

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

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ON CAMPUS

KEEP ‘EM COMING



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ / THE RIDER

UTRGV students balance course work and social time Thursday in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. “4 p.m. is when it’s more packed than right now, I’ve been waiting in the Chick-fil-A line for five minutes,” said Joaquin Rios, music education freshman.

UTRGV breaks enrollment record again

JORGE RIOS
THE RIDER

UTRGV broke its enrollment record for the seventh time, with an estimated 35,000 or more students enrolled in the Fall 2026 semester, according to a university official.

Griselda Castilla, UTRGV vice president for Strategic Enrollment, provided The Rider with previous enrollment numbers from the Office of Strategic Analysis and Institutional Reporting website, showing a gradual increase in enrollment starting in Fall 2022, with 31,559 students, to Fall 2025 with 34,925 students, with another increase “around 1.5%” estimated for the Fall 2026 enrollment.

Census Day at UTRGV was Sept. 11 for Fall 2026.

According to Castilla, returning students make up most of UTRGV’s enrollment, and the university has also seen an increase in the number of incoming freshmen.

“This will definitely be our largest ... entering freshman class,” she said.

Castilla attributed the annual enrollment increases to the university’s affordability, with additional financial programs and minimal increases to tuition.

“It’s definitely our cost,” she said. “That’s one of the things that [we are] very dedicated to keeping. We have not increased our tuition for a couple of years now. We continue to develop programs to help students pay their tuition.”

Castilla said UTRGV’s consistent tuition rates allow families to better plan for college expenses.

UTRGV students’ tuition is capped for

four years, she said, which helps to not be “caught off guard” with a tuition increase since it will not impact students who already are enrolled with the university.

Castilla added tuition is also capped at 12 credit hours.

“So, any additional hours that a student takes above that is essentially free,” she said.

Castilla said she encourages all students to complete their FAFSA application for the

Fall 2027 semester because the application for financial aid is already open.

She said enrollment is prioritized at UTRGV because revenue from enrollment helps improve services provided to students.

“We tell our students, ‘use the library, use your student help,’ you help make that happen [by being] part of a student organization, you know, get involved with the campus,” Castilla said. “... It’s so important for students to take advantage of everything they have here.”

ENROLLMENT INCREASE

In Fall 2022, there were 31,559 students enrolled. In Fall 2025, there were 34,925; 2026 is estimated to have a 1.5% increase.

Gemitt George, a health and biomedical science freshman, said he was aware of UTRGV’s consecutive enrollment increases. Despite majoring in a small cohort, he said he has experienced challenges related to the university’s growing student population.

“All the events are ... not worth going,” George said, mentioning his experience at The Stomp, where he was “[surrounded] by people.”

He said overcrowding also affects parking. George said he started using Uber to get to campus, which typically costs him \$10 and can reach \$30 during rush hours.

Despite issues about overcrowding, George said he was conflicted about whether UTRGV should become more selective in admissions to reduce the influx of students.

“It’s hard ... they honestly need that many students, considering how much money they’re spending on everything,” he said.

George added he thinks everyone should have access to college and perhaps “[UTRGV] should be more selective on who they keep.”

Kaylin Rodriguez, a finance and entrepreneurship and innovation junior, said she agrees enrollment increases are good for the school. However, she said admissions could focus more on students’ individual merit.

See ENROLLMENT, Page 3

LOCAL

The rise of ICE in the RGV

MARIAH LYDIA ESCOBAR
THE RIDER

Increased immigration enforcement has concerned the Rio Grande Valley community about how the presence of federal agents is affecting residents.

Alvaro Corral, assistant professor in the school of Political Science, Public Affairs, Legal and Security Studies, said U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection have been conducting a “shadow surge.”

Corral said instead of large and highly visible operations in certain cities, federal immigration has been conducting smaller operations across multiple areas.

“They’ve been a bit more targeted and fast and nimble,” he said.

Corral said increased law enforcement could affect the daily lives of those living in the RGV such as residents’ trust in law enforcement.

“I think it’s probably quite safe to conclude that this probably hurts trust in law enforcement, all manner of law enforcement,” he said.

One recent incident that has brought attention to immigration in the Valley was an encounter two teenagers had with ICE in Alamo.

See ICE, Page 3

ON CAMPUS

A tribute in pink and exercise

GAEL ESPINOZA
THE RIDER

In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, University Recreation is hosting its annual “Power in Pink” event, according to a department official.

The event will be from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center in Brownsville and from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday at University Recreation on the Edinburg campus.

Fay Kennan, fitness and wellness manager for University Recreation said the event has been happening since she joined in 2018, and is a way to honor Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

“We want to make sure that we do our due diligence in trying to educate our students, our staff and our community about the importance of preventative care, specifically with breast cancer,” Kennan said.

She said the department will have on-campus partners to provide information and have several activities during the event.

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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 at 7:15 a.m. Today at University Recreation on the Edinburg campus. The early morning group workout gives students a chance to exercise before classes.

Monday Tabling Brownsville
Christians at RGV will host Monday Tabling Brownsville at 10 a.m. at Student Union Lawn on the Brownsville campus. Students can stop at the table to meet members and learn about the group.

Join UTRGV Intramural Sports!
University Recreation Sport Clubs will host Join UTRGV Intramural Sports! at noon Today online. Students can learn how to get involved in intramural sports.

Dani's Bible Study
Baptist Student Ministry will host Dani's Bible Study at 12:30 p.m. Today at the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can join a student led discussion of the Bible.

Power Pump Circuit GX | BUREK
University Recreation will host Power Pump Circuit GX | BUREK at 12:30 p.m. Today at Texas Southmost College, Multi Purpose Room 1.202 on the Brownsville campus. The group fitness class focuses on circuit based exercise.

David's Bible Study
Baptist Student Ministry will host David's Bible Study at 3 p.m. Today at Global Blends on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can take part in a student led Bible discussion.

Eucharistic Procession
The Catholic Student Association will host Eucharistic Procession at 5 p.m. Today at the Quad on the Edinburg campus. Participants can join the Catholic devotional procession.

