

9-27-2012

The Prospector, September 27, 2012

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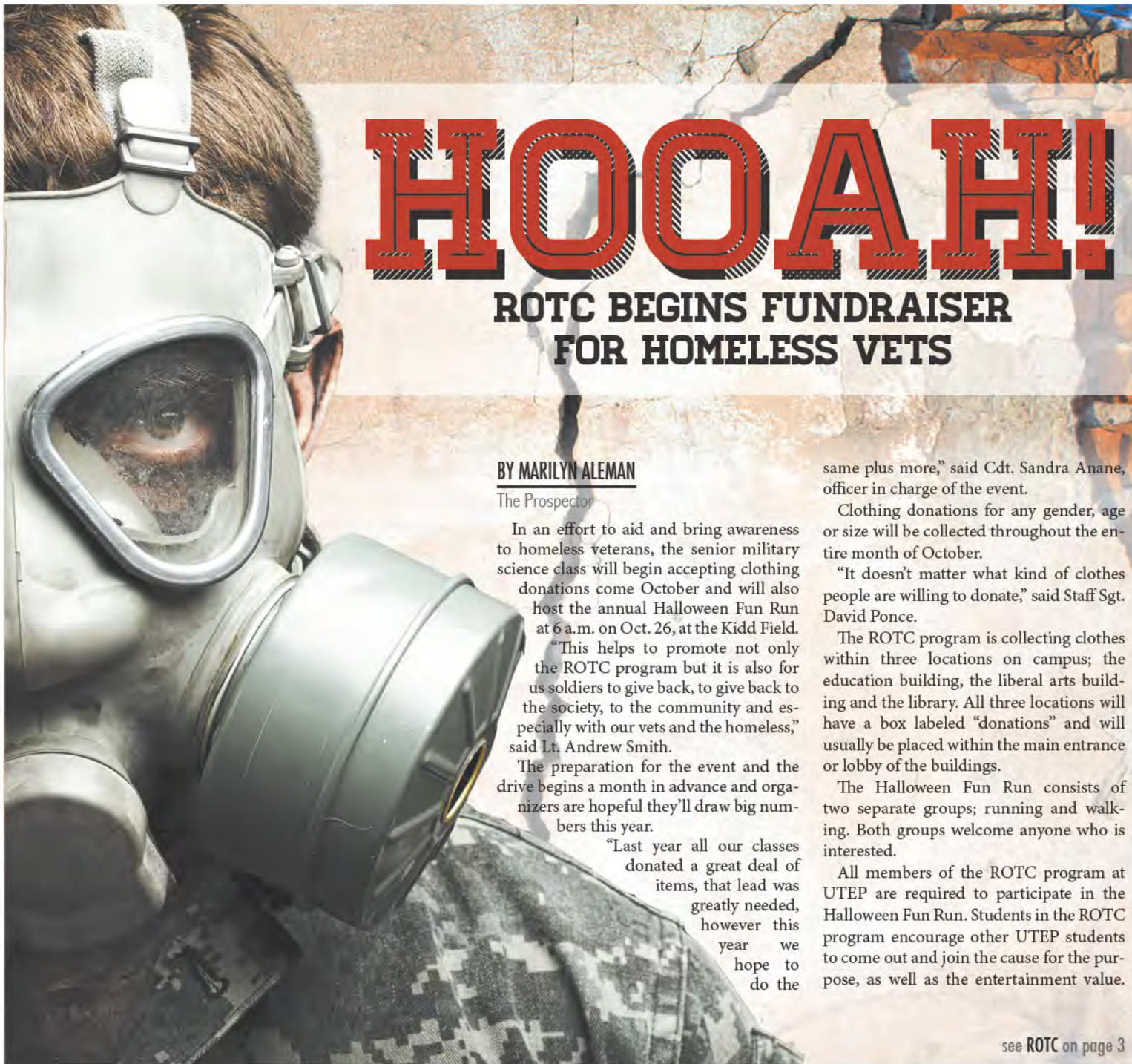
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SAVANNAH TURNS 60

The El Paso Zoo celebrates Asian elephant's birthday.

ENT. 5



HOOAH!

ROTC BEGINS FUNDRAISER FOR HOMELESS VETS

BY MARILYN ALEMAN

The Prospector

In an effort to aid and bring awareness to homeless veterans, the senior military science class will begin accepting clothing donations come October and will also host the annual Halloween Fun Run at 6 a.m. on Oct. 26, at the Kidd Field. "This helps to promote not only the ROTC program but it is also for us soldiers to give back, to give back to the society, to the community and especially with our vets and the homeless," said Lt. Andrew Smith.

