

# WELCOME, VAQUEROS

**Pete Mendoza**

THE RIDER

UTRGV will kick off the Fall 2024 semester with a later starting time than usual for The Stomp during its Welcome Week celebration, which starts today.

The Stomp is an event in which students can gather to have fun and interact with one another, said Cristina Rodriguez, assistant director of Student Activities.

The Stomp will take place from 8 p.m. to midnight Tuesday on the Student Union Lawn on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Thursday outside the University Center on the Edinburg campus.

The event will have a festive theme with live music and activities, such as face painting, a robot that can draw on people's faces, laser tag and game tournaments.

"We're trying to figure out the few folks that are introverts, the few folks that are extroverts and having different varieties of options," Rodriguez said.

She said UTRGV Athletics will show its Vaquero pride with both the UTRGV Men's and Women's Soccer teams playing during Welcome Week.

The women's team faces off against Southern University at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex and the men will go up against Texas A&M-San Antonio at the same time and place Sept. 4.

Another event to be on the See WEEK, Page 3



Venisha Colón/THE RIDER

## Brownsville New home for Campus Store



Silvana Villarreal/THE RIDER

Anthony Muñoz, a computer science freshman, asks Campus Store leader Dennise Ramirez about laptop pricing on Aug. 14 in the new UTRGV Campus Store located inside the library on the Brownsville campus.

**Vanessa Aguilar**

THE RIDER

This summer in Brownsville, UTRGV moved its Campus Store to the University Library to make it more accessible to students, an official says.

Robert Cantu, executive director of Business Auxiliary Services, said the new Campus Store officially opened on July 8 and cost the university around \$200,000.

Students will now have quicker access to materials when studying in the library and can grab them at the Campus Store, Cantu said.

He said the new campus store is "1,900 square feet" and "unfortunately, the new space could not accommodate course materials."

Textbooks will no longer be available for sale at the store. They can be ordered online and delivered to the store or students' homes.

"The location is great," Cantu said. "The layout is really nice and modern. ... It's a newer space and it's got a nicer, cleaner look. It's a complex space that covers all of the different merchandise that our students need."

Items for sale include university merchandise, school supplies and graduation caps and gowns.

Dennise Ramirez, the Brownsville Campus Store leader, described the new location as "comfortable" and

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## THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The newspaper is widely distributed on and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

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# Welcome Week

Today

**Info Depots**  
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Both campuses

**Sundaes on Mondays**  
Noon to 1 p.m.  
Student Union  
Both campuses

Tuesday

**Info Depots**  
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Both campuses  
**Get Involved Fair**  
Noon to 2 p.m.  
Main Building Courtyard  
Brownsville campus  
**The Stomp**  
8 p.m. to midnight  
Student Union Lawn  
Brownsville campus  
**UTRGV Day of Giving**  
All day on both campuses

Aug. 26 to 30

Wednesday

**UTRGV Day**  
All day on both campuses

**Info Depots**  
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Both campuses

**Vaqueros Fair**  
Noon to 1 p.m.  
Harlingen Clinical Education  
Building, Lobby

Thursday

**Info Depots**  
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Both campuses  
**Part-Time Job Fair**  
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Student Union  
Brownsville campus  
**Get Involved Fair**  
Noon to 2 p.m.  
Chapel Lawn  
Edinburg campus  
**The Stomp**  
8 p.m. to midnight  
Parking Lot E-8  
Edinburg campus  
**Women's Soccer Game**  
6:30 p.m.  
UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex

Friday

**Info Depots**  
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Both campuses

Raquel Cazares/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today**  
**Info Depots**  
UTRGV will have **information depots** from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Friday on both campuses. Students can collect **maps, directions, snacks and event information.**

**Sundaes on Mondays**  
The **Student Union** will serve **free ice cream sundaes** as part of **Welcome Week** at the **Student Union** on both campuses from noon to 1 p.m. Bring a **student ID** to celebrate the upcoming semester.

**Tuesday**  
**Get Involved Fairs**  
The Fall 2024 **Get Involved Fair** will take place from noon to 2 p.m. in the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Thursday on the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus. Students can **meet**

**members from campus organizations.** There will be **free food** and a chance to explore **opportunities, get involved** and make new friends.