Tuesday Oct. 6
Vanessa's Bible Study
Baptist Student Ministry will host Vanessa's Bible Study at 8:15 a.m. Oct. 6 at

Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can join a student led Bible discussion.

Brownsville Farmers Market
Environmental Awareness Club will host Brownsville Farmers Market at 9 a.m. Oct. 6 at Main Building Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. Visitors can browse the campus farmers market.

Bible Study Edinburg
Christians at RGV will host Bible Study Edinburg at 10:45 a.m. Oct. 6 at ELABS 303 on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can study the Bible with other students.

PB&J Outreach
Baptist Student Ministry will host PB&J Outreach at noon Oct. 6 at OUTD TROX Lawn on the Edinburg campus. Students can stop by for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and meet ministry members.

Cultural Workshop
The Filipino Student Association will host a Cultural Workshop at 7 p.m. Oct. 6 at EIEAB on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can take part in an activity focused on Filipino culture.

Wednesday Oct. 7
RISE & GRIND
University Recreation will host RISE & GRIND at 7:15 a.m. Oct. 7 at University Recreation on the Edinburg campus. The early morning group workout gives students a chance to exercise before classes.

Isabella's Bible Study
Baptist Student Ministry will host Isabella's Bible Study at 11 a.m. Oct. 7 at the Quad on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can join a student led Bible discussion.

Bible Study Brownsville
Christians at RGV will host Bible Study Brownsville at noon Oct. 7 at BLHSB 1.104 ITV on the Brownsville campus. Attendees can study the Bible with other students.

Jose's Bible Study
Baptist Student Ministry

will host Jose's Bible Study at noon Oct. 7 at ESTAC on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can join a student led Bible discussion.

Alvaro's Bible Study
Baptist Student Ministry will host Alvaro's Bible Study at 12:30 p.m. Oct. 7 at the Quad on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can join a student led Bible discussion.

Weekly Event
Beta Alpha Psi Xi Phi Chapter will host a weekly event at 12:30 p.m. Oct. 7 at EEDUC 2.102C on the Edinburg campus. Members can gather for the chapter's weekly activity.

Vanessa's Bible Study
Baptist Student Ministry will host Vanessa's Bible Study at 2 p.m. Oct. 7 at ESCNE on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can join a student led Bible discussion.

Family Academy
Organizers will host Family Academy at 6 p.m. Oct. 7 at BMSLC 1.105 on the Brownsville campus. The listing does not specify a session topic; families can contact the organizers for details.

KICK BOXING
University Recreation will host KICK BOXING at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 7 at University Recreation on the Edinburg campus. The group fitness class uses kickboxing movements for exercise.

Thursday Oct. 8
A Vaqueros Journey Through Student Support
The Dean of Students Office will host A Vaqueros Journey Through Student Support at 11 a.m. Oct. 8 at BSTUN Lawn on the Brownsville campus. Students can learn about campus support services.

Express Circuit 30 GX | BUREK
University Recreation will host Express Circuit 30 GX | BUREK at noon Oct. 8 at BUREK Multipurpose Room 1.202 on the Brownsville campus. The 30 minute group workout features circuit exercises.

ASCE UTRGV Lunch & Learn Half
American Society of Civil Engineers will host ASCE UTRGV Lunch & Learn Half at 3:15 p.m. Oct. 8 at EENGR 1.272 on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can hear from Half and connect with civil engineering students.

EUREC | POWER IN PINK
University Recreation will host EUREC | POWER IN PINK at 7 p.m. Oct. 8 at University Recreation on the Edinburg campus. The event brings students together for a Power in Pink recreation activity.

YOGA
University Recreation will host YOGA at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 8 at University Recreation on the Edinburg campus. Participants can practice guided yoga movements and stretching.

Friday Oct. 9
Know Yourself Lead with Purpose
NextGen Leaders will host Know Yourself Lead with Purpose at 10 a.m. Oct. 9 at BMAIN 1.224 on the Brownsville campus. Attendees can explore self awareness and leadership skills.

Johan's International Bible Study
Baptist Student Ministry will host Johan's International Bible Study at noon Oct. 9 at HOME as listed by the organizer. Attendees can join an international student Bible discussion.

UREC | 7v7 Flag Football Tournament
University Recreation will host UREC | 7v7 Flag Football Tournament at noon Oct. 9 online. Students can find information about the seven on seven flag football tournament through the online listing.

Saturday Oct. 10
Volleyball Practice
Filipino Student Association will host Volleyball Practice at noon Oct. 10 at University Recreation on the Edinburg campus. Members can practice volleyball together.

--Compiled by Diego Vita



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 22 and 28

September 22, 2026
7:09 a.m. An officer responded to Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium on the Edinburg campus after an employee reported feeling ill. The employee declined emergency medical attention.

11:13 a.m. An officer investigated a disturbance in parking lot E-9 after a male student said his girlfriend would not leave him alone. The female student made a similar complaint. Officers determined no crime had occurred, and the students went their separate ways.

September 23, 2026
12:02 p.m. An officer responded to the TSC Baseball Field regarding a juvenile student experiencing a mental health crisis. With his mother's

approval, officers transported him to the Texas Tropical Behavioral Center for evaluation and left him in the care of the facility and his mother.

September 24, 2026
12:26 a.m. An officer responded to a Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus after a student became ill and vomit ed. Brownsville Fire Rescue evaluated her and transported her to Valley Baptist Medical Center.

8:15 a.m. An officer responded to parking lot E-9 after a student reported a small cat trapped underneath a vehicle. The officer safely recovered the cat and turned it over to animal control.

September 26, 2026
10:07 a.m. An officer responded to an active fire alarm at the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. The officer

found no fire or smoke, and Environmental Health & Safety staff were notified and asked to reset the alarm.

Sept. 28, 20206
10:04 a.m.: A student reported that someone took money from her wallet, which was inside her backpack while she attended band practice at the Performing Arts Complex A on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

10:30 a.m.: A male student reported that his vehicle was struck while left unattended in parking lot E-31 on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

1:37 p.m.: A UTRGV Police officer conducted a traffic stop for defective equipment in parking lot E-1 on the Edinburg campus. During the investigation, the officer discovered that a non-affiliated male passenger had an outstanding arrest warrant from the Hidalgo County

Sheriff's Department for burglary of a habitation. After the warrant was confirmed, the man was taken into custody and transported to Hidalgo County for booking.