The preparation for the event and the drive begins a month in advance and organizers are hopeful they'll draw big numbers this year.

"Last year all our classes donated a great deal of items, that lead was greatly needed, however this year we hope to do the

same plus more," said Cdt. Sandra Anane, officer in charge of the event.

Clothing donations for any gender, age or size will be collected throughout the entire month of October.

"It doesn't matter what kind of clothes people are willing to donate," said Staff Sgt. David Ponce.

The ROTC program is collecting clothes within three locations on campus; the education building, the liberal arts building and the library. All three locations will have a box labeled "donations" and will usually be placed within the main entrance or lobby of the buildings.

The Halloween Fun Run consists of two separate groups; running and walking. Both groups welcome anyone who is interested.

All members of the ROTC program at UTEP are required to participate in the Halloween Fun Run. Students in the ROTC program encourage other UTEP students to come out and join the cause for the purpose, as well as the entertainment value.

see ROTC on page 3

Politics

U.S.-Mexico partnership to remain when PRI returns

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

WASHINGTON – The election of Institutional Revolutionary Party candidate, Enrique Peña Nieto, who will replace President Felipe Calderón in December, raises the question of whether Mexico will continue to cooperate with the United States.

Calderón, in particular, has worked with the U.S. on the Mérida Initiative to fight drug cartels.

"It is true we will face significant challenges, it is true that we also need to keep on working very hard on a systematic basis to resolve the issues that are naturally coming towards us in this very complex relationship," Mexico's Secretary of the Interior Alejandro Poiré said Monday at a panel discussion. "But I think it is a testimony to the efforts of both administrations, President Calderón's administration and President [Barack] Obama's administration, that we are here and now speaking about all these enhancements on all these advances while we have a positive outlook on the future."

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and Poiré spoke at the Woodrow Wilson Center, where

see PRI on page 4

Science

NASA program provides students research experience

BY VIANEY ALDERETE

The Prospector

The growth and renovation of the Center for Space Exploration Technology Research (cSETR) at UTEP is allowing the program to keep expanding science and engineering research in the region.

Originally founded as the Combustion and Propulsion Research Laboratory, the center signed an agreement through the Group 5 National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) three years ago and became a University Research Center (URC).

"Our number one goal is to educate students, and then develop new technology, and eventually help them get

employment," said Nathaniel Robinson, associate director of cSETR.

Divided into K-12, education, professional development and research, the center serves four different functions.

Currently, the research center enrolls about 65 students per semester and provides them with an opportunity to do research and have a part-time job at the university at the same time. They are also given the opportunity to work and train alongside experts from NASA.

According to Robinson, most of the students involved in cSETR are majoring in mechanical engineering.

"Some students started here a long time ago, and some came and expressed their interest," Robinson said.

Besides being an engineering student, the requirements to be involved in cSETR include, but are not limited to having decent grades, showing initiative, showing good work ethic, and cultivating interest, Robinson said.

The recently renovated laboratories at the College of Engineering are currently being utilized by 23 projects.

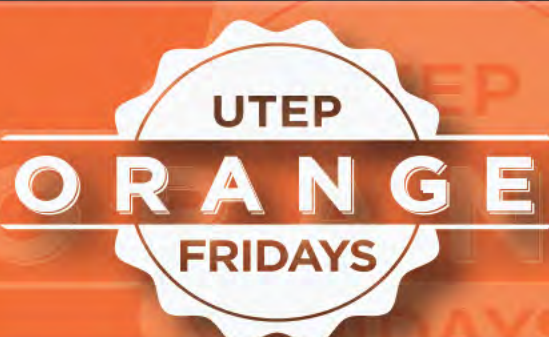
The laboratories consist of the Goddard Combustion and Propulsion Research Facility, the Challenger-Columbia Structures and Materials Research Laboratory and the Aerospace Educational Laboratory.

see NASA on page 3



KARINA RODRIGUEZ / The Prospector

Abraham Trujillo, mechanical engineering graduate student, works in the cSETR lab for NASA.



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Column

‘The New Normal’ is the same old gay normal

BY ANDRÉS RODRÍGUEZ
The Prospector



ABC’s new comedy, “The New Normal”—a seemingly progressive take on gay parenthood created by Glee’s Ryan Murphy—unfortunately sticks to the norm.

On the pilot episode, which premiered Sept. 10, the two main characters are presented as the very two extremes of gay men—one’s the effeminate shopaholic, the other the beer-drinking football fan doctor. At one point, wishing he’d let him watch the game, David (the doctor) tells Brian (the more stereotypical gay man), “Gotta wait till half time sweetie.” To which Brian responds, “Is that when Madonna sings?” I knew then this wasn’t going to be as progressive as I initially thought.

