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WATER ISSUES



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ /THE RIDER

Low water levels reveal a carpet of green grass across the exposed lake bed at the Edinburg Municipal Park on Sept. 21. “Currently, the Falcon Reservoir is at 21% full, and Amistad Reservoir is almost at 40% full,” said Jude Benavides, a UTRGV professor of hydrology and environmental sciences.

Experts talk about Valley’s water future

JORGE RIOS
THE RIDER

The Rio Grande Valley has made various innovations to maintain water resources given the region’s heavy reliance on surface-level water, which has had lower water levels for years now, according to an environmental professor.

The Rio Grande River, along with its major reservoirs, Falcon International Reservoir and Amistad Reservoir, is the region’s primary water source.

Jude Benavides, a UTRGV professor of hydrology and environmental sciences, said although recent reservoir levels are “lower than average,” the Valley will not run out of water anytime soon.

“Falcon Reservoir ... is 21% full [and] Amistad Reservoir is almost 40% full,” Benavides said. “These are western reservoirs, they are ... almost never 100% full.”

As of Sept. 16, the reservoir data supported this listing with Falcon Reservoir at 21.1% and Amistad Reservoir at 38.9%.

However, Martin Castro, watershed science director at the Rio Grande International Study Center, provided alternative measurements from the International Boundary and Water Commission website, which account for Mexico’s share of the reservoir, with 24% for Amistad and 17% for Falcon.

Despite using different measurement methods, both experts emphasized the importance of expanding the Valley’s water resources.

Castro said there has been a “steady decrease in both reservoirs” and

emphasized the reliance on one main water source could be risky.

“The Rio Grande Valley is already an overstressed, overburdened river system,” he said. “It cannot continue to be our single source of drinking water and if it will be, we need to find alternative solutions to reduce demand, conserve as much water as we can and maximize what we have available to us.”

Similarly, Benavides said he acknowledged the Valley is always going to be “challenged for water supply” and said it is important to diversify the water supply and become less reliant solely on the river.

MAINTAIN WATER

According to a UTRGV professor, the water levels are lower than average, however, the Valley won’t run out soon.

Regarding alternative water sources, Benavides said “desalination is one way we can lessen our threat of potentially running out of water in the river.”

He added a day where the region completely runs out of water is unlikely due to the various innovations already in place.

“[It’s] very cost effective to

desalinate and that’s why Brownsville, Texas is the state’s second largest brackish groundwater desalination plant and [Southmost Regional Water Authority] plant was built 25 years ago in anticipation for more water demand than there is in the river,” Benavides said.

As a former member of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board, he provided insight into how effective the desalination projects could be.

“Before we built the SRWA brackish groundwater plant, [Brownsville] got almost 95% to 98% of its water directly from the river,” Benavides said. “After the SRWA was built it was producing about 7 million gallons of water a day from brackish groundwater.”

He added the brackish groundwater plant dropped reliance on the river to about 75% to 80%.

“The rest of the Valley is moving a little bit towards groundwater desalination,” Benavides said. “And in my professional opinion, should continue to do so.”

McAllen is among the cities planning to expand its use of desalination, according to Marco Vega, general manager of McAllen Public Utilities.

Vega said McAllen’s first desalination project is planned for 2030 and is estimated to cost about \$200 million.

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LOCAL

City approves water projects

GAEL ESPINOZA
THE RIDER

Brownsville city commission unanimously approved two infrastructure projects Tuesday that could add up to 18 million gallons of water per day to the region as the first qualifying projects to use funds from an agreement between Brownsville and SpaceX.

During their meeting, city commissioners approved two water renewal projects:

--The Indirect Potable Reuse initiative, which would aim to increase water capacity by 8 million gallons of water per day.

--Optimization and expansion of the Southmost Regional Water Authority, which would optimize the water capacity up to 10 million gallons of water per day.

In a phone interview Tuesday before the city commission meeting, At-Large A Commissioner Tino Villarreal told The Rider the initial \$40 million of the memorandum of understanding between Brownsville and SpaceX had been designated.

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ON CAMPUS

UTRGV Medical Libraries expand resources

MARIAH LYDIA ESCOBAR
THE RIDER

UTRGV Medical Libraries are expanding services and research resources for graduate health science students while making electronic resources available to the campus community.

The Medical Libraries, previously operated under the School of Medicine, are now under Academic Affairs and serve the School of Medicine, School of Podiatric Medicine and graduate-level health programs.

Erik Wilkinson, associate dean of the Medical Libraries, said two of the biggest resources recently added are Embase with AI and Covidence.

Embase is a database that provides access to articles, dissertations, data sets and other research materials. Its AI tool can provide students with a brief summary of a research question while also providing citations, according to Manuel Rodriguez, research and education librarian.

Wilkinson said AI should be used as a tool and students should not rely heavily on it to do all the work.

Covidence is designed to assist researchers conducting higher-level research, including systematic and scoping reviews.

Rodriguez said Covidence can help researchers streamline the systematic and scoping review process.