**The Stomp**  
**The Stomp**, an event where students can **connect** with fellow **Vaqueros**, will take place from 8 p.m. to midnight on the Student Union Lawn on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Thursday in Lot E8 outside the University Center on the Edinburg campus. Students can enjoy **activities, music, prize giveaways and local vendors.**

**Wednesday**  
**UTRGV Day**  
UTRGV will celebrate its **9th**

**anniversary** from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus, 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Student Union PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus, noon to 1 p.m. in the Clinical Education Building on the Harlingen campus and 11 a.m. to noon in the Rio Bank, located at 701 E. Expressway 83 in McAllen. **Students, faculty and staff** are welcome to join and get a **free shirt, cupcake and drink.**

**Vaqueros Fair**  
The **Vaqueros Fair** will take place from noon to 1 p.m. in the Clinical Education Building lobby on the Harlingen campus. Students can learn about

**campus organizations, university departments and resources.**

**Thursday**  
**ACJA General Meeting**  
The **American Criminal Justice Association** will meet from 3 to 4 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.120 on the Brownsville campus. The meeting will cover **updates and information** about the association's **finances, future events and opportunities in the criminal justice field.**

**Friday**  
**Last Day to Withdraw**  
Friday is the **last day** for students to **withdraw from classes** and receive an **80% refund** for Fall 2024.

--Compiled by Hugo A. Sepúlveda

## POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Aug. 12 and 19.

**Aug. 12**  
**6:30 p.m.:** A university employee reported possibly seeing an individual with an active criminal trespass warning near parking lot E-39 on the Edinburg campus. University Police officers checked the area but did not locate the individual. Officers later confirmed with Hidalgo County Jail the individual was still incarcerated.

**8:51 p.m.:** Two students reported that an unidentified man in an SUV blocked them in a parking space before driving off at a gas station near the Edinburg campus. The students said the same man appeared at an off-campus apartment complex where they were parked, made some hand gestures at them and then drove off. University officers checked the area where the SUV was last seen but did not

locate the vehicle. After further investigation, University Police determined no crime occurred.

**Aug. 13**  
**10:15 a.m.:** University Police officers assisted the U.S. Border Patrol in searching for 15 undocumented immigrants who were last seen on the Brownsville campus. While searching the surrounding areas, officers found an abandoned vehicle with its doors open. Further investigation revealed there were individuals trapped in the trunk. Upon opening the trunk, two Mexican nationals and two Guatemalan nationals were found to be fine. Border Patrol took the individuals into custody.

**Aug. 14**  
**7:15 a.m.:** A University Police officer and the Edinburg Fire Department responded to a fire alarm in the Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium. The Edinburg Fire Department determined a dirty duct detector had triggered the alarm.

**10:03 a.m.:** An officer responded to the Institute of Neuroscience building on the Harlingen campus regarding damage to an exterior window of the building. An investigation determined that a facilities employee used a landscaping tool that caused the damage.

**Aug. 15**  
**9:20 a.m.:** A student on the Edinburg campus reported being touched on his hand as a faculty member removed his cell phone. The student found the contact unwelcome and is willing to file charges. The case is under investigation.

**4:31 p.m.:** An officer responded to the UTRGV Mathematics and Science Academy on the Edinburg campus building for a suspicious male subject. An investigation found that a no-contact order had been issued to the subject, but he was not located.

**Aug. 16**  
**9:55 a.m.:** University Police officers responded to a suspicious man in the Maryalice

Shary Shivers Building on the Edinburg campus. Officers located a non-affiliated man in possession of drug paraphernalia. Officers issued the man a court appearance citation and released him.

**11:28 a.m.:** University Police officers responded to two individuals taking pictures of a vehicle in Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. Officers searched the area but were unable to locate the two individuals.

**Aug. 19**  
**9:09 a.m.:** An employee reported a stop sign was missing at the 300 block of Sugar Road near lot E-7 on the Edinburg campus. The Edinburg Police Department is investigating the traffic collision with a fixed object. University Police placed a temporary stop sign at the location until repairs can be made.

--Compiled by Rebeca Salinas

# Plans for new residence hall

## New dining hall on Edinburg campus also OK'd by Board of Regents

**Daniela Chapa-Reyes**  
THE RIDER

UTRGV will build a new dormitory and dining hall on the Edinburg campus, university officials said.

During its meeting last May, the University of Texas Board of Regents approved construction of a new \$135 million student housing and dining hall project. Completion of the project is scheduled for February 2027, according to the agenda packet.

Stephen Hirst, associate vice president for Student Affairs, said there is no set date yet for the construction to begin.

"We've not had a groundbreaking ceremony date announced yet," Hirst said. "I'm looking forward to the groundbreaking whenever that date is set."

He said the new complex will be constructed in two phases.

The complex will consist of single, double and single max rooms. The single max would be the size of a double room for one person.

"The beauty of that is, say we have students on the waitlist to get in and they really wanna live in the new residence hall ... and so then we could take those single max rooms and convert them to doubles, and it will look the same as the other doubles," Hirst said.

