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Brownsville City Commission
BCIC budget gets green light
Julissa Hernandez
 THE RIDER

The Brownsville City Commission has accepted a Texas Water Development Board Watershed study, authorized the purchase of property for the Jackson Street Neighborhood Stabilization Project and approved the Fiscal Year 2024 Brownsville Community Improvement Corp. Budget.

The watershed study provides a better understanding of flood risk, develops a plan that will act as a roadmap for the region to effectively address flood issues and helps the region be prepared to apply for flood mitigation grants when they become available, according to the agenda documents for the Sept. 5 meeting.

The engineering firm Half Associates conducted the watershed study.

Ryan Londeen, the water resources project manager at Half Associates, told the commission that the study used a 2D hydraulic model, which is the latest software that can help forecast the distribution of water.

Londeen said the study will benefit the City of Brownsville by helping it make "better informed decisions" regarding future development projects.

"What we tried to do is find those areas with the highest flood risk," he said.

Londeen said 10 flood mitigation projects have been established to protect communities in North Main Drain and Impala Ditch, North Main Drain and Four Corners, Cameron County Ditch 1 at Confluence, Cameron County Ditch 1 at Cameron Park, Town Resaca at West Fifth Street, Cameron County Ditch 1 at Golf Center, Los Fresnos at East 10th Street, Cameron County Ditch 1 at Highway 69 E, North Main Drain and Highway, Los Fresnos West Ocean Boulevard and Town Resaca at Washington Park.

The next phase of the study is to look for state, federal and grant funding. Once funding is provided, See **BROWNSVILLE**, Page 3

TEXAS APPEALS

Fatima Gamez Lopez
 SPANISH EDITOR

A U.S. appellate court has ordered a stop to a judge's order to move the floating barrier from the middle of the Rio Grande in the federal lawsuit against Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit granted the stay last Thursday.

On Wednesday, Senior U.S. District Judge David Alan Ezra granted the federal government's motion for a preliminary injunction, ordering Texas to move the buoys near Eagle Pass, which were designed to prevent migrants from crossing.

"Defendants shall, by September 15, 2023, reposition, at Defendants' expense, and in coordination with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, all buoys, anchors, and other related materials composing the floating barrier placed by Texas in the Rio Grande in the vicinity of Eagle Pass, Texas to the bank of the Rio Grande on the Texas side of the river," according to Ezra's order.

On the same day, lawyers for Texas submitted the filing appealing the judge's ruling to the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"Governor Abbott announced that he was not 'asking for permission' for Operation Lone Star, the anti-immigration program under which Texas constructed the floating barrier," Ezra wrote in the 42-page order. "Unfortunately for Texas, permission is exactly what federal law requires before installing obstructions in the nation's navigable waters."



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO
 Texas Gov. Greg Abbott greets his supporters Nov. 8, 2022, at Quinta Mazatlán in McAllen during a watch party for the election results. Also shown is his daughter, Audrey Abbott. On Wednesday, Senior U.S. District Judge David Alan Ezra granted the federal government's motion for a preliminary injunction, ordering Texas to move the 1,000-foot floating barrier in the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass by Sept. 15. The buoys were installed to prevent migrants from crossing.

The motion was filed July 24 in the United States of America v. Greg Abbott et al lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas.

Texas' construction of the floating barrier violated two of the three courses of conduct by Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, according to the lawsuit.

The first clause prohibits the creation of "any obstruction not affirmatively authorized by Congress, to the navigable capacity of any of the waters of the United States," according to the order.

The second clause makes it unlawful "to build or commence the building of any wharf, pier, dolphin, boom, weir, breakwater,

bulkhead, jetty, or other structures in any port, roadstead, haven, harbor, canal, navigable river, or other water of the United States," according to the preliminary injunction motion.

The governor's office stated Wednesday Texas will appeal.

"Today's court decision merely prolongs President Biden's willful refusal to acknowledge that Texas is rightfully stepping up to do the job that he should have been doing all along," Gov. Abbott stated in a news release. "We will continue to utilize every strategy to secure the border, including deploying Texas National Guard soldiers and Department of Public Safety troopers and installing strategic barriers."

He stated Texas is prepared

to take this "fight" to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Around July 10, Texas began installing the floating barrier, according to the order.

"The buoys are surrounded by 68 anchors of about 3,000 lb each, and 75 anchors of about 1,000 lb each," Ezra stated. "Attached to the bottom of about 500 feet of the floating barrier is an 'anti-dive net' made of stainless-steel mesh extending two feet down into the water."

The order states Mexican officials have raised humanitarian "concerns at the diplomatic levels."

Ezra's order also prohibits Texas from building new or

See **BORDER**, Page 3



Eduardo Cortez/THE RIDER

The University of Texas System has approved the purchase of the Majestic Building, 1032 E. Elizabeth St., a historic landmark in Brownsville. It will serve as the university's new Performing Arts Center in Brownsville, according to a News and Internal Communications news release. "The center will provide much-needed performance, rehearsal and instructional space for the College of Fine Arts as it works to expand offerings in music, dance and theater," the news release states.

Room for Creativity: First in a Series

A new stage to shine on UTRGV to buy spaces in downtown Brownsville, talks of new construction for visual arts

Natalie Lapsley
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After securing approval to purchase the Majestic Theatre and the old JCPenney building on Elizabeth Street in downtown Brownsville to be used as performing arts spaces, UTRGV officials say there are plans to construct a new building for visual art students.

In response to a whirlwind of concerns about the conditions of Rusteberg Hall, a Texas Southmost College building UTRGV leases to house classes for the School of Art and Design, university officials met with students and faculty in April to

discuss the idea of purchasing buildings downtown Brownsville for visual and performing art classes.

However, after proposing the purchase during the Aug. 23-24 University of Texas System Board of Regents meeting, UTRGV shifted gears and turned to the idea of a new construction for visual art classes and a purchase for performing arts.

"After some conversations with the Board of Regents and some others, it was kind of decided that ... we really need to see the feasibility of new construction on campus and there's a lot of good reasons to do that," College of Fine Arts Dean Jeffrey Ward said

during an Aug. 21 interview with The Rider.

Ward said the buildings' seller, the Roy F. and Joann Cole Mitte Foundation, wants to restore the 20,400-square-foot Majestic, a 1948 construction with a rich history, to its "former glory" as a theater.

