

THE RIO REVIEW

VOLUME THREE • EDITION EIGHT • AUG. 2023

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FÚTBOL



**INTRODUCING
RIO GRANDE CITY'S
NEW SEMI-PRO
SOCCER LEAGUE
TEAM**

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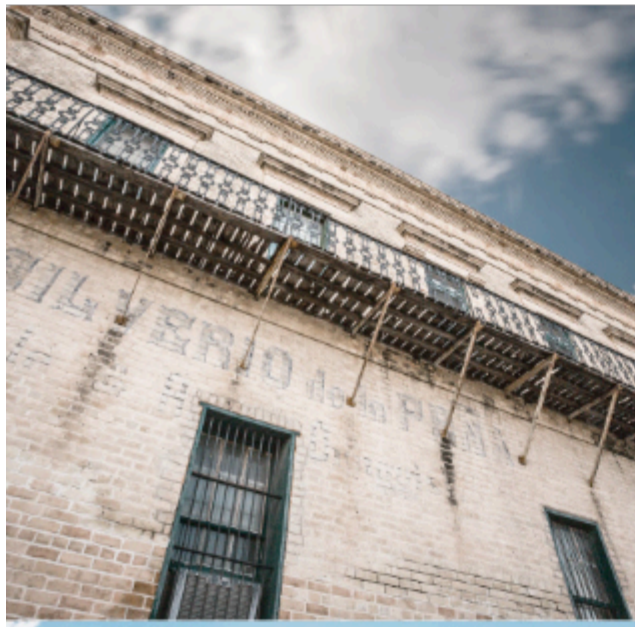


The Rio Grande City Personnel Department, under the direction of Valerie Brown-Garza, partnered with Catapult Health, a company that works with Blue Cross Blue Shield, to give our employees the opportunity to go to the doctors office with the convenience of just coming to work. This was a completely free service for all employees who are insured with the city without the hassle of using any sick time. We had a great turn out and several of our employees were able to get a health screening at a time that was best for them.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



The NEW Public Safety Building for the City of Rio Grande City is progressing right on time! The underground maintenance has been completed and we are preparing to form and rebar the area in preparation to pour the foundation, as well as the curbing and framing of the parking lot. This new Public Safety Building will house our RGC Fire Department and RGC Police Department and we are excited for this project to be completed by Spring of 2024!



EXPLORE OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY

The mission of the City of Rio Grande City is to provide quality municipal services in partnership with our citizens to build a progressive city and to provide a better quality of life for all our residents. Rio Grande City is rich in history and honors traditions. Come and explore a multitude of historical sites, take a walk run or bike ride through our Fordyce Trails, and enjoy our many festivals.

www.cityofrgc.com

RIO GRANDE CITY HALL
5332 E. Highway 83, Rio Grande City, TX 78582
Phone No.: 956-487-0672
Website: www.cityofrgc.com
Hours of Operation: Mon-Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Closed: Saturday - Sunday

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A FLEET OF THEIR OWN



“These new vehicles will be used to ensure the safety of our community and help provide better services for our great city. “

THE

City of Rio Grande City has expanded its fleet with new vehicles and equipment for the Parks and

Recreation, Public Utilities, Public Works, Police, and Fire Department. These new vehicles will be used to ensure the safety of our community and help provide better services for our great city. This purchase was made possible by the support of Mayor Joel Villarreal and our City Commissioners, Rey Ramírez, Alberto Escobedo - Rio Grande City Commissioner, Benjamin De Leon - RGC Commissioner place 1, and Rogerio Olivarez. On behalf of the City of RGC we would like to extend our gratitude to the office of U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar for their role in acquiring our fire brush truck through the Texas Forest Service Firefighter Property Program Assistance grant with the Texas A&M Forest Service.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley



UTRGV is a Proud Member of the Texas South-West SBDC Network

HOW DIFFERENT GENERATIONS USE SOCIAL MEDIA



DATE: AUGUST 23, 2023
TIME: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM CST
PLACE: LIVE WEBINAR
FEE: NONE

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Who's your target market?

For your social media marketing efforts to be successful, you've got to have some details about your customer demographics! For example, who are your target customers, and what are they looking for?

Session highlights:

- Different generations expect different things from your business when they follow you.
- The reasons consumers unfollow brands vary from generation to generation.
- One size does not fit all when it comes to what you post on social media.

UTRGV.EDU/SBDC

Presented by:

Patty Rojas
Monarch International Design

Hosted and promoted by:

This session is offered by the UTRGV SBDC in partnership with the BBVA Foundation and with promotional support from participating organizations in the UTRGV SBDC Resource Partner Network and centers of the Texas South-West SBDC Network.