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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
RISE & GRIND
University Recreation will host RISE & GRIND from 7:15 to 8 a.m. today and Wednesday in University Recreation Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus. The morning workout features a variety of exercises that may include **indoor cycling, strength training** and **interval workouts**.
Access for Sex-Ed Weekly Tabling
Access for Sex-Education will host a weekly tabling event at 11 a.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. Students can stop by the table to learn about sexual health topics and available educational resources.
Sundaes on Mondays
The **Student Union** will host Sundaes on Mondays at noon on the Student Union Lawn-Veranda on the Brownsville campus. Students can stop by to receive a **sundae** and spend time with other members of the campus community.
Bears and Blessing Outreach
The **Baptist Student Ministry** will host a Bears and Blessing Outreach event at 12:30 p.m. on the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus. Students can visit the outreach table to interact with members of the ministry and participate in the activity.
Power Pump Circuit GX
University Recreation will host Power Pump Circuit GX from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. today and Wednesday in the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center, Multi-Purpose Room 1.202, in Brownsville. The high-energy circuit workout combines **strength exercises** and **cardio intervals** to improve endurance and build muscle.
Lemonade Outreach
The **Baptist Student Ministry** will host Lemonade Outreach at 1 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. Students can stop by for **lemonade** and meet members of the ministry.
Bystander Intervention Presentation
Student Rights and Responsibilities will host a Vaqueros Step Up Bystander Intervention presentation at 1 p.m. in the University Ballroom, Bronc Room, on the Edinburg campus. Attendees

can **learn strategies** for recognizing potentially harmful situations and safely stepping in to help.
Club Boxing Practice
Club Boxing will meet at 1 p.m. today and Wednesday in the TSC Recreation Center, Boxing Room, in Brownsville and at 7:30 p.m. in University Recreation Studio 2 on the Edinburg campus. Students can practice **boxing fundamentals, conditioning** and **technique** with other members of the club.
Henna Outreach
The **Baptist Student Ministry** will host a Henna Outreach event at 1 p.m. in Library courtyard A on the Edinburg campus. Students can stop by to receive **henna** and interact with members of the ministry.
Meet The Team
Talk About It Vaqueros will host a Meet The Team event at 1:30 p.m. in the Music, Science & Learning Center on the Brownsville campus. Students can meet members of the team and learn more about the organization and its campus activities.
Fall Runs
The **Running-Vaquero Runners Club** will host Fall Runs at 5:15 p.m. today and Thursday at the Life and Health Sciences Building on the Brownsville campus. Students can join other runners for a **group run** and recreational exercise.
ZUMBA
University Recreation will host a Zumba class from 6 to 7 p.m. today and Wednesday in University Recreation Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus. The class combines Latin and international music with **dance movements** and **interval training** for a cardiovascular workout.
Tuesday
PB&J Outreach
The **Baptist Student Ministry** will host a PB&J Outreach at noon on the Troxel Lawn on the Edinburg campus. Students can stop by for **peanut butter** and **jelly sandwiches** and meet members of the ministry.
SWE Bolis/Ice Pop Fundraiser
The **Society of Women Engineers** will host a bolis and ice-pop fundraiser at noon in the University Library Courtyard on the

Edinburg campus. Attendees can purchase **frozen treats** while supporting the student organization.
Courtrooms & Coffee
Paving Access for Legal Minds and Ambitions will host Courtrooms & Coffee at 2 p.m. in Music, Science & Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus. Students can hear about **careers in law** and learn from **Texas Rep. Erin Gamez** about her professional and public-service experience.
Stronger GX
University Recreation will host a Stronger GX class at 3:30 p.m. in the TSC Recreation Center Multi-Purpose Room 1.202 in Brownsville. Participants can take part in a **strength-focused workout** designed to improve muscular fitness.
PILATES
University Recreation will host a Pilates class from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday in University Recreation Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus. The class focuses on **core strength, flexibility, posture** and the **mind-body connection**.
Make Your First Game
Valle Game Devs will host Make Your First Game: Pong in Unity at 6:30 p.m. in Engineering Building Room 1.268 on the Edinburg campus. Participants can learn introductory game-development skills by creating a version of Pong using the Unity game engine.
Wednesday
Splash/Pie a DZ
The **Delta Zeta sorority** will host the Splash/Pie a DZ event at 9 a.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can participate in the organization’s interactive pie and splash activity while meeting members of the sorority.
Sabor, Cultura, y Arte
The **Center for Student Involvement** will host Sabor, Cultura, y Arte at 1 p.m. in the Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can take part in activities highlighting Hispanic culture, art and heritage.
Thursday
Free Lunch BSM
The **Baptist Student Ministry** will host a free lunch at 11 a.m. in the Sabal Hall Courtyard on the

Brownsville campus. Students can receive a free meal and socialize with members of the Baptist Student Ministry.
Express Circuit 30 GX | BUREK
University Recreation will host Express Circuit 30 GX at noon in the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center Multi-Purpose Room 1.202 in Brownsville. The beginner-friendly interval workout combines a variety of exercises in a **short circuit format** designed to improve overall fitness.
Holy Mass
The **Catholic Student Association** will host Holy Mass at noon in the Chapel on the Edinburg campus. Students and other attendees can participate in the Catholic celebration of Mass.
Pretzel Rod Fundraiser
The **Intersectional Feminist Student Organization** will host a chocolate-covered pretzel rod fundraiser at 12:30 p.m. at Main Building on the Brownsville campus. Attendees can purchase **chocolate-covered pretzel rods** while supporting efforts related to menstrual-product access and period poverty.
UREC | Estero Llano Day Trip
University Recreation will host a day trip at 9 a.m. to Estero Llano Grande State Park in Weslaco. Participants will have the opportunity to visit the **state park** and spend time outdoors exploring the area.
Leading Yourself
The **Center for Student Involvement** and **NextGen Leaders** will host Leading Yourself: Time, Priorities, and Responsibility at 10 a.m. in Student Academic Center Room 1.102 on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can learn leadership skills related to **managing time, setting priorities** and **taking responsibility**.
Sunday
STUNDay Night: Emo Dance Party
The **Student Union** will host the STUNDay Night: Emo Dance Party at 6 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. Students can attend an **emo-themed dance event** featuring music and an opportunity to socialize with other attendees.

