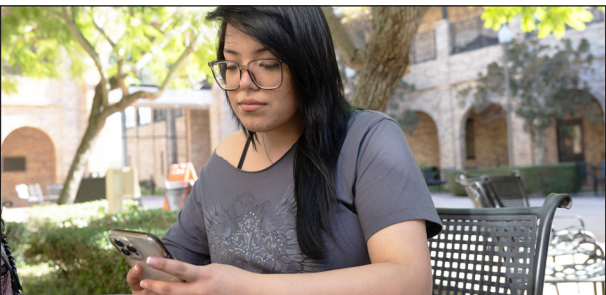
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LOCAL

# SHOCK FACTOR



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ /THE RIDER

U.S. Custom and Border Protection Headquarters located in Edinburg on east Trenton road. ICE plans to spend up to \$20 million to purchase gloves that can deliver an electric shock for de-escalation procedures.

## UTRGV faculty, students react to ICE electric gloves

MARIAH LYDIA ESCOBAR  
THE RIDER

Immigration and Customs Enforcement may soon implement the use of electric shock gloves as they plan to spend up to \$20 million on Generated Low Output Voltage Emitters known as G.L.O.V.E.s, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

The gloves will be issued to Homeland Security and Enforcement Removal Operations officers and agents.

According to Alvaro Corral, assistant professor of the School of Political Science, Public Affairs, Legal and Security Studies, the gloves are expected to be out in the field by March 2027.

“We could probably expect operations that result in detentions and deportations in the Rio Grande Valley to include the use of these electric shock gloves to detain individuals,” Corral said.

He said the possibility of the devices being used during immigration enforcement operations may cause concern among the community.

“People are probably right to be fearful of potentially being shocked by federal agents with electricity,” Corral said.

Gina Palacios, associate professor and director of the Center of the Borderlands, said devices that give officers additional power can raise concerns about how the power may be used.

“Tools like this can be easily abused,” Palacios said. “They have a lot of power

and I think it’s easy for the person who’s wearing it to abuse the use of them without even knowing they’re doing it.”

She said changes in immigration enforcement have a greater impact in the Rio Grande Valley because of the region’s proximity and connection to the U.S.-Mexico border.

“The RGV isn’t just a place where immigration and enforcement happens,” Palacios said. “ICE and Border Patrol is

**SHOCK GLOVES**

*Immigration and Customs Enforcement plan to spend up to \$20 million on Generated Low Output Voltage Emitters, also known as G.L.O.V.E.s*

just part of our lives here.”

She said that families and communities that cross or have relations to the border feel the weight of the changes heavily whether it directly affects them or not.

Marlene Ruiz, a mathematics freshman, said she did not know about ICE planning to give their officers electric shock gloves.

“In the Valley, there’s a lot of immigrant families here and a lot of students who come from immigrant families ... we get racially profiled a lot,” Ruiz said.

She added because of racial profiling, members of the community could face a higher risk of being harmed during encounters with ICE agents.

Ruiz said students should always be on their toes and carry their I.D. or something that verifies that they are a U.S. citizen.

Johana Santana, a visual communication design and creative writing senior, said she was unaware of ICE possibly giving their officers electric shock gloves, and said she does not believe agents should use them.

Maria Vazquez, a health science freshman, said it may affect RGV residents more because of how close they are to the border.

“It’s so inhumane and I think it goes against people’s rights here,” Vazquez said.

Palacios said residents should educate themselves about their rights and understand what changes in immigration enforcement can mean for the community.

“Educate yourself, learn and go from there, whether that means agreeing with or resisting and pushing against,” Palacios said. “Use your voice.”

—Jorge Rios and Adrian Hernandez contributed to this story

ON CAMPUS

## College of Fine Arts’ last days in TSC

GAEL ESPINOZA  
THE RIDER

The lease between UTRGV and Texas Southmost College has officially come to an end, with today being its last day.

As the Vaquero’s art students move out of the Rustenberg Hall building, they move into their new home Brownsville Visual Arts Complex. The building is located at 2400 E. Van Buren St. in Brownsville.

As reported by The Rider on Sept. 22, 2025, “UT System Board of Regents approved \$39 million for repairs and renovations to the former Longoria Elementary School property.”

Jeffrey Ward, dean of the College of Fine Arts, in an Aug. 20 interview with The Rider, said the program has started moving in furniture and equipment on Aug. 19 to the Brownsville Visual Arts Complex.

Ward said the School of Art and Design and School of Music program has finalized today the lease with TSC and stop renting the TSC Performing Arts Center.