"That's where we come in as a partner in this, in taking over that building to create a new performing arts center for the College of Fine Arts," Ward said. "And so this would allow us to have a permanent space."

A plaque outside the Majestic describes the building as having "stylistic influences of the modern

See **BUILDING**, Page 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today Volunteer Opportunity
The Military & Veterans Success Center

is looking for **volunteers** for its **9/11 Commemorative 5K** to distribute flags and refreshments at the finish line. The commemorative run will take place from 6 to 8 a.m. at the flagpole on the Edinburg campus and from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the UT Health RGV Multispecialty flagpole on the Harlingen campus.

Sex Education

Access for Sex-Education will host **educational sessions** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today and Wednesday in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. **Free goodies** will be available.

Bible Study

Christians at RGV will hold a **Bible study** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Life and Health Sciences Biology Wing Room 1.312 on the Brownsville campus.

Ladder Up

University Recreation will host a **Ladder Up** challenge where students can test their fitness limits. The challenge will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center Upper Fitness Floor in Brownsville.

K.I.S.S.

The **Korean International Student Society** will host multiple

events from 4 to 5:30 p.m. through Thursday in the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus.

Get Rolling

The **Campus Activities Board** will host its first community meeting of the year from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Main Building Room 2.402 on the Brownsville campus. All students are welcome to attend and learn about the organization. **Free food and goodies** will be available.

Boot Camp

University Recreation will host a **traditional boot camp-style exercise** that works the entire body from 5 to 5:45 p.m. today and Wednesday at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. All fitness levels are welcome.

Zumba

University Recreation will host a **Zumba fitness program** that combines Latin and international music dance moves from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. today and Wednesday at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus.

Boxing

University Recreation will host a **group training workout** that sculpts the body and burns calories while practicing boxing from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. today and Wednesday at the University Recreation Studio 2 on the Edinburg campus.

Yoga

University Recreation will host a **group yoga training** from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus.

Tuesday Holy Mass

The **Catholic Students Association** will **celebrate Mass** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the University Chapel on the Edinburg campus.

Bible Study

Christians at RGV will hold a **Bible study** from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. in Student Academic Center Room 1.103 on the Edinburg campus.

ALPFA First Meeting

The **Association of Latino Professionals for America** will host its **first meeting** from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Mathematics and General Classrooms Room 1.318 on the Edinburg campus.

Generative AI

The **University Library** will discuss generative AI from 2 to 3 p.m. in University Library Room 3.117 on the Edinburg campus.

German Club

RGV German Club members **gather weekly** from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. in Main Building Room 2.502 on the Brownsville campus to discuss important topics about the club.

UREC Barbell

University Recreation will host **barbell classes** that incorporate

functional strength training from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus.

Cycle Fit

University Recreation will give **cycle classes** that cover the foundational yoga postures practiced to align, strengthen and promote flexibility in the body from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. at the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center Upper Fitness Floor in Brownsville.

Core Connection

University Recreation will host a **class** designed to tone, build and strengthen the abdominal muscles from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. at the University Recreation Studio 2 on the Edinburg campus.

Prayer

The **Muslim Students Association** will meet to pray from 1 to 2 p.m. through Friday in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

Boot Camp

University Recreation will host a **traditional boot camp-style exercise** that works the entire body from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. All fitness levels are welcome.

Wednesday Brownsville Tabling

Christians at RGV will host a **meet and greet** from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the Student Union

lawn on the Brownsville campus.

Anthropology Club Meetings

All majors are welcome to attend the **Anthropology Club meeting** from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building North Room 109 on the Edinburg campus. Students will learn about linguistics, medicine, biology, evolution and archaeology.

Anything is possible

Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc. will host a **study session** from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Library Study Rooms on the Edinburg campus.

Thursday Greek Life Mixer

Fraternity and Sorority Life will host a **mixer** where students will get to know the fraternities and sororities at UTRGV from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

Event Reservation Training

The **Center for Student Involvement** will host a **training event for student organizations** from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Student Union Room 2.24 on the Brownsville campus.

Sunday Mass Celebration

The **Catholic Student Association** will celebrate **Mass** from 3 to 4 p.m. in the St. Newman University Chapel, which is located at 1615 W. Kuhn St. in Edinburg.

--Compiled by Alfredo Garcia

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Aug. 30 and Sept. 5.



Aug. 30

10:09 a.m.: A female student reported being sexually assaulted by a man on more than one occasion from 2021 to 2023. The case is under investigation.

12:26 p.m.: A female student reported having chest pain and numbness in one arm while in the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus. Emergency medical services arrived on scene and transported the student to the hospital for further treatment.

6:37 p.m.: A UTRGV employee reported witnessing a verbal argument between an unknown man and an unknown woman at the loading dock of the Central Utility Plant on the Edinburg campus. University Police responded to the scene and checked the area but did not locate the involved parties.

Aug. 31

12:29 a.m.: University Police escorted three non-affiliated men who were working on the floors at the Dining & Ballroom Complex on the Edinburg campus. The subjects did not have university contractor identification as required by policy.

11:10 a.m.: A student reported finding damages to his vehicle's passenger side door while it was parked in Lot E-19 on

the Edinburg campus. After reviewing camera footage, University Police determined the damage was caused by another driver who opened his driver's door recklessly, striking the unattended vehicle. The case is under investigation.

1:44 p.m.: A student reported her vehicle was struck while parked in Lot E-31 on the Edinburg campus. University Police reviewed the closed-circuit TV cameras and determined that the vehicle arrived on campus with the damage present.

3:24 p.m.: A student reported her Apple AirPods were stolen from a table in the Science Complex on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

5:25 p.m.: University Police responded to an odor of gas in the Dining & Ballroom Complex on the Edinburg campus. Officers determined that a gas burner was left on without a flame. A UTRGV staff member also reported feeling nauseous but declined medical treatment. A facilities plumber checked the burner and ensured there were no leaks.

8:22 p.m.: A UTRGV employee reported a chemical odor inside a classroom at the Interdisciplinary Academic Building on the Brownsville campus. The Brownsville Fire

Department arrived and was unable to detect an odor inside the building and deemed the building safe for re-entry.

10:46 p.m.: A student reported traffic concerns for pedestrians at the intersection of North Sugar Road and University Drive due to heavy vehicular traffic and requested extra patrol.

Sept. 1

1:13 p.m.: A female student reported she felt uncomfortable around a male student when he showed her the tattoos on his chest in the Music, Science & Learning Center on the Brownsville campus. After a preliminary investigation was conducted, University Police determined that no crime occurred.