BBVA Compass

UTRGV SBDC Resource Partner Network



Funded in part through the State of Texas and a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Contact the UTRGV SBDC at 956-665-7535.

GOAL!



“Our semi-pro soccer team has been practicing and working hard for weeks.”

The Rio Grande City Road Runner FC semi-pro soccer team has been practicing for weeks to prepare for their very first soccer tournament held in Roma, Texas! The Road Runners FC, coached by Fabian Zamora, went head-to-head with other semi-pro teams from the South Texas area such as Laredo Heats, Halcones USA, and the Start United Team. This was the first time these players have competed as the RGC Road Runner FC team and we are excited to see what is to come!

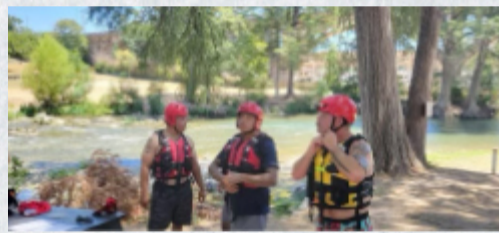


The Rio Grande City Parks and Recreation Department has been working on a project in collaboration with the Working on Wellness Environments - Texas A&M Agrilife Extension (WETAMAE)! The brand-new crosswalk in front of Veterans Middle School in Rio Grande City has been installed by our Parks and Recreation Department thanks to the generosity of WETAMAE to help the students in our community more safely walk home from school.

SWIFT WATER RESCUE TRAINING



Over the weekend of August 4th through the 6th, members of the Rio Grande City Fire Department attended the Flood and Swift Water Rescue Training International in New Braunfels, Texas. During this training, our firefighters learned several techniques to aid in the rescue of individuals should we see severe thunderstorms or rain during this hurricane season. These skills such as water entry skills, defensive swimming, tethered swimming, night swimming, and others techniques will ensure the safety of our community should the need arise.



“Our firefighters learned several techniques to aid in the rescue of individuals should we see severe thunderstorms or rain during this hurricane season...”

SCAN TO WATCH
VIDEO OF RGC
FIRE FIGHTERS AT
TRAINING



FILE PHOTO - RESCUE TRAINING INTERNATIONAL

START OF WATCH



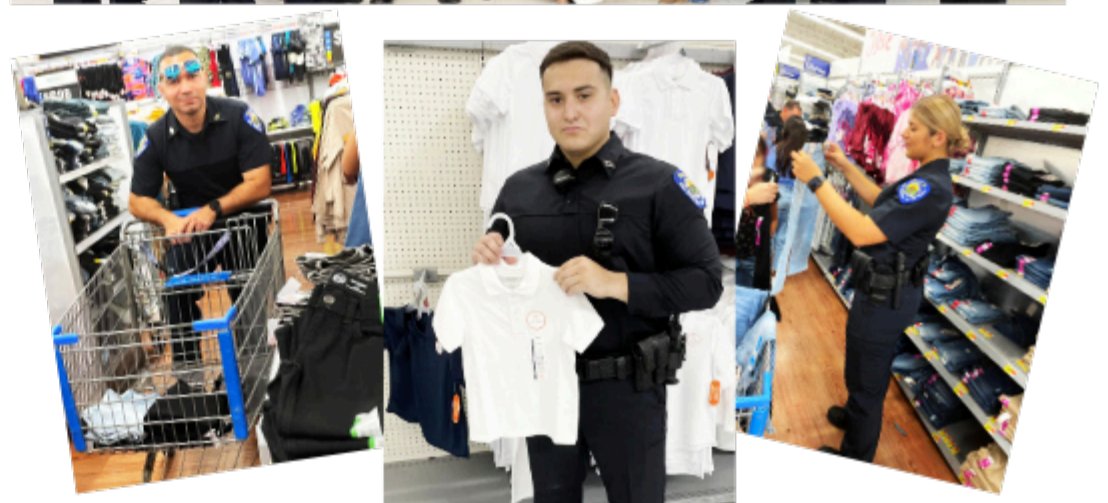
The Rio Grande City Police Department

is excited to announce the addition of three newly graduated police officer to the force! On Wednesday, August 2nd, Officers Nieves Salinas, Maria Gonzalez Garza and Joel Garza III were sworn into the Rio Grande City Police Department by Chief Noe Castillo. These new officers graduated from the 220th class of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Police Academy operated by the (LRGVDC). Congratulations and welcome to the team!

The Rio Grande City Police Department Shopping Buddies in collaboration with Rio GrandeCity CrimeStoppers and STARR of Hope were able to help 40 local students find uniforms for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. On behalf of the City of RGC we would like to thank Walmart for facilitating this endeavor as well as everyone who made this event possible.