“The daily cost to rent TSC auditorium is \$3,500, and I believe that’s for an eight-hour period...we also have to pay TSC staff, and that is roughly \$1,500,” he said.

Ward said the move-out process is going “pretty well”, with the music program already completing their move-out by Aug. 20.

See LAST, Page 3

ON CAMPUS

## A safer, cleaner, easier parking experience

JORGE RIOS  
THE RIDER

The Parking and Transportation department increased the permit prices and made updates during the summer to some lots as preparation for the Fall 2026 semester.

Pablo Aguilar, director of Parking Services, said a few parking permits increased in price this year.

“For student Zone 2 parking permits, there was an increase of \$4,” Aguilar said.

He also confirmed an \$18 increase for administrator parking in Zone 5 and a \$21 increase for employee parking in Zone 2 to “encourage any employees ... to consider upgrading to ... Zone 3,” as this would allow more room for Zone 2 parking.

Zone 1 parking permits did not increase.

“We try to keep the parking permit rate increases minimal,” he said. “We still have the most affordable parking permits in the whole UT system, and that’s something we’d like to keep.”

UTRGV Parking and Transportation’s Instagram page announced on July 31 parking lot improvements on the Edinburg campus began on Aug 3. Improvements also took place in Brownsville and Harlingen.

See LAST, Page 3



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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A ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today**  
**Access for Sex-Ed Weekly Tabling**  
**Access for Sex-Education** will host a tabling event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and at the same time Thursday in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

**Info Depots**  
UTRGV Trailblazers will host **information depots** from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday on both campuses. Attendees can collect **maps, snacks** and learn about campus.

**CRGV Tabling**  
**Christians at RGV** will host a tabling event from 11 a.m. to noon in the Student Union Commons area on the Edinburg campus.

**RGV German Club Meetings**  
The **RGV German Club** will meet from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. in Sabal Hall Room 1.106 on the Brownsville campus.

**SNO General Meeting**  
The **Student Nurse Organization** will meet from 6 to 7 p.m. in Health Affairs Building West Room 1.404 on the Edinburg campus.

**Pre-PA General Meeting**  
The **Pre-PA Society Edinburg Chapter** will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Math and General Classroom building Room 2.418 on the Edinburg

campus.  
**Tuesday**  
**Bible Study**  
**Christian at RGV** will host a Bible study from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building South Room 303 on the Edinburg campus.

**Get Involved Fair**  
The **Center for Student Involvement and Fraternity and Sorority Life** will host its Fall 2026 Get Involved Fair from noon to 2 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. Attendees can **explore opportunities** and ways to **get involved** on campus.

**The Stomp**  
**Student Activities** will host **The Stomp** from 7 to 11 p.m. in Lot B4 on the Brownsville campus and from 8 p.m. to midnight Thursday in Lot E16 on the Edinburg campus. Students can **connect with fellow Vaqueros, enjoy live music, giveaways** and interact with **local vendors.**

**International Meet & Greet**  
The **VP for Strategic Enrollment** will host an International Meet & Greet from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Ballroom Lawn on the Edinburg campus and at the

same time Thursday on the Student Union Patio on the Brownsville campus. Attendees can experience **games** and a **parade of flags.**

**Picnic with the President**  
The **Office of the President** will host **Picnic with the President** at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Thursday in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. Attendees can get free **hamburgers and drinks** with **Guy Bailey.**

**Wednesday**  
**Vaquero Clubs: Campus Takeover**  
The **Center for Student Involvement and Fraternity and Sorority Life** will host Campus Takeover from noon to 3 p.m. at the Pine Circle and Sun Dial on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can enjoy **activities, free food** and **explore organizations.**

**UTRGV Day**  
UTRGV will celebrate its **11th anniversary** from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus, 11 a.m. to noon in the McAllen Rio Bank fifth-floor conference room, noon to 1 p.m. in Clinical Education Building Room 1.100 on the Harlingen campus and

2 to 3 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. **Students, faculty** and **staff** are invited to receive a **free T-shirt, cupcakes and drinks.**

**Career Social**  
The **Career Center** will host a **Career Social** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Academic Building Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Thursday at the Student Union Quad on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can explore tools to **help boost** their career, **gain on-campus experience** and **prepare for the future.**

**Thursday**  
**ACJA IKC General Meeting**  
The **American Criminal Justice Association (Iota Kappa Chi)** will meet from 3 to 4 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center building Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus.

**Friday**  
**SGA Senate Meeting**  
The **Student Government Association** will host a Senate Meeting from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Main building Room 1.224 on the Brownsville campus.