5:11 p.m.: A resident assistant reported finding damage to a staircase hand railing in the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. A work order was submitted for repairs.

6:36 p.m.: A student reported finding damage to her vehicle while it was parked in Lot E-7 on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

Sept. 2

4:56 a.m.: A male student requested emergency medical services due to chest pain at the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. Emergency medical services arrived and

transported the student to the hospital for further evaluation.

2:36 p.m.: University Police responded to an alarm at the UT Health RGV Surgery & Women's Specialties Clinic on the Harlingen campus. Upon arrival, officers located a non-affiliated woman who was cleaning the building. Officers determined that the woman entered the building using an employee's access card. The woman was escorted out of the building and the access card and building keys were confiscated to return to the proper employee.

Sept. 3

8:16 a.m.: University Police observed an unknown man riding a bicycle away from the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus. After reviewing the closed-circuit TV cameras, officers found that the man might have stolen an unsecured bicycle. On Sept. 4, a female student reported that her bicycle had been stolen from a bike rack between Casa Bella buildings two and three. The case is under investigation.

Sept. 4

7:26 a.m.: University Police conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for an expired registration. While speaking with the male student driver, the officer detected an odor of marijuana. The officer searched

the vehicle and found a small quantity of marijuana inside the vehicle. The student was issued a court appearance citation for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Sept. 5

10:55 a.m.: A female student reported being bitten by a dog on a public sidewalk on the 1100 block of West Schunior Street near the Edinburg campus. The student was treated and evaluated at the hospital. The Edinburg Police Department and Animal Control are handling the investigation.

2 p.m.: A male student reported discovering damage to his vehicle while it was parked in Lot E-19 on the Edinburg campus. University Police reviewed the surveillance camera video and determined that the student's vehicle was struck by another vehicle as it attempted to park.

2:34 p.m.: A UTRGV employee reported that a vehicle struck a brick dumpster enclosure in Lot E-34 on the Edinburg campus and then left the area. The brick enclosure sustained minor damage. The case is under investigation.

4:30 p.m.: A UTRGV employee reported observing an unidentified man and woman arguing. University Police responded to the area but the involved parties were no longer present upon arrival.

--Compiled by Rebeca Salinas

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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Hispanic Heritage Month

Lecturer featured in Coca-Cola artist spotlight

Sofia M. Cantú Saucedo

THE RIDER

Clarissa Martinez, a part-time lecturer in the College of Art and Design at UTRGV and local artist and freelance illustrator from Brownsville, is featured in the Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages Community Canva webpage.

Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages is one of the largest Coca-Cola bottlers in the United States and is based in Dallas, serving Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Arkansas, according to its official website.

Community Canvas is a project of the company in which artists from different cultures and backgrounds create art pieces that represent their community.

Martinez said the invitation from the company was a surprise.

"I got the email, really, out of the blue and never have been in contact with them before until August of 2022, when they reached out to me first," she said.

The lecturer said they specifically contacted her to create something for Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins Sept. 15.

Martinez used elements about the Rio Grande Valley's nature, such as cacti, succulents, native birds and flowers from photographs she took. She completed the illustration last March in Adobe Photoshop.

The Rider asked what inspired her illustration.

"I really just thought of home



Eduardo Cortez/THE RIDER

Shown is a broken automatic door button for handicap access in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus, leaving users facing accessibility challenges. The UTRGV Student Accessibility Services department is working to restore full functionality to the building entrances on all campuses.

and what we find here at home in the Valley, considering we are a very unique town," Martinez replied.

Other items in the illustration are from her imagination.

"Like the, you know, the *zarape* on the bottom," Martinez said. "Like, I kind of just thought of the one that my grandma has at home."

The Rider asked what message she hopes her involvement in the project sends to students and other young artists in the RGV.

"I think it's important because it resonates with people and it resonates with Mexican Americans," Martinez said. "I also think it can resonate with just the general public to see that representation."

"It's important for artists [in general] and artists in the Valley to see something like that, whether or not they are a part of that culture."

She also said that it is important to do something like the Community Canvas project for students in high

school who are about to graduate and are thinking of what they want to do.

"It really just takes finding those examples or hearing about those artist stories to keep that encouragement and keep that motivation," Martinez said.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in art from UTRGV and a Master of Fine Art in illustration practice from the Maryland Institute College of Art. She started

teaching at UTRGV in Fall 2022 and is a former editorial cartoonist for The Rider and legacy student newspaper The Collegian.

Graphic design senior Jazmin Aguilar, a former student of Martinez, describes her as a "very encouraging and patient" lecturer.

Aguilar was asked what message she gets from the work of other Hispanic artists and her professors.

"I feel represented," she replied. "I think it's amazing. I'm really proud of [the artists], of us in general."

The senior, who took the lecturer's digital drawing, image illustration and portfolio for studio courses, said Martinez's classes are her favorite and the most memorable.

"We learned how to be a professional artist, the logistics behind that," Aguilar said. "And I think that course definitely will help me a lot in the future."

Martinez encourages everyone to do something they are interested in and to support local artists.

"Keep an eye out for the art shows happening, when they open," she said. "There are a lot of artists here in the Valley that have done amazing things."

Martinez also said the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art has shows throughout the year.

"Mark any events in the calendar," she said. "There's always something in the arts going on and there's always something to do."

BUILDING

Continued from Page 1

architectural movement" complete with "Art Deco murals, stairway and terrazzo floors."

During a Sept. 8 interview with The Rider, Roy De los Santos, Brownsville District 3 city commissioner and a member of the Mitte Foundation executive board, said the purchase has not yet been finalized and that the next steps relate to the title company, surveys and inspections.

De los Santos said he cannot share the cost of the purchase because it is not yet public knowledge but added that the foundation is excited about the university's expansion into the downtown area.

"When we were first considering the Majestic ... we were looking at ... completely restoring it and leasing it to a tenant to generate revenue," De los Santos said. "But when the UT System approached us, they expressed interest to buy, not [lease]. ... I think that's a great addition, considering what UTRGV is looking to do, especially related to the arts."

Currently, UTRGV relies on the TSC Performing Arts Center for performances, which results in scheduling limitations. Ward said purchasing the buildings downtown would provide spaces for performances and coursework, particularly for theatre, music and dance.