The show relies on tried and true representations of gay men to carry the comedy and, although stingingly funny, I expected better from Murphy who introduced hot button issues so well into “Glee,” at least initially.

The show handles issues of racism, feminism, homosexuality and marriage by bluntly tackling them straight on, mainly through Nana, the grandmother of David and Brian’s surrogate

mother, who has some of the harshest lines. She says things like, “When I was a girl, we studied presidents who owned people like this president.” It’s all done very tongue and cheek and granted she has some of the funniest lines, but the way in which they’re so innocuously handled blurs the line between social commentary and out-right comedic relief.

And the show doesn’t shy away from social commentary. During the third episode the couple is confronted by a man accompanied by his family at a shopping mall for kissing in public. The family man tells them he doesn’t want to have to go home and explain to his daughter what she just saw. Brian, enraged, replies: “Thanks for your intolerance and your bigotry and for fostering this ignorance in another generation.” It is clear here that the show makers want to champion the idea of love for all and reject bigotry, and then Brian follows it up with, “...and (thanks) for bringing back the fanny pack.”

Yes, this is a comedy, and as such we should be able to laugh at the ridiculousness of these characters, their over the top lavish style and the caricatures they convey, but on prime time and with all the hoopla surrounding the show, I think it befalls onto the makers to better address issues surrounding the LGBTQ community especially during this election

season. Just on Sept. 25, Republican Vice Presidential Candidate Paul Ryan said that gay marriage was not an “American” or “universal human value” at a conference in Connecticut.

I understand that all different types of gay men cannot be properly represented in television and that a comedy isn’t going to be of much influence politically, but by reinforcing old stereotypes the show isn’t really helping either. And it seems to me now, more than ever, that more of a variety of representations of the LGBTQ community should be introduced to the American viewing public.

The show’s heart is in the right place and the mere fact that it got green lit still surprises me, but as one of the few shows in primetime with truly main gay characters it falls short in contributing to the important discourse its core plot relates to. Still, four episodes in, the show is funny and at times heartfelt. I just wish it were more than that.

Andrés Rodríguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

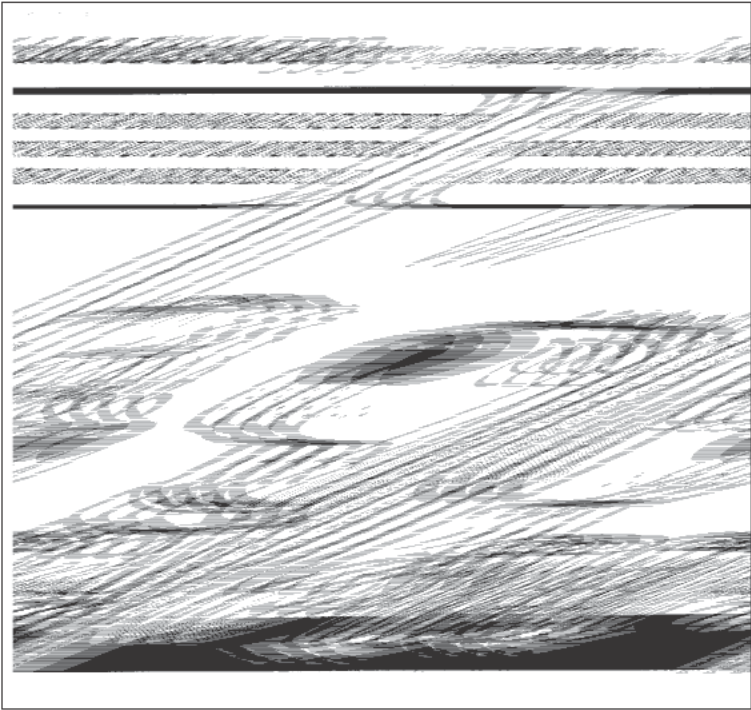
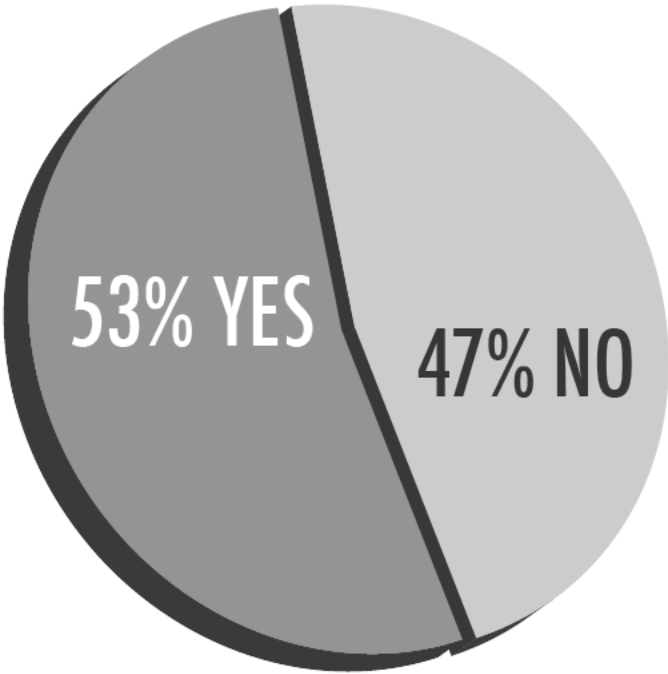
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Are you happy about the mayor’s decision not to veto plans for a baseball stadium?