—Compiled by Diego Vita



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 17 and 21

Sept. 17
8:01 a.m.: An officer responded to the Brownsville campus police lobby regarding a road-rage incident on the expressway involving two students. Surveillance footage showed one driver making an obscene gesture toward the other. The case is under investigation.
10:37 a.m.: A student reported injuring her ankle after missing a step and slipping while walking down stairs at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. She declined Emergency Medical Services and requested an escort to the Student Health Clinic.
12:12 p.m.: A student reported a driver parked next to her in parking Lot E19 on the Edinburg campus damaged her vehicle while opening a door. Officers later identified the driver. The case is under investigation.
12:22 p.m.: Officers responded to the Life and Health Science

building on the Brownsville campus after a student became trapped in a restroom because of a malfunctioning door handle. Facilities personnel repaired the handle, and the student exited safely without injuries.
9:10 p.m.: A student reported noticing his earphones missing from his backpack while at his residence and believed he lost them while on the Edinburg campus.
Sept. 18
7:30 a.m.: An officer responded to a smoke odor at the Maryalice Shary Shivers Building on the Edinburg campus. The officer determined that a faulty water pump had overheated and caused the burning odor. Environmental Health and Safety later cleared the building for reentry.
11:26 a.m.: Officers responded to the UT Health RGV Primary Care on Maco Drive in Harlingen regarding a nonaffiliated man causing a verbal disturbance. Officers determined no criminal offense occurred, but at the request of the clinic supervisor,

they issued the man a criminal trespass warning because of his prior history with the clinic.
Sept. 19
6:13 p.m.: Officers and Emergency Medical Services responded to Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium in Edinburg after an employee passed out. EMS transported the employee to McAllen Medical Center for further evaluation.
8:49 p.m.: Officers responded to the canal north of Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium in Edinburg regarding a man who had fallen into the canal. Officers helped him out and determined he was intoxicated and posed a danger to himself or others. He was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
Sept. 20
10:44 p.m.: An officer responded to a bus stop in the 1100 block of Van Week Avenue regarding a welfare concern involving a female student. The student said she was feeling ill, and Emergency Medical Services transported her to a hospital. Her

boyfriend was contacted at her request and informed of where she had been taken.
Sept. 21
2:29 p.m.: A student reported being involved in a minor two-vehicle collision in parking Lot E26 on the Edinburg campus earlier that morning.
3:43 p.m.: A student reported losing her wallet at the Health & Physical Education Building on the Edinburg campus.
5:04 p.m.: An officer responded to parking Lot E9 on the Edinburg campus regarding two students involved in a two-vehicle collision that resulted in minor injuries. Emergency Medical Services transported one student to a hospital for further evaluation.
7:57 p.m.: A female student reported that a male student riding an electric scooter ran over her foot in the area outside Unity Hall. The student said she planned to visit the Student Health Clinic for evaluation.

--Compiled by Diego Vita

Career Center plans Fall 2026 expo



PHOTO COURTESY CAREER CENTER

The 2025 Career & Internship Expo at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. Bertha Lance, employer engagement coordinator for the Career Center, said the main purpose of the fair every year is to bring in employers that offer full-time jobs, careers and internships to students.

DANNA AVALOS AVILA
THE RIDER

The Career Center will host the Fall 2026 Career & Internship Expo on both campuses and will provide professional or internship networking opportunities for attendees.

The Career and Internship Expo will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday in PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus, and at the same time Friday in the University Recreation Center Gym on the Edinburg campus.

Employers representing industries such as business operations, engineering, healthcare, government and more will be at the Fall 2026 Career & Internship Expo for students to make connections, according to the Career Center.

Rebecca Villarreal, a psychology freshman, said she has interest in attending the expo, further explaining she needs to make connections to “start looking for internships and jobs.”

“I think it’s a really good opportunity for networking,” Villarreal said.

Bertha Lance, employer engagement coordinator for the Career Center, said the main purpose of the fair every year is to bring in employers that offer full-time jobs, careers and internships to students.

Lance added the Career Center encourages all students to attend, talk and network with employers. She said what employers are looking for in students this semester are students “who know themselves.”

Lance said employers want to know what students are involved or have experience in such as certifications, training, organizations and more.

“Employers find it important for students who know how to market themselves,” Lance said. “... They want to know the student is involved ... however small it may be ... they want to know that [students are]

doing more.”

Regarding industries attending, Lance said for the expo on the Edinburg campus, there is an increase in engineering industries attending.

“They’re not only looking for engineering students ... they’re looking for a variety of majors,” she said.

Additionally, Lance said a new company joining the Brownsville campus expo will be Nelnet, a student loan servicer which offers a multitude of other services such as banking and business.

She said even if students aren’t looking for jobs or opportunities at the moment, the Career Center recommends students to go for networking purposes.

“A lot of the time, some of the success stories that we see are from students that take the time every semester [to] regularly meet with these employers,” Lance said.

She said the advice she would give to students is to understand that employers are nervous as well, prepare beforehand and to do their research on what companies are attending.