Theatre senior Savannah Mares is based in Brownsville and travels to Edinburg at least two days a week every semester to attend classes. In an interview with The Rider last Thursday, Mares said having a space in Brownsville for performing arts is a "great idea."

"I think it's a really, really great opportunity for those who are primarily from Brownsville and have to [ride] the bus every single day," she said.

Mares said she does not think there would be any issue with having an off-campus space because downtown Brownsville is "growing" and "changing."

She added that although she may graduate before the space is ready, she is grateful that future students will "have more opportunities to perform and to participate."

In an Aug. 22 interview with The Rider, UTRGV President Guy Bailey said the university has been trying to purchase the Majestic Theatre for several years and that renovation in the buildings will start as soon as possible.

As for visual art spaces, Bailey said the university has tried buying spaces downtown in the past and that the "best alternative was simply to build ... a new facility on campus."

Ward said the plan is to work with the University of Texas System Board of Regents for new construction on campus dedicated to the School of Art and Design.

Psychology freshman Juan Martinez has a minor in graphic design and said he is taking art classes in Rustenberg Hall this fall.

Martinez said that although he has not been at the university long enough to form an opinion about Rustenberg, he believes a new building on campus for visual art students would be beneficial.

"I think that would be great," the freshman said. "There [would be] more space for art classes and just to display

more art at campus, you know, show the talent and the potential that students have."

Ward said the new plan could address concerns about traveling and parking downtown, security at night and building specifications that meet requirements for art equipment.

"New construction allows us to build to the exact specifications of our needs as opposed to taking [an] existing building and retrofitting it," he said, referencing the concerns raised back in April.

UTRGV officials are working on a proposal for a new construction. Ward said once the proposal is complete, progress will be made according to the UT System Board of Regents meeting schedule.

Ed Pogue, UTRGV School of Art and Design director, said in the meantime, the university will buy new art equipment, including kilns, easels, computers, tables and chairs.

—Teresta Dominguez, copy editor for The Rider, contributed to this report.

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BROWNSVILLE

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the development of these projects will begin. **Jackson Street Neighborhood Stabilization**

Juan Velez, Historic Preservation officer, presented a budget of \$150,000 to purchase two residential properties located at 1526 and 1534 E. Jackson St. for Phase II of the neighborhood stabilization project. The city would be responsible for funding the project.

Come Dream Come Build, a nonprofit organization, will perform project design, project and construction management services, and ongoing property management services, according to agenda documents.

The two houses have historic value and would be protected like previous properties on that same street.

Velez said CDCB entered the project and preserved the structures.

The main goal would be to ameliorate the image of East Jackson Street and have neighborhood stabilization.

BCIC 2024 Budget

The proposed \$13 million fiscal year 2024 budget for the Brownsville Community Improvement Corp. was presented by Cori Peña, president and CEO of BCIC. Peña said the budget includes \$6,314,000 for strategic initiatives; \$3,665,000 for debt service; \$1,826,101 for administrative expenditures; \$370,000 for eBridge operations; and \$524,000 for city service contracts.



Azenett Valdez/THE RIDER

Ryan Londeen, a water resource project manager for the engineering firm Halff Associates, presents last Tuesday on a watershed study.

BORDER

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placing additional buoys, blockades or structures in the Rio Grande pending final judgment in the matter.

"The Court finds that the barrier's threat to human life, its impairment to free and safe navigation, and its contraindication to the balance of priorities Congress struck in the [Rivers and Harbors Act] outweigh Texas's interest in implementing its buoy barrier in the Rio Grande River," the order states.

Since its start, Operation Lone Star has resulted in over 427,600 migrant apprehensions, over 33,800 criminal arrests and

more than 30,700 felony charges, according to a Sept. 1 news release from the governor's office.

During the border mission, the Texas Department of Public Safety seized over 426 million lethal doses of fentanyl.

"Today, a federal judge granted a preliminary injunction requiring Texas to remove its floating barrier from the middle of the Rio Grande and prohibiting Texas from constructing new barriers in the river," Justice Department Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta stated in a news release Wednesday. "We are pleased that the court ruled that the barrier was unlawful and irreparably harms diplomatic relations, public safety, navigation, and the operations

of federal agency officials in and around the Rio Grande."

Álvaro J. Corral, an assistant professor in the UTRGV Department of Political Science, said Judge Ezra's decision in the case is "unique."

"I don't foresee that this appeal will go anywhere," Corral said when asked about Abbott's appeal. "A governor just doesn't have this sort of, you know, what we would call plenary power to declare an invasion and then to take this action."

Corral said Gov. Abbott is violating the Rivers and Harbors Act.

"If you put a barrier in the middle of a river, you're harming the navigation of that river," he said. "And so Congress passed the

law that talks about, you know, what local governments and state governments can and can't do. And so essentially ... Congress says that doing something like this isn't allowed."

Corral said the floating barrier may be harming U.S. Border Patrol.

"By putting these really dangerous buoys in the middle of the river, it kind of puts Border Patrol agents at risk too, right?" he said. "Because these are really sharp objects and, so, if they have to go fish up someone out of [the river], or help them ... they also are running a ... risk."

UTRGV students gave their opinion on the case.

