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"So, with this new company, I would say a lot of jobs are going to present [themselves] and it's going to bring a lot of opportunities to the Valley."

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SPACE RACE

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

After SpaceX CEO Elon Musk spoke at the Boca Chica launchpad site on Sept. 28, The Rider went to the streets to find what reactions and perspectives UTRGV students and the community have on Musk's future plans for SpaceX.

In his presentation, Musk talked about the accessibility and resourcefulness of other modes of transportation. He said that cars, bikes, buses, trains, etc., are reusable and believes that space travel should have the same concept. This is why SpaceX is implementing the Rapidly Reusable Rocket.

Vaquero Voice,
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"The reality is, as far as we know, this is the only place, at least in this part of the galaxy, or the Milky Way, where there is consciousness," Musk said. "And it's taken a long time for us to get to this point."

He said the sun is gradually getting hotter and bigger and, over time, even in the absence of global warming, the sun will expand and overheat the Earth.

"My guess is, probably ... there's only several hundred million years left," Musk said. "That's all, that's all we've got."

He said steps should be taken to preserve the light of

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Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Starship Mk1 is shown last Tuesday at the SpaceX launch site at Boca Chica. SpaceX CEO and lead designer Elon Musk spoke about the plans for the prototype during a presentation Sept. 28. Musk wants to conduct a 20-km Starship Mk1 flight in two months.

Annual report assesses university safety

Klaudia Cedillo
THE RIDER

UTRGV's Police Department released its Annual Security and Fire Safety Report 2019 on Sept. 27 to all students, faculty and staff.

Chief of Police Raul Munguia said the report is required by the Department of Education before Oct. 1 of every year, disclosing the statistics on crimes reported and anything related to fires to assess the overall safety of

"Fortunately, here, we have one of the safest campuses in the nation."

Raul Munguia
UTRGV Chief of Police

the university's campus.

The report contains crime and fire statistics for the three previous years: 2016, 2017 and 2018. The crimes reported in the report took place "on campus, in certain off-campus buildings or property owned/controlled by UTRGV and on public property within or immediate adjacent to and accessible from the campus" according to an email sent out by UTRGV police.

"We also have to reach out to each law enforcement entity around each campus that may

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HESTEC no longer in October

Victor G. Ramirez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This year's HESTEC celebration, which is usually observed the first week of October, has been postponed to a later date to try and expand the event, a university official said.

"We're trying to incorporate more of the university; we want to make it more universitywide," said Patrick Gonzales, UTRGV's associate vice president for University Marketing and Communications. "Obviously, we want to do more in Brownsville as well and another thing we're looking at, is actually making it, not only just the fall event, but to incorporate some events in the spring."

"The Hispanic Engineering, Science, and Technology (HESTEC) Week is a nationally recognized model for promoting science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers

to students of all ages," according to the UTRGV website.

Asked when HESTEC will take place, Gonzales replied, "Sometime this fall. We're looking at a couple of dates next month and in December."

UTRGV Leadership and Mentoring emailed student organizations on Sept. 17 stating it will be building on past accomplishments to make HESTEC more interactive for participating students.

"The goal, as always, is to spark an interest in the STEM fields and through HESTEC, give students the opportunity to begin their educational journey right here at UTRGV," the email states.

The Rider emailed the College of Engineering and Computer Science administrators Constantine Tarawneh, associate dean for Research and Graduate Programs,

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THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Lexus Perez (left) and Valerie Ramirez, members of the Mighty Sea Warriors team of Jo Nelson Middle School in Santa Rosa, get ready to perform in the obstacle course last year during HESTEC week. This year's HESTEC has been postponed to a later date, according to a university official.

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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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today Billiards Tournament

A billiards tournament will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the Game Room on the Brownsville campus. Students can play for free and have a chance to earn VBucks. For more information, email studentunion@utrgv.edu or call 665-7989.

Vaquero Ice Cream Bar

Free ice cream with various toppings to choose from will be served from 12:15 to 2 p.m. in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email studentunion@utrgv.edu or call 665-7989.

Tuesday Game Room Fiesta

Students can enjoy free food and play at 11 a.m. in the Game Room on the Brownsville campus. For more information, email studentunion@utrgv.edu or call 665-7989.

Poker Tournament

Students can participate in the Student Union poker tournament for a chance to win VBucks. Free popcorn will be provided at 12:30 p.m. in the Game Room on the Edinburg campus. For more information,

email studentunion@utrgv.edu or call 665-7989.

Wednesday Hispanic Heritage Read-In

The Student Union will present a read-in at 12:15 p.m. in the Student Union loft on the Edinburg campus. Participants are encouraged to bring their favorite novel, essay or poetry by their favorite Hispanic authors. For more information, email studentunion@utrgv.edu or call 665-7989.

El Comedor on the Brownsville campus and noon in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email studentunion@utrgv.edu or call 665-7989.

Volleyball game

The UTRGV Volleyball Team will face off against Grand Canyon University at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free to all UTRGV students with a valid ID. Fans are encouraged to wear



Have an announcement?

Email us at TheRider@utrgv.edu

'Friends' Trivia Night

A "Friends" Trivia Night will take place at 4 p.m. in the Student Union food court on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email studentunion@utrgv.edu or call 665-7989.

Thursday United Union

Students can learn about the LGBTQ+ community at National Coming Out Day starting at 12:15 p.m. in

Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Breast Cancer Awareness University Recreation will host a Breast Cancer Awareness Zumbathon & Wellness Expo from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the UREC Basketball Court

2, lobby and first-floor lounge on the Edinburg campus.

Vogue-quiero Ball

UTRGV will host its first Vogue-quiero Ball in celebration of vogue culture that began within the LGBTQ+ community. The event will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. in the University Center on the Edinburg campus and 3 to 5 p.m. Friday in La Sala on the Brownsville campus.

--Compiled by Brigitte Ortiz

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 23 and 29.



Sept. 23

11:59 a.m.: A staff member reported a student's ex-girlfriend's new non-affiliated boyfriend threatened the student at the Academic Services Building on the Edinburg campus. Contact with the involved parties is pending.

2:50 p.m.: A student's ex-boyfriend followed her in Lot E-32 on the Edinburg campus. It did not reach the level of criminal offense.

Sept. 24
11:09 a.m.: A student reported losing her wallet on Sept. 20 between the Mathematics & General Classrooms building and Lot E-4 on the Edinburg campus. Since losing her wallet, her credit card has been used without her authorization at several businesses off campus.

4:44 p.m.: A student received several unwanted texts from her ex-boyfriend on the Edinburg campus.

4:48 p.m.: A student reported losing her purse on Sept. 23 at the Library on the Brownsville campus.

Sept. 25
9:03 a.m.: A student became upset, causing a disturbance at the Visitor's Center on the Edinburg campus. He was upset due to the shuttle bus schedule causing him to miss class in Brownsville, but later apologized to staff members.

9:52 a.m.: A university vehicle sustained minor damage to the rear bumper while going through the automated car wash at Blue Wave near the Edinburg campus.

11:38 a.m.: Several textbooks were stolen from a faculty member's office at the Robert C. Vaackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship building on the Edinburg campus.

6:40 p.m.: While conducting a

routine traffic stop on a non-affiliated man at Ringgold Road and Gorgas Drive near the Brownsville campus, an officer detected the smell of marijuana. However, a probable cause search yielded no usable amount of marijuana. The driver was issued a warning for traffic violations.

Sept. 26
4:09 p.m.: A student struck a parked, unattended vehicle on Sept. 19 in Lot E-19 on the Edinburg campus. She had left a note with her information on the vehicle, but decided to report the incident after not hearing back from the other operator.

5:15 p.m.: A student's parked, unattended vehicle was struck and sustained damage to the front right quarter panel and hood in Lot E-17 on

comments toward her.