--Compiled by Mariah Lydia Escobar

UTRGV’s glow is back



VALERIA TOKUN HAGA / THE RIDER PHOTOS

Rogelio Salinas (from left) and Jose Zavala Civio, electrical engineering freshmen, work on a computer at the University Library Wednesday, the first day of the fall semester, on the Brownsville campus.



Students spend time at the University Library Wednesday, the first day of the fall semester, on the Brownsville campus.



Students walk across the Lozano-Banco bridge on Wednesday, the first day of the fall semester, on the Brownsville campus.



Students gather on the second floor of the Music, Science and Learning Center building to spend time between classes on Wednesday, the first day of the fall semester, on the Brownsville campus.



# The future looks bright in Brownsville

Task force of the future continues to expand academic success.

**HUGO SEPÚLVEDA**  
COPY EDITOR

UTRGV continues its collaboration with the City of Brownsville for the Task Force of the Future with the opening of more seats on the Brownsville campus and the expansion of the engineering program.

The Task Force of the Future was made as part of a memorandum of

“There were more students arounds, so I think that’s a direct reflection of adding seats .”

**--Patrick Gonzales, senior vice president for UTRGV Marketing and Communication**

understanding between UTRGV and the City of Brownsville “to enhance the experience of students on the Brownsville campus,” according to a previous report by The Rider.



VALERIA TOKUN HAGA/ THE RIDER

The construction of the new engineering building advances next to the UTRGV Interdisciplinary Academic Building Wednesday, on the first day of school, on the Brownsville Campus. Due to the construction, the classes that will be at the building are being offered temporarily online.

According to a report in May by the City of Brownsville, “the task force helped identify and elevate several priorities designed to strengthen Brownsville’s future and improve the experience of students on the Brownsville campus.”

The priorities the report states are to reduce the travel and expand academic access in Brownsville, expand facilities, strengthen healthcare and research presence in Cameron County and improve life and community connection.

The Rider contacted the City of Brownsville for an interview about the task force. As of press time, they were not available for comment.

Patrick Gonzales, senior vice president for UTRGV Marketing and Communication, said the task force accomplished adding about 3,000 seats on the Brownsville campus the last academic year.

“I heard a lot of reaction from people on the Brownsville campus, that the

Brownsville campus seemed a little more vibrant,” Gonzales said. “There were more students around, so I think that’s a direct reflection of adding seats.”

Gonzales said the university and the City of Brownsville have been able to work together to prioritize the academic programs.

“One thing that came out of the task force was the need for more engineers in the future because of what the City of Brownsville workforce is looking like with SpaceX and [NextDecade LNG] and everything that’s happening at the [Port of Brownsville],” he said.

Gonzales said with the task force, the university has started the expansion of the engineering programs in Brownsville by replicating the labs and equipment on the Edinburg campus.

As reported by The Rider on April 6, “the Task Force of the Future has been collecting data on all students who are traveling from Brownsville to Edinburg.”

He said the ridership data shows the university a lot of the students traveling to Edinburg were from the civil and mechanical engineering program for the third and fourth years of their career.

“So we are now in the process of replicating those facilities and those labs,” he said. “So, Brownsville students who are majoring in civil and mechanical engineering can now take third year and fourth year classes on the Brownsville campus.”

**Glow**  
*Continued from Page 2*



VALERIA TOKUN HAGA / THE RIDER PHOTOS

Kassandra Candonzoza, a marketing junior, writes in her notebook Wednesday in UTRGV’s Main building on the Brownsville campus.



Students gather on the first floor of the Music, Science and Learning Center building to spend time between classes on Wednesday, the first day of the fall semester, on the Brownsville campus.

**LAST**  
*Continued from Page 1*

“[We’re] in the last, it’s probably been the last six weeks,” Ward said.

“We have a portable on the edge of campus [in Brownsville] that we’re using as music storage, and we’re out of TSC on the music side. ...the art side is happening right now, and the reason why that has been we have been waiting till now because we’re waiting, we need the green light from the contractor.”

Angel Reyna, a music education for

piano junior, said it is unfortunate that the College of Fine Arts is leaving TSC.

“TSC is our Performing Arts Center, it’s really beautiful,” Reyna said. “We have to subsidize it and use the multi-purpose room here in the music department. [School of Art and Design] are going to go into a new building, just trying to focus on art, it is good.”

As reported by The Rider on March 30, the TSC Recreation Center will be the only building shared by UTRGV and TSC in Brownsville.