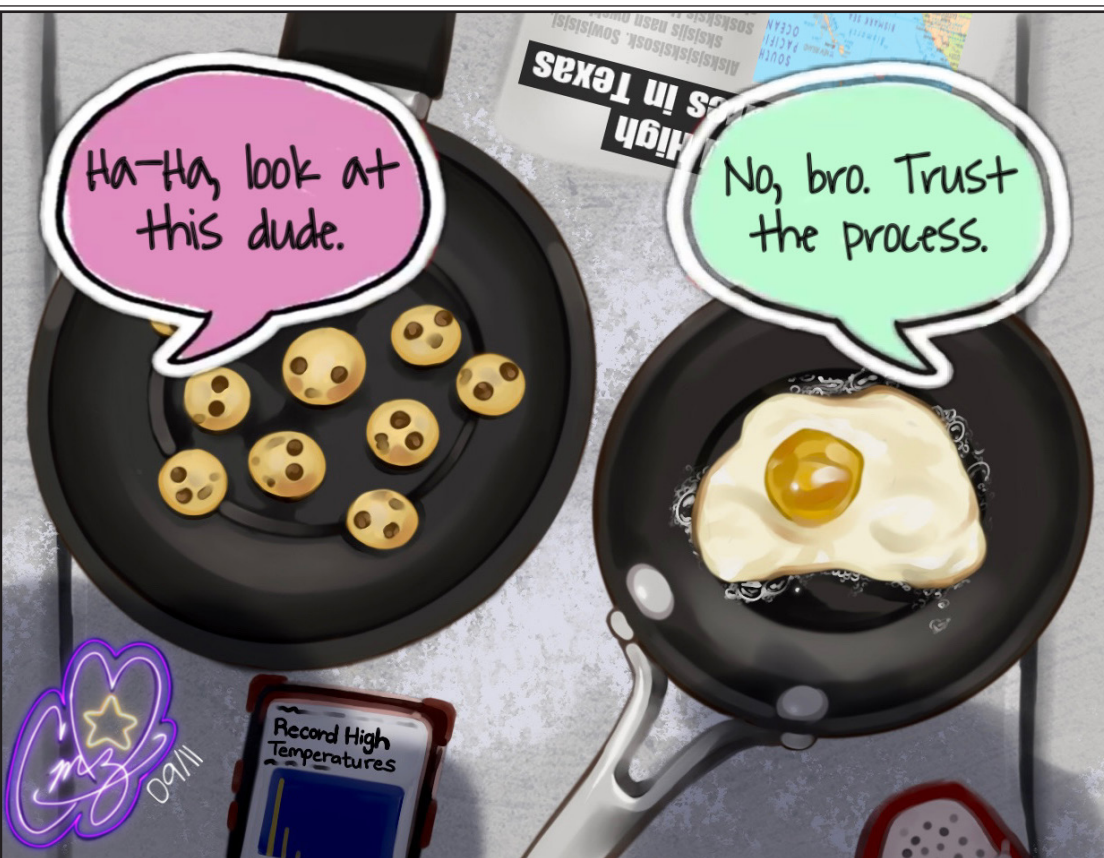
"[The buoys are] killing innocent lives," said Melina

Peralez, a mass communication junior. "The whole purpose of people wanting to come over here is that they want to start new. ... They should give them a chance to start a new life ... [because] the country that they are coming from isn't giving them that option."

Social work freshman Samantha Fuentes said she agrees on removing the buoys.

"It's kind of scary to know that it's killing a lot of people that they're just trying to find, like, their freedom in another country," Fuentes said. "Now that they are going to remove it, it's actually a good idea."

—Editor-in-Chief Natalie Lapsley contributed to this report.



YAQUERO VOICE

What year of your life has been your favorite so far and why?



"I would say the year of 2021, because that is the year I graduated from high school, and I came to college and met all my best friends here."

Mar Hernandez
political science senior



"I would say 2020, because during the pandemic, I could really work on myself, like, working out and stuff, and just getting ready for, like, the next year working on mental health."

Kaya Dickerson
psychology freshman



"I would say 2018, because less worries. You are a kid again and that's it, you know?"

Javier Ontiveros
criminal justice sophomore



"2018, because I was traveling the world at that time."

Marianna Diaz
biology freshman

--Compiled and photos by Jose Medina and Daniela Martinez Salazar

A reminder to be great



Eduardo Cortez
PHOTOGRAPHER

Success, to me, is a word that has held profound significance throughout my life's journey, and it's a pursuit that many people embarked on with the initial desire for personal gain, recognition and advancement.

However, I believe that the true essence of success goes beyond self-interest. It's about becoming a leader who can positively impact the world, making it a better place for everyone.

Your family is looking for one person right now. If not you, maybe it's going to be another 100 years until somebody becomes this one leader, but be sure that someone will show up. Regardless of this fact, I believe that if we decide to be this person, we don't just positively impact our own generation but also our siblings, peers, hierarchy, industry, community, church and everybody else.

From my earliest memories, I was encouraged by my parents to strive for excellence in everything

I did, be it in school, sports or our community. Their unwavering belief in pursuing the best version of myself has left an indelible mark on my perspective.

It taught me that success isn't merely about personal achievements but also about using my abilities, resources and influence to inspire and uplift those around me.

One of the greatest challenges I've seen in the lives of many people has been acknowledging their own immense potential. Self-doubt and negative emotions have held back so many

Success may not be guaranteed, but I believe it's worth pursuing with unwavering determination and the belief that my actions can leave a lasting, positive impact on the world.

individuals looking for great things in their lives.

Over time, I've come to realize that success demands courage and resilience, even when our feelings might try to convince us otherwise. In my personal experience, it's during my darkest moments, when problems and bad days seem insurmountable, that I've found my character being tested and true strength being unveiled.

In my personal pursuit of success, I've also discovered the profound connection between it and the sincere, constant search of a relationship with God.

For me, this search has led to a

deeper connection with my faith, providing guidance and direction. It's helped me understand that success isn't solely about personal accomplishments but also about aligning my journey with what God's will dictates for my life, even when it might be hard at times.

A quote by Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche has always resonated with me: "I know of no better life purpose than to perish in attempting the great and impossible."

This quote serves as a constant reminder that the pursuit of greatness isn't without its share of risks and challenges. It's precisely the uncertainty and the risk of failure that add depth and meaning to life. In my view, the only true failure lies in shying away from life's challenges, in succumbing to fear and complacency.

In my personal perspective, success isn't just a solitary journey; it's a collective endeavor aimed at making the world a better place. It requires me to tap into my immense potential, overcome my doubts and emotions, and embrace challenges as opportunities for growth.

Success may not be guaranteed, but I believe it's worth pursuing with unwavering determination and the belief that my actions can leave a lasting, positive impact on the world.

Visit us online at utrgvrider.com to participate →

CAMPUS COMMENTS

@utrgv sent a tiny commuter to Brownsville at 9:00 AM to pic up over 70 students who waited in line in the sun, myself included, while it ran a bit late. The commuter became full instantly and students are having to wait for another. Why does transportation have to be so difficult for Brownsville students?

Supposed to be in Edinburg in 30 min. What happened???? @utrgv We left Brownsville on time at 12:30 and have been sitting here in Harlingen for the past 30 min...

Art graduate student Kimberly Sandoval, via Instagram stories Aug. 31 and Sept. 6



Nombre: Lea Karren

Carrera: Comunicación de Masas

Clasificación: Estudiante de último año

Fecha de graduación: Primavera 2024



Angel Ballesteros/FOTO RIDER

Ciudad natal: Puente l'Abbé, Francia

Actividades extracurriculares: "Soy parte del equipo de tenis femenino. [...] Cuando estoy [de vuelta] en casa, yo surfeo y camino por ahí y voy a la playa".