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THEY’LL DO IT EVERY TIME

SIGN OF THE TIMES—IT HASN’T HAPPENED YET, BUT GIVE IT A WHILE...

THANKS TO JEAN KNOX, GREENFIELD, IND.

BY AL SCADUTO

WHOEVER SAID “IT’S NEVER TOO LATE”? I PICKED THIS UP IN THE BOOK-STORE...IT HAS GREAT TIPS ON WHAT YOU CAN DEDUCT...

OH, THAT’S GUR-ATE! I JUST MAILED ALL THE INCOME-TAX STUFF AT THE POST OFFICE!

THANKS TO “MILT & FIFI M”, SILVER SPRING, MD.

NO REST FOR THE WEARY DEPT... AWK-K... GREAT TO BE HOME AFTER TWO HARD WEEKS ON THE ROAD—I CAN’T WAIT TO DIG IN TO A SUPER HOME-COOKED MEAL...

THANKS TO HAL LASA, BOYNTON BEACH, FL.

I’VE BEEN COOPED UP FOR TWO WEEKS—BARFO CAN TAKE ME OUT TO A NICE RESTAURANT—I JUST CAN’T WAIT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE... YES, INDEED...

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the prospector

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vol. 98, no. 8

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The Prospector (USPS 448-020) is published by the Student Publications Board, 105 E. Union, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968. During Fall & Spring semester The Prospector is published twice weekly: Tuesdays and Thursdays, except holidays and when classes are not in session, once a week on Wednesday during the summer session. Subscription rates: \$20 per year; \$4 taken from fees to pay for student copies. Periodicals postage paid at El Paso, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Prospector, 105 E. Union, El Paso, Texas 79968-0622.

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KARINA RODRIGUEZ / The Prospector

Carlos Valdez (left), mechanical engineering graduate student, and **Gabriel Trujillo (right)**, senior mechanical engineering major, work on a project for NASA at the cSETR Lab at UTEP.

NASA from page 1

According to Robinson, the project's objective is to expand the interest and research in science and engineering in the country.

"The nation has a problem producing engineers and scientists. What you see everywhere in entertainment are athletes, but hardly ever do you see astronauts being glorified; they are no longer marketed or portrayed by the media," Robinson said.

Vanessa Dorado, mechanical engineering graduate student and member of cSETR, said she has been interested in engineering throughout her life.

"My dad was an engineer in the auto industry and growing up I thought I would end up in the same field," Dorado said. "After taking some classes I learned about the broad spectrum of engineering, and when I learned about the focus on space research I was fascinated by it and decided that was the path I wanted to take."

Chance Garcia, cSETR alumni who is finishing his Ph.D. in energy engineering this May, was one of the few students who was involved in the program before its collaboration with NASA.

According to Garcia his interest in engineering was awakened by his step-dad who is a civil engineer.

"[Engineers] do more logical and methodological process in everything they do and this just rubbed off on me," Garcia said.

Both students mentioned that the work done at cSETR takes many hours of research that have to be managed throughout the day.

"You go to class, have a literature review, research, plan out and then finally at the lab you put everything together and start testing," Dorado said.

Understanding the benefits of the program, both of the students mentioned the profit of being able to absorb information and experience done at the laboratory.

"Because of the direct advantages of having hands-on experience and it being a real job as it is, I can already tell that it will be an easier transition to look for a job in real life," Garcia said.

Dorado said she feels very grateful not only for the opportunity to work at cSETR, but for all the attention that the center has given to students like her.

"This has inspired me to do the same for students of future generations who are just like I was," Dorado said.

Vianey Alderete may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

ROTC from page 1

"It's for a good cause and we'll even have a bit of fun. This is good for our community," said Cdt. Ethan Reimers, junior business management major.