Lance said the Career Center encourages students to come “well-dressed or business casual” to the event, along with bringing their physical resumes.

“Their resume is very important for them to bring if they have it ready,” she said. “If they don’t, we still [have] time for them to prepare, [or] for them to make an appointment with us [to] look over their resume [and] research the companies.”

According to the employer engagement coordinator, the Fall 2026 Career & Internship Expo will be open to everyone. She recommends for students to RSVP to gain more information about the companies, but even if students can not register, they will still be allowed.

For more information, visit utrgv.edu/careercenter.

Social butterfly season



MARIAH LYDIA ESCOBAR / THE RIDER PHOTO

(From left) Leonel Izaguirre, math senior, and Erick Garza, biology senior, get to know each other as they fill out provided bingo cards at the Shy Students Social. The event was hosted by Vaqueros Clubs and Victor Hernandez, addiction studies major, and took place Thursday in the Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

MARIAH LYDIA ESCOBAR
THE RIDER

Vaqueros Clubs and Victor Hernandez, an addiction studies senior, hosted a Shy Students Social in the Ballroom Thursday on the Edinburg campus for students looking to make friends and practice socializing.

The event was created for students who struggle with making friends on campus to meet someone new.

Hernandez said he came up with the idea for the event after seeing multiple posts from anonymous accounts on the UTRGV Student Facebook page from people struggling to make friends.

“Why not make an event for students who are nervous, who might be afraid to start conversations,” he said.

The event was designed to be a laid-back campus event for students, compared to a big gathering like The Stomp where students may be too afraid to go on their own.

The Shy Students Social featured activities that gave students something to talk about, including a bingo game that asked students to find people with a shared interest. Another activity asked students to recommend music, movies and restaurants.

Hernandez said when he first began school, he did not go to any campus events because he did not know who he would go with, and would have appreciated an event similar to this.

“I’m hoping that it would ease [students] into bigger events,” Hernandez said. “I’m not thinking, ‘Oh, everybody has to become friends.’ [If] two people show up and they start talking, that’s great.”

Stacey Gallegos, a psychology freshman who attended the event, said “I wanted to make friends since, like, I’m a really shy person in general, so I was like, I will go to try to make friends.”

Escerlette Tobar, an accounting freshman, said it is difficult to make friends on campus because most people are not as receptive to talking when she tries to have a conversation with them.

Gallegos added events like the Shy Students Social are helpful because they help her socialize with other people and get out of her comfort zone.

She said she attended the event because she wanted “to try to meet new people and work on my communication skills, since I’m not really the type to talk to others, but now that we’re older ... we need to start.”

Hernandez said the event exceeded his expectations because he did not expect a big turnout.

Tobar said the event was really welcoming and she enjoyed talking to people because the activities made it easier to interact.

“The whole point was for shy students to show up, and they did, and I’m happy for that,” Hernandez said.

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WATER

Continued from Page 1

He said McAllen’s desalination project will be “very similar” to what Brownsville is doing and that officials are looking to duplicate the exact project.

Vega said there was already a \$14 increase

in the water bill last year in October to help fund the project and hopefully the rate increase could help fund the entire project.

He added McAllen’s desalination project can support the cities of Edinburg and Mission when needed.

Vega said the desalination project plans

to address future water concerns, including issues related to unkept water pipeage and Mexico’s delayed water deliveries, similar to the Brownsville desalination plant.

Vega emphasized the need to “look ahead” and avoid conditions similar to the Corpus Christi water crisis.

While desalination provides an alternative water source, Castro emphasized a contributing factor to proper preparation is public education.

“Education is ... a really big part in this,” Castro said. “Cities need to have a very solid plan to educate its people.”

SPACEX

Continued from Page 1

“That’s the potable reuse water that will add 8 million additional gallons per day to Brownsville,” Villarreal said.

He added the second project will trigger the first of six installments of \$30 million, per the MOU.

According to the MOU between SpaceX and Brownsville, SpaceX will deposit the initial escrow amount of \$40 million, from the total \$220 million, within 30 days after the agreement was signed.

SpaceX will pay the remaining \$180 million in six quarterly installments of

\$30 million. The MOU also states the first \$30 million are due 30 days after the first qualifying project is approved.

City Attorney Will Treviño said Yvonne Treviño, senior vice president and wealth management market manager at PlainsCapital Bank, will serve as the escrow agent required by the MOU.

The Rider emailed SpaceX for a statement or an interview regarding the MOU and the disannexed 444 acres of land by Brownsville, but as of press time, did not receive a response.

Villarreal said the city and the

Brownsville Public Utilities Board had been planning the projects for a while, but did not have the funds to move forward with them.

The commissioner also clarified that the MOU and disannexation of land are two separate ordinances, stating that the city cannot sell land it does not own.

“I think Brownsville residents are very concerned because they get misinformation,” Villarreal said. “They listen to podcasts and bloggers and people who want clicks on their webpages and they don’t go get facts. When you don’t have the facts, I would be very skeptical,

too.”

City commissioners set the deadline for the Indirect Potable Reuse initiative to be 2030.

During Tuesday’s meeting, Will Treviño said the City of Brownsville will launch a website dedicated the water projects. The city attorney added the website will have all the information about the approved projects, including all the agreements and public information requests received.

The Brownsville Water Security website is expected to go live by the end of the week.

MEDICAL

Continued from Page 1

“[If] you have a UTRGV email, you can utilize this tool,” Rodriguez said.