¿Cuáles son las diferencias entre tu ciudad natal y los Estados Unidos?

"La gran diferencia para mí fue que la cultura es muy diferente. [...] Es completamente diferente en comparación con Europa o Francia. Porque [...] casi en todas partes de Europa, en Francia, incluso en la universidad, todo se trata de la escuela. Vas de las 8 a las 5 o incluso más tarde, solo escuela, escuela, escuela, y no tenemos tiempo para actividades adicionales o deportes. [...] Mi sueño sería estar en Francia, y también tal vez estar en los Estados Unidos. Me gustan mucho los dos países".

¿Quién es tu ejemplo a seguir?

"Me gusta mucho Kobe Bryant. [...] La ética de trabajo que [tenía] es muy, muy inspiradora. Y luego Tim Tebow porque soy bastante religiosa y creo que todo lo que está diciendo es inspirador y soy parte de FCA (por sus siglas en inglés) aquí, Comunidad [de] Deportistas Cristianos. [...] Así que, entrenamos para que todo el mundo una la voz".

¿Por qué elegiste la carrera en la que estás?

"Al principio estaba haciendo mercadotecnia y [...] hice clases de contabilidad y no era lo mío. [...] Me gustan mucho las redes sociales y siempre estoy en Instagram y TikTok y me gusta comunicarme. Así que, mi asesor me dijo que sería bueno y yo estaba como, 'Oh, ¿por qué no intentarlo?' y desde entonces disfruté mucho yendo a clase".

¿Cuál es tu recuerdo favorito de la infancia?

"Ir al océano con mi madre y hacer fines de semana regulares allí. Como, ir después de clase. Íbamos a nadar, así que eso sería de seguro mis recuerdos de la infancia. ... Ir al océano todos los días. Puedo ir cuando quiera. Así que, seguro que es parte de mi infancia".

¿Qué consejo le darías a otros estudiantes internacionales?

"Yo diría que no sean tímidos para salir y conocer a algunas personas. Incluso si mi inglés fue horrible en mi primer año, mejoró al estar [...] con muchos otros estadounidenses o incluso extranjeros. [...] Comunícate con todos, sé amable con todos. Aquí tenemos la oportunidad de ir a todos los juegos y sí, así es como puedes conocer a mucha gente nueva. Así que diré que seas abierto y trates de hacer nuevos amigos y disfrutar tanto como puedas porque el tiempo vuela".

--Recopilado por Fatima Gamez Lopez

Texas apela decreto en demanda de boyas

Fatima Gamez Lopez
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

Una corte de apelaciones de Estados Unidos ordenó detener la orden de un juez de mover la barrera flotante desde el medio del Río Grande en la demanda federal contra el gobernador de Texas, Greg Abbott.

La Corte de Apelaciones del Quinto Circuito de Estados Unidos concedió la suspensión el jueves pasado.

El miércoles, el juez federal de distrito David Alan Ezra aceptó la moción del gobierno federal para una orden judicial preliminar, ordenando a Texas mover las boyas cerca de Eagle Pass, que fueron diseñadas para impedir que los migrantes cruzaran.

"El gobernador Abbott anunció que no estaba 'pidiendo permiso' para la Operación Estrella Solitaria, el programa antiinmigración bajo el cual Texas construyó la barrera flotante", escribió Ezra en la orden de 42 páginas. "Desafortunadamente para Texas, el permiso es exactamente lo que exige la ley federal antes de instalar obstrucciones en las aguas navegables del país".

La moción se presentó el 24 de julio en la demanda Estados Unidos de América contra Greg Abbott et al en el Tribunal de Distrito de los Estados Unidos para el Distrito Oeste de Texas.

La construcción de la barrera flotante por parte de Texas violó dos de los tres cursos de conducta establecidos en la Sección 10 de la Ley de Ríos y Puertos, según la demanda.

La primera cláusula prohíbe la creación de "cualquier obstrucción no autorizada afirmativamente por el Congreso, a la capacidad navegable de cualquiera de las aguas de Estados Unidos", según la orden.

La segunda cláusula hace que sea ilegal "construir o comenzar la construcción de cualquier muelle, embarcadero, delfín, barrera, presa, rompeolas, mamparo, embarcadero u otras estructuras en cualquier puerto, rada, refugio, puerto, canal, río navegable o otras aguas de los Estados Unidos", según la moción de orden judicial preliminar.

La oficina del gobernador declaró el miércoles que Texas apelará.

"La decisión judicial de hoy simplemente prolonga la negativa voluntaria del Presidente Biden a reconocer que Texas está legítimamente dando un paso al frente para hacer el trabajo que debería haber estado haciendo todo el tiempo", afirmó el gobernador Abbott en un comunicado de prensa. "Continuaremos utilizando todas las estrategias para asegurar la frontera, incluido el despliegue de soldados de la Guardia Nacional de Texas y del Departamento de Seguridad Pública y la instalación de barreras estratégicas".

Afirmó que Texas está preparado para llevar esta "lucha" a la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos.

Alrededor del 10 de julio, Texas comenzó a instalar la barrera flotante, según la orden.

"Las boyas están rodeadas por 68 anclas de aproximadamente 3,000 lb cada una y 75 anclas de aproximadamente 1,000 lb cada una", escribió Ezra. "Unida al fondo de unos 500 pies de la barrera flotante hay una 'red anti-buceo' hecha de malla de acero inoxidable que se extiende dos pies hacia abajo en el agua".

La orden establece que funcionarios mexicanos han planteado "preocupaciones humanitarias a nivel diplomático".