According to the Board of Regents agenda packet, "the proposed project will construct a residence hall to provide 550 beds."

Eduardo Menezes, a UTRGV



Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER

Incoming UTRGV freshmen carry their items to Heritage Hall Friday morning on the Edinburg campus. During its meeting last May, the University of Texas Board of Regents approved construction of a new \$135 million student housing and dining hall project. Completion of the project is scheduled for February 2027.

tennis player majoring in management, said he has had a great experience in the short time he has lived at the current residence halls.

"It has been pretty good," Menezes said. "Everybody is really welcoming and really connected, and it has been fun. I think being at the dorms gives you a great experience of seeing other teams and meeting international kids as well. It is a good college experience."

The plans also include "a dining facility with seating

capacity for 500 students," according to the board's agenda book.

The dining hall will be larger than what is currently located on campus, and it can be converted into a full-time catering kitchen that has the ability to serve at university events, according to a university news release.

Freshman Jurguen Areano frequents the existing dining hall and loves the services that are provided.

"It is pretty good, it has a pretty good price, you can eat

all you want for a good price so I like it," Areano said. "I would really be interested in [the new dining hall]. I would recommend it to a lot of people to go."

The last time a residence hall was built was almost two decades ago, Hirst said.

"I can tell you that throughout the process thus far, like we do with everything, we look around the state and we say we want to be one of, if not the most affordable for our students," he said.

### CHANGES

*Continued from Page 1*

"homey."

"I like that it's smaller," Ramirez said. "It's not too big where we had to be going from one section to another. It's now more compact. ... I like how they did it, like, the whole way they structured it is really nice."

The employee said she wishes the store had room to sell physical textbooks.

"It is a change and we're trying to adapt with it," Ramirez said. "Now, most textbooks are online."

She said the store does not have a café anymore.

Cantu said UTRGV is interviewing local coffee shops to see which one fits best and which one students will like most.

"We are working with a local vendor right now," he said. "They're being interviewed. ... That is our goal: to work with a local coffee shop here from the Rio Grande Valley."

The Rider asked Cantu if he had the name of the vendor UTRGV is considering for the café. He replied, "Not yet."

Computer science freshman Anthony Muñoz said the Campus Store is an "improvement" and the location is good "in case we need something like supplies ... on the quicks."

Campus Stores are located in the libraries on each campus.

The store in Brownsville is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday. In Edinburg, the store is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### WEEK

*Continued from Page 1*

lookout for is UTRGV Day, which marks the university's ninth anniversary celebration, according to Rodriguez.

Students and faculty can obtain a "one-of-a-kind" T-shirt and receive desserts and beverages Wednesday from:

--8:30 to 10 a.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus

--11 a.m. to noon in the Rio Bank building located at 701 E. Expy. 83 in McAllen

--noon to 1 p.m. in the Clinical Education building on the Harlingen campus

--2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Student Union PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.

The Office of International Student Services will host the International Meet and Greet, a parade across campus where students carry 60 flags representing different countries.

The meet and greet will begin at 11:45 a.m. Sept. 4 on the lawn outside the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Sept. 5 on the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus.

Students who want to learn about the different facilities and programs involved with the university can enjoy Late Nite, Rodriguez said. The event

allows students to not only interact with the different programs but also to communicate with others with similar interests.

Late Nite will take place from 9 p.m. to midnight Sept. 5 in the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus.

Info Depots across both campuses will provide information on programs, jobs and organizations throughout the week.

Raul Leal, program coordinator for Student Activities said Welcome Week can help upperclassmen in student organizations and associations build a community with the incoming students.

"[Students] have the opportunity to meet student organization leaders, student organizations and there is so many different orgs on our campus that report through the Center for Student Involvement," Leal said.

Rodriguez said Welcome Week gives new students a small taste of the university and a chance to explore different opportunities.

She encourages students to bring their student IDs with them when participating in these events.

"That's what our university is all about," Rodriguez said. "It's that sense of belonging, building relationships and friendships and, especially, memories in your college years."