Since the Halloween Fun Run is around the famous fall holiday, cadets, soldiers and others are welcomed to come in costumes.

"The cadets and the soldiers are in the running group and they run in costume too," said Smith.

Cdt. Alex Soto, a sophomore Spanish major is excited to be able to run with fellow cadets and soldiers in costume on that early Friday morning.

"I think it's going to be fun because we're with a group running for a cause and it's for a good purpose," he said.

A costume contest for participants and pets will also take place.

"Anybody can come and we do a costume contest for the kids and for the dogs or pets," said 2nd Lt. Jayme Mellette. "Usually we have civilians come just to dress up and they'll walk with their pets dressed up too."

The ROTC program is expecting about 133 people at a minimum, but with awareness and outreach, attendance at the event may increase to 150 to 200 people.

Since the Halloween Fun Run is held at 6 a.m., continental breakfast will be served at Kidd Field including bagels, orange juice and water for those that attend.

Overall, the Halloween Fun Run's purpose is to give back to the community.

"UTEP is highly involved with the community as it is and so is the ROTC program," Ponce said. "We're working together to help benefit the homeless population, (it) is something we take seriously and that we have always done, we also hope that the community can help."

Marilyn Aleman may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector

Participants run in costume at last year's Halloween Fun Run.

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(Above) Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Mexican Foreign Secretary Patricia Espinosa review U.S.-Mexico partnership and progress with the Mérida Initiative, a 2008 program that attempts to fight crime. (Below) Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and Mexico's Secretary of the Interior Alejandro Poiré discuss key points on improving security ties between both countries.

PRI from page 1

they reaffirmed their intentions to sustain healthy ties between the U.S. and Mexico.

Calderón's administration has been working with the U.S. in a security co-operation agreement. The 2008 Mérida Initiative plans to disrupt organized crime groups, build a 21st century border, build strong and resilient communities and institutionalize the rule of law. The U.S. invested more than \$1 billion in this operation.

Peña Nieto's election marks PRI's comeback since it lost power in 2000. There has been speculation that the PRI may govern Mexico in a corrupt manner. For the seven decades it ruled Mexico, PRI was accused of working with organized crime.

Since its political campaign, Peña Nieto has been telling supporters he respects the law, supports free markets and will not return to the past.

Howard Campbell, anthropology professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, said that, for the U.S., it is a lot easier to have PRI in charge than Calderón's party, the National Action Party. He said PRI is more predictable than PAN, which was new to the U.S. in the 12 years it has governed Mexico.

"The U.S. has dealt with leaders of the PRI before, for almost a century, so they're used to it," Campbell said. "The wild card of course is the drug trafficking. There's no telling what's going to happen."

Poiré said it is important to transform and improve local police officers, prosecutors and the courts. A constitutional amendment passed in 2008 reformed Mexico's judicial system at the federal and state level. The goal is to have judicial reform run by every Mexican state by 2016. Four have fully executed this plan, among them Chihuahua, which includes Ciudad Juárez, and is across the U.S. border from West Texas and New Mexico.

Poiré said there is a much higher rate of conviction and tougher sentences, which he said is helping the federal government's effort to lower the levels of violence and other crimes in Ciudad Juárez.

Campbell said, however, that he has found that violence has shifted to other places, such as the Gulf of Mexico region.

Napolitano said the U.S. is working with law enforcement in Mexico to help trace weapons from the U.S. that are recovered in Mexican crime investigations. She said DHS will accelerate the ability to trace weapons to see if the agency can identify a source within the U.S. that can be prosecuted.

Fast and Furious, a failed gun-tracking program, allowed suspected gun smugglers to purchase large caches of weapons in the U.S. Law enforcement officials tried to track them to high-ranking Mexican drug cartel members. However, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives lost track of many of the firearms. Several of these firearms have been linked to crimes, including the murder of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry in December 2010.

"In terms of illegal financial transactions, money laundering, it's really one of the major enablers of narcotics trafficking in particular," Napolitano said. "We have been working very closely on a joint project on money laundering and identifying suspect transactions that I think will really produce fruit over the next couple of years."

At a press conference Tuesday, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Mexican Foreign Secretary Patricia Espinosa said a close partnership between the U.S. and Mexico will continue.

"We believe strongly that presidential administrations may change, elections will come and go," Clinton said, "but we have established a firm foundation for cooperation that has already benefited both of our countries and which will continue for many years ahead."

Clinton said she and Espinosa had reviewed the achievements both countries have made on key priorities of the Mérida Initiative and discussed lessons learned and the work that lies ahead.