Sept. 28
7:53 a.m.: A fire alarm sounded in the Engineering building on the Edinburg campus. The fire panel indicated a smoke detector in the mechanical room triggered the alarm. The fire department arrived but did not detect any signs of smoke, clearing the building for re-entry.

10:45 a.m.: During a traffic stop on Gorgas Drive near the Brownsville campus, an officer observed a driver possibly suffering from a health issue. Emergency medical services were called and the driver was issued a written warning for the traffic violation.

3:16 p.m.: A student on the Brownsville campus requested information on filing a restraining order against a non-affiliated man she had a history with in 2007. She was informed of counseling services, the Safe Walk program and the UTRGV CampusShield app.

11:39 p.m.: A student injured her left ankle climbing stairs at the Casa Bella Apartments

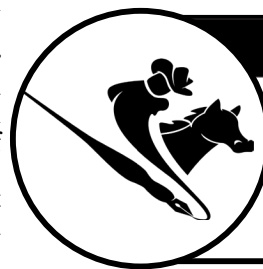
on the Brownsville campus. She said she felt pain and swelling but declined emergency medical services.

Sept. 29
11:03 a.m.: A Sodexo employee experienced stroke symptoms at the Dining & Ballroom Complex on the Edinburg campus. He requested emergency medical services and was transported to Doctors Hospital at Renaissance for further medical evaluation.

5 p.m.: An employee waved down an officer due to his concern over the welfare of a student off campus in McAllen. The officer spoke with the student via phone and confirmed she was OK.

7:09 p.m.: A student provided her Social Security number during a scam phone call she received in Lot E-16 on the Edinburg campus.

--Compiled by Klaudia Cedillo



University Police

Email: police@utrgv.edu

Campus Emergency: 882-4911

the Edinburg campus.

7:34 p.m.: A non-affiliated man and his 15-year-old son struck a tree with their car in Lot B-2 on the Brownsville campus. The man was teaching his son how to drive when his son mistook the gas pedal for the brake. The vehicle was towed, the tree sustained minor damage and no injuries were reported.

Sept. 27
9:07 a.m.: A student may have left his MacBook charger at the Library on the Brownsville campus. However, a charger was not turned in to the University Police.

12:30 p.m.: A student on the Brownsville campus informed an officer of an incident that occurred in the 2017-2018 school year off campus at her high school. The incident involved another student writing an essay where he made unwanted

Pay what you can

BSM deli opens for UTRGV community



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

BSM Global Blends welcomes students, faculty and staff to come and enjoy a meal at its donation-based restaurant. University community members are able to order full meals and pay what they can with a valid UTRGV ID. Some of the meals include paninis and other sandwiches.

Victor G. Ramirez

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Baptist Student Ministry at UTRGV has opened its first donation-based deli, Global Blends, only for students, faculty and staff in Edinburg.

"It is a deli for college students and the purpose is to provide access to food for our UTRGV community that is both nutritious and also that is good and delicious," said Robert Rueda, BSM director

at UTRGV.

BSM Global Blends, which opened Sept. 18, is located at 1605 W. Schunior St. in Edinburg and is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Customers must have a valid UTRGV student, faculty or staff ID to order.

The environment at BSM Global Blends is similar to a coffee shop with slightly dimmed lights and feels like a welcoming hangout spot for friends. The volunteers help each customer in choosing

their affordable selection. The lunch menu consists of turkey-and-avocado subs, ham-and-cheese paninis, club sandwiches and Italian Hero subs. Beverages include a variety of smoothies, coffee, boba teas and frappes.

"We're very excited," Rueda said. "Thanks to [Baptist Temple] Church, we're able to have access to that building. We just love to see students sitting across from each other enjoying a good meal, while also having good conversations."

Asked if there were any plans to open a BSM Global Blends deli in Brownsville, Rueda replied, "No, not immediate plans. We wish we could do that but, you know, right now we just opened this one. So, we're going to focus on developing this concept and becoming stronger and then, hopefully, in the future we can do that."

The average donation BSM Global Blends receives is \$5 per customer and about 30 to 50 visits a day.

Asked about the operating cost, Rueda replied, "Well, we don't know that yet. We're figuring it out. Right now, we're just going on donations. We, you know, obviously, we buy good-quality food and everything the students get is high quality. So, we're pretty much breaking even. There's no profit."

Vivian Lopez, a BSM Global Blends volunteer and a UTRGV engineering technology junior, said she has been volunteering at the organization for two years and loves spending time there.

"It's really busy, but I'm really thankful ... because then I know that there's students getting fed," Lopez said. "They're really long hours. It's a lot of unseen things that have to get done but I'm still thankful because I know that people are getting fed. They're enjoying the things that they get, and being able to work hard for something and seeing the fruit of that is really awesome."

Rueda said the money

donated will be used for operating costs and what's left will be used for BSM's efforts to serve around the world through missionary trips.

"It's really hard because sometimes you can't guarantee that what someone pays is going to cover for what it actually costs to make their product," Lopez said. "So, we're really depending on the generosity of students, faculty and staff to really help us, you know, sustain. It's not to like pressure or anything, it's just, you know, that's what it is. This type of business takes a lot of hard work but also, like, a lot of kindness, a lot of love."

Dulce Mendoza, a psychology freshman, said the deli is practical for college students who are on a budget.

"I don't have a job right now and it's really awesome to, like ... [get] out of school and then to just, like, cross over the street and to know that, 'Oh, there's a place that can give me something to eat,' 'cause most of the time, like, I don't have money on me."

Students who are interested in volunteering at BSM may email Rueda at robert.rueda@texasbaptist.org.

"I hope everybody takes the opportunity to go and keep supporting the cause because that's what's going to continue the cause ... when, you know, more students show up and they use this incredible opportunity for them to save some money and spend time with friends, we do invite them to come," Rueda said.

Breast Cancer Awareness Zumbathon and Wellness Expo

Hania Rocio

THE RIDER

The Breast Cancer Awareness Zumbathon and Wellness Expo will take place this week on both UTRGV Edinburg and Brownsville campuses and will be open to the public for the first time.

Several student organizations will take part in the event sponsored by University Recreation, including the Health Occupations Students of America, Pre-Med/Bio-Med Society and the Women's Health Association.

"Our Zumbathon is more of a wellness expo now," said Vanessa Thomas, a fitness supervisor at the UTRGV Recreation Center and a graduate student in biology. "I asked a bunch of organizations on campus ... student clubs that are wellness related. ... I asked them to come over here and table and when they table they are providing information to not only to patrons but to our guests, as well, about breast cancer."

The event will be free and include dancing, the wellness expo and raffles. There are also plans to have a guest speaker.

However, the event's main activity will be the Zumba dance class that will be conducted by three

different instructors.

"I fell in love with teaching Zumba," said Kusy Zarzosa, a Zumba instructor at the UREC. "It's simple for all and friendly for all, guys and girls, regardless of age. Here we find a new way to make it approachable to someone who is very new ... like they don't have any experience doing floor training, routines, techniques ... and I think Zumba brings that to the table."

Zarzosa has conducted three zumbathons for breast cancer awareness and believes screening and early detection is crucial.

"I think this is a great way to promote wellness, through Zumba, through dancing for all," she said.

"This event will help fight the stigma and the myths about breast cancer," Thomas said.

Information about how to prevent it, treatments and the type of help that is provided for those who are diagnosed will be available at the Zumbathon.

"This is something I learned, living here in the U.S., especially in the [Rio Grande] Valley, people don't like to drive somewhere to learn something that they don't have to," said Abdulghani Jamal, a senior medical management major and Breast Cancer Awareness Zumbathon and Wellness Expo volunteer. "Most of the people



Amanda Vela/THE RIDER

University Recreation Zumba Instructor Jessica Maltos directs her Strong Zumba class last Wednesday at the UREC on the Edinburg campus. Maltos instructs Zumba classes at 5:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday.

here already have an education, so people are lazy to do it or they don't have the time. ... But when you go public ... people just want to absorb the information. Hopefully, this year it's going to be full."