Although the Medical Libraries focus primarily on the School of Medicine, their electronic resources are available to anyone affiliated with UTRGV who has the proper credentials.

Students can use the Medical Libraries for more than conducting research, according to Anna Naumann, research and education librarian.

“There are different databases that we do

have that can help with the studying aspect and not just searching,” Naumann said.

Other resources the library offers include ClinicalKey, which offers textbooks and videos, and Access Medicine, which provides flashcards and quiz tools. Draw It to Know It also provides videos students can follow along to while studying, according to Naumann.

“I believe at the core, right, the medical library and the university are similar; they are here for our patron,” Rodriguez said. “I think the thing that changed is the subject.”

He added that the Medical Libraries focus on medicine and health science,

similar to how larger universities may have separate libraries dedicated to areas such as law.

However, some undergraduate students are unfamiliar with the resources available through the Medical Libraries.

Mikhaela Dublado, a biology junior, said she had never heard of the Medical Library while Victoria Delgado, a biology junior, said she was aware of the Medical Libraries but had never fully utilized them.

“I would only need to use it if it’s relative to ... the honors program or special research information with research professors or even just class professors when they need

it,” Delgado said.

Delgado said professors could help make students more aware of these resources by mentioning them in classes.

Dublado said she would consider using the Medical Library’s resources to study for her biochemistry class.

The Medical Libraries are physically located on the Edinburg and Harlingen campuses, with many titles and databases also available online.

For more information about available databases, study tools, research assistance and other services, visit the Medical Library website.

COLUMN OF THE WEEK

Sí, soy una aferrada



VALERIA TOKUN HAGA
PHOTOGRAPHER

Se podría decir que soy una acumuladora, que guardo basura o cosas obsoletas, pero para mí es algo más allá. Mi gusto por cosas antiguas me ha perseguido toda mi vida. Desde niña jugaba con la decoración de porcelana de mi abuelita. Pasaba mi tiempo viendo películas de la época dorada del cine mexicano con ella. Mi familia me llevaba a lo que hoy en día se le dice “thriftear” pero para nosotros lleva siendo una tradición de años. Era ver que usaba la gente de antes, ver las joyas de fantasmas que hoy ya no caminan entre nosotros, como si fuera un museo. Hoy en día lo sigo haciendo: Me aferró a épocas que no viví y que no pertenecí porque sinceramente me aterrera la situación del mundo actualmente. Por esto, decido que cuando quiero paz y seguridad, me refugio entre VHS, CDS, DVD, vinilos, cassette compactos,

disquetes, libros antiguos y decoraciones de épocas pasadas porque es lo que me da paz. Analizando esto, creo que viene también de una parte de mi querer sentir que aún me pertenece algo. En un futuro, no sé si tendré siquiera una casa propia, y hoy en día con las plataformas que es necesario pagar mensualidad para ver videos, películas, oír música o leer un libro, se vuelve más difícil que sea

“Me aferró épocas que viví y que no pertenecí...”

completamente tuyo. Que puedas leerlo las veces que lo quieras leer, que quieras ver tu película favorita sin tener que meterte en páginas extrañas solo para no pagar una renta de \$15 que ni siquiera viene en DVD, si no un link. Y hablando de películas, antes el arte que venía en los DVDs o CDs era bellissimo. Se veía como los artistas dejaban más personalidad, más esencia en ello. Y uno como fan, tenías algo de tu banda favorita o de tu director favorito. Hoy veo que la tendencia regresa, pero creo que ahora toca cuestionarnos como me tocó cuestionarme a mi misma: ¿Por qué lo hago? Sin afán a que se convierta en consumismo de comprar

porque esté de moda, si no que tenga una razón. Mi razón es que cada vez que pongo una película en el reproductor de DVD y coloco el CD, puedo volver a sentarme en el antiguo sillón de casa de mi abuelita, que aunque su presencia ya no esté, está actividad me genera paz de lo que un día fué. Poner un CD de My Chemical Romance en el estéreo me hace recordar cuando mi tío me llevaba con él en su carro y me dejaba elegir que disco seguía y siempre ponía The Black Parade y juntos cantábamos. Eso es preservar una memoria. ¿Alguien recuerda Blockbuster? Era mi lugar favorito del mundo porque ahí descubrí tantas películas y videojuegos que hoy se pierden en el inmenso mar del internet. Pero en ese local físico podrías pasar horas leyendo de qué trataban varios videojuegos y llevarlos a casa. Y esas son las razones por qué prefiero hundirme en los formatos físicos y en nostalgia, porque es lo único que me pertenece. Espero que no llegue el día cuando una compañía decida que ya no exista y no pueda seguir teniendo algo, aunque sea un poco, de mi contenido favorito. Hasta diría que hoy en día hacer este tipo de actividad es una forma de manifestación enconrá de el control de los medios sobre la música, videojuegos y los filmes.



Cuarto de Valeria

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Whatever it takes

AFTER TRUMP BANNED NEWS STATIONS FROM ENTERING THE WHITE HOUSE, REPORTERS ONLY HAD ONE OTHER SOURCE TO TURN TO...



VAQUERO VOICE

What is your favorite thing to do on a rainy day?

--Compiled by Alizzaya Guel



Andres Garcia-King
English junior

“I like to study, do my work or just any kind of solitary activity just somewhere where I am alone. It is relaxing. It helps me be in touch with what I’m trying to do.”