"And we regret any incidence of violence, whenever it occurs, inside Mexico, on our borders or inside our own country. We will continue to work closely to investigate these tragic incidents and try to come to conclusions about who is responsible and use our legal systems to hold them accountable," she said.

Espinosa said Calderón's administration will develop a road map to give to the incoming administration as a recommendation.

Kristopher Rivera is a multimedia journalism major at UTEP. He is currently interning at the Scripps Howard Foundation's Semester in Washington program. He may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

MINING FOR MAJORS PICKING CAREERS 2012

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An illustration of a mining cart filled with various academic majors. The cart is labeled with 'ART', 'NURSING', 'SOCIOLOGY', 'GEOLOGY', 'EDUCATION', 'COMPUTER SCIENCE', 'BUSINESS', 'SCIENCE', 'CRIMINAL JUSTICE', 'HISTORY', and 'ANTHROPOLOGY'. A shovel is stuck in the cart, and a hard hat is visible on the right.

simplystated

State of the University Address to be delivered

At 3 p.m. Sept. 27 at the Magoffin Auditorium President Diana Natalicio will deliver the State of the University Address.

Natalicio will also present the Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award, an award given annually to 10 professors across Texas, to Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, Department of Chemistry Chair.

Follow @UTEP_Prospector for live coverage of the event. Also visit utepprospector.com for footage of the address.

Prospector exhibit open at the Union Building East

Students can now view the "100 Years of Publications" exhibit which showcases the history of the assayer of student opinion, The Prospector.

The exhibit is displayed at Room 201 of the Union Building East.

The exhibit also features the history of the UTEP Magazine, and a timeline of UTEP's history throughout the decades, which was created by graphic design students.

entertainment



Special to The Prospector
From left to right, Ray Sanchez, Josh Webb, Glenn Wilson, Danny McDonald, Marc Duchene and Christian Salas. The five make up the staff at Ghostlight Creative.

Success after graduation
This is part of a series of stories dedicated to thriving UTEP alumni.

BY OSCAR GARZA
The Prospector

Ray Sanchez, creative director at Ghostlight Creative and UTEP graduate in advertising, thought of what he wanted to do with his life when a guest speaker in church came in and asked the attendees to write one goal. "I wrote 'own an ad agency before the year 2000,'" Sanchez said. For Sanchez that goal was realized in 1998, when he created Ghostlight Creative, an ad agency specializing in marketing different companies. With their tagline, "We make messages that make people move," Ghostlight Creative specializes in creating original content and promotional

material, while also doing pro bono work that helps people in need. They create logos for companies, websites, advertising campaigns, book covers and commercial videos among other advertisement services. One of Sanchez' goals is to communicate to the customer what these businesses have to offer and to showcase what his years at UTEP taught him. He also mentioned how the transition from going school to owning a business came with differences he had to get used to. "There are two main differences that I experienced. The first is business happens much faster than school," Sanchez said. "The other is that often times your work is judged by non-creatives. You experience very

diverse opinions and approaches to the same challenge." Although Ghostlight Creative has a five member staff, Sanchez said that every member is very productive and goes after their own projects. They are always designing new things or talking to clients. Josh Webb, one of the co-founders of Ghostlight Creative and UTEP graduate in advertising, said that all of them had a strong friendship from their days at UTEP and enjoy working alongside each other. "We'd love to keep working with people we like and working on projects that inspire us," Webb said. "We want to keep helping clients achieve their goals and have fun in the process."

see GHOSTLIGHT on page 6



BRANDY POSADA / The Prospector
Ghostlight Creative brings original advertising content to the clients of El Paso.

Event

El Paso Zoo celebrates elephant's birthday



BY MARIO SIMENTAL
The Prospector

Savannah, the Chinese elephant, will turn 60 years old on Sept. 29. To commemorate her birthday, the El Paso Zoo is planning an event with a slew of activities that involve both the public and Savannah. The event will start off with a breakfast with the elephants, then the audience will watch Savannah get a bubble bath and pedicure. There will also be an Easter egg hunt where kids will be able to go into the exhibit and hide produce for the elephants to find. The event will then close with a birthday cake and a piñata for Savannah. "We're going to have a breakfast buffet. The buffet includes eggs, bacon, fruit, juice or coffee," said Carla Martinez, El Paso Zoo marketing and public relations director. "So the audience gets to sit in front of the elephant exhibit and the girls (Savannah and Juno) are out having their own breakfast." According to Martinez, the event will be a unique experience where visitors will get to see how the zoo works internally. She said the zoo keepers will be hanging out with visitors answering questions.