The Zumbathon will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center in Brownsville. On Thursday, the event is scheduled from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the UREC on the Edinburg campus.

VAQUERO VOICE



THOUGHTS ON SPACEX



“Sabemos que esa compañía tiene potencial de crear nuevos empleos, nuevas oportunidades para los estudiantes aquí en UTRGV para estudiar una carrera técnica de ciencias o una carrera que se enfoque más en una ingeniería de ciencias. También sirve para el DPS o el Border Patrol, pueden tener más protección sobre el área de la frontera como SpaceX está ahorita localizado en Brownsville. También sabemos que como SpaceX es una compañía muy grande, ellos quieren llamar la atención de los estudiantes de UTRGV y por eso han creado un programa “STARGATE” que también los ayuda a tener más experiencia en las áreas de ciencia, nos enseña de lo que se trata la industria de SpaceX. Sabemos también que hay cosas negativas que pueden traer al Valle, por ejemplo, pueden dañar el río por la misma contaminación de los cohetes como el fuego, la tierra y cosas así”.

Juan A. Leal

Estudiante de tercer año en emprendimiento

“Well, most importantly, especially here in the [Rio Grande] Valley, it’s tough to find a job. So, with this new company, I would say a lot of jobs are going to present [themselves] and it’s going to bring a lot of opportunities to the Valley.”



Teresa Padilla
Math sophomore



“Well, I think that if his project works, his space project, the guy from Tesla, Musk, if it works it’s going to be a really big impact for the [Rio Grande] Valley and everyone’s gonna give more importance to the Valley. It’s going to be more recognized. Not even, like, nationally but more internationally. ... Like, it’s going to be more famous and the economy, it’s going to get better.”

Yumana Zayed
Business freshman

“I personally believe it’s going to benefit most of us, almost all of us. It’s going to attract a lot of people to come and check it out. It gives us, especially me, an engineer, a lot more job opportunities and hopefully help the economy here a bit. And overall, I think it’s going to be a positive difference here.”



Julio Hernandez
Electrical engineering junior

--Compiled by Robert Benavidez Jr. and Aaliyah Garza



Nobody stronger than La Lady



Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

vibrant and captivating. But she is also strong and resilient like the thorns on a rose, which are made to endure in the face of adversity.

Strong women are all around us, and sometimes we are so distracted by their beauty that we don’t see the battles they are fighting beneath the surface.

More than 331,530 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, according to breastcancer.org. With October being Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I think it’s an important time to recognize and honor the brave women who have been affected by this disease, women like my grandma, Herminia Garcia,

who were lucky enough to have a survivor’s story for me to share today.

My grandma was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006 and ended her treatments in 2008. At the time, I was just a child and didn’t understand the severity of my *abuela’s* situation. Now that I’m older, I know this was completely intentional.

“She is my hero, my role model and has always taught me to be strong.”

When the doctor called to give her the diagnosis, my mother answered the phone and immediately started bawling. However, my grandma never shed a tear. She had faith in God’s plan and reassured my mom that everything would be OK. From the very beginning, she believed she would be able to

fight this disease.

She never called cancer by its name, because to her, giving the disease a name gave it power. She always called it “*mi proceso*,” which is Spanish for “my process.” There was no moping around or feeling sorry for herself. She didn’t have the time because she always kept busy.

During this time, we went out a lot, always laughing and shopping. My grandma loves shopping and wasn’t going to let cancer cramp her style. My grandma’s nickname in the family is “La Lady” and she stands by that title by demonstrating and handling even the toughest of situations with the utmost grace and poise.

My grandma has always been a beautiful woman inside and out. In the pictures I’ve seen of her when she was a young girl, she had the longest hair. So, when she started her chemo treatments, it wasn’t easy for her. Even as she lost

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Submit a Letter to the Editor

The Rider encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. Letters for The Rider may be sent to therider@utrgv.edu. All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of letter’s author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in The Rider are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rider or UTRGV administrators.

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Stay Updated

A salvo en el campus

Informe anual evalúa seguridad universitaria

Klaudia Cedillo
THE RIDER

El Departamento de Policía de UTRGV lanzó su Informe Anual de Seguridad y Reporte contra Incendios 2019 el 27 de septiembre a todos los estudiantes, profesores y personal.

El jefe de policía, Raúl Munguía, dijo que el Departamento de Educación requiere el informe antes del 1 de octubre de cada año, revelando las estadísticas sobre delitos denunciados y cualquier cosa relacionada con incendios para evaluar la seguridad general del campus de la universidad.

El informe contiene estadísticas de delitos e incendios de los tres años anteriores: 2016, 2017 y 2018. Los delitos denunciados en el informe tomaron lugar "en el campus, en ciertos edificios fuera del campus, en propiedades controladas por UTRGV y en propiedades públicas dentro o inmediatamente adyacente y accesible desde el campus", según un correo electrónico enviado por la policía de UTRGV.

"También tenemos que comunicarnos con cada entidad encargada de hacer cumplir la ley en cada campus que pueda haber tomado un

informe", dijo Munguía en una entrevista. "Y tenemos que pedirles cualquier informe policial que se haya tomado durante el año pasado. ... Es un proceso que lleva mucho tiempo ya que tratamos de asegurarnos de capturar la cantidad exacta de veces que se cometieron los crímenes". Además, no contamos dos veces los delitos previamente denunciados".

De acuerdo con el Informe Anual de Seguridad y Reporte contra Incendios, los robos informados disminuyeron de 18 informes en 2017 a cero en 2018 en el campus de Edinburg, y un informe a cero en el campus de Brownsville.

Munguía dijo que, en lo que respecta a los robos, es un crimen en serie, sin embargo, la policía del campus ha alterado su técnica de patrulla, la cual en el pasado dependía en gran medida de los patrulleros.

"En una encuesta, estudiantes indicaron que nunca ven a nuestros oficiales de policía", dijo Munguía. "Lo investigamos y nos dimos cuenta que los oficiales siempre están en el coche patrulla. Y dado a como están diseñadas las calles del campus, los oficiales no pueden estacionarse dentro de las áreas transitadas del campus. Entonces, para



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

El Departamento de Policía de UTRGV publicó el Informe Anual de Seguridad y Reportes contra incendios a la comunidad universitaria el 27 de septiembre. El informe incluye estadísticas sobre delitos de las políticas institucionales de 2016, 2017 y 2018 sobre seguridad del campus, educación sobre seguridad, prevención del delito y políticas relacionadas con la seguridad contra incendios. El informe alienta a la comunidad de UTRGV a leer la información para conocer las prácticas de seguridad dentro y fuera del campus.

abordar ese comentario que hicieron que nunca nos ven, en realidad instituímos patrullas a pie, muchas más patrullas a pie y en bicicleta".

Munguía dijo que con el aumento de oficiales en el

núcleo interno del campus, la mera presencia puede disuadir algunos delitos. Dijo que también tienen oficiales adicionales patrullando cuando el campus está más ocupado.

En el campus de Edinburg, los informes de violación en el campus aumentaron de cero a dos en 2018 en comparación con el campus de Brownsville, que disminuyó de un informe

Vea **SEGURIDAD**, Página 10

BSM deli abrirá para la comunidad de UTRGV

Victor G. Ramirez
EDITOR EN JEFE

El Ministerio de Estudiantes Bautistas de UTRGV ha abierto su primera tienda deli basada en donaciones, Global Blends, solo para estudiantes, profesores y personal en el campus de Edinburg.

"Es una tienda de delicatessen para estudiantes universitarios, y el propósito es proporcionar acceso a alimentos para nuestra comunidad de UTRGV que sea nutritiva y también buena y deliciosa", dijo Robert Rueda, director de BSM en UTRGV.

BSM Global Blends, que abrió el 18 de septiembre, está ubicado en 1605 W. Schunior St. en Edinburg y está abierto de 11 a.m. a 3 p.m. de lunes a viernes.