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@UTRGVRIDER

**PARKING**  
*Continued from Page 1*

When asked about improvements, Aguilar said Parking Services focuses on changes that make parking facilities safer, cleaner and easier to navigate, such as striping the parking lots.

“We installed delineators [and] sign replacements,” he said. “This improves the traffic flow. ... We’ve also done fire lane repainting. So, this ensures visibility for safety and emergency access. We’ve done ADA work, which is maintaining clearly identified accessible parking.”

He added that potholes were expected to be fixed and finalized by Tuesday.

As reported by The Rider on Sep. 2, 2025, another price increase for parking permits was issued last year.

Regarding the rate increases, Aguilar said Parking and Transportation are self-funded and, “the funds ... we do receive from permit revenue or enforcement, like citation revenue, [go] back into the operations of Parking Services.”

He said rate increases help the department with the cost of maintaining and operating the university parking system.

Aguilar added cost is the main

reason parking garages have not been implemented yet, as they would have to increase parking permit rates close to \$600 in order to fund the project.

When asked about desired parking improvements, senior childhood education Daisy Luna replied camera monitoring might need improvement.

Luna added that she has seen Facebook posts of people’s cars getting hit. She said being “more aware” of what happens on the cameras could make a difference for those “little hit-and-runs.”

Aguilar said there are safety security cameras in the parking lots but the police department is in charge of those incidents.

Luna said there may also be issues with the signs and inaccurate occupancy numbers.

Aguilar said the department has addressed these issues through the summer.

He added the inaccuracies were an ongoing issue but believes the maintenance has been very successful.

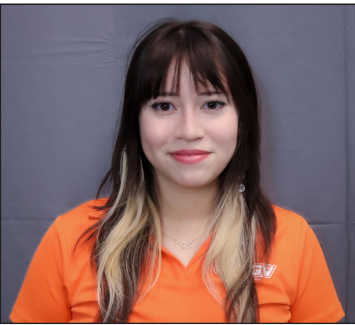
Kinesiology junior Hugo Benitez said he was initially unaware of how packed parking gets at UTRGV and he “had to park in Stripes.”

Aguilar said parking expansion is still a priority.



COLUMN OF THE WEEK

# Been really loving Pop-Tarts recently



**DRAVA RIOS**  
ONLINE EDITOR

Hard, crunchy breading with a gelatinous filling, topped with icing and sometimes sprinkles, this craze of toaster-popped tarts has been on my mind throughout my life. I don't know what it is about them, but I've been having one almost every day, particularly the strawberry or blueberry.

They're classics and overall solid, iconic flavors. Brown sugar's another classic, but it doesn't have the same substance as the other two. It lacks the crunch of the sprinkles and the coolness of the fruit filling. It's not a bad flavor, but it owes points. It leaves a lot to be desired. Cherry could fall into the category of classics, but it doesn't feel as distinct as the others. It's like a knockoff strawberry. And the sprinkles aren't rainbow, so it's not as visually appealing for me to want to pick up and eat. That's how I feel about wildberry as well, flavorwise. However, the purple and blue icing is nice to look at and is one of the most visually iconic flavors, but that's all it is to me. I used to be obsessed with the

cookies and cream flavor, but after a while, it just becomes too much. Similar to the other

"Pop-Tarts don't need that many add-ins."