La orden de Ezra también prohíbe a

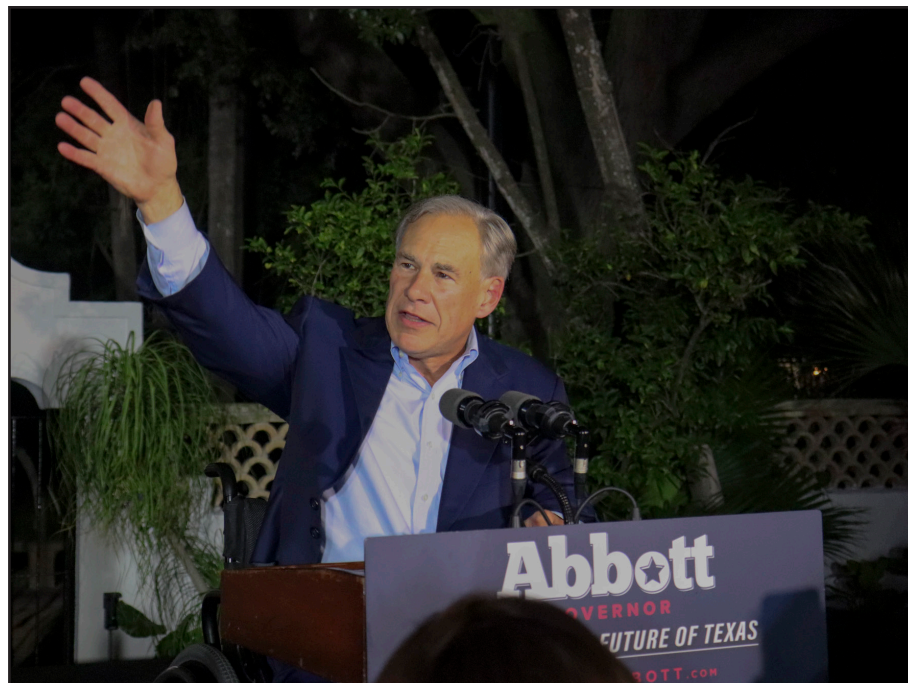


FOTO ARCHIVADA THE RIDER

Greg Abbott agradece a sus seguidores por su reelección como gobernador de Texas el 8 de noviembre del 2022 en Quinta Mazatlán en McAllen. Los abogados de Texas presentaron el miércoles una presentación apelando el fallo del Juez Federal de Distrito David Alan Ezra sobre las boyas que Texas instaló en el Río Grande ante el Tribunal de Apelaciones del Quinto Circuito de Estados Unidos.

Texas construir o colocar boyas, bloques o estructuras nuevas o adicionales en el Río Grande en espera de una sentencia final sobre el asunto.

"La Corte determina que la barrera es una amenaza a la vida humana, su deterioro de la navegación libre y segura y su contraindicación para el equilibrio de prioridades que el Congreso estableció en la [Ley de Ríos y Puertos] superan el interés de Texas en implementar su barrera de boyas en el Río Grande", dice la orden.

Desde su inicio, la Operación Estrella Solitaria ha resultado en más de 427,600

navegación y las operaciones de los funcionarios de agencias federales en el Río Grande y sus alrededores".

Álvaro J. Corral, profesor asistente en el Departamento de Ciencias Políticas de UTRGV, dijo que la decisión del juez Ezra en el caso es "única".

"No preveo que esta apelación llegue a ninguna parte", dijo Corral cuando se le preguntó sobre la apelación de Abbott. "Un gobernador simplemente no tiene este tipo de, ya sabes, lo que llamaríamos poder plenario para declarar una invasión y luego tomar esta acción".

Corral dijo que el gobernador Abbott está violando la Ley de Ríos y Puertos.

"Si pones una barrera en medio de un río, estás perjudicando la navegación de ese río", dijo. "Y entonces el Congreso aprobó la ley que habla de lo que los gobiernos locales y estatales pueden y no pueden hacer. Y esencialmente [...] el Congreso dice que hacer algo como esto no está permitido".

Corral dijo que la barrera flotante podría estar perjudicando a la Patrulla Fronteriza de Estados Unidos.

"Al colocar estas boyas realmente peligrosas en medio del río, también se pone en riesgo a los agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza, ¿verdad?" él dijo. "Porque estos son objetos muy afilados y, entonces, si tienen que ir a pescar a alguien [del río], o ayudarlo [...] también corren un [...] riesgo".

Estudiantes de UTRGV opinaron sobre el caso.

"[Las boyas están] matando vidas inocentes", dijo Melina Peralez, estudiante de comunicación masiva. "El propósito de la gente que quiere venir aquí es empezar de nuevo. [...] Deberían darles la oportunidad de comenzar una nueva vida [...] [porque] el país de donde vienen no les da esa opción".

Samantha Fuentes, estudiante de primer año de trabajo social, dijo que está de acuerdo en quitar las boyas.

"Da un poco de miedo saber que está matando a mucha gente que simplemente está tratando de encontrar su libertad en otro país", dijo Fuentes. "Ahora que lo van a eliminar, en realidad es una buena idea".

"Da un poco de miedo saber que está matando a mucha gente que simplemente está tratando de encontrar su libertad en otro país".

-- Samantha Fuentes, estudiante de primer año de trabajo social

detenciones de inmigrantes, más de 33,800 arrestos criminales y más de 30,700 cargos por delitos graves, según un comunicado de prensa del 1 de septiembre de la oficina del gobernador.

Durante la misión fronteriza, el Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Texas incautó más de 426 millones de dosis letales de fentanilo.

"Hoy, un juez federal otorgó una orden judicial preliminar que exige a Texas que retire su barrera flotante del medio del Río Grande y prohíbe a Texas construir nuevas barreras en el río", escribió la Fiscal General Adjunta del Departamento de Justicia Vanita Gupta, en un comunicado de prensa el miércoles.

"Nos complace que el tribunal haya dictaminado que la barrera era ilegal y dañó irreparablemente las relaciones diplomáticas, la seguridad pública, la



PART OF UTRGV'S
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Complimentary hamburgers and drinks will be served.

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11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS
Begins at BMAIN Courtyard & ends in BSTUN Patio
THURS., SEPT. 14, 2023

11:15 a.m.



WELCOME WEEK WELCOME WEEK WELCOME WEEK WELCOME WEEK

For information or accommodations, contact SESAevents@UTRGV.edu.



UTRGV.edu/WelcomeWeek

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Vaqueras ready to putt another season

Jose Medina

SPORTS REPORTER

The Vaqueras are set to start the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley women's golf season with the Red Raider Invitational from Sept. 25 to 26 in Lubbock, Texas.

After that, UTRGV will participate in the Big O Classic Oct. 2 and 3 in Omaha, Nebraska; followed by The Aggie Invitational Oct. 9 to 11 in Las Cruces, New Mexico; then The Clash at Boulder Creek Oct. 22 to 24 in Boulder City, Nevada; and finally, the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Match Play Oct. 27 at the McAllen Country Club.

Head coach Bryan Novoa said the team had been practicing for almost a week and had gone through four rounds of golf.