Erika Mendoza, freshman English and American literature major, said she loves going to the zoo because it makes her feel like a kid all over again. Though her favorite animal is the lion, she said she finds the peacefulness of the elephant exhibit soothing and wonderful. "I think it's great, I love elephants, I think they are such beautiful creatures and the fact that she's going to turn 60 just amazes me," Mendoza said. "It's wonderful and I'm happy for Savannah." The El Paso Zoo has been home for Savannah for nearly 15 years, since she was brought in through the Association of Zoo's and Aquariums. Savannah came in 1997 and Juno, her companion, came in 2002. They've been together ever since. "She (Savannah) has a sweet disposition, always the same temperament. We can tell how they're feeling and what kind of mood they're in," said Travis Smith, elephant keeper. "The Asian elephants have bonded with humans for quite a while." According to zookeeper Leela Lax, the two elephants are very social. She said that females live their whole life together in the wild, so having Savannah and Juno together allows them to have their normal animal behavior and society. "These girls are from a jungle setting in Asia, they are kind of shorter and stockier to push through the bush," Lax said. "They both come

"It's wonderful and I'm happy for Savannah."
- Erika Mendoza, English and American literature major.

from different environments and each (one) has picked up different traits to deal with them well." The event will be both entertaining and educational, Martinez said. She mentioned that zookeepers will be sharing all their knowledge of the zoo and the elephants with the public in order to educate them on conservation behaviors that help animals like Savannah and Juno. "I hear kids everyday, 'elephants, elephants!' They love it, they get very excited when they see them. It's probably one of the top favorite animals," Lax said. "Many zoos don't have elephants. We are one of the few zoos to have had an elephant for such a long time" The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the El Paso Zoo Sept. 29. For more information, visit elpasozoo.org/Event-Calendar.php.

JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector
Savannah the Chinese elephant will be celebrating her birthday Sept. 29 at the El Paso Zoo with fellow El Pasoans.

Mario Simental may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

GHOSTLIGHT from page 5

Webb said that their client demographic varies, handling young starting and already established customers. But, he said, their goal is to provide them with a fresh perspective.

The team also hires young interns who can learn from “real world” experience, Webb said.

Christian Salas, project manager of the company and UTEP graduate in organizational and corporate communications, began her experience as an intern for Ghostlight Creative and is now a part of the main team.

“It’s a lot different, I mean you don’t get graded by ‘As’ and ‘Bs’ anymore, you get graded by whether the client likes your work or not,” Salas said. “It’s just fulfilling what they (the owners, Marc Duchene and Ray Sanchez) want to get done and following that.”

Yasmin Marquez, UTEP graduate and graphic design major, is another student who took advantage of the internship and learned about life in the professional realm.

“I learned a great deal about the business of advertising while still being able to stay creative and work on my design skills,” Marquez said. “Working there has inspired me to

“We want to keep helping clients achieve their goals and have fun in the process.”

- Josh Webb, co-founder of Ghostlight Creative.

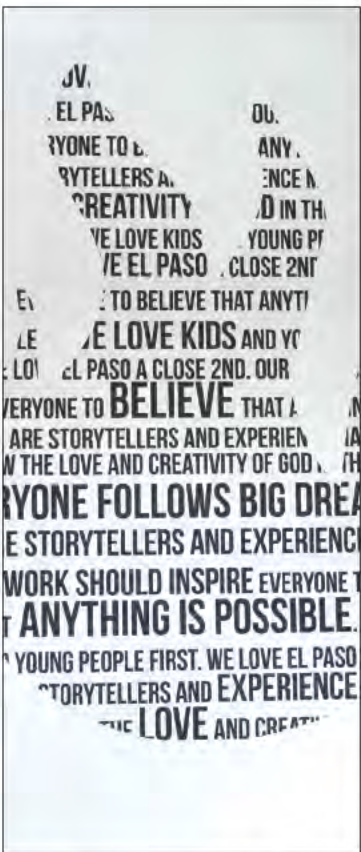
start my own creative design firm, Coffee Creative.”

The Ghostlight Creative team has seen success in a variety of ways, according to Sanchez, whether it’s seeing a completed project or the signing of a new client.

Sanchez said that success happens when a client trusts them to make the creative decisions on their behalf.

“To have an influence in how people communicate is a very important goal for all of us,” Sanchez said.

Oscar Garza may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



BRANDY POSADA / The Prospectors
The flame of inspiration is Ghostlight’s advertisement logo.

TV Column

Dexter: Secrets Revealed

SPOILER ALERT

BY DANIEL ORNELAS
The Prospectors



Season six of Showtime’s “Dexter” didn’t fall short of leaving viewers in suspense like many of the previous chapters have.

The story has reached its climax.

For anyone familiar with the series, it’s impossible to avoid the spoiler alert, as season seven will pick up exactly where season six ended.