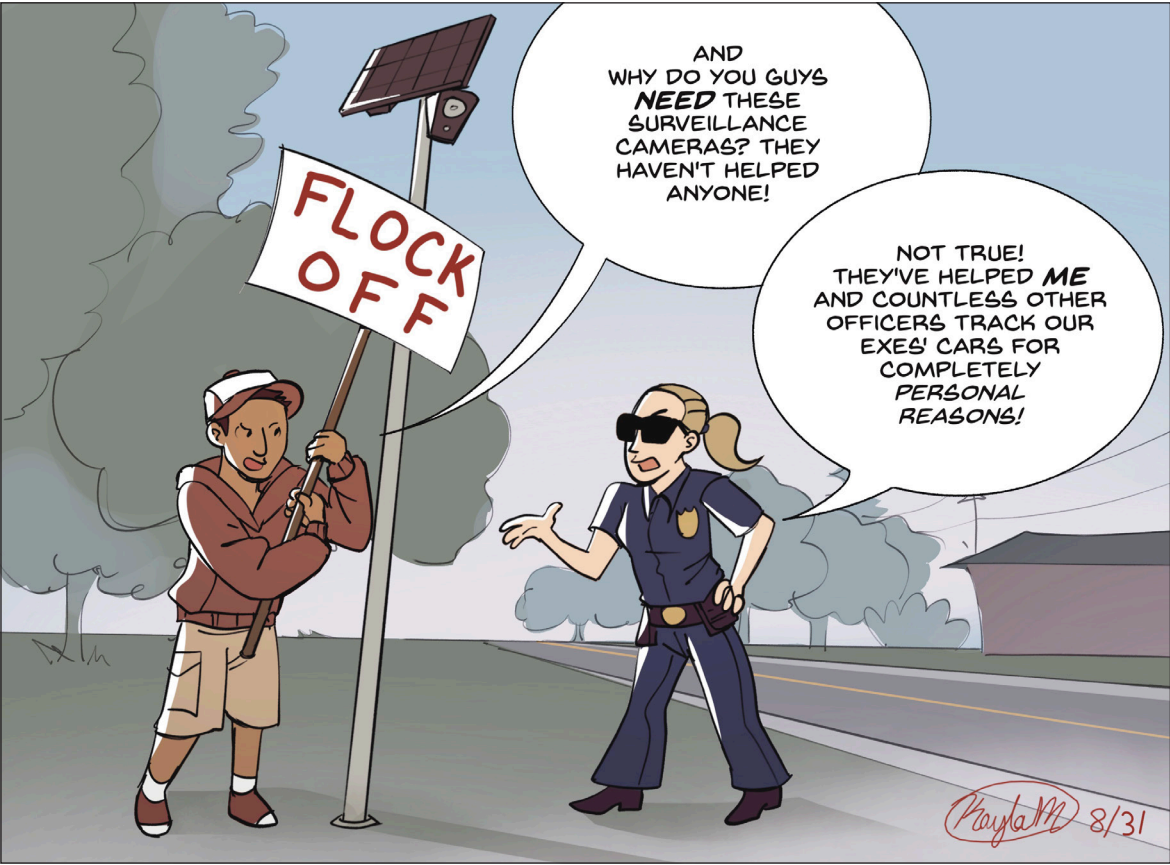
chocolate-based flavors, hot fudge sundae and chocolate fudge, the chocolate just becomes too much. It's not easy to swallow unless you have a glass of milk on the side, and a good pop-tart shouldn't need a secondary dish to make it decent. When the Fantastic Four Pop-Tarts came out, it was like my two worlds came crashing together. Strawberry Pop-Tarts,

and my fifth favorite Marvel team. They brought back the blue raspberry Pop-Tarts with this collaboration, including smores and brown sugar cinnamon flavor. Blue raspberry has always looked like a chemically toxic flavor to me, though. It's too blue for a pop-tart. This wasn't a revolutionary collaboration and it wasn't its most creative, but I liked themed food too much to hate it. I love their stupid little mascots, though. A lot. Their faces are so happy, and I love that they're showcased in different flavors. It made me so upset when the cookies-and-cream one was eaten at the Pop-Tarts Bowl. It makes you feel bad to see such a happy-looking food get eaten.

I have a love-hate relationship with personified food. It makes me want to eat it 'cause they're so cute. It's like when the Cinnamon Toast Crunch squares would be so horrified to be eaten in the commercials and then I would feel bad eating them. That's what I think of when I see a face on a food, but how could I hate such a fun pop-tart for making me not want to eat it? My New Year's resolution for 2027 is to try every Pop-Tarts flavor that's out, except the protein and extra stuffed ones; those are too much. Pop-Tarts don't need that many add-ins. They just need a good filling and a fun exterior. And, optionally, a theme to make me more happy.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

## A great technology for even better people



Vaquero Voice

--Compiled by Alizzaya Guel



**Yahir Tijerina (left)**  
medical and health humanities freshman

**Ralph Rodriguez (right)**  
computer science freshman

**Q: What was your favorite thing about Vaquero Roundup?**  
**A) Rodriguez:** "I really liked the amount of people and, like, the diversity of people. There was so much to explore and so much to do. It was so overwhelming, but it was so amazing, honestly."  
**A) Tijerina:** "I really like the community vibe. You really do feel like you're part of a new family, like entering as a freshman, you're all over the place. You're, like, so high school is done and what's next? But I feel like I'm gonna fit in here more than high school, because of the UTRGV community."

So, I wish that we could've ... talked or like had some sort of interactions, like, a bit more, but that's just me. I don't know."  
**A) Tijerina:** "To add on to that, I would say to people with similar majors that they should be all grouped up so that they meet each other, and they are not nervous on day one, and you already have a friend first day of school."