**LAST DAY**

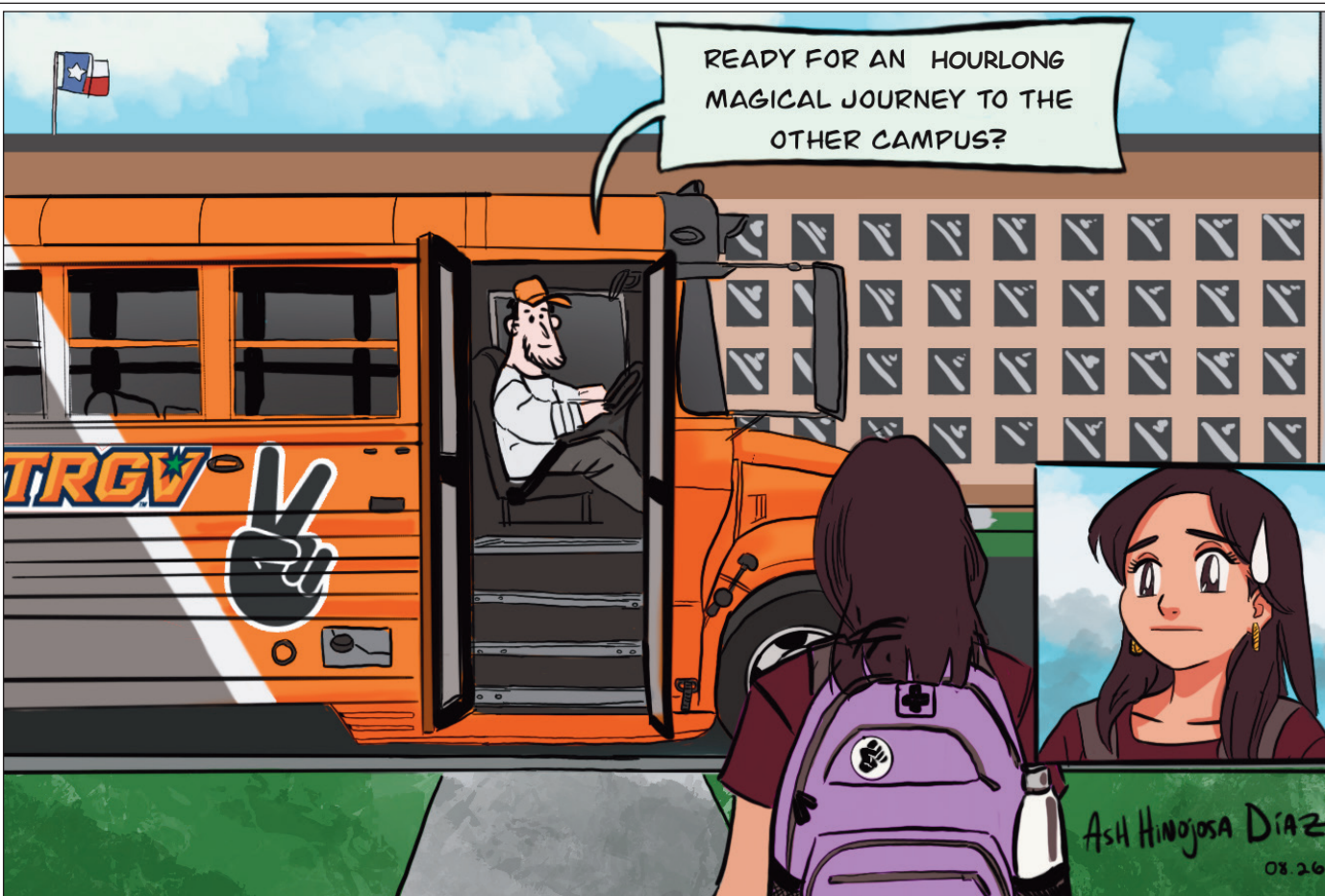
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**TO REGISTER TO VOTE**



**OCT. 7**

**WELCOME BACK, VAQUEROS**

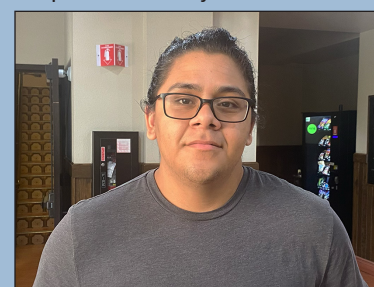


Do you plan on voting in the upcoming 2024 election and what issues are most important to you?



"I do plan on voting. ... To me, right now, it's abortion rights, just because I think freedom to choose what happens to your own body is a really important thing."

**Quinn Boyer**  
computer science junior



"I am not 100% sure if I'm gonna vote. I don't really like either candidate too much right now. But in terms of the biggest issues, I think one that I personally resonate with is the environment, you know? I think it's kinda bad right now."

**Lance Stelling**  
mass communication sophomore



"I will be voting. ... I don't agree with certain law changes that have happened in the past. And hopefully ... whatever new administration comes in can bring us more rights, especially towards women with reproductive freedom and stuff like that."

**Itzel Molina Hernandez**  
clinical rehabilitation counseling graduate student

--Compiled and photos by Hugo Sepúlveda and Venisha Colón

# Stop scrolling



**Natalie Lapsley**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Doom scrolling, brainrot, digital fatigue—all are consequences of an overuse of phones and social media that I would liken to an addiction.