Los clientes deberán traer una identificación válida de estudiante, profesor o personal de UTRGV para realizar cualquier pedido.

El ambiente en BSM Global Blends se siente similar a una cafetería y un lugar de reunión para visitar con amigos. El menú del almuerzo consiste en sándwiches de pavo y aguacate, paninis de jamón y queso, sándwiches club e Italian Hero. Las bebidas también incluyen una variedad de batidos, café, té de boba y frappes.

"Estamos muy emocionados. Gracias a la Iglesia [del Templo Bautista], podemos tener acceso a ese edificio", dijo Rueda. "Nos encanta ver a los estudiantes sentados uno frente al otro disfrutando de una buena comida, al mismo tiempo que tienen buenas conversaciones".

Cuando se le preguntó si había planes para abrir una tienda de BSM Global Blends en Brownsville, Rueda respondió: "No, no hay planes inmediatos. Ojalá pudiéramos hacer



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

El Ministerio de Estudiantes Bautistas abrió BSM Global Blends el 25 de septiembre en 1605 W. Schunior St., frente a University Recreation. BSM Global Blends es una cafetería y tienda de delicatessen sin fines de lucro para estudiantes que funciona con precios basados en donaciones.

eso pero, ya sabes, en este momento acabamos de abrir este. Por lo tanto, nos vamos a centrar en desarrollar este concepto y ser más fuertes y luego, con suerte, en el futuro podemos hacer eso".

La donación promedio que recibe BSM Global Blends es de \$5 por cliente con 30 a 50 visitas por día.

Cuando se le preguntó el costo operativo, Rueda respondió: "Bueno, todavía no lo sabemos. Lo estamos descubriendo. En este momento, solo nos basamos en donaciones. Nosotros, ya sabes, obviamente, compramos alimentos de buena calidad y todo lo que los estudiantes obtienen es de alta calidad. Por lo tanto, estamos

llegando al punto de equilibrio. No hay ganancias".

Vivian López, voluntaria de BSM Global Blends y estudiante de tercer año de ingeniería tecnológica de UTRGV, dijo que ha sido voluntaria en la organización durante dos años y le encanta pasar tiempo allí.

"Está muy ocupado, pero estoy muy agradecida ... porque sé que hay estudiantes que se están alimentando", dijo López. "Son horas realmente largas. Hay muchas cosas que no se ven que tienen que hacerse, pero aún con eso estoy agradecida porque sé que las personas se están alimentando. Están disfrutando de las cosas que obtienen, y por poder trabajar duro por

algo y ver el fruto de eso, es realmente asombroso".

Rueda dijo que el dinero donado se usará para los costos operativos y lo que quede se usará para los esfuerzos de BSM para servir en todo el mundo a través de viajes misioneros.

"Es realmente difícil porque a veces no se puede garantizar que lo que alguien paga cubrirá lo que realmente cuesta hacer su producto", dijo López. "Así que, realmente dependemos de la generosidad de los estudiantes, el profesorado y el personal para que realmente nos ayuden, ya sabes, a mantenernos. No es que te guste la presión ni nada, es solo, ya sabes, eso es lo que es. Este tipo de negocio requiere mucho trabajo duro pero también, como mucha amabilidad, mucho amor".

Dulce Mendoza, estudiante de primer año en psicología, dijo que la tienda de delicatessen es práctica para estudiantes universitarios con un presupuesto limitado.

"No tengo trabajo en este momento y es realmente increíble, como ... [salir] de la escuela y luego simplemente cruzar la calle y saber que 'Oh, hay un lugar que puede darme algo de comer porque la mayoría de las veces no tengo dinero conmigo'".

Los estudiantes que estén interesados en ser voluntarios en BSM pueden enviar un correo electrónico a Rueda a robert.rueda@texasbaptist.org.

"Espero que todos aprovechen la oportunidad para ir y seguir apoyando la causa porque eso es lo que continuará la causa ... cuando, ya sabes, aparezcan más estudiantes y aprovechen esta increíble oportunidad para ahorrar algo de dinero y pasar tiempo con amigos, los invitamos a venir", dijo Rueda.

--Traducido por Mariana Gómez

Giving back to veterans

Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

The South Texas Afghanistan Iraq Veteran Association (STAIVA) is a nonprofit organization in Brownsville run by UTRGV students who help educate, advocate and dedicate time to empower veterans in Cameron County.

STAIVA offers veterans four main programs: the General Assistance Program, Warrior in Transition Program, medical vouchers and a food pantry.

Executive Director Shonda Leggett-Martinez said the association wants to help veterans transition from a military to civilian setting.

"We learn that most veterans commit suicide more once they get out, than they do when they're in the military," Leggett-Martinez said.

She said they host the "Salute to Veterans" event in November to bring awareness of suicide and post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans.

Leggett-Martinez said they want to open a new location.

"We're wanting to expand to, at the least, the San Benito and McAllen area, because we have a lot of people saying 'we want something like that down here,'" she said.

UTRGV students can



Danielle Perez/THE RIDER

STAIVA Assistant Director Esteban Alonso Ramos (left) and Financial Manager Luis Alvarez, an accounting junior at UTRGV.

volunteer and apply for a work-study job with the organization.

To become a member, students can visit the STAIVA office at 519 E. Madison St., and pay a fee to receive a monthly newsletter with information about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

"We try to link up the

veteran's work-study or their dependents with things that can help the organization out," Leggett-Martinez said.

"So, if you're going to school for accounting, you'll probably be in our accounting department. If you're going to school for psychology, LPC [licensed professional counselor], social work, you're

probably going to be doing more case management, and then everything else varies. We try to not just have them do a work-study but prepare them for what they're trying to do in life."

STAIVA also accepts monetary donations.

Assistant Director Esteban Alonso Ramos, a political

science senior, said he joined the organization because he is a veteran himself and wants to help others in the community.

"If I see a veteran that actually is having some difficult time actually trying to get a specific job, I contact them first, ask them what is going on ... what are the obstacles," Ramos said. "Sometimes, they come up with, 'I need certain training and for that training I need to pay a certain amount of money,' or 'I need this equipment,' and stuff like that, and that's when I come in."

He said this experience has impacted his life in a positive way because it is rewarding to see veterans achieve their goals.

"We have a lot of cases where these individuals, specifically, we were able to help them in the beginning and then they come back once they have a nice job and they're all set up and now they look back and [think], 'I remember when I was in need. [The] STAIVA program was there since the beginning,'" Ramos said.

He told The Rider one of the things he enjoys about his job is to see veterans succeed. It motivates him to continue helping the community.

Ramos encourages students to get in contact with STAIVA to contribute or participate in the organization.

UTRGV offers free immunizations and other health services



Eduardo Galindo/THE RIDER

UTRGV Health Services is now offering free flu shots for all students. The Health Services Clinic is located in Cortez Hall 237 on the Brownsville campus and at 613 N. Sugar Road in Edinburg.

Maleny Ortega

THE RIDER

Flu season is here but the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley provides services for students to prevent the illness and help maintain good health.

Services available for students in the UTRGV clinics include general medicine, physical exams, a fully licensed Class D pharmacy, a laboratory, immunization, women's wellness clinics and other services, according to the Health Services website.

Last year, 11,000 students visited the clinic in Edinburg and 4,000 visited the Brownsville clinic.

"We do pretty much everything that you can get done at your doctor's office," said Glenn Gray, director of UTRGV Student Health Services. "We have physicians, we have PA's, we

have nurse practitioners, registered nurses, we do immunizations. ... The nurses can sit down and evaluate your immunization card. We have testing for a lot of different things that kids might be interested in."

Testing for sexually transmitted diseases is done on a regular basis. Cultures cost about \$20 and the clinic offers the medicines to treat STDs.

At the moment, free flu shots are available for students on a walk-in basis. The clinic bought 1,500 flu shots and if there is a big demand, Gray said they can get some more.