**Q: Is there anybody you guys met during Vaquero Roundup?**  
**A) Rodriguez:** "I'm actually not sure ... again, I just wished we could've had more interactions so that way I could've in some way."  
**A) Tijerina:** "Mostly just professors."  
**Bonus Question: Do you know our school colors?**  
**A) Tijerina:** "It would be orange, gray and green."  
**A) Rodriguez:** "Yup, orange, gray and green."

### WACKY WEB POLL

#### LAST WEEK'S RESULTS:

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER ?

| Blockbuster               | Percentage |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Spider-Man: Brand New Day | 70%        |
| Obsession                 | 20%        |
| The Odyssey               | 10%        |

#### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL IS DONE; HOW ARE YOU FEELING ABOUT YOUR CLASSES ?

CHECK OUT THE POLL ON OUR SOCIALS! @UTRGVRIDER

HAVE A STORY IDEA? SEND IT TO  
THERIDER@UTRGV.EDU



# Profesores, estudiantes de UTRGV reaccionan a planes de dar guantes de descarga eléctrica a ICE

MARIAH LYDIA ESCOBAR  
THE RIDER

El Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) podría implementar el uso de guantes de descarga eléctrica y planea asignar un presupuesto de \$20 millones a los Emisores de Voltaje Generado de Baja Intensidad (o por sus siglas en inglés G.L.O.V.E.), de acuerdo a la página de Departamento de Seguridad Nacional.

Los dispositivos se les proporcionará a los oficiales y agentes del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (HSI) y Operaciones de Ejecución y Remoción (ERO).

De acuerdo a Alvaro Corral, profesor asistente de la Escuela de Ciencias Políticas, Asuntos Públicos y Estudios Jurídicos, la utilización de los guantes está esperada para usarse en campo para marzo del 2027.

“Probablemente podríamos esperar que las operaciones que resulten en detenciones y deportaciones en el Valle del Río Grande puedan incluir el uso de estos guantes de descarga eléctrica para detener individuos”, Corral dijo.

Dijo que la posibilidad de que los dispositivos sean usados durante operativos de control migratorio puedan causar preocupaciones entre la comunidad.

“La gente probablemente tenga razón de temer por la posibilidad de recibir descargas eléctricas por parte de agentes federales”, Coral dijo.

Gina Palacios, profesora asociada y directora del Centro de las Tierras Fronterizas, dijo que los dispositivos que dan poder adicional a los oficiales



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ / FOTOS RIDER

Las oficinas de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza situada en Edinburg en East Trenton Road. ICE planea hacer una inversión de \$20 millones para comprar guantes que puedan dar choques eléctricos para situaciones de desescalado.

puedan generar preocupaciones en cómo el poder pueda ser usado.

“Herramientas como estas pueden ser abusadas fácilmente”, Palacios dijo. “Tienen mucho poder y creo que será fácil para la persona que las use abusar del poder de estas sin saber lo que están haciendo.”

Dijo que los cambios en el control migratorio tienen más impacto en el Valle del Río Grande debido a la proximidad de la región y conexión de la frontera entre EE. UU. y México.

“El [Valle] no es solo un lugar

donde ocurre la inmigración y operativos de control migratorio”, Palacios dijo. “ICE y la Patrulla Fronteriza son parte de nuestras vidas aquí”.

Dijo que las familias y comunidades que cruzan o tienen relación en la frontera sienten el peso de los cambios, aunque les afecte directamente o no.

Marlene Ruiz, estudiante de primer año de matemáticas, dijo que ella no sabía sobre el plan de ICE al implementar a los oficiales con guantes de descarga eléctrica.

“En el Valle, hay muchas familias inmigrantes aquí y

hay muchos de los estudiantes que vienen de una familia inmigrante. ... Somos objeto de perfilamiento racial a menudo”, Ruiz dijo

Ella agregó que debido al perfilamiento racial, miembros de la comunidad pueden tener un mayor riesgo de sufrir daños durante encuentros con agentes del ICE.

Ruiz dijo que los estudiantes siempre deben estar alerta y llevar consigo su identificación o algo que compruebe su ciudadanía estadounidense.

Johana Santana, estudiante de último año en diseño de comunicación visual y escritura



Maria Fernanda Vazquez, estudiante de primer año en ciencias de la salud, desliza por redes sociales mientras espera su transporte el 24 de agosto en el patio del Main building en Brownsville. “El gobierno debería enfocarse en más cosas como la educación o en la salud”, Vázquez dijo.

creativa, dijo que no tenía idea sobre ICE dando a sus oficiales guantes de descarga eléctrica, y dijo que no creía que los agentes los deberían usar.