If you haven't heard the term, brainrot is mostly accepted to reference a "cognitive decline" and "fogginess" that excessive screen time causes, according to Newport Institute, a nationwide center that treats mental health.

Lately, I've found myself having to actively seek out ways to occupy myself that don't include endless scrolling or like buttons. It's a habit that, for me and probably others, requires discipline

to break.

Sometimes, when things get dull, my instinct is to reach for my phone. Sometimes, when I open my phone to do something important, I open Instagram on autopilot.

I like to post because it feels like a digital scrapbook, but the problem begins when I navigate to the reels and the "For You Page." My eyes get tired and yet it's harder to sleep.

Multiple studies link "extensive screen time" to symptoms of attention disorders, according to the National Library of Medicine. When people constantly use technology, they rob their brain of opportunities to exercise and operate offline.

The study also explores the idea that extensive technology use affects emotional and social intelligence, as people spend "less time communicating face to face."

On the road, I'll glance at the next car over to see a driver on his phone. At restaurants, I'll see whole families, even

small children, silently sucked into their own respective digital worlds.

I wouldn't cut social media, TV or video games from my mental diet completely, but I'm always aiming for compromise.

I'll play a video game with my roommates that involves problem-solving and puzzles. We'll watch a movie that makes us think. One of us will find interesting topics on Reddit to banter about.

The best nights are the ones where we just talk about our days in the living room, play

chess or practice the guitar. However I end up spending my evenings, my goal is to avoid scrolling alone in the dark.

Many account holders online seem to share this sentiment that social media is how they will make money and friends and find information—I find a total reliance on just a few platforms to be problematic.

Technology should be a road sign, not the road. It is a tool to build with, not the building itself.

On the road, I'll glance at the next car over to see a driver on his phone. At restaurants, I'll see whole families, even small children, silently sucked into their own respective digital worlds.

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## 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 may be sent to [therider@utrgv.edu](mailto:therider@utrgv.edu). All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of the 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.

# Nuevo desafío para inmigrantes indocumentados

**Fatima Gamez Lopez**  
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

La orden ejecutiva del 8 de agosto del gobernador Greg Abbott obliga a los hospitales de Texas a recolectar e informar sobre los costos de atención médica de los inmigrantes ilegales, lo que genera inquietudes de que los hospitales se están convirtiendo en “un tercer brazo del sistema migratorio”, según una abogada de inmigración de Harlingen.

Abbott firmó la orden que requiere que los hospitales públicos de Texas recopilen información sobre “pacientes que no están legalmente presentes en los Estados Unidos, incluido el número de altas de pacientes hospitalizados, visitas de emergencia y el costo de la atención brindada a dichos pacientes”, a partir del 1 de noviembre.

Según la orden, las personas no pueden negarse a dar su estatus.

La ley federal de Tratamiento Médico de Emergencia y de Trabajo requiere que los hospitales financiados por el Medicare brinden atención esencial a los pacientes que sufren emergencias de salud independientemente de su capacidad de pago o estatus.

La abogada Aimeé A. Treviño dijo que la orden ejecutiva de Abbott entra en conflicto con la ley federal, por lo que podrían surgir demandas para evaluar su legalidad.

“Es inconstitucional”, dijo Treviño. “La Corte Suprema ha dicho que hay que brindar atención a las personas independientemente de su estatus. Entonces, ahora que tienen una base de datos o, ya sabes, esperan tener una base de datos, las personas no buscarán atención médica. Tendrán miedo de ir al médico por una emergencia grave y ser arrestados”.

Los hospitales deben enviar la información a la Comisión de Salud y

Servicios trimestralmente, y el primer reporte debe presentarse antes del 1 de marzo de 2025.

A partir del 1 de enero de 2026, los hospitales informarán anualmente al gobernador, al vicegobernador y al presidente de la Cámara de Representantes de Texas sobre los costos de la atención

Dijo que los proveedores de atención médica no deberían ser los jueces para determinar la autenticidad del documento proporcionado por un paciente.

“Ese no es su rol”, dijo Treviño. “Solo brinden su servicio médico como se supone que deben hacerlo, como debe hacerlo un médico, como debe hacerlo

mecanismos de financiamiento de salud bajo la premisa de que el gobierno federal seguiría las leyes federales”.

Alvaro Corral, profesor asistente en el Departamento de Ciencias Políticas de UTRGV, dijo que la gente tendrá miedo de buscar atención médica con la orden ejecutiva.