Dr. Cristel Escalona, medical director of Student Health and Wellness and assistant clinical professor for the Department of Pediatrics, described how flu symptoms differ from a cold or allergies.

"The flu is like 8 million times worse than a cold or allergies in the aspect

that it gives you body aches and it gives you fevers and it gives you chills," Escalona said. "It just makes you way more sick. It can also give you vomiting and diarrhea. Usually with colds and allergies, you might have a runny nose, you'll be sneezing but you won't, like, overall feel, like, fatigue or with a high fever and the flu usually does those things."

Escalona encourages everyone to get their flu shot around September or October because every year there are different types of flu.

"Every year scientists have to come up with ... like, what strains of the flu are going to be the most predominant for the season, and so it changes every year because there's different kinds of flu," she said. "There's H1N1, there's H3N2 and so, it changes every year so you have to get your flu shots every single year so as soon as that time of year rolls around, we usually are one of the first clinics to have a flu shot."

Nursing senior Denisse Arellano has used the health services and said the staff was friendly and did everything on time.

Arellano said the free flu shots are convenient and she needed them for her program. To prevent illnesses, she makes sure to get her shots, exercises and eats healthy.

Management sophomore Samantha Rivera has not visited the clinics but believes the free flu shots being offered is good.

"I think that'd be good because I feel like a lot of people aren't really close to their doctor or, like, some people don't have insurance to go see a doctor, so I think it'd be good," Rivera said.

To prevent illness, she washes her hands often and if people are coughing around campus, she tries not to touch her face.

Students can walk in, call or make an appointment before visiting a clinic,

but Gray said it is better to make an appointment.

"We do accept walk-ins, but like I said, the availability to be seen is depending on how busy the clinic is," he said. "Of course, if you walk in, you know, bleeding on the floor or something like that, we'll take you in."

Students can fill out forms online before their appointment. Depending on the type of service they need, the online portal can direct students to the right forms to fill out and submit online.

"We have a secure messaging service through there if you need copies of immunization records," Gray said.

If students are concerned about their health, they can get lab work done.

"If your lab work is absolutely normal, we will review it and we can send it to you as a secure message through the portal that way you can get it," he said.

Gray said prices in the clinic pharmacy are usually lower, but if students need to get the medicine cheaper somewhere else, then they will let them know.

"Our job is not to nickel and dime you to death," he said. "Our job is to help keep you well enough to go to school, OK. If we can help you by getting you to go get a medicine somewhere else that's cheaper, we'll do that."

In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the University Recreation Center will host its annual Breast Cancer Awareness Zumbathon and Wellness Expo. The event will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center in Brownsville and from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the UREC on the Edinburg campus.

The women's wellness clinics, which are part of UTRGV Health Services, offer clinical breast exams and instruction on breast self-examination. Services provided in this clinic are by appointment only, according to its website.

Food, poetry and punk rock music

UTRGV celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Singer/songwriter Jo C. performs a cover of David Guetta's "Titanium" during the Celebrando Latinx Music & Poetry in the RGV event on the Chapel lawn in Edinburg. Following Jo. C's performance, Amalia Ortiz's band, The Canción Cannibal Cabaret, performed its punk rock musical from 8 to 9 p.m.

Hania Rocio

THE RIDER

UTRGV's Chapel lawn in Edinburg was full of energy as students celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month at the Celebrando Latinx Music & Poetry in the RGV event Sept. 27. Music, food and

performances were all components of the event which began at 5 p.m. with DJ music and at 6 p.m. UTRGV students and alumni presented their poetry.

"My poetry, it's based on a chapter of Gloria Anzaldua's ['Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza'] ... basically, she writes about,

you know, all these things that are different about her that people in our community sometimes think is a bad thing," said alumna Amanda Ramirez. "One of her major themes is her being queer and so I identify with that, and it didn't take me long to write the piece. It was helpful to be a part of a workshop that happened this summer that was dedicated to her work."

After the poets presented their pieces, R&B singer Jo C. took the stage by singing some of her original songs, including "Cardio" and cover songs such as "Someone Like You" by Adele.

After her performance, the crowd was excited to see The Canción Cannibal Cabaret, featuring award-winning Xicana poet Amalia Leticia Ortiz, perform its punk rock musical.

"The majority of the students

are Hispanic," said Ortiz, who wrote 'The Canción Cannibal Cabaret' (Aztlan Libre Press, 2019). "They should have pride in where they come from, the Rio Grande Valley, the Borderlands, the area is so rich in culture. They should be telling their stories in the classroom, they should

singer Ortiz replied, "It's a post-apocalyptic musical set in a future after an environmental apocalypse, where women decide to unite and to form their own army. ... It's feminist, it's punk, in some ways it's very retro '80s and '90s punk rock and it's also very much literature. If you read it, it is poetry."

The night ended with a DJ and open mic performances.

Sharon Leal, a senior biology major and member of the Latino Medical Student Association Plus, shared her thoughts.

"Most of the students in the RGV are ... Latinos," Leal said. "So, they should really celebrate our culture and just to connect with those roots.

... What it means to be Latino is ... your solidarity with each other. We are a community, so we should really support each other."

"Most of the students in the RGV are ... Latinos. So, they should really celebrate our culture and just to connect with those roots. ... What it means to be Latino is ... your solidarity with each other. We are a community, so we should really support each other."

Sharon Leal

Latino Medical Student Association Plus member

be celebrating their stories every day, but especially this month when we think about the history of our culture, the history of this region."

Her performance verbalized social topics like climate change, immigration, feminism and police brutality.