Maria Vazquez, estudiante de primer año de ciencias de la salud, dijo que afectará a los residentes del Valle más porque su cercanía con la frontera.

“Es muy inhumano y yo pienso que va en contra de los derechos civiles”, Vazquez dijo.

Palacios dijo que los residentes deberían informarse sobre sus derechos y entender qué pueden significar los cambios de control migratorios para la comunidad.

“Infórmate, aprende y parte de ahí, ya sea para estar de acuerdo o para resistir y oponerse”, Palacios dijo. “Haz oír tu voz”.

—Traducido por Hugo Sepúlveda; Jorge Rios y Adrian Hernandez contribuyeron a la historia

# Roundup de 2026

VALERIA TOKUN HAGA  
THE RIDER

Vaquero Roundup es la última etapa de la Orientación para Nuevos Estudiantes (New Student Orientation) en UTRGV.

Es un evento importante para todos los estudiantes de nuevo ingreso y para quienes acaban de graduarse de preparatoria, asistir es obligatorio, de acuerdo a la página de UTRGV.

Durante el evento, los estudiantes participan en una sesión de bienvenida junto a su colegio o programa correspondiente, conocen más sobre los recursos del departamento de Student Success y tienen la oportunidad de conectarse con la comunidad de UTRGV.

El objetivo es ayudar a los nuevos Vaqueros a prepararse

para su primer semestre y familiarizarse con las instalaciones.

Las fechas de Vaquero Roundup de este año en el campus de Edinburg fueron el 18 de agosto para Escuela de Bellas Artes, Escuela de Ciencias y Escuela de Negocios y Emprendimiento, el 19 de agosto para profesiones en el área de salud, educación y trabajo social, y el 20 de agosto para la Escuela de Artes Liberales, Ingeniería y estudiantes que se transfirieron a la universidad.

En el campus de Brownsville, el evento se llevó a cabo el 24 de agosto para todas las carreras en el césped de Student Union.

Con Vaquero Roundup, la Orientación para Nuevos Estudiantes llega a su fin, dejando a los nuevos Vaqueros listos para comenzar su primer semestre en UTRGV.



VALERIA TOKUN HAGA / FOTOS RIDER

Arturo Nelson (de izquierda), estudiante de biología, y Leonardo Ocampo, estudiante de ingeniería en manufactura, recogen su comida después de participar en una presentación durante Vaquero Roundup el 24 de agosto en el césped Student Union del campus de Brownsville.



Los estudiantes reciben su comida tras una presentación el 24 de agosto en el PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón en el campus de Brownsville. Después de una plática dirigida a los alumnos de nuevo ingreso, se les dio un momento para convivir entre ellos durante Vaquero Roundup.



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# Vaqueros volleyball back in action

**TIANA MEZA**  
THE RIDER

After being chosen to finish second in the preseason poll on Aug. 14, the UTRGV Volleyball Team prepares to take on the Southland Conference, but first must take on more than 10 competitors before its Sept. 23 conference battle.

Following last season's Southland Championship bout, UTRGV volleyball had its first practice and news conference for the 2026 season Aug. 3, where it discussed digging into offense and plans for the upcoming season.

Head coach Todd Lowery, who received Coach of the Year honors last season, said he does not feel pressure for the team to repeat as regular-season champions, nor is it part of its "expectations or goals" and are rather taking it day by day to grow and be the best version of itself.

"Obviously, we want to win every match, but we're taking the regular season as an opportunity to really grow and get better," Lowery said. "Maybe takes a little bit of pressure off than having that pressure to go out and win every single night to win a regular-season title."

Besides Lowery, many of this year's juniors and seniors have been recognized individually as of the 2025 season, including senior defensive specialist Isa Bento who was awarded the Iron V accolade, and junior outside hitter Martina Franco who



**TIANA MEZA / THE RIDER**

The UTRGV Volleyball Team practices setting drills Aug. 14 at the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. The Vaqueros will play against Texas State at 3:30 p.m. Friday in Corpus Christi.

was awarded Newcomer of the Year.

The Iron V is a UTRGV award given to student athletes who demonstrate excellence in their hard work and dedication in their respective sports through strength and conditioning. Bento said she personally

believes she was awarded the Iron V due to her attitude and constant words of encouragement to her fellow Vaqueros.

"My sophomore year, I worked really hard to get it, like, I always push the team, I say, 'I'm not the most muscular and

strongest,'" she said. "I'm strong, but I might not be the strongest of the team, but I feel like my attitude is something that helps a lot, because I cheer everybody up, and I always want to push them, too, because, like, [Franco], for example, right here by my side, she's super strong. I'm like, 'Yeah, let's go, Marty!'"