Novoa said the team has four new players who are playing hard and getting along well.

"They took it upon themselves to get to know each other before they got here," he said. "Gosh, it's been probably a four-month relationship in the brewing."

Asked about the upcoming invitational, Novoa replied only one player on the team has played The Rawls Course at Texas Tech before.

"They want to compete at the highest level," he said. "... Some strong Texas schools are gonna be there ... you definitely gonna rise to the occasion. And the girls are just excited about the opportunity at the end of the day."

He said the Aggie Invitational at the New Mexico State University Golf Course is a fun, yet challenging course to play on. "[NMSU Women's Golf head



Ryan Lugo/THE RIDER

Junior Catherine Flores practices her driver swing last Wednesday on the Los Lagos Golf Course in Edinburg. The upcoming tournament for the Vaqueras will be the Red Raider Invitational on Sept. 25 at the Rawls Course in Lubbock, Tx.

coach] Danny Bowen runs a class A program," Novoa said. "You get to see some great schools play on a great golf course ... get our team exposed to the golf courses that we're gonna be playing, kind of like in Arizona in that area of the country and, like, Vegas is a good one. It's desert golf."

He said playing in different environments helps the team prepare for the conference games.

Novoa said the team is getting a higher golf IQ because "preparation and intelligence

win out over talent." He said part of that is situational training and teaching the players to be smarter with decision making.

The head coach said one of the goals for the team was to win a tournament.

"Nobody cares how many times you finish second," Novoa said. "We're gonna leave it all on the golf course and go for it when we need to go for it. Play smart when we need to play smart because we're trying to win."

Sophomore Jackie Howard Gonzalez said the team has been

playing more on the course than last year.

Gonzalez said when it comes to courses they are not familiar with, the team prepares for the course using special books with information about the courses as well as Google Maps and pictures.

"It's kind of a book with all the information about the course," she said. "So, what we do is meet all together, the ones that are playing kind of make an overview, decision making based on the book ... and pictures, too."

Gonzalez said she was most

excited for the game against Corpus Christi as well as the invitational at Texas Tech.

"That will be really exciting," she said. "I mean, we're playing against really big colleges, and they'll help a lot for a team for our competition status and overall confidence for our team, too, so that'll be exciting."

One of the goals for the team is to get its average scores under 300 as Gonzalez believes everyone in the team has the capacity to do that.

As for herself, she wants to do her best on the course not only with her play, but with her attitude and support for her team.

Freshman Preston Saiz said she won't hold back and give her 100% when she goes out to compete.

Similar to Gonzalez, Saiz also said it was one of her goals for the team to lower its scores under 300.

She also wanted to lower her own score average and adapt better to the new environment.

Asked how she's adapting to the new team, she replied it's gone well.

"It's been really good," Saiz said. "Definitely competitive, but I feel like I've gotten along really quickly."

Novoa said the team has discipline as it is part of the program's culture to be hardworking.

"I'm really proud of these 10 young ladies," Novoa said. "Love being their coach and look forward to seeing what we accomplish this year."

UTRGV works featured at STXIFF

Silvana Villarreal

A&E REPORTER

The City of Edinburg will host its ninth annual South Texas International Film Festival in an effort to promote the growing industry in the Rio Grande Valley.

The festival will feature films in categories such as Short Film, Animated Film and Music Video.

A total of 206 submissions from 19 countries have been submitted. Films nominated are from countries such as Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Taiwan, Germany, Republic of Korea, Mexico and the U.S.

Ferenc Moldovanyi, an associate professor in the College of Fine Arts at UTRGV and film industry representative, said the university's representation of this year's film students at the festival is a huge success, having three current and one former student nominated and competing for different awards.

Theatre senior Jared Palomares and theater alum Andrew Perez directed the short film "Hit Astray," which earned 14 honors at international and national film festivals and is nominated for Best RGV Short Film. Perez is also nominated for Best South Texas Cinematography.

"Phantom Pain," directed by Joseph Balderas, who has a master's degree in fine arts, is nominated for Best South Texas Sound and RGV Short Film. Theatre senior Emiliano

Tamez, who worked on the film, is nominated for Best South Texas Actor.

Theatre senior Armando Ramirez Cardenas directed "3:00 am The Graveyard Shift" and is nominated for Best South Texas Director.

Communication Professor Dustin Pruitt directed the film "Errors and Trials," which is part of the Official Selection under RGV Short Film.

Magdiel Castle, assistant director of Cultural Arts for the City of Edinburg, said the main goal of hosting the event is giving filmmakers a chance to network, connect the world film industry with the RGV and the Valley to the world.

"Bring to the people in the Valley films from outside our region but also for us to propel, or help propel, our filmmakers from our region out into the world, help them get noticed, get their stories shared and get them to network with filmmakers from outside the Valley so that they can find opportunities to promote themselves," Castle said.

He said the films are not rated and encourages viewers to read the descriptions before walking into the screening rooms. Castle said the films are not meant to entertain but to trigger thoughts.

"Some of them are cute and quirky films," he said. "Some of them have some deeper, deeper topics. These are a film as a form of art, and just like any art, it's meant to move you in some sort of way, whether it makes you happy or angry or



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Elizabeth Varughese performs classic Indian dance at the 2022 South Texas International Film Festival in the Edinburg Convention Center at Renaissance.

it just makes you think about something."

Opening day starts with Student Day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday in the Edinburg Municipal Auditorium, 200 N. 7th Ave. A series of presentations and workshops will be available for college and high school students.

A red carpet event will take place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The viewing of nine independent RGV short films will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will feature "3:00 am The Graveyard Shift," "Phantom Pain" and "Hit Astray."

The night will end with the

Opening Night Mixer at 11:30 p.m. in the Edinburg City Hall Courtyard.

The following day will start at 2 p.m. with showings of short films until 5 p.m. The Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists panel will take place from 4 to 5 p.m. The panel will feature celebrity guests, such as Valente Rodriguez and Carlos Gallardo.

The following day will showcase stunt and makeup workshops moderated by Jane Austin, stunts and managing

partner at Hollywood Stuntworks, and John Caglione, Jr., Academy and Emmy Award-winning makeup artist.

The red carpet event will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and the award ceremony and dinner from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at 118 Paseo Del Prado. Tickets for the ceremony can be purchased online for \$60.

For the STXIFF full schedule, visit stxiff.com/2023schedule.



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