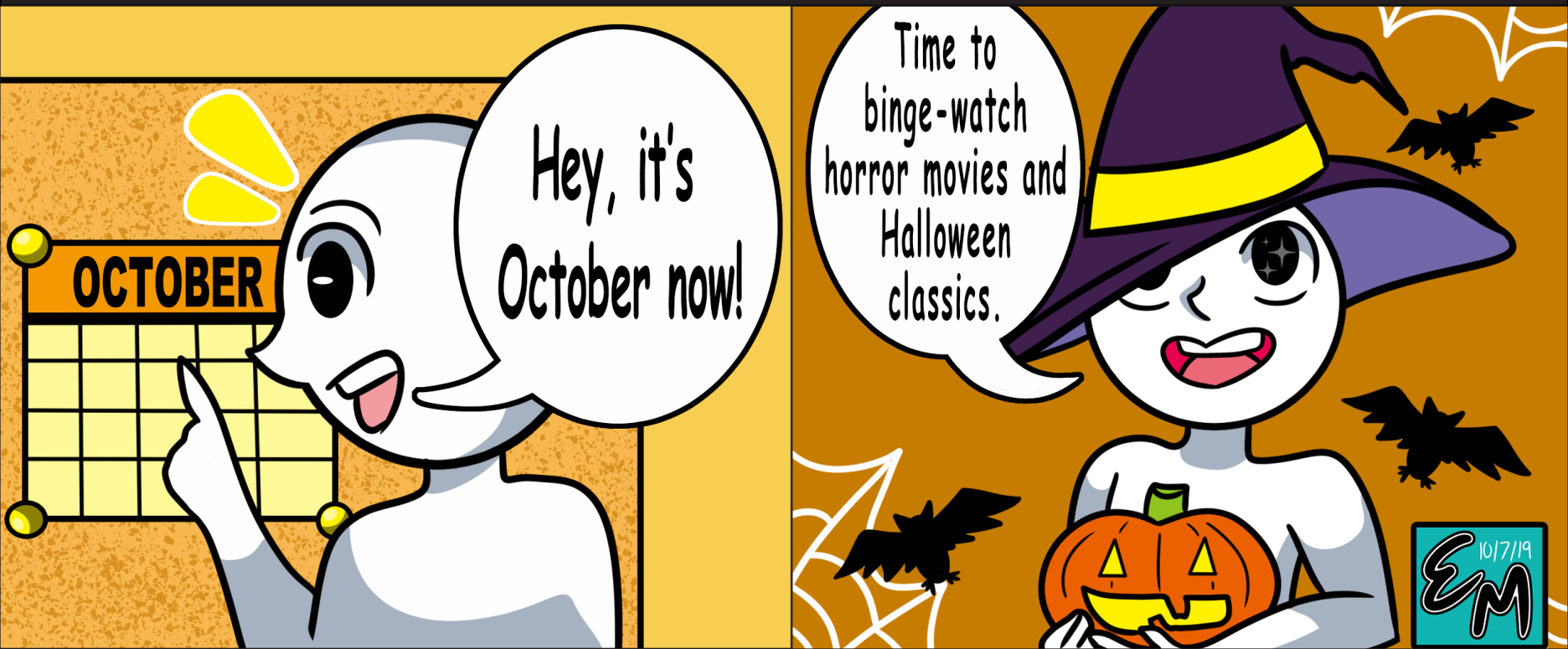
Asked about her work,



The Canción Cannibal Cabaret performs Sept. 27 on the Chapel lawn in Edinburg. The band sang and read poetry setting a story of the modern political climate, border issues and violence. The band's musical is based on Amalia Ortiz's (center) poetry book. Also shown are backing vocalist Jacque Salame (from left), drummer John Miguel Ramons, bassist Kip Austin Hinton and backing vocalist Lilith Tijerina.

The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza



Eight candidates in Edinburg elections

Omar E. Zapata

THE RIDER

The Edinburg City Council announced last Tuesday the municipal general election will be held Nov. 5.

Assistant City Manager Thomas D. Reyna was appointed elections clerk in a meeting held Sept. 23.

The positions up for election are Councilmember Place 3, Councilmember Place 4 and municipal court judge. Juan "Johnny" Garcia, Carlos Jasso, Marc Roque and Deanna "Coach" Dominguez are running for the Place 3 post, according to the city's website. For Place 4, former Edinburg Police Chief David White is running against incumbent David Torres. Toribio "Terry" Palacios and Alma Garza are running for municipal court judge.

Two UTRGV students attended their first city council meeting for their political science class.

"I think everyone should vote but as someone that's not from here I don't think my vote would be an accurate representation of what the

people here would want," said Marek Nelson, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering and Dallas native.

Evony Nelson, a finance junior, told The Rider she recently moved down here as well, but with no prior knowledge on candidates, she will not vote.

"If I was to, between now and then, get more educated on the elections then, yeah, why not," she said.

The Rider asked Councilmember Gilbert Enriquez what his thoughts were about the upcoming elections.

"The people are going to vote for whoever they want," Enriquez replied. "It's up to the public. I just hope everything is done the way it should be. Transparency is key."

Early voting will take place between Oct. 21 and Nov. 1 at the Hidalgo County Elections Annex building in Edinburg and the UTRGV Student Union.

The city council approved the purchase of 44 outdoor Christmas decorations from the Sign Depot through the



Amanda Vela/THE RIDER

Members of the Edinburg City Council stand for the Pledge of Allegiance during last Tuesday's meeting.

Texas local government purchasing contract in the amount of \$95,390.

"The decorations are not cheap; they're very expensive," Mayor Richard Molina told The Rider. "People run into me all the time, they kind of

mention that our stuff was outdated and old."

It has been 12 years since the City of Edinburg has invested in Christmas decorations, Molina and other officials said.

"It is a lot of money, but

they brought up a good point that the last time they had it replaced was 12 years ago," Marek said. "So, if the Christmas decorations are really that bad, then it probably isn't a bad idea to put some money into it."

Commission OKs Audit and Oversight Committee bylaws

Maleny Ortega

THE RIDER

The Brownsville City Commission approved the amended Audit and Oversight Committee bylaws during last Tuesday's regular meeting.

The committee was abolished on Dec. 4, 2018, and then reinstated on July 30.

Commissioners voted to approve the bylaws with the condition that the committee consist of no less than three and no more than five members.

The purpose of the committee is to "provide oversight of the entity's governance, risk management, and internal control practices in order to ascertain the integrity of its practices therefore providing confidence and transparency through independent structured and systematic oversight," according to the bylaws as presented to the commission before the amendment was added.

Under Section 2.01 of the bylaws, which addresses authority, "the audit committee and its designees will have unrestricted access to members of management, employees, and relevant information it considers necessary to discharge its duties."

The committee shall meet at least once each month and members shall adhere to the city's code of conduct, values and ethics.

In a phone interview with The Rider last Wednesday, City Attorney Rene De Coss said the members of the committee are At-Large "A" and "B" Commissioners John Cowen and Rose Gowen, and former Planning and Zoning Commission member Francisco Orozco.

De Coss, who believes the committee will be a good tool for management, said it is the result of a "very efficient process."

"It's relying on regular standard auditing and oversight guidance from some recognized standard industry like the, I think it's called the Institute of Internal Auditors ... which is a very



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

City Attorney Rene De Coss addresses the Brownsville City Commission last Tuesday regarding the Audit and Oversight Committee Bylaws, which the commissioners approved.

reputable auditing standard and all-in-all, I think that it's a very good thing for Brownsville," he said.

The committee is also going to create the office of the city auditor, who will be able to audit the processes of the city and all the departments that make up the city structure, along with entities under the structure, according to the city attorney.

Asked what the biggest takeaway is from the bylaws, De Coss replied that it is going to create the office of the city auditor. He said that without an audit and oversight component, it is hard to see whether people are doing what they are supposed to be doing. It also helps with risk management and the detection and prevention of fraud.

"I think that's always needed, you know, you always need someone to be able to look at process, to make sure that they are running at an optimal level and making sure that decisions made at the commission or by management are implemented in

the departments, you know," De Coss said. "Auditing not only does that but also looks at, you know, compliance with, you know, employment policy manuals, standard of policies to the City of Brownsville, making sure that all the departments are adhering to all those mandates from law and from the city at all times."

In a phone interview with The Rider last Wednesday, District 4 Commissioner Ben Neece said the biggest takeaway from the item is the fact that the city auditor is completely independent of the city manager.

"This way the city auditor's under the audit committee, which is under the city commission, so there's a separation," Neece said. "It's a check and a balance against the executive branch, which is the city manager. So, that's the big takeaway, that now it's an independent function ... independent, I mean, of the executive officer, which is the city manager."

Asked why the public should be

aware of the bylaws and the committee, Neece replied that they should be aware in order to have confidence in the way the city operates and they know that there is now a check and balance.

"There's a way to address shortcomings on the executive branch, which can be executive branch/administration. ... So, you understand that the City of Brownsville charter sets up our government very similar to the federal and the state models," he said. "So, the Audit and Oversight Committee is a mechanism that the legislative branch, the city commission, has to check on the executive branch, which is charged with executing our policy and our budget. So, we have, now, a way to check on the executive side."

The city attorney believes it is important for the public to be aware of the bylaws because the city is a public entity that relies on public funding for its operation.

"We get this money to provide services to the citizens and to make sure the city, and all the services it provides, is running effectively," De Coss said. "Make sure that the processes are not wasteful, that, you know, money is well spent ... because money, unfortunately, doesn't grow on trees and we do get it through taxation and I think along with that comes the responsibility to be good stewards."

Neece said his preference is that the committee should have been composed of only commissioners.

"What the mayor did is he diluted his authority to have a check and a balance on the executive officers by putting in a non-commissioner into the audit committee," he said. "That's the con, if you want to put a con, is that it should have been, in my opinion, all commissioners."

Neece said it is good to have the committee back.

"I'm really happy now that it's back and it's able to do its business in its diluted form," Neece said.

Elevating the program

Men's basketball aims to continue making history

Juanita Maldonado
SPORTS REPORTER

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Men's Basketball Team has officially started practice for the new season. Last year, the team set the bar high, but this season the expectations are even higher.