4:58 p.m.: A student reported that two male students used abusive language toward him at University Recreation on the Edinburg campus. The student found the language offensive. The case is under investigation.

5:14 p.m.: A UTRGV Police officer responded to the Student Health Clinic regarding a female student who fell from her scooter the previous day. The student was transported to Edinburg Regional Hospital for further medical evaluation.

7:28 p.m.: A male student reported that his vehicle was struck while left unattended in parking lot E-36 on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Diego Vita

New director, new direction

DANNA AVALOS AVILA
THE RIDER

The University Recreation Center aims to make an impact by expanding creative programming, boosting student retention and building a stronger sense of belonging across the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses, according to a new department official.

Calvin Diggs, University Recreation director, started as the director of the department on July 20.

“Within my first 100 days, what I want to do is make sure that I make an impact, being dependable and assisting with the recruitment and the retention of the students,” Diggs said.

He said the University Recreation made an impact through creative programming, where they develop and implement what they believe students need while also communicating with them.

According to Vanessa Diaz, engagement coordinator for University Recreation, the new director has made implementations such as “question of the day” for students to voice their opinions to daily questions.

Half of the recreation center’s fitness floor was replaced with elliptical machines, according to Diggs.

“We’re currently in the process of getting approval for the second phase of that, which would be the heavy lifting equipment,” he said.

Diggs said University Recreation’s primary goal is to give students a shared



MICHELLE HERNANDEZ / THE RIDER

Natalie Leal, biology freshman, does tricep push downs Wednesday in the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center in Brownsville.

space.

“We want something for all students to have a sense of belonging,” he said. “If a student wants to come over ... and have their lunch here at the REC center without working out ... they’re welcome to do that ... [and] if a student wants to come over and play basketball for three hours, we also have a place for that.”

The director said he envisions the recreation center reaching a broader

audience through community-based programs, such as their previous “Postcards for Parents,” where 146 postcards were sent to parents to reassure them their children attending the university are doing well.

Diggs said upcoming community-based events or programs include a toy drive called “Dolls for Dolls”, a campus cleanup in the fall and spring semesters, and a boot drive.

ENROLLMENT

Continued from Page 1

Rodriguez said UTRGV still fosters close connections despite increases in enrollment, especially compared to larger institutions.

“UTRGV itself is a really good school,” she said. “I’m glad I have the ability to talk to my professors, and they know me on a name-to-name basis.”

She said larger universities often have bigger classrooms where students “don’t really become somebody other than a number to these professors.”

Rodriguez said her concerns about overcrowding involved the university library and parking. She said she sometimes has to arrive on campus before 8 a.m.

“The library’s always packed, which is [inconvenient], especially if you need to do work on the computers or print something

“Those community service projects fall into the pillars of the institution from values and goals,” he said.

After implementing his ideas and possibly expanding them to the community, the new director said he hopes to see increased participation.

“I’m always looking for max participation, and numbers do not always quantify that,” Diggs said. “Sometimes that’s quantified by the place of belonging.”

Diaz said the direction the new director is taking University Recreation “it is very special” since they seek to grow and reach more students.

Angel Reyna, a music education junior, said the new implementations, such as the machines, have been a good addition for students like him who often visit the recreation center.

“I feel like everyone should be involved with the space. Even if you’re not working out... I think it’s a good thing.” Reyna replied regarding the new director’s vision for the recreation center. “They’re just trying to get everyone included in the space.”

The University Recreation Center’s new director wants students to know the Recreation Center is creating a space for everyone.

“I’m open to ideas,” Diggs said. “And that’s what I want the faculty, staff and the students to know. If it is [an] idea... definitely put it on my palette because I’m going to introduce it to my team and we’ll move forward full speed ahead if we think it can impact students while I’m here at UTRGV.”

out, but itself is not too big of an issue,” she said.

Rodriguez said UTRGV is doing its best to manage its growing enrollment.

“To be fair, [UTRGV] ... was a lot smaller than it is now,” she said. “It’s hard to compare to [other universities] as they probably anticipated a higher amount of students.”

Castilla said UTRGV is “definitely beginning to be a large institution,” which comes with promotion of expansion and improving current resources.

“We are required to do our assessments, and that gives us the opportunity to look at what we’re doing ... [or] can improve, whether it’s ... a program, scholarships, resources ..., student health, advising and so forth,” she said. “Our priorities are really driven by our students and the type of support they need.”



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ / THE RIDER

UTRGV students work on assignments and socialize as others look for a spot to sit Thursday in the University Library on the Edinburg campus.

PINK

Continued from Page 1

“Having several activities to include Zumba and cycling and some other fitness demonstrations,” Kennan said. “We’re also going to be providing some snacks and beverages and a photo booth and T-shirts to the first 100 attendees at both locations, both in Brownsville and in Edinburg.”

The TSC Recreation Center will have “more of a cycle activity and tabling,” while the event in Edinburg is going to be incorporating more of a dance fitness, “Zumba-inspired workout with cycling as well,” according to Kennan.

Amy Guthrie, GX supervisor for University Recreation, said this is a wellness celebration for attendees to remember how fun exercise can be.

“This is basically just a wellness celebration, celebrating what the human body can do in a collaboration with, you know, information that we’re providing with the community,” Guthrie said. “One of our favorite parts about this event is that we open it up to the community, providing them not only the information

but also an opportunity to move their body and remember how fun it is to exercise in a less structured format.

Victoria Gutierrez, a graduate business administration student, said Breast Cancer Awareness Month means a lot to her because her aunt is a breast cancer survivor.

Gutierrez said she is glad an event like “Power in Pink” helps to educate students and staff.

“It’s great that we’re spreading awareness for breast cancer, because it’s such a grueling disease,” Gutierrez said. “It’s hard and there’s many individuals that are affected by it. So, I’m glad UTRGV is promoting it as well by giving out free shirts so it can allow more people of all genders to come and learn about it.”