The City of Rio Grande City has begun work on a new expansion project for the Rio Grande City Animal Kennel. The City has purchased a new property, located at 702 E. 3rd Street, that will double the size of the facility the kennel is currently operating through and include an area specifically designated for pet adoptions. This project was made possible by the City Commission of RGC and is expected to be completed by Fall 2023.



The Rio Grande City Public Library held the last #FunFriday of the Summer at Basilio Villarreal Municipal park with special guests SalinasFitness. The RGC Public Library in collaboration with the Texas Agrilife Extension, the RGC Parks and Recreation Department, and Working on Wellness Environments(WoW-E) installed the brand new Storywalk program to encourage wellness and literacy. The kids had a great time learning some new exercise techniques and helped unveil the new Storywalk in the park.

RGC Public Library's Fun Friday on July 7 featured Author Dr. Isaias Rodriguez entertained the guests with his book "Mom, Are you Ready?". Dr. Rodriguez is a national early childhood consultant, a children's author and illustrator. Friends of the Rio Grande City Public Library bought 10 books to raffle to kids present. For more information on library programs call 956-487-4389 or visit www.rgclibrary.org.

RGC Public Library's Fun Friday on July 14 featured "Anti-Bullying Program with Ayssa Bazan from KGR Psychological Health Services and Rio Grande City PD Officer Samuel Vidal. They educated our youth about bullying, cyber bullying, and what can be done to prevent bullying. For more information on library programs call 956-487-4389 or visit www.rgclibrary.org.

RGC Public Library's Fun Friday on July 21 featured the Rio Grande Valley Vipers staff. Guest learned about the RGV Vipers. They had a great time with April, Viva, and the Vipers mascot Fang. The kids enjoyed stories read by April and toured the RGV Vipers bus. For more information on library programs call 956-487-4389 or visit www.rgclibrary.org.

RGC Public Library's Fun Friday on July 28 featured International Museum of Art & Science (IMAS) Animal Talk. Kids met one of the IMAS Ambassador Animals the bearded dragon. Then they a habitat collage. Special thanks to El Avispon Snacks for providing refreshing and delicious raspas! For more information on library programs call 956-487-4389 or visit www.rgclibrary.org.

A WALK TO REMEMBER



TSHL Have you ever heard of the TSHL?



- Who is the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature?
- What function do we play with the Texas Legislature
- Why are we recruiting new members in your community?
- How do we get the attention of Texas Legislators?



Register now! Date: August 15, 2023
11am-RGC Public Library
<https://www.tshl.org>

Join our webinar and learn how you can make a difference for all older Texans!

..IT'S BEEN FUN!

RGC LIBRARY WRAPS UP ITS SUMMER FUN-FRIDAY EVENTS



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



Cathy Rubio, along with local historians, RC Salinas, and Aminta Reyna met with Kimberly Everest of US Customs and Border Patrol to discuss and research the life of an incredible man in the history of our city. Almost 100 years ago, US Border Patrol Inspector, Augustin De la Peña, was killed in the line of duty in our very own downtown. The official record offers very limited facts of the incident, and aside from family and friends, there was no official memorial for this hero of our community and country. Now almost 100 years later, the US CBP will rectify this with a memorial service for Inspector De la Peña. It was a privilege to do our small part for this MOST HONORABLE event.



NEW EXHIBIT

The front display of the Kelsey Bass Museum metamorphosizes as the seasons change. The current display features an interesting array of items from eras long past. These artifacts, such as a 1962 yearbook, colorful advertisements, an envelope postmarked 1944 and other items, give a hint of the struggles and triumphs of the citizens of our great city. There is lots to see and enjoy at your Kelsey Bass Museum.

NEW EXHIBIT



Thanks for the Visit

Guests from far away and close by continue to visit the Kelsey Bass Museum. It's a privilege and a pleasure to share our rich history and traditions with people here for a quick daytrip or those who have lived here their whole lives. There is so much to see and enjoy at your Kelsey Bass Museum.



GROUND WORK

The Rio Grande City Public Works Department continues to stay hard at work to keep our GREAT city clean and safe! They have cleaned up the lot behind Starbucks on Rattler Drive for potential commercial acquisitions. They have also been keeping up the Fordyce Bike Trails and drains in preparation for rain or storms.

As the Rio Grande City Police Department prepares for our NEW Animal Kennel, the Public Works Department has helped clean the interior and exterior to ensure that these animals have a clean and comfortable spot as they wait to find their FURever home.

Our Public Works Department helped clean the draining area behind the Rio Grande City Payne Ford to ensure they are prepared for any potential storm systems..



2023

City Residents may utilize the city-wide trash drop-off located at the 14 acres property (632 W. Eisenhower St.) with a Drivers License and Utility Bill. This is a great opportunity to Discard Brush, Appliances and other bulky items.