As for Franco, who transferred from the University of Texas at San Antonio to UTRGV last year, she recounted seeing she had been awarded Newcomer of the Year while having just landed from a flight to a tournament last season.

"I was so happy; it was like a reward for everything you do," she said.

The Vaqueros also are expecting new changes for this year's plays, mainly focusing on strengthening their defense and digging into offense.

"[The team] touches a lot of balls but doesn't exactly convert them into offense," Lowery said. "So, it's been something that's just kind of been our focus about the location of where we dig the ball to and making sure that we're digging the ball in the center of the court."

The head coach added the Vaqueros have trained hard for the Southland Conference and with the hopes of qualifying for the NCAA championship in December.

The Vaqueros will participate in the Islanders Classic at 3:30 p.m. against Texas State Friday in Corpus Christi.

## SPORTS COLUMN

# Here come the Williams sisters



**TIMOTHY DAVID**  
THE RIDER

If you know tennis or not, I know for a fact you know the name Serena Williams, and that is for good reason.

Williams, who was originally on a prolonged hiatus from professional tennis for over four years since 2022, has reignited her spot back into the sport this year with a promising and exciting performance for fans and spectators who have been waiting for her return, or who are just now witnessing her "firsthand" prowess.

"Serena and Venus are a very anticipated duo who have proven a multitude of times that they have the potential to take this US Open dub."

Williams this year has had a welcoming return in four events. First, in June at the Queens Club Championships, partnering with Victoria Mboko in women's doubles.

They had a strong win in their opening match (7-6 (2), 6-2) but unfortunately had to forfeit the event after Mboko suffered a knee injury.

Then, in the same month, Williams

partnered with Karolína Muchová for a women's doubles match at Berlin WTA 500, where the duo suffered a close loss (6-4, 6-4).

The last event in June was the famous Wimbledon, when she accepted a late wild card placement into singles, making it her first singles match this year.

She played hard but, unfortunately, lost in a rough match against Maya Joint, (6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-3).

Now, Williams and her sister, Venus, played in their first doubles event since 2022 earlier this month at the Cincinnati Open.

The Williams sisters dropped a tight opening match (6-2, 1-6, 10-8).

Williams' latest event was at the US Open where she played mixed doubles with the legendary Carlos Alcaraz, where they won their opening match (5-3, 4-1), but would later lose in the quarterfinals to Belinda Bencic and Flavio Cobolli (5-4 (4), 4-1) Tuesday.

However, after another wildcard offer for women's doubles in the US Open, both Williams sisters will play together in September and will finish the tennis season together.

Serena and Venus are a very anticipated duo who have proven a multitude of times that they have the potential to take this US Open dub.

Together, they have won 22-career doubles titles, including 14 Grand Slam Championships (from 1999-2016) and three Olympic gold medals (2000-2012).

They have shown with their compatibility and drive that they can achieve anything when they play together.

I'm hoping to see great success from them as they finish up this season. If I could tell you one thing, it would be to look out for them both, because here come the Williams sisters.

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# Gina Hinojosa

for Texas Governor

As you're gearing up for a new semester, I wanted to welcome you back to campus.

I grew up in Brownsville and went to UT Austin. What I found on campus was Texas itself. Panhandle kids and Houston kids, Valley kids and rural kids, people who had worked their way through school and people who had never worried about money. I learned just how big and complicated this state is, and how much promise it holds. That's the part of my education that stayed with me most.

You are about to inherit Texas, and each of you has some idea of the life you want to build here. Maybe you will start a company, teach in a classroom, be an engineer, work in public service, or do something you haven't quite figured out yet. Whatever your piece of the American Dream looks like, I am running for governor to make sure Texas is the place where you can go for it.

You are doing your part but right now, Texas is not holding up its end. State government has spent decades working for insiders and donors while public schools are starved and ordinary Texans pay the corruption tax. Follow the money and you find the answer to almost every question about why things here are harder than they should be. I have spent my career fighting that.

College students across Texas have real power in this election. Power follows participation, and yours will help decide what Texas becomes and who it belongs to.

I believe Texas belongs to all of us. And in November, we prove it.

It's time for a change.  
Register by October 5th.  
Check your status at [IWillVote.com/tx](https://www.IWillVote.com/tx).  
Vote on November 3rd.  
Bring somebody with you.

**Gina Hinojosa**



Candidate for Governor