Lauren Sanchez, a biology senior, said the event can bring the community together.

“[The event] not only [gets] the community to come together, but people who are involved in the work of breast cancer ... who were or are breast cancer patients,” Sanchez said.

She added the event is “really good” for the faculty, students and the community.



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY RECREATION

Victory Vaquero dances at the 2025 “Power in Pink” event at University Recreation on the Edinburg campus. “This is basically just a wellness celebration,” Amy Guthrie said.

ICE

Continued from Page 1

According to Corral, the teenagers’ account described they stopped after seeing ICE agents conduct an operation and started recording the agents from their vehicle.

He added people have the right to record law enforcement as long as they do not interfere with officers performing their duties.

“They were simply recording law agents, presumably from their car,” Corral said.

The video circulated online showed federal agents using force while detaining the teenagers. Corral said the teenagers filed a report to the Alamo Police

Department which was then forwarded to the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General.

DHS had disputed the teenagers’ account of the incident, according to Corral, who said the department referred to them as “anti-ICE agitators.”

He added that the public may not know the result of the investigation until DHS releases the findings.

The incident has caught the attention of the public in the Valley.

Leslie Rojas, a music freshman, said she had seen part of the video but was unaware of what happened prior to the portion she watched.

Rojas said she hopes residents will eventually be able to walk freely and

enjoy their lives.

“It’s not fair to them to be locked up in their own house because they’re scared to go out,” she said.

Gabriela Alvarez, an accounting freshman, said one of her friends’ moms is afraid to go out outside because of the increase of ICE.

“She has papers, but she’s scared that ICE is gonna, like come and ... pick them up,” Alvarez said.

Corral said the situation can discourage people from interacting with law enforcement or government agencies and may also play a role in how residents go out in public.

He added residents who are worried about cooperation with law enforcement

and federal authorities may be less willing to report crimes.

Corral said business owners have reported a decrease of sales in downtown McAllen and other areas of the Valley which causes owners to speculate their clientele is fearful of being in public. Fear may contribute to residents limiting their everyday activities such as work, school and grocery shopping.

“If folks aren’t going around shopping and spending money, we can see how that there’s sort of downstream effects that are negative [for] the economy,” Corral said.

EDITORIAL

Dear Trump, leave student journalism out of your tantrums

THE RIDER EDITORIAL TEAM

The Trump administration’s hostility toward journalism has made its way to the Rio Grande Valley after several journalists, including one from The Rider, were escorted off a Republican rally in Harlingen. As student journalists, the treatment faced is ridiculous.

A member of The Rider was assigned to cover the rally featuring JD Vance and Eric Flores Wednesday as a general admission guest after not accessing the media link to request credentials in advance.

Once at the Harlingen Convention Center, The Rider journalist declared herself as a member of the press and was

told she could not cover the event but was welcomed to sit in as an audience member under the condition she not bring in equipment, take notes or conduct interviews. She was told doing so would result in being removed.

While waiting to go in, event staff told her she could not attend the event because she had already presented herself as press. She was then asked to leave the premises and escorted off the property.

When a member of the media is not allowed to attend a political event, even as a general audience member, the question “What are they scared of?” arises.

As journalists, we are taught to stand our ground and report the truth. As of late, however, Trump’s America has made truth a sacrilegious subject.

The president of the United States has publicly shown his strong dislike for all sorts of media whose reporting does not favor him, calling them “fake news.”

He goes on to belittle many journalists who ask tough questions, diminishing their professional work down to calling them names, including calling female reporters “piggies.”

All of this has a ripple effect that has made its way down to us.

Our main priority is to

get both sides of the picture showcased. Giving both parties coverage allows for an unbiased standpoint.

The Rider’s goal was to cover a Democratic event, James Talarico’s rally at the university, and a Republican event on the same day.

However, when we cannot cover a Republican event or even take notes, it gives us and the people a sense of uncertainty about where the nation is headed. To suppress the First Amendment is bizarre on its own.

One might argue there is no need to cover these events as a student-led newspaper, but our work matters just as much as any other local or national

media outlet.

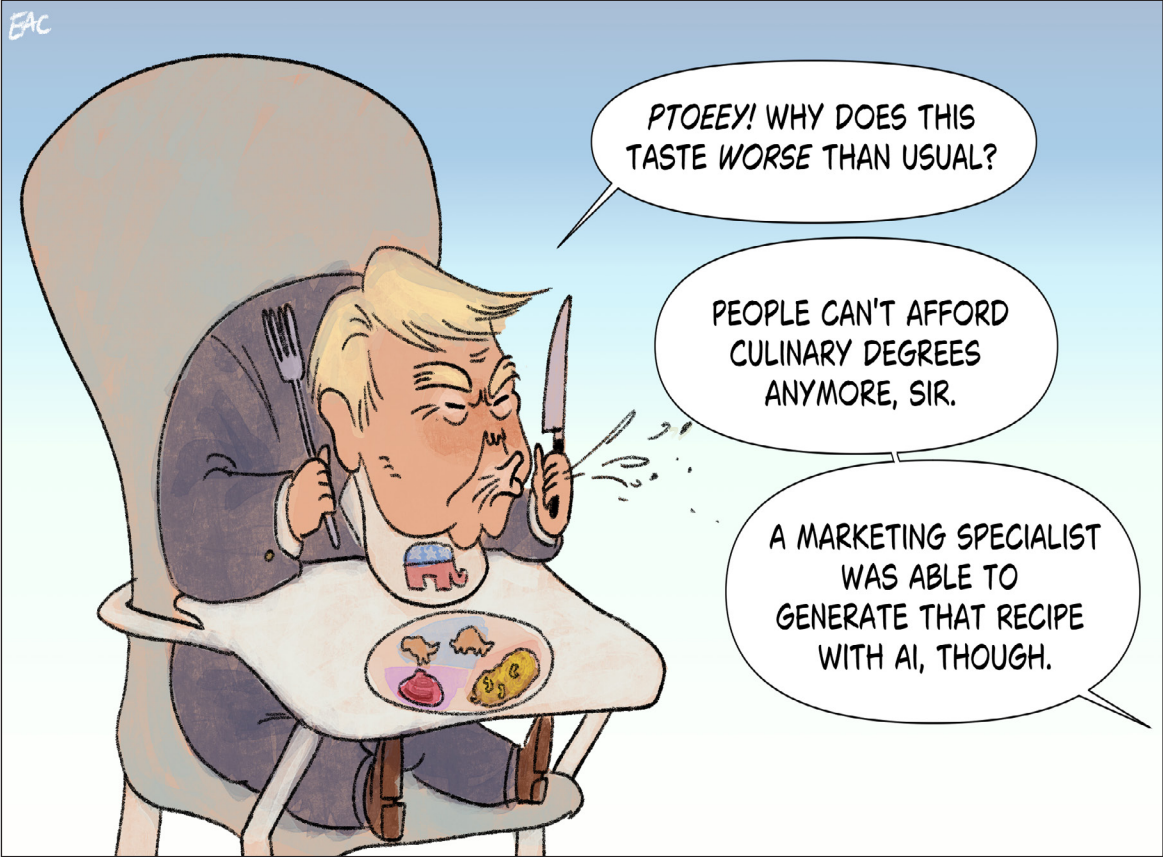
As the student voice of UTRGV, we cover political events to inform the student body, as well as the community, in hopes of enabling them to make informed choices about who they deem is best to represent them.