Brianna Shelton
biology junior

“Honestly, one of my favorite things to do on a rainy day is maybe put on a show. I love ‘That ’70s Show.’ Just so it’s, like, relaxed.”



Angela Pinales
theatre junior

“I like to either spend my time outside, either getting wet in the rain, just enjoying it. Or just be outside ... like sitting down outside with ... a word search.”

Comisión de la ciudad aprueba el primer proyecto que califica para el uso de fondos de SpaceX, Brownsville MOU

Gael Espinoza
The Rider

La comisión de la ciudad aprobó por unanimidad dos proyectos de infraestructura el martes que podrán añadir hasta 18 millones de galones de agua por día a la región siendo estos los primeros proyectos que califican para hacer uso de los fondos del acuerdo entre Brownsville y SpaceX.

Durante la junta, el comisionado aprobó dos proyectos en renovaciones de agua:

--La iniciativa Indirect Potable Reuse, que buscará incrementar la capacidad de agua por 8 millones de galones de agua por día.

--La optimización y expansión del Southmost Regional Water Authority, que optimiza la capacidad de agua a 10 millones de galones por día.

En una entrevista por teléfono el martes antes de la junta de la comisión de la ciudad, el comisionado de Brownsville At-Large A Tino Villarreal dijo a The Rider los \$40 millones iniciales del Memorándum de entendimiento (MOU) entre Brownsville y SpaceX ya han sido asignados.

“Eso es para el reuso de agua potable que agregara 8 millones galones adicionales por día a Brownsville”, Villarreal dijo.

Agregó que el segundo proyecto desencadenará el primero de las seis cuotas de \$30 millones, en base al MOU.

De acuerdo a una copia del MOU obtenida por The Rider, SpaceX deposita el monto de \$40 millones como garantía



VALERIA TOKUN HAGA / THE RIDER

Tino Villarreal, comisionado de At-large A (de izquierda) y John Cowen, alcalde de Brownsville, escuchan los comentarios del público durante la junta de la comisión de la ciudad el martes en el Ayuntamiento de Brownsville. La comisión aprobó unánimemente los dos proyectos de renovación de agua financiados por el MOU entre SpaceX y la ciudad de Brownsville.

inicial de los \$220 millones en total, dentro de los 30 días después que el acuerdo fue firmado.

SpaceX pagará los \$180 millones restantes en seis cuotas trimestrales de \$30 millones. El MOU también menciona que los primeros \$30

millones deben pagarse 30 días después que el primer proyecto que califique sea aprobado.

El abogado de la ciudad Will Treviño dijo que Yvonne Treviño, vicepresidente senior y gerente de mercado de gestión de patrimonios en PlainsCapital Bank, servirá como agente de

custodia requerido por el MOU.

The Rider mandó correo a SpaceX para una declaración o oportunidad de entrevista sobre el MOU y la desanexión de los 444 acres de terreno de Brownsville, al cierre de esta edición, la compañía no ha respondido.

Villarreal dijo que la ciudad y la Junta de Servicios Públicos de Brownsville (BPUB) han planeado estos proyectos desde hace mucho tiempo pero no se tenían los fondos para continuar con estos.

El comisionado también aclaró que el MOU y la desindexación del terreno son dos decretos distintos, indicando que la ciudad no puede vender terreno que no le pertenece. Dijo que los residentes de Brownsville podrían estar mal informados sobre los dos decretos.

“Creo que los residentes de Brownsville están muy preocupados porque se mal informan”, Villarreal dijo. “Ellos escuchan podcast y bloggers y gente que quiera click en sus páginas y ellos no van por los hechos. Cuando no tienes los hechos, yo también estaría muy escéptico”.

El comisionado de la ciudad puso como fecha límite para la iniciativa de Indirect Potable Reuse para el 2030.

Durante la junta del martes, Will Treviño dijo que la ciudad de Brownsville lanzará una página web dedicada a los proyectos de agua. El abogado de ciudad agregó que el sitio web contará con información sobre los proyectos aprobados, incluyendo todos los acuerdos y las solicitudes recibidas de registros públicos.

Se espera que el sitio web Brownsville Water Security esté funcionando al finalizar la semana.