“La campaña actual del expresidente Trump ha sido muy clara al afirmar que pretenden crear, en sus palabras, la mayor deportación de personas indocumentadas que este país haya visto”, dijo Corral, haciendo referencia a la plataforma de campaña de Trump, que se puede encontrar en donaldjtrump.com. “Y entonces, si tenemos estos datos y luego se están recopilando, puedes imaginar cómo la gente llega razonablemente a la conclusión de que deberían tener miedo, ¿verdad?”

“Si busca atención médica en Texas después del 1 de noviembre y bajo una posible administración de Trump, la gente, por supuesto, está juntando esas dos cosas y obviamente están llegando a la conclusión de que probablemente deberían tener miedo”.

El término “hospitales” incluye hospitales de cuidados intensivos inscritos en Medicaid, el Programa de Seguro Médico para Niños y cualquier proveedor adicional identificado por la Comisión de Salud y Servicios Humanos, según la orden.

The Rider se comunicó con los funcionarios de UT Health para una entrevista sobre cómo se implementaría la orden.

Saira Cabrera, gerente de comunicaciones de la Facultad de Medicina de UTRGV, escribió en un correo electrónico el 14 de agosto que la orden ejecutiva “no afecta a UT Health RGV porque no operamos como un hospital”.



Gobernador Greg Abbott

FOTO RIDER

hospitalaria y de emergencia del año fiscal estatal anterior para los pacientes que no residen legalmente en el país.

“Se espera que [los proveedores de atención médica] pregunten: ‘¿Cuál es su estatus? ¿Puedo ver sus documentos?’”, dijo Treviño. “Ellos tendrán que decidir si creen que esos documentos son válidos, si son fraudulentos y, básicamente, decidir el estatus migratorio de alguien en un hospital”.

una enfermera, y sigan ayudando a las personas. Porque para eso están en la profesión médica, para ayudar a otras personas”.

La orden ejecutiva dice que el gobierno federal debe reembolsar al estado los costos “que sus políticas de frontera abierta han impuesto a los tejanos, costos de los cuales el estado no tenía conocimiento y que no podría haber previsto al aceptar compartir

The Student Government (SGA) is the official representation for the student body. Our purpose is to address concerns, petitions, and requests by bringing action to the student voice and promoting their rights for a quality education.

**Attend a Student Senate Meeting**  
Semi-monthly on Fridays at 2:30 p.m.

September 6 | ESTAC 1.101  
September 20 | BMSLC 1.111

**Petition of the Students**  
Students can present a concern or project at the meeting.  
Sign Up Here

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BMAIN 1.312 | EUCTR 215 | SGA@UTRGV.EDU

# Planting roots in Brownsville

## Flower Shop Art Studio opens new exhibition

**Eduardo Escamilla**  
A&E REPORTER

Locals visited the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art on Aug. 10 for the opening reception of “Brick by Brick,” an exhibit that highlights the process of establishing stability in a rapidly developing city.

Held by the Flower Shop Art Studio, the exhibition honors the foundations laid by community builders “before us in pursuit of safety and comfort,” according to the museum’s website.

“This exhibit ... seems, like, a collage of different viewpoints on life and people’s personal experiences,” Brownsville resident Farris Ryan said. “Everybody has their own personal story to tell, very much so a spectrum ... of [the] human experience.”

The show features 19 artists who work in a variety of mediums including sculpture,

installation, photography, printmaking, animation, video and painting.

Using industrial construction material and found tools, artist Sarah Reagan created whimsical sculptures that served as motifs throughout the exhibit. Her piece *Is This Thing On?* is constructed of brasswood, discarded saw blade and milk paint, suggesting the physical labor of community building.

Reagan’s objects are contrasted with textiles and soft sculpture traditionally associated with domestic work. The contrast illustrates the interconnectedness of various forms of labor and its role in fostering a community, according to the museum’s wall text.

The exhibition was curated by Jesus Treviño, artist and founder of the Flower Shop Art Studio, a contemporary art space and nonprofit at 343

E. Jefferson St. in Brownsville that organizes art residencies for local and visiting artists.

The main purpose of the studio is to “continue the efforts” of past local art venues such as Brownsville Artists and Musicians and Gallery 409, Treviño told *The Rider* during the reception.

“[This means] getting art communities together to build that sort of movement, that culture, and get people inspired to make things and, like, have conversations and share perspectives through art,” he said.

Brownsville resident Janet Evans said she is excited about the growing local art scene.

“I think it’s incredible because we were sorely lacking in the past,” Evans said. “So, we’re finally building momentum and I hope it keeps going.”

Since the Flower Shop Art Studio’s inauguration in June, it has hosted three residencies for artists to “cross-pollinate their ideas ... and share those thoughts with the community,” Treviño said.