Protecting the First Amendment has become the main objective for many outlets across the nation. It is our job to report injustices as we see them, whether it is at a local rally or a banning at The White House.

After all, as Anne Hathaway said in “The Devil Wears Prada 2”: journalism still fucking matters.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Degrees: the bee’s knees



COLUMN OF THE WEEK

Lollapalooza is worth the hype



DANNA AVALOS AVILA
REPORTER

If someone told me months ago to stand outside for hours, pressed against a barricade in the rain, as the crowd around me grew into the thousands for a few artists, I would’ve said no. But I did exactly that at Lollapalooza 2026 in Chicago, and I would do it again.

Music festivals never interested me before, but I love concerts and traveling, so when my older sister offered to take me to Lollapalooza in Chicago, I agreed.

We skipped the first day of the festival and went for the other three days. On the two days we went, we had VIP access, and on the last day we had general admission.

All I can say is that VIP was worth every penny. Not only was there a private area with food, water stations and bathrooms, but it also gave us access to a good spot near the stage.

Because of a change in the artists’ schedule, my sister and I ended up camping at the barricade of the VIP area. I usually would mind standing for hours in the rain as the crowd behind me turned into thousands, but once I saw i-dle, Zara Larsson and Charli XCX, any complaints I had vanished.

The moment Charli XCX started playing “Pink Diamond,” the rain poured down on everyone. It should’ve been uncomfortable considering

I didn’t even have space to put on my rain poncho, but I didn’t mind. Charli was literally performing “Pink Diamond,” so the rain was an afterthought.

On the second day, I was either at the barricade again or one person behind it for all the artists I saw: Cortis, The Neighbourhood and Jennie. Again, it did rain, but the rain, if anything, just elevated everything.

Now that I reflect on my time at Lollapalooza, several factors made the experience great. However, one of the main aspects was the community.

The artists were great, but it was also amazing to be surrounded by people willing to put up with rain and mud just to share music.

Even on the third day, when I wasn’t near the stage and was separated from my sister in a crowd for Beabadoobee and aespa, I didn’t mind because everyone around me was there for the same reason: fandom.

What made Lollapalooza unforgettable wasn’t necessarily the VIP tickets or the best view. Sure, those were great and shaped my experience, but what made it truly special for me was the collective fan experience.

Fandom brings everyone together, and I’m grateful I got the privilege of sharing that fan culture with my sister and everyone else at the festival.

LAST WEEK’S RESULTS:

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE MARVEL TEAM?

Marvel Team	Percentage
X-Men	33%
Avengers	33%
Guardians of the Galaxy	21%
Fantastic Four	13%

THIS WEEK’S QUESTION:

YOU’RE IN COLLEGE; WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE INSTANT NOODLE FLAVOR?

CHECK OUT THE POLL ON OUR SOCIALS! @UTRGVRIDER

SEND US A STORY IDEA TO
THERIDER@UTRGV.EDU

El auge de ICE en el Valle

MARIAH LYDIA ESCOBAR
THE RIDER

El incremento de control migratorio ha preocupado a la comunidad del Valle del Río Grande sobre como la presencia de agentes federales está afectando a los residentes.

Alvaro Corral, profesor asistente de la Escuela de Ciencias Políticas, Asuntos Legales, Estudios Legales y de Seguridad, dijo que el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) y la Oficina de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza (CBP) de los Estados Unidos han estado llevando a cabo un “surgimiento desde las sombras”.

Corral dijo que en vez de operaciones visibles y de gran escala en algunas ciudades, la inmigración federal ha hecho operaciones pequeñas en varias áreas.

“Han sido un poco más selectivos, rápidos y ágiles”, dijo.

Corral dijo que el incremento de cuerpos policiales puede afectar el día a día de aquellos que viven en el Valle así como la confianza de los residentes en las fuerzas del orden.

Uno de los incidentes más recientes que llamó la atención sobre inmigración en el Valle fue el encuentro que dos jóvenes tuvieron con ICE en Álamo.

Según Corral, el relato de los adolescentes describió que se detuvieron al ver a agentes de ICE realizar un operativo y comenzaron a grabar a los agentes desde su vehículo.



Protestantes sostienen carteles durante Be The Hero Walkout en enero 26 dentro del campus de Brownsville.

Agregó que los civiles tienen derecho de grabar a las fuerzas del orden mientras ellos no interfieran con el deber de los oficiales.

“Ellos solamente están grabando a los agentes de la ley, presumiblemente desde su coche”, Corral dijo.

El video que está circulando en la red muestra agentes federales usando la fuerza

mientras detienen a los jóvenes.

Corral dijo que los jóvenes llenaron un reporte con el Departamento de Policía de Álamo que ha sido enviado a la oficina del inspector general del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS).