--Traducido por Hugo Sepúlveda

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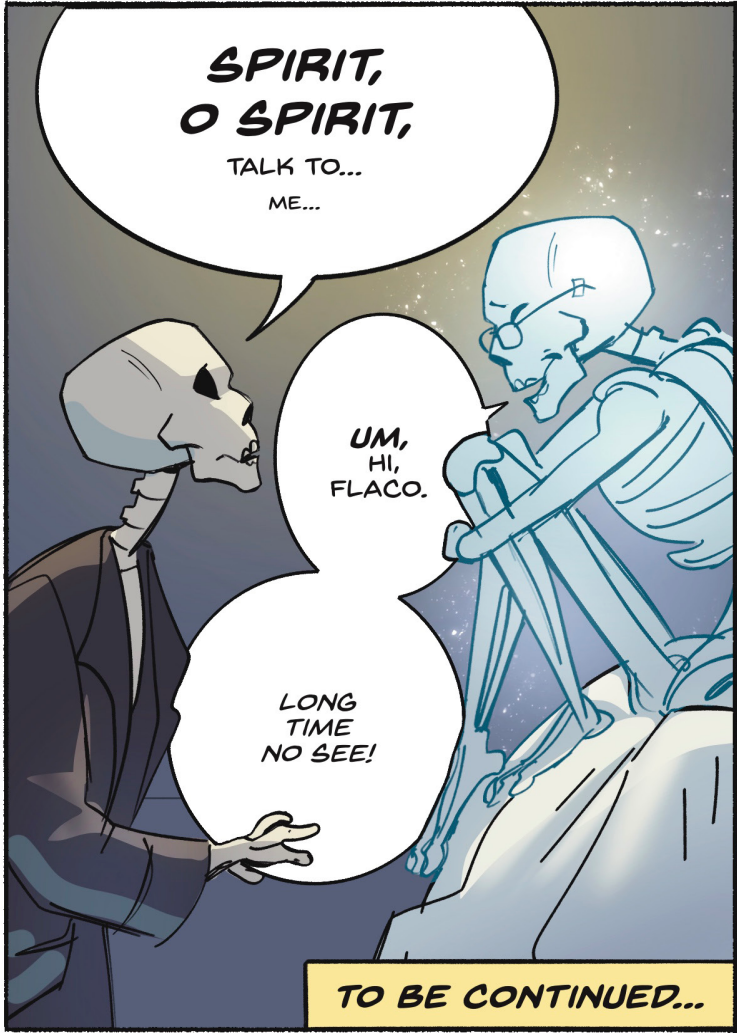
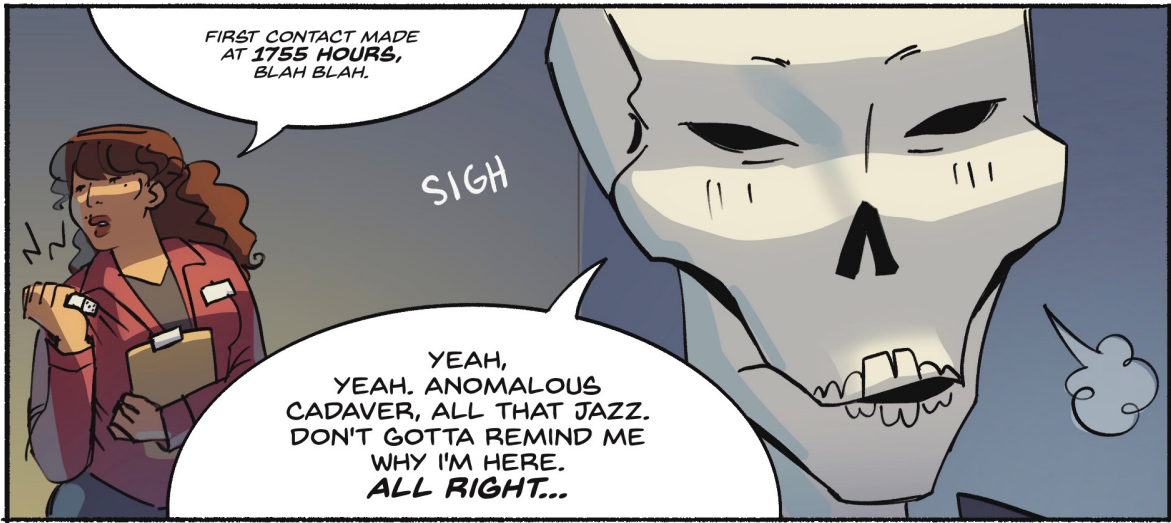
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Men’s soccer prepping for home advantage



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ / THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV senior midfielder Malang Mandiang speaks about his strategies during practice Wednesday at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex on the Edinburg campus.

TIMOTHY DAVID
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Men’s Soccer Team prepares to adapt for the start of the Ohio Valley Conference with an 2-2-1 record in nonconference matches. The Vaqueros have enough experience to develop and adapt to the conference season.

The Vaqueros have played five nonconference games tallying 2 wins against West Florida College (3-2) and University of South Florida (5-0), a tie against Stetson College (1-1) and two losses against Oral Roberts College (2-0) and Air Force Academy (3-1).

Their previous matches have given the Vaqueros the opportunity to understand their footing and to apply these experiences to the remainder of the season.

Head coach Bryheem Hancock said he has a plan for the team’s direction

and is expecting the differences in each match to outperform in every aspect.

“Lindenwood, our opponent on Saturday, was expected. But at the same time, nonconference play ... I can tell you, almost every team in our conference has switched it up from game to game,” Hancock said. “So, clearly everyone’s trying to get the best information on a group moving forward. Saying that with our group, I think we’ve got [the] answers that we needed.”

As of press time, Saturday’s results against Lindenwood University are not available.

The Vaqueros will play two more games at home against Houston Christian University Thursday and University of the Incarnate Word Sunday.

Having three games played at home, Hancock said home-field advantage could benefit the Vaqueros.

“We train here every day, so, rest assured,” he said. “It’s a big advantage, because we will have a crowd here that’ll be rooting for us instead of it just being ourselves on the road.”

Hancock said the main goals for the season are to secure the home games and to plan out each one accordingly.

“Our first three games here in conference are at home, and the goal for us is to win all five at home,” he said. “If we want to win the championship, which is our goal, we [have] to take care of home-field advantage first, but that starts on Saturday.”

Sophomore midfielder Diego Rivera said playing at home can make a difference compared to playing on the road. He said home games provide motivation and a sense of community.

“It really affects us to be more motivated to play at home, and we can get the results we want at home when the fans are here,” Rivera said.

When asked about any obstacles that were present during the past five matches, Hancock replied player injuries were taking a toll on the team. Rivera also added his concern regarding player injuries and how he is currently recovering from one.