“‘Brick by Brick’ is like the culmination of that year of operation, sort of a celebration,” he said. “But also ... the work was like the foundation set by people that came before us, our parents, their parents and a sort of mentality that was, like, ‘putting our head down,’ working in pursuit of comfort and stability and a better future.”

Thanks to those who came before, Treviño said, people are afforded the privilege to pause, reflect on potential wounds and acknowledge the emotional toll that love can bring, including grief, pain and a sense of disconnection.

“This show became about remembering, looking back, healing and trying to move forward from there,” he said.

Artist Cecilia Sierra said her inspiration comes from the childhood nostalgia of growing up around her grandmothers in Brownsville.



**Eduardo Escamilla/**FOR THE RIDER

Cecilia Sierra shares her experiences as a Latina artist and her influences. “‘Casa de Lydia’ is more of a homage to my ... *tatar* and *bisabuela*, both named Lydia for, like, building this house that I live in and, like, them being divorced women and ... pushing through and being the matriarch of the household,” Sierra said.



**Eduardo Escamilla/**FOR THE RIDER

Brownsville resident Luis Andres Sierra admires the details in Mariana Prado’s “*Petateado*,” (crocheted yarn, fleece, felted wool, foam clay and pursued objects).

“It’s kind of like a push and pull of the positive, like the good, the bad and the ugly, so to speak,” Sierra said.

“*La Casa de Lydia*,” a linocut relief print, pays direct homage to her grandmother and great-grandmother, both named Lydia, who defined what type of household they wanted to build for their family.

“Them being divorced women and stuff, like, pushing through and being the matriarch of the household ... it’s what inspires me,” she said.

Sierra’s work reflects on the

experience of living in a multi-generational household and the various perspectives on how womanhood is defined within a Latin American family, while also establishing her own identity, according to the artist.

“Sometimes I feel like I’m too *fresa* for my family, that’s *bien raza*,” she said. “And I’m too, like, *raza* for the *fresa* people out here.”

“*Brick by Brick*” is now on view through Sept. 13 at the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art, located at 660 E. Ringgold St. Visit [bmfa.us](http://bmfa.us) for more information.

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**The meaning of life** Ash Hinojosa Diaz 08.26

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ALLOW LIFE TO SURPRISE YOU. I PROMISE IT'LL BE GREAT!

# Busy summer for Athletics

## UTRGV unveils new facilities and upgrades

**Ali Halloum**

SPORTS REPORTER

The UTRGV Department of Intercollegiate Athletics recently revealed the work it has done to its facilities over the summer as part of a \$160 million commitment by the department, consisting of 13 capital projects across 18 programs.

Chasse Conque, vice president and director of Athletics, said the upgrades were important to give UTRGV Athletics events a “true Division I feel.”

“We started our journey designing our capital projects and our facilities in December of 2019,” Conque said. “It’s hard to believe it’s been that long.”

On Aug. 16, Athletics unveiled two separate facilities on a site just north of the UTRGV Baseball Stadium: the first of two practice fields for the upcoming Vaqueros Performance Center and the Athletics Pavilion.

The Vaqueros Performance Center is a facility currently under construction on the Edinburg campus. Once completed, it is expected to provide training and recovery facilities for UTRGV Athletics programs, including football and soccer.

The Athletics Pavilion is a facility constructed next to the Vaqueros Performance Center that temporarily includes the locker room, weight room and recovery facilities for the UTRGV Football Team before its inaugural season kicks off in 2025.

UTRGV Football head coach Travis Bush, while acknowledging the facility is still a “work in progress,” is “excited” that his athletes now have a place to train and prepare for their debut year.

“For us to have this advantage to bring [recruits] in with this type of facility is phenomenal,” Bush said. “To have our own facilities on home and for [the players] to come out here and practice and see the big facility, the VPC, being built on a daily basis and being able to do that next year is big time.”

Thursday, construction crews placed the final beam on the expansion to the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Construction on the \$14 million expansion began in December and includes a new lobby, team store, hall of fame, restrooms and concession stands.

Conque said having a hall of fame, a place to commemorate the icons of UTRGV and its legacy institutions’ athletic programs, was something “desperately missing.”

Volleyball head coach Todd Lowery said the upgrades were part of discussions he had with the Athletics department to allow his student athletes to “thrive at the Division I level.”

“It’s like adding a front porch to UTRGV,” Lowery said. “... The community interest that it’s generating has just been phenomenal over the last 18 months.”

UTRGV Women’s Basketball head coach Lane Lord said during



**Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER**

UTRGV head coach Travis Bush shows off the film room located in the Athletics Pavilion Aug. 16 on the Edinburg campus. The building will serve as a temporary spot for the football team until the Vaqueros Performance Center is ready.



**Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER**

Jonah Goldberg, UTRGV senior associate athletic director for Communications and Championships, makes the first touchdown on the new practice field Aug. 16 on the Edinburg campus.



**Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER**

The weight room is located in the Athletics Pavilion on the Edinburg campus.

a news conference Thursday that he and the team have been “waiting for this day” eagerly.

“[These are] exciting times at UTRGV,” Lord said. “You look all around the country, especially at the mid-major level, there’s nobody doing what we’re doing right now.”

Newly hired men’s basketball head coach Kahil Fennell said construction of new facilities is

“huge” for his program’s recruiting efforts.

“When you have a crown jewel like this,” Fennell said, “it’s something you can truly show recruits, a sign of not only something you’re gonna be in every single day, but it just signifies intent inside the Athletics department. ... Obviously, that’s gonna play well with recruits.”

Opinion

## Last dance of a generation’s best

**Ali Halloum**

SPORTS REPORTER

At the 2024 Paris Olympics, the U.S. Men’s Basketball Team took home its fifth-straight gold medal, defeating France 98-87 in the final on Aug. 10.

“The Avengers,” as captain LeBron James called the team, put their names in the history books alongside other great U.S. squads, such as the 1992 Barcelona “Dream Team” and the 2008 Beijing “Redeem Team.”

I believe “The Avengers” will go down as the greatest Olympic gold team in history as they represented the last dance of a generation of basketball legends.

The story of Team USA’s basketball gold in Paris began at an August 2023 news conference. Noah Lyles, sprinter and 2024 Olympic medalist, declared that NBA players shouldn’t call themselves world champs unless they beat the world’s best, starting a firestorm in NBA circles.

“World champion of what?” Lyles famously said. The quote started a quest to construct the greatest roster ever assembled.

The team the U.S. took to Paris featured many great NBA players. Most prominently, “The Avengers” starred the three greatest players to grace a basketball court this generation: Stephen Curry, LeBron James and Kevin Durant.

We saw performances from these great ambassadors of the game worthy of their pedigree, solidifying their cases for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

James, “LeCaptain America” and the greatest of all time, became the first player to have multiple Olympic triple-doubles. He leads multiple all-time Olympic stat leaderboards, standing second in assists (139) and first in steals (44). For his efforts, he was named MVP of the tournament at the young age of 39.

Durant did as Durant does, showing why he’s one of the game’s best pure bucket-getters. He now leads all U.S. men and women in points in the Olympics (518) and secured a fourth gold medal.

Last and certainly not least: Wardell Stephen Curry II. Need I say more? There is no doubt that he is the greatest shooter of all time.

His four straight 3-pointers in the fourth quarter of the gold-medal game, including the famous “night-night” dagger over a French double team, ultimately secured gold for Team USA.

This team was so stacked that young NBA standouts, such as Jayson Tatum and Tyrese Halliburton, rarely saw minutes. They, like many young players on this squad, will be the key to the future of U.S. hoops.

In the last 20 years, basketball has truly become an international game. More and more NBA talent is coming from outside the country than ever before.

MVP-caliber players such as the “Greek Freak” Giannis Antetokounmpo, Serbian big man Nikola Jokić, Slovenian superstar Luka Dončić and young French phenom Victor Wembanyama have been so impactful to their NBA teams in recent years.

Make no mistake, the night of Aug. 10 was a historic one for the game of basketball. The world may never see pure greatness and dominance on a court as it did that night and during the tournament as a whole.

By the time of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, LeBron will be 43, Curry will be 40 and Durant will be 39.

We may have just seen some of the greatest to ever play the game play together for the last time on a global stage. That is truly special.



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# PICNIC WITH THE PRESIDENT

Complimentary hamburgers and drinks will be served.

**EDINBURG CAMPUS**  
Ballroom  
WED., SEPT. 4, 2024

**BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS**  
PlainsCapital Bank  
El Gran Salón  
THURS., SEPT. 5, 2024

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

**FREE FOOD!**



# INTERNATIONAL MEET & GREET

**EDINBURG CAMPUS**  
Begins at EPAC Lawn & ends at Ballroom Lawn  
WED., SEPT. 4, 2024

**BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS**  
Begins at BMAIN Courtyard & ends at BSTUN Patio  
THURS., SEPT. 5, 2024

11:15 AM



WELCOME WEEK WELCOME WEEK WELCOME WEEK WELCOME WEEK WELCOME WEEK

For information or accommodations, contact [SESAevents@UTRGV.edu](mailto:SESAevents@UTRGV.edu).



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