DHS había refutado la versión de los adolescentes sobre el incidente, según Corral, quien afirmó que el departamento se

refirió a ellos como “agitadores anti-ICE”.

Agregó que el público puede no saber los resultados de la investigación hasta que el DHS presente los hallazgos.

Leslie Rojas, estudiante de primer año de música, dijo que ella había visto parte del video pero no sabía que había pasado antes de la porción que ella vio.

Rojas dijo que espera que los

FOTO DE ARCHIVO DEL RIDER

UTRGV rompe récord de inscripciones una vez más

JORGE RIOS
THE RIDER

UTRGV rompió su récord de inscripciones por séptima vez, con una cifra estimada de 35,000 o más estudiantes inscritos para el semestre de otoño de 2026, según un funcionario de la universidad.

Griselda Castilla, vicepresidenta para el departamento de Inscripción Estratégica, facilitó a The Rider las cifras de inscripción previas que provenían del sitio web de la Oficina de Análisis Estratégico e Informes Institucionales, que muestran un aumento gradual desde los 31,559 estudiantes en el otoño de 2022 hasta los 34,925 en el otoño de 2025, con un aumento adicional estimado de “alrededor del 1.5%” para la inscripción del otoño del 2026.

El Día del Censo de UTRGV fue septiembre 11 para el semestre de otoño 2026.

Según Castilla, los estudiantes que continúan sus estudios constituyen la mayor parte de la matrícula de UTRGV, y la universidad también ha registrado un aumento en el número de estudiantes de primer año que ingresan.

“Esto definitivamente ha sido nuestra más larga ... generación de estudiantes de primer año que ingresa”, Castilla dijo.

Castilla atribuyó los aumentos anuales de ingreso se debe a la accesibilidad de la universidad, gracias a los programas de ayudas financieras y a los incrementos mínimos en las tasas de matrícula.

“Es definitivamente nuestro costo”, dijo. “Esa es la única cosa que estamos dedicados a mantener. No hemos aumentado la matrícula por un par de años. Continuaremos desarrollando programas para ayudar a los alumnos a pagar su matrícula”.

Castilla dijo que la matrícula ha sido muchísimo más manejable con sus tarifas consistentes y su estrategia de planeación por parte



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ / THE RIDER

Estando a máxmia capacidad, estudiantues circulan el estacionamiento E9 para encontrar un lugar el jueves en el campus de Edinburg.

de la familia.

Castilla dijo que las tarifas consistentes de UTRGV permiten a las familias tener un mejor plan de gastos universitarios.

Ella dijo que la matrícula de la universidad es limitada a cuatro años, la cual ayuda a no ser tomado “con la guardia baja” por algún aumento de tarifa ya que así no afectará a estudiantes que ya están inscritos en la universidad.

Castilla agregó que la matrícula está limitada a 12 créditos.

“Así que cualquier hora adicional que el alumno curse por encima de esa cantidad es esencialmente gratuita ”dijo.

Castilla dijo que ella fomenta a todos los estudiantes a completar la aplicación de el FAFSA para el otoño ya que la aplicación de esta ayuda financiera está abierta.

Ella dijo que las inscripciones son una prioridad de UTRGV porque ayuda a implementar mejoras en los servicios para los estudiantes.

“Le decimos a nuestros

estudiantes ‘usa la biblioteca, usa tu ayuda estudiantil’ tu ayudas a que suceda [por ser parte] de alguna organización estudiantil, tu sabes, involucrarte en el campus” Castilla dijo. “... Es muy importante para los estudiantes tomar ventaja de todo lo que tienen aquí.”

Gemitt George, estudiante de primer año en ciencias de la salud y biomédicas, dijo que ella está al tanto de los aumentos consecutivos en la matrícula en UTRGV y empezar a especializarse en una cohorte pequeña, aún enfrenta desafíos relacionados a una gran cantidad de estudiantes.

“Todos los eventos... no merece la pena” George dijo, mencionando su experiencia durante el evento The Stomp, donde él estaba “rodeado de gente”.

El dijo que el congestionamiento fue un problema por el estacionamiento y también empezó a pedir

uber para llegar a campus que normalmente cuesta \$10 la tarifa y ocasionalmente \$30 en hora pico.

A pesar de los problemas de congestionamiento, George tenía conflicto sobre la idea de cambiar la selectividad en admisión para reducir la entrada de estudiantes.

“Es difícil ... honestamente necesitan esa cantidad de estudiantes, teniendo en cuenta cuánto dinero están gastando en todo,” dijo.

George agregó que él piensa que todos deberían ir a la universidad y quizás “[UTRGV] debería ser más selectivo en decidir quien debe de quedarse”.

Kaylin Rodriguez, un estudiante de tercer año de finanzas, emprendimiento e innovación, dijo que ella está de acuerdo en que los aumentos están bien para la escuela. Sin embargo, piensa que las admisiones podrían enfocarse en el mérito personal y enfatizar que UTRGV sigue fomentando vínculos estrechos a

residentes puedan caminar con libertad eventualmente y que puedan disfrutar de sus vidas.

“No es justo para ellos que tengan que estar encerrados en sus propia casa solo porque tengan miedo de salir”, dijo.

Gabriela Alvarez, estudiante de primer año de contaduría, dijo que la mamá de su amiga tiene miedo de salir por el incremento de ICE.

“Ella tiene papeles, pero está asustada que ICE vaya a venir ... y que se los lleven”, Alvarez dijo.

Corral dijo que la situación puede desalentar a la gente de interactuar con las fuerzas de la ley o agencias del gobierno y pueda ser un motivo para que los residentes no salgan al público.

Agregó que residentes quienes están preocupados sobre la cooperación con las fuerzas de la ley y las autoridades federales pueden estar menos dispuestos a reportar crímenes.

Corral dijo que los dueños de negocios han reportado una disminución en sus ventas en el centro de McAllen y otras áreas del Valle, lo que causa que los dueños especulen que su clientela teme de estar en público. El temor se puede atribuir a que los residentes se limiten a sus actividades del día a día como el trabajo, la escuela y compras en el supermercado.