Last season, the team reached a milestone when the Vaqueros won their first-ever Western Athletic Conference (WAC) tournament game against California State University, Bakersfield 85-70 in the quarterfinal round.

UTRGV had its first-ever NCAA Division I postseason victory over Grambling State University (74-73) during the opening of the 2019 CollegeInsider.com Tournament (CIT).

"To win the first game in the CIT was awesome," Men's Basketball Head Coach Lew Hill said. "It was a good place to start."

For the first time in 51 years, UTRGV advanced to the second round of the postseason tournament before falling 94-85 to Texas Southern University in the second round of the CIT.

This season, UTRGV is returning eight players, graduate student guard Jordan Jackson; senior forwards Isaiah Fontaine and Lesley Varner II; redshirt junior Nick Mora; junior guard Javon Levi; sophomore guard Uche Dibiamaka; and redshirt freshmen forward Jamal Gaines and guard Quinton Johnson.

UTRGV will rely on the experience of Levi. Last season, he broke the all-time WAC record for steals in a season

in WAC play (54) and steals per game (3.4) during WAC play. He was also named the WAC Defensive Player of the Year and a member of the All-Defensive Team.

Levi broke the program record for steals in a single season (109) and was ranked second in the NCAA and first in the WAC in total steals with 109. He was also ranked third in the NCAA and first in the WAC in steals per game (2.95).

"I want to make All-Conference Team," Levi said. "I want to be at the top of the nation in steals and assists again. I actually want to increase my assists this year. That's one of my main goals."

"I just want to continue to be a leader. Encourage my teammates because without them I don't get no assists, so it all comes together. So just continue being a leader and encourage them."

The Vaqueros welcome six new faces to the program, juniors, forwards Marek Nelson and Anthony Bratton; guards, Ricky Nelson, Rob McClain Jr. and Chris Freeman; and freshman forward Connor Raines.

With many new faces entering the program, the Vaqueros will have to work on gaining one thing.

"I think we lost a lot of toughness," Hill said. "We have to replace that toughness, mentally and physically. I think if we can do that, we'll have a successful season, but we definitely lost a lot of mental and physical toughness. So, we definitely have to replace that. More than production, as far as stats."

UTRGV will begin the season Nov. 5 against South Dakota State at Brookings, South Dakota.



Amanda Vela/THE RIDER

Sophomore Quinton Johnson II blocks the ball from senior forward Lesley Varner II during practice last Tuesday at the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

Vaqueras host 'BelieVe in a Cure' match



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER

UTRGV junior middle blocker Veronika Jandova practices at the Fieldhouse.

Angel De La Cruz
SPORTS REPORTER

For years, the UTRGV Athletics Department has partnered with Doctors Hospital at Renaissance to advocate for breast cancer awareness by hosting "BelieVe in a Cure," a pink game.

The volleyball team will continue the tradition with a Western Athletic Conference home game at 7 p.m. Thursday against Grand Canyon University at the Fieldhouse.

This year is no exception for the Vaqueras as they encourage the university community to wear pink to show their support.

Redshirt junior defensive specialist Paulina Ramirez said creating awareness makes a difference to those around us.

"It's important to know that we are all humans and it happens to people right next to us," Ramirez said. "Especially in the [Rio Grande] Valley. ... We're a very community-oriented university. We have to be aware of these health

issues to know how to treat people around us."

She also shared her family's experience overcoming breast cancer and what it means for her to see the community get involved.

"My mother-in-law survived breast cancer four years ago, so personally, it means a lot," Ramirez said. "I saw her go

community, which maybe we don't know them personally, but maybe they have family that had breast cancer [or] anyone in their family that survive breast cancer. So, for them to come out and we're supporting the cause for them, makes us feel good."

However, she believes more people could join the cause.

"Our student community does a good job of coming out, but I do think it could be better," Kingsbury said. "Especially on an event like this, it shows more love to people who have survived or have gone through any experiences with

breast cancer." With one loss and one win in conference, the Vaqueras are looking forward to the remaining of the season.

"I think that we're learning from past games," Kingsbury said. "We're working on ourselves mentally as a team and, hopefully, that can lead us into a couple wins on the next couple of weeks."

UTRGV will offer free admission to the game for students with proof of ID.

"It's important to know that we are all humans and it happens to people right next to us. Especially in the [Rio Grande] Valley. ... We're a very community-oriented university. We have to be aware of these health issues to know how to treat people around us."

Paulina Ramirez
Redshirt junior defensive specialist

through it, I saw my husband go through it and there's many people who have [gone] through it. Wearing the jersey and then having a community that supports you and brings awareness to that means a lot personally, and it means a lot for everyone who goes through it."

Junior outside hitter Jackie Kingsbury loves seeing the crowd in pink.

"We love it," Kingsbury said. "We love to have a lot of the

Onto the job



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Criminal justice junior Genesis Alexander speaks with Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Veronica Casas during the Fall 2019 Career Expo held last Wednesday in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. Attendees were informed about various careers offered by different UTRGV departments and outside businesses. On the Edinburg campus, the Career Expo took place Friday at the Fieldhouse.

HESTEC Continued from Page 1

and Lisa Smith, assistant dean for administration.

Tarawneh and Smith replied via email with the same statement, "The College of Engineering and Computer Science is looking forward to partnering with Ms. Karen Dorado, [UTRGV director of special programs for University Marketing and Communications] on the future HESTEC programs, which is key to our success."

Leonel Villafranca, a mechanical

engineering senior, said he does not know if it would be better to postpone HESTEC, but it would not hurt.

"I mean, from the little involvement that I've had with it, with the student organizations, it might be good because we have more time to organize and prepare for it," Villafranca said. "I'm not involved anymore, so, I don't know what the organizations are thinking of right now. I know before, it used to be, like, too early during the semester and, like, the committees were barely getting acquainted with each other. So, there wasn't much organization."

LADY Continued from Page 4

her hair, she persevered and didn't allow herself to get discouraged.

In 2008, she was cancer free, and has been in remission for 11 years.

She is my hero, my role model and has always taught me to be strong. She leads by example and has taught me so much. She is the glue that holds our family together, and I admire her for her selflessness, valor and grace. I love her for all that she is and cherish

every laugh and smile I'm able to witness.

I encourage anyone with a loved one who had or is currently battling breast cancer to take the time to honor and support them throughout their journey.

For more information about breast cancer awareness or to find out how to donate, visit nationalbreastcancer.org. During breast cancer awareness month, donations will help provide a mammogram for a woman in need.

SPACE Continued from Page 1

consciousness and aim toward a multiplanetary civilization.

"I think that would be a good effort," said Jesus Zamora, a criminal justice junior. "Maybe we do need to branch out and look for other resources in other planets and start investing in life outside our Earth."

Zamora asked how space travel would be regulated.

"Would it be commercialized? Would everyone be able to do it?" Zamora asked.

In his presentation, Musk

said that if his plans take shape, people could be traveling to space within the next year.

Zamora said he is excited about the concept, but added, "I think the first couple trips will be very dangerous and we're gonna need a lot of brave men and women."

When The Rider went to the SpaceX site on Sept. 30, Brownsville native Gloria Bell was standing outside her car on State Highway 4, looking at the launchpad.

Bell said she lost touch with the Rio Grande Valley ever since she moved to Waco four years ago. Asked why she returned, Bell replied, "I

just saw a friend post it and I didn't realize it was actually up. It's actually happening. Four years I've been gone. When I was leaving, they were talking about it, SpaceX this and SpaceX that, and four years later it is happening! It happened really fast."

Things will be moving fast from this point on, Musk said regarding his goal to conduct the 20-km Starship Mk1 flight within the next two months.

Asked if she believes SpaceX can achieve this goal, Bell replied, "It's amazing, it's just, anything is possible. 21st century and beyond is unpredictable."

Given that there is a launchpad at Boca Chica and another in Cape Canaveral, Florida, Musk said there is a 50% chance that the first launch of Starship to reach orbit could be from Boca Chica.