Public Works BULKY ITEMS DROP-OFF SCHEDULE

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.
SATURDAY 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

 OPEN DAYS  CLOSED DAYS

Holiday Observances

- Jan 16 Martin Luther King Day
- Feb 20 Presidents Day
- April 7 Good Friday
- April 10 Easter Monday
- May 29 Memorial Day
- Jun 19 Juneteenth
- Jul 04 Independence Day
- Sept 04 Labor Day
- Oct 09 Federal Day
- Nov 10 Veterans Day
- Nov 23-24 Thanksgiving
- Dec 25-26 Christmas Day

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
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MAKING THE GR^{A+}DE



“The Rio Grande City Planning and Zoning Department would like to congratulate Fernando Guerra Jr. for passing his Code Enforcement Certification exam. We are all very proud of this accomplishment!”



WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT

the progress of the Los Pinos Hardware Rio Grande City location is going as scheduled with most of its structure in place and an opening date scheduled for mid-Fall. We are very excited at the prospect of this new business and cannot wait for Los Pinos Hardware to open their doors to our community.

“We are excited to announce a new business coming to the GREAT City of Rio Grande City! Nestled in between Wendy’s and Joyeria Daisy, work has begun on Take 5 Oil Change. This new business will create a more convenient way for our community to meet their vehicles needs!”

STC Alumna and Tattoo Artist to Unveil ‘Dreamcatcher’ Mural Celebrating Student Success

Esmeralda Reyna says her life is dedicated to the pursuit of art and visual storytelling. In her day job, the South Texas College Starr County campus alumna owns and operates RG Ink a local tattoo parlor in Rio Grande City, a job she started as a high school senior looking for a trade that would allow her to showcase her talents.

Carving out a niche in small, minimalistic tattoos since 2016, Reyna said putting needle to skin on a daily basis has become a means to support her family, but there are even better opportunities on the way thanks in part to the path established by a community of artists at STC.

“Tattooing has been the main way I have been able to strive financially, but STC is where my dream begins,” Reyna said. “The college has had a huge impact on my education and what I want to do, which is come back one day and teach art at the college level. STC has put this dream within reach.”

Reyna started at STC in 2018 and graduated with an associate degree in Visual Arts in 2021. Along the way, she was encouraged to apply her creative talents to projects on and off campus in order for her to gain real-world experience.

Fascinated with all kinds of artistic mediums, from charcoal drawings to oil and acrylic painting, Reyna said she immersed herself in student involvement on campus. She was part of a group of students who created the Starr County Campus’s first mural in the Student Activities Center on campus and was often commissioned by staff and faculty for custom work.

“My work really took off when I began doing pet portraits for (Starr County campus Administrator) Dr. Montiel who really liked my art. I thought that was so nice of him,” Reyna said. “I felt privileged to do a piece of work for him and for the campus itself when I helped with the mural. This is why STC has had a huge impact on my education and what I wanted to do.”

Administrators at the college say Reyna’s work is well known throughout the community, and she has emerged as a true success story for the college.

“Esmeralda’s latest mural represents the dream of college completion that most students share and the possibilities of making this dream come true through college support,” Montiel said. “She has many works of art across the county and state and has a strong following of loyal customers who appreciate her talent. This artist is a true Starr County success story who continues to serve her community by displaying her work for everyone to admire and enjoy.”

Now two years after receiving her degree, Reyna has been commissioned by a special committee at Starr County to create the campus’s next mural in the campus’ South Academic Building.

The theme for the new mural, Reyna said, was creating an

image representing student success and graduation, which she sought to depict through a dreamcatcher motif.

“Native Americans used dreamcatchers to capture good dreams, and so we want students to do the same. I want them to see my work and relate to it,” Reyna said. “Overall, I like to think that a student becomes a dreamcatcher when they choose to follow their own dreams. It’s what STC has created in me, to strive for something greater, even when the odds were stacked against me.”

The new mural is expected to be complete in late summer.



TACKLE & FLAG FOOTBALL

REGISTER STARTS WED. AUGUST 9TH

5332 E. HWY 83 RIO GRANDE CITY, TX 78582

REGISTRATION FEE

**2ND & 3RD – \$40 & 4TH, 5TH & 6TH – \$60
[COVERS SHOULDER PAD & HELMET]**

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED

BRING BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND PHYSICAL TO CITY HALL – FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 956-488-8728

BACK TO SCHOOL YOUTH Night of Prayer
FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES
Free backpacks and more

10 AUGUST 2023
Basillio Villareal Municipal Park
6-9 PM

Special Guests
Former MLB player Jaime Garcia
Pastor Chali Martinez