“Si la gente no anda de compras y no gasta dinero, podemos ver que eso tiene una especie de efecto dominó que son negativos para la economía”, Corral dijo.

pesar del aumento de matrícula, especialmente en comparación con instituciones más grandes.

“UTRGV en sí misma es una muy buena escuela”, Rodriguez dijo. “Me alegra tener la posibilidad de hablar con mis profesores y que me reconozcan por mi nombre”.

Ella dijo que en otras universidades las aulas son más grandes y los estudiantes “no llegan a ser nadie más que un número para esos profesores”.

Rodriguez dijo que los problemas que tenía con la saturación de estudiantes estaba relacionado a la biblioteca y el estacionamiento, ya que se veía obligada a llegar antes de las ocho al campus.

“La biblioteca siempre está abarrotada, lo cual se vuelve un inconveniente, especialmente si necesitas trabajar en las computadoras o imprimir algo, pero en si no es un problema demasiado grave”, dijo.

Rodriguez dijo que la universidad está haciendo lo mejor que pueden con el incremento en ingreso.

“Para ser justos, [UTRGV] ... era más pequeña de lo que es hoy en día”, dijo. “Es difícil el compararla con [otras universidades] como ellos anticiparon una gran cantidad de estudiantes”.

Castilla dijo UTRGV es “definitivamente una institución grande” y conlleva el fomento de la expansión y la mejora de los recursos actuales.

“Estamos obligados a realizar nuestras evaluaciones, y eso nos permite analizar qué,... podemos mejorar ya sea un programa, becas, recursos ... , salud estudiantil, orientación académica, etcétera”, dijo. “Nuestras prioridades determinadas por nuestros estudiantes y el tipo de apoyo que necesitan”.

– Traducido por Valeria Tokun Haga

These are ‘High Times’

Fine Arts students debut psychedelic exhibition

KAYLA MARTINEZ
THE RIDER

UTRGV Master of Fine Arts students Emma Creps-Peña and Jacinto Zambrano debuted their thesis exhibition, “High Times,” Sept. 25 at the Visual Arts Building on the Edinburg campus.

The exhibition contained a multitude of art forms including puppetry, sculpture and photography all tied together by themes of addiction and dependency. Creps-Peña and Zambrano spent nearly five days installing the exhibition, according to Creps-Peña.

“To make everything was not in five days. That would be absolutely insane,” Creps-Peña said. “... I’ve been working on these pieces for about two and a half years.”

At the top of the exhibit, one of Creps-Peña’s handmade puppets “Perc Rogers,” a blue anthropomorphic pill wearing a tie, starred in a short puppet show detailing the slippery slope one might fall on when facing a pill addiction.

“I like ‘Perc Rogers’ the most. That’s why I selected him for the puppet show,” she said. “I know I deal with a very difficult subject, which is addiction, and it kind of scares people off a lot. ... I wanted to give



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ/ THE RIDER PHOTOS

Jacinto Zambrano, Master of Fine Arts student, speaks to the audience about his work displayed among the gallery during the MFA Thesis Exhibition Monday at the Visual Arts Building Gallery on the Edinburg campus.

a very comedic twist to this, because ... humor is the number one way to deal with something like this.”

One attendee, Samantha Sing, said she is a friend of Creps-Peña and added her favorite part of the event was the puppet

performance.

“[The performance confirmed] how puppetry can just be a fun way to just talk about hard things,” Sing said.

While the gallery was filled with the soft sculptures and installations provided by

Creps-Peña, plastered across the walls were photograph prints by Zambrano.

“I’m very much a nontraditional student,” Zambrano said. “I’m coming back to UTRGV after 50 years. I graduated from here in 1970 ... I retired from the Army, and I had a G.I. Bill to use, and I’ve always wanted to go back and do things. Art and photography always was something I enjoyed, so I decided I could go with that.”

Zambrano’s photographs ranged from 11-by-17 inch prints on one wall to an 120-by-160 inch archival pigment print piece on another. He said it took two days to install the two large prints in their entirety.

“I had to climb up with some scaffolding, ... almost to the ceiling, getting those on, and then we had to figure out how to actually make those stick on [the wall]. All my classmates helped me,” Zambrano said.

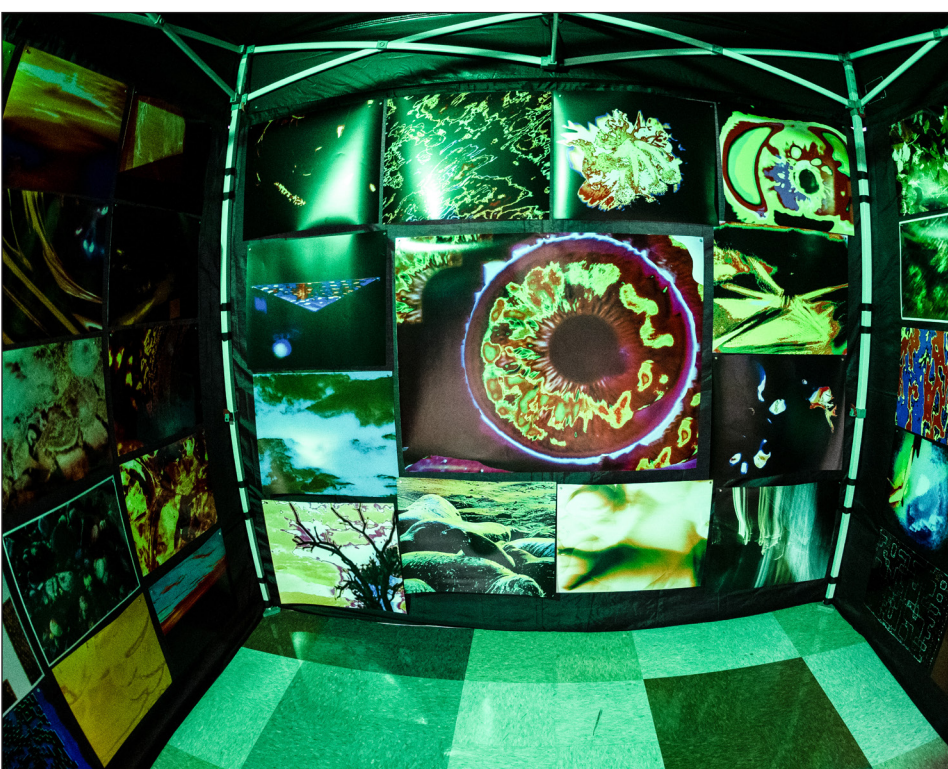
With Creps-Peña’s work primarily focused on addiction, Zambrano said that his work came to accompany hers as a mutual choice, due to her subject matter of addiction.