Bell said she is proud to have SpaceX in her hometown.

"Let's just hope they just pick up after their mess," she said.

Asked how he felt about the proposed Starship launch, Zamora replied, "It just adds to our city. I'm just glad that we were able to bring something like that here. I just hope nothing happens to the

environment, 'cause they're launching stuff into space. The beach, hopefully, stays unaffected."

Students and members of the community are eager to see what lies ahead for SpaceX and Boca Chica Village, a small residential area next to the launch site.

"Hopefully, if he's gonna buy more property for that, we're able to relocate the people there," Zamora said. "Musk himself, I think he's very innovative, he's very forward thinking and I think he brings a lot of good stuff to the table and I like his drive to go forward," Zamora said.

REPORT Continued from Page 1

have taken a report," Munguia said. "And we have to ask them for any police reports that were taken during the past year ... it's a very time-consuming process in that we try to make sure we capture the accurate amount of times the crimes were committed. Also, we do not double-count reported crimes."

According to the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, reported burglaries decreased from 18 reports in 2017 to zero in 2018 on the Edinburg campus, and one report to zero on the Brownsville campus.

Munguia said as far as burglaries go, it is a serial crime, however campus police have altered their patrol technique which in the past was heavily reliant on patrol cars.

"We looked at a survey that was done by the students, and one of the things that they mentioned was that they

never see our police officers," he said. "And so, we started looking at that a little bit closer, and one of the things is that they're always in the patrol car and the way the streets are designed, the campus, that means they're on the perimeter of the campus. So, in order to address that comment they made that they never see us, we actually instituted foot patrols, a lot more foot patrols and bike patrols."

Munguia said with the increase of officers in the inner core of the campus, the mere presence can actually deter some crime. He said they also have extra officers on patrol when the campus is at its busiest.

On the Edinburg campus, reports of rape on campus increased from zero to two in 2018 compared to the Brownsville campus, which decreased from one report to zero.

There was one reported hate crime in 2018 and the year before on the

Edinburg campus, where, in both instances, vandalism transpired.

On the Brownsville campus, liquor law violations referred for disciplinary action doubled in 2018, increasing from 7 to 15 reports. However, liquor law arrests went down from 18 reports on campus to 11.

"That's another one that they kind of go up and down," Munguia said. "A lot of it is actually how active the [resident assistants] are. That gets reported by the RA."

He said this type of crime isn't a huge problem, but it does happen and the police department does take active measures.

Munguia said a couple of precautions students should take to try to avoid crime would be to make sure their apartments and vehicles are locked, put any valuables out of sight and to try to move in groups at night or utilize their safe walk program, the

CampusShield app.

He said there are officers and public safety officers on campus 24/7, even on holidays.

"Fortunately, here, we have one of the safest campuses in the nation," said Munguia. "And we report everything as it is and we follow their definitions and we are very transparent with what's occurring on our campuses."

Alyssa Hernandez, a philosophy junior, said the report was a good thing since it gives students "a set data report" in terms of how safe they are on campus.

Asked about her thoughts on the decrease of burglaries on campus, Hernandez replied, "I think that's a really good thing because it ensures the students that they have safety and can trust the school with things they put in their cars."

According to homesnacks.net, UTRGV ranks No. 1 in safest colleges in Texas.

SEGURIDAD Continuación de Página 5

a cero.

Hubo un delito de odio denunciado en 2018 y el año anterior en el campus de Edinburg, donde en ambos casos, ocurrió el vandalismo.

En el campus de Brownsville, las infracciones a la ley de licor remitidas por acción disciplinaria se duplicaron en 2018, aumentando de 7 a 15 informes. Sin embargo,

los arrestos por ley de licor disminuyeron de 18 informes en el campus a 11.

"Esa es otra que sube y baja", dijo Munguía. "Mucho de eso es en realidad depende de cuán activos son los [asistentes residentes]. Eso es reportado por el RA".

Dijo que este tipo de crimen no es un gran problema, pero sucede y el departamento de policía toma medidas activas.

Munguía dijo que un par de precauciones que los

estudiantes deben tomar para tratar de evitar el crimen sería asegurarse de que sus apartamentos y vehículos estén cerrados, poner sus objetos de valor fuera de la vista y tratar de moverse en grupos por la noche o utilizar su programa de caminata segura, la aplicación CampusShield.

Dijo que hay oficiales de policía y de seguridad pública en el campus 24/7, incluso en días festivos.

"Afortunadamente, aquí, tenemos uno de los campus más seguros de la nación", dijo Munguía. "E informamos todo tal como está y seguimos sus definiciones y somos muy transparentes con lo que ocurre en nuestros campus".

Alyssa Hernández, estudiante de tercer año en filosofía, dijo que el informe era bueno, ya que les brinda a los estudiantes "un informe de datos establecido" en términos de qué tan seguros

están en el campus.

Cuando se le preguntó sobre sus pensamientos sobre la disminución de los robos en el campus, Hernández respondió: "Creo que es algo realmente bueno porque garantiza a los estudiantes que tienen seguridad y pueden confiar en la escuela con las cosas que ponen en sus autos".

De acuerdo a homesnacks.net, UTRGV ocupa el número 1 en las universidades más seguras de Texas.



OCTOBER SCAVENGER HUNT

THE PRIZE:

COMPLETE ALL HUNTS THROUGHOUT THE FOUR-WEEK CHALLENGE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A BRAND NEW 26-IN BIKE AND BE CROWNED THE FIRST-EVER STUDENT MEDIA SCAVENGER HUNT CHAMPION (CUSTOM BELT INCLUDED). EACH CAMPUS WILL HAVE ONE WINNER.

THE HUNT:

UTRGV-TV: WATCH THE STATION'S OCT. 7 NEWSCAST AND BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A THREE-DIGIT PUMPKIN CODE.

UTRGV RADIO: TUNE IN TO THE STATION THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND LISTEN FOR A HALLOWEEN-THEMED SONG.

THE RIDER: PICK UP A COPY OF THE NEWSPAPER AND SEARCH THROUGH EACH PAGE FOR A BOLDED LETTER. DECIPHER THE OCT. 7 ISSUE'S MYSTERY WORD.

PULSE MAGAZINE: CHECK OUT THE MAGAZINE'S INSTAGRAM STORIES UNTIL FRIDAY TO FIND OUT WHO THE MYSTERY CHARACTER OF THE WEEK IS.

THE RULES:

EACH STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM WILL HAVE ITS OWN CHALLENGE FOR FOUR WEEKS. PARTICIPANTS WHO COMPLETE EACH CHALLENGE MUST VISIT THE STUDENT MEDIA OFFICE ON THEIR RESPECTIVE CAMPUS (ELABS 170 OR BSTUN 2.16) TO RECEIVE A CHECKLIST. EACH COMPLETED HUNT WILL GRANT PARTICIPANTS A BIGGER CHANCE TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE. IF ALL FOUR CHALLENGES ARE COMPLETED DURING THE WEEK, PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE AFTER SUBMITTING THEIR CHECKLIST. ONLY UTRGV STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE. CALL 882-5143 OR 665-5085 FOR DETAILS.



UNIVERSITY
DRAFT HOUSE
BEER FEST
SAT. OCT. 12

CITY HALL COURTYARD • EDINBURG, TX
6:30PM-10:30PM
 BEER • FOOD • MUSIC • GAMES

TICKETS
 PRESELL \$60 DOOR \$65

GUNS4ROSES
 TRIBUTE BAND



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: UniversityDraftHouseBeerFest.com • All proceeds benefit the restoration of Edinburg's Historical Buildings

PET HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

Email a photo of your pet in costume to

therider@utrgv.edu

by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16.

Please include the following information in your submission:

pet's name, costume name, owner's full name, major and classification, or title.

Contest is open to all UTRGV community members.



1st place
2017



1st place
2018



1st place
2019

VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE
OCT. 17-24.

*Student Media employees not eligible to participate.