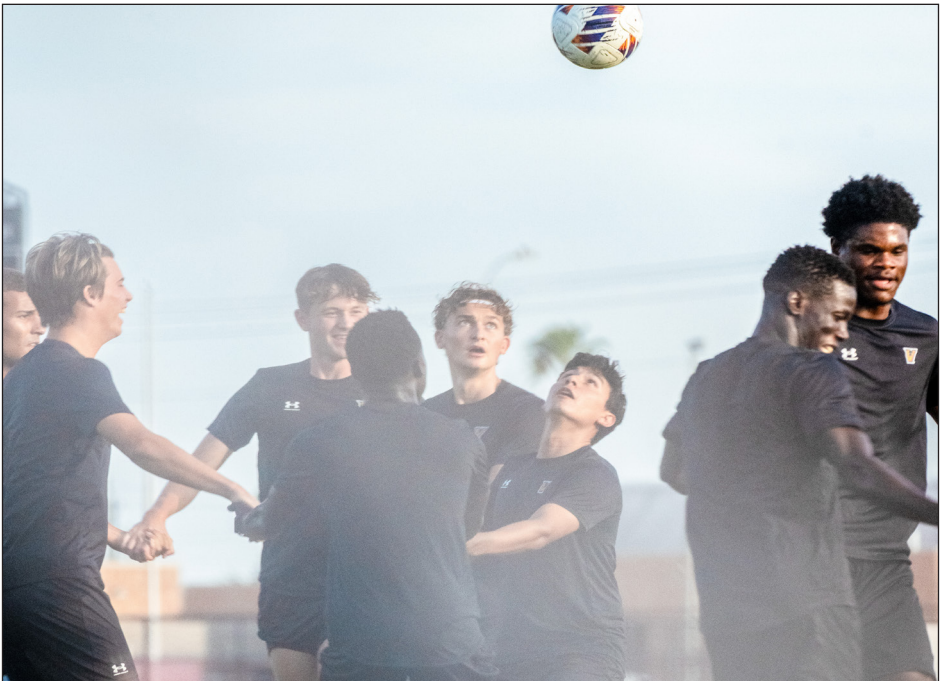
Despite the setbacks, Rivera said he still finds ways to build confidence and strength to continue the season.

Senior midfielder Malang Mandiang said despite the losses from Oral Roberts and Airforce having a hard impact on him, he is more confident in the next home games.

“We did not play the way we wanted, we didn’t follow the game plan, so we had a hard time doing the last two games,” Mandiang said. “I can just say to be healthy, ready for the games, to give 100% every time and try to win most of the games that we can.”



UTRGV Men’s Soccer Head coach Bryheem Hancock, speaks with staff before practice Wednesday at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex on the Edinburg campus.



UTRGV sophomore midfielder Diego Rivera, tries to get ball control Wednesday at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex on the Edinburg campus. The players got in groups and were instructed for the ball not to touch the ground.

Cruising past prejudice

ADRIAN HERNANDEZ
THE RIDER

The International Museum of Arts & Science (IMAS) opened its doors Aug. 22 with the exhibition “Lowrider Culture in the United States” displaying artifacts, photographs and custom pieces of lowrider culture.

Mexican Americans in South California started this art in the 1940’s just after World War II when the Chicano communities still faced racism, discrimination, deportation, mob violence, school segregation and still found ways to express their culture with art.

IMAS curator Marcelo Alejandro Ramirez gave The Rider a tour of all the displayed pieces of the exhibition.

“Without unity, there cannot be community and that’s what this is about,” Ramirez said.

IMAS, being the only Smithsonian affiliate in South Texas, they get access to exhibits that they develop among their network. The lowrider culture exhibit is hosted by the National Museum of American History and



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ/ THE RIDER PHOTOS

“La Iguana”, a custom lowrider bicycle, is displayed at the IMAS “Lowrider Culture in the United States” exhibition on Sept. 16 in McAllen.

was developed by a team at the National Museum of the American Latino.

“We thought it would be a great fit because of our predominantly Hispanic community and how significant the

lowrider itself has been as a symbol for Mexican American identity, for contemporary folks here in the United States.” Ramirez said.

Built by many hands of artists, such as “EL

INDIO” a local artist who has worked on many car projects, one person works on paint, another on engraving the chrome and so forth.

“A celebration of heritage, culture and

Mexican American identity.” Ramirez said.

The exhibit “Lowrider Culture in the United States” at IMAS in McAllen runs through Nov. 15.



“Pedal Patrol” a custom 1950 Murray Comet pedal car designed by Hector Guerra and Pablo Mendoza, detailed by Fred Castillo and engraving by Louie Mendez is displayed at the IMAS “Lowrider Culture in the United States” exhibition in McAllen.



“Emmanuel”, a custom 1940 lowrider Taylor-Tots stroller is displayed at the IMAS “Lowrider Culture in the United States” exhibition in McAllen.



A 1948 Chevrolet Fleetline Aerosedan “Loera” welcomes guests at the IMAS “Lowrider Culture in the United States” exhibition in McAllen. “The same father that created the Barbie bicycle built the entrance car with his grown-up daughter,” said IMAS Reservationist & Education Assistant Tanya Torres.



The International Museum of Art & Science (IMAS) is hosting the exhibition “Lowrider Culture in the United States” in McAllen. “These two women that came from Houston were starting an all women lowrider club here in the RGV,” IMAS curator Marcelo Alejandro Ramirez said.