“I want you to feel [my work], and from an addict standpoint, that’s what they’re chasing ... they want that high,” Zambrano said. “I want you to walk away feeling refreshed.”

When asked what she wanted the attendees to walk away with, Creps-Peña replied “This is life. You know, everybody has a different way of viewing it. This is my view of it ... I’m taking the worst part of my experience and making it funny.”



UTRGV School of Art and Design Associate Professor Donald J. Lyles Jr. examines an art piece during the MFA Thesis Exhibition Monday at the Visual Arts Building Gallery on the Edinburg campus.



A black ten-fully covered by images, color shifting, creates the different shades of color for an illusion of movement at the MFA Thesis Exhibition Monday at the Visual Arts Building Gallery on the Edinburg campus.

Cadaver Conversations: Coworkers #5

WELP, I GOT MADE. IT'S A LONG STORY ...

DOC-

YOU ...

YOU THOUGHT MY IDEA TO INHABIT A BODY WAS STUPID.

AND I LET YOU GO!

LOOK AT YOU NOW! THEY CAUGHT YOU.

Kayla M 10/5

WELL, HELLO TO YOU, TOO! DON'T TREAT ME LIKE I'M THE STUPID ONE NOW-

OH, GOOD GRIEF, DR. NERD! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

THERE HE GOES ...

THIS IS NEVER NOT WEIRD TO SEE ...

Vaqueros seek changes to keep up with the season



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ / THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV junior quarterback Aidan Jakobsohn passes the ball to UTRGV 5th year running back Malachi Lane Tuesday at the Vaqueros Performance Center on the Edinburg campus.

TIMOTHY DAVID
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Vaqueros football have set up the stage at the Southland Conference with a record of 2-2. The Vaqueros are expected to compete in seven more games this season with the last game being against East Texas A&M Saturday, as of press time results are not available. The Vaqueros have two wins against UT Permian Basin, 44-0, and McNeese State University, 27-10, and two losses against UT San Antonio, 45-16, and Nicholls State University, 31-28. These games have made the Vaqueros evolve after every gain and setback, having a new change of procedure during any new obstacle. The changing of routine developed from the coaching staff is what keeps the team prepared. Head coach Travis Bush said in a news

conference video posted by GOUTRGV that the team’s changing practice procedures are intended to keep players from becoming too comfortable. “We’re always evaluating stuff, especially after the last game in [Nicholls] ... we’re creatures of habit, you know, we get in a routine and set a routine, everything on the road is not a routine.” Bush said. “So, anything that is routine, we’ve totally mixed it up, and trained those guys to not worry about things you can’t control, and that’s been the biggest thing this week.” Junior quarterback Aidan Jakobsohn has recorded 545 passing yards, 115 rushing yards, four passing touchdowns and two rushing touchdowns this season. Jakobsohn helped the Vaqueros build a lead during the McNeese State game after entering the game in the first quarter when quarterback Garret Rangel left with a shoulder injury. Jakobsohn finished with 202 yards and three touchdowns in the

game. Junior running back TJ Dement has recorded 224 rushing yards and one touchdown this season. Against McNeese State, Dement secured a career-high rushing total and longest-career run of 53 yards. The performance gave Dement a strike of confidence in his offensive abilities and he plans to continue this skill for later games, he said. “Last year was kind of more getting used to the level, the game, the speed, everything and making sure I know my assignment and this year I want to come out here,” he said. “I’ve had almost 3 years now to know my assignment and everything, so now it’s ‘go out there’, play my game, play physical, play free. So, it definitely feels great to be able to go out there and do that.” Junior wide receiver Jaydon Smith is second on the team for receiving yards and led the Vaqueros in receiving yards against

McNeese State. Smith credits his speed for his performance, while also mentioning his deceptiveness. He knows when he needs to be open or defensive. “Speed’s been working for me on the deep ball, being deceptive on my routes when going deep,” Smith said. “Then on the intermediate balls, catching the ball and making somebody miss or making somebody break in the tackle.” Smith said junior wide receiver Kyran Lee helps create space during plays. “I think both of us attract defenders, if Kyran has a deep route, and I have something short they’re most likely to carry deep and leave something open for me,” Smith said. “Or, if I have a deep route and he has something short, they’re going to carry me. We kind of work together in a way that makes each other open most of the time.” The Vaqueros will host Southeastern Louisiana University at 7 p.m. Saturday.



UTRGV senior wide receiver Clint Thomas Jr. stretches before sprint drills Tuesday at the Vaqueros Performance Center on the Edinburg campus.



UTRGV junior wide receiver Jaydon Smith speaks about working alongside UTRGV junior wide receiver Kyran Lee Tuesday at the Vaqueros Performance Center on the Edinburg campus.

National Coffee Day on Brownsville campus



VALERIA TOKUN HAGA / THE RIDER PHOTOS
Brenda Vasquez, biomedical science junior, drinks a banana latte from Southern Rose Coffee on National Coffee Day, Wednesday, at El Comedor in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus.



Alicia Salinas, a psychology sophomore, drinks her latte from Southern Rose Coffee while she is on her computer on National Coffee Day, Wednesday, at El Comedor in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus.



Janie Garcia, barista from Southern Rose Coffee, makes a banana latte National Coffee Day, Wednesday, at El Comedor in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus.

UTRGV | OFFICIAL RING

RING DAYS

EDINBURG

10/5 - 10/7

ESTUN 2.328 Mesquite

10 AM - 4 PM

BROWNSVILLE

10/12 - 10/14

BSTUN 1.100 La Sala

10 AM - 4 PM

Scan code for more details.

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