Dexter Morgan, a blood spatter analyst for Miami Metro Homicide by day, serial killer by night, played by Michael C. Hall, has finally been caught red handed.

To make it even more dramatic, he was caught by none other than his sister, Lieutenant Debra Morgan (Jennifer Carpenter).

“The code” that he adopted from his defunct father, Harry (James Remar) who in many ways is Dexter’s conscience, has simple rules. One rule is, don’t get caught.

Part of the code requires Dexter to bring those guilty of murder to justice by his hand.

The only way Dexter knows how to do so is to kill those who kill the innocent. So as he prepares to put an end to the Doomsday Killer on his customary table, wrapped in plastic, Debra walks into the act as Dexter completes the killing.

That’s where season seven will continue.

That scene left me wondering, as I’m sure it did many of the viewers, what’s next?

Debra is now risking her career as Lieutenant. She’s presented with the decision or indecision of whether or not she should turn in her brother, or remain silent and try and cope with it.

On the other hand, Dexter is now weary that someone so close to him has discovered his dirty little secret.

Dexter’s secret is now Debra’s secret. Everyone that’s gotten in his way has either fallen victim to Dexter or faded away from his life.

Unlike past characters that happened to be criminals or serial killers

themselves, Debra does not fit “the code” and she’s not only his boss, but his sister.

Season seven may be the most intense and dramatic chapter in Dexter’s life.

He now has to watch every move he does and will attempt to keep the relationship with Debra as normal as possible.

His sister will be the one watching his every move and it will be interesting to see if there’s going to be tension in the relationship.

What will cross Dexter’s mind? Will Harry once again be Dexter’s voice of reasoning?

Throughout the series, he’s been known to show little emotion, but in season six he discovered religion and perhaps now has a sense of self-righteousness, guilt and a belief in a higher power.

Other characters will be greatly affected by what will transpire over the course of the new season.

Captain Maria LaGuerta (Lauren Vélez), Sergeant Angel Batista (David Zayas) and fellow blood spatter analyst, Vince Masuka (C.S. Lee) will now be more involved in what could finally be the undoing of Dexter.

The show has always been at its best when Dexter is surrounded by turmoil and it’s never been as heated as it is now.

Season seven should be the best we’ve seen of Dexter thus far.

It all begins at 9 p.m. EST Sept. 30 on Showtime.

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NM STATE VS UTEP: THE MINERS DEFEAT RIVAL NM STATE 3-2, SEPT. 26 AT MEMORIAL GYM. IT'S THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2004 THAT UTEP DEFEATS THE AGGIES.

September 27, 2012
sports editor
Daniel Ornelas, 747-7445

Football

Miners open C-USA against Pirates

Confident bunch takes 1-3 record on the road against East Carolina

BY EDWIN DELGADO
The Prospector

The UTEP Miners will take on the East Carolina Pirates to open their Conference USA schedule as they search for their first road win of the season Sept. 29 in Greenville, N.C.

"It's huge, it's our very first conference game, we have to come out, we have to do a great job," linebackers coach Robert Rodriguez said. "We need to win a lot of conference games to get to a bowl game this season."

The Miners hold a 1-3 record after their non-conference schedule. A win can be crucial if they hope to be a championship contender in C-USA, but they know East Carolina will be no cake-walk.

"Everything to this point was preseason football. The conference season is what it's all about. This game is what it's all about."

- Mike Price, UTEP head coach.

"They stretch you out and they like to run the ball," senior linebacker A.J. Ropati said. "They also take quick

passes, so we have to be ready for whatever they got."

The Pirates (2-2) opened their season with a 35-13 victory over Football Championship Subdivision, Appalachian State, followed by three consecutive road games.

They fell to both North and South Carolina while defeating C-USA foe, Southern Miss.

"I like a lot of things about them. The four-hour flight isn't one of them," UTEP head coach Mike Price said jokingly. "They're really well coached. Ruffin McNeill is a real good (head) coach, a great person and recruiter. He is (also) an excellent defensive coach, they run the 3-4 stacked defense. That's a hard defense to attack. You don't know where guys are coming from."

Junior quarterback Rio Johnson was the starter for the Pirates the first two games, before the sophomore Shane Carden took over in the second half against the South Carolina Gamecocks on Sept. 8.

He will be the starting quarterback against the Miners. Both Johnson and Carden have 435 yards passing and two touchdowns, the difference is the four interceptions that Johnson has so far against two for Carden.

McNeill, in his third year with the Pirates, is confident about his team's chances against the Miners.

"UTEP has an explosive offense that returns most of the starters from last year's team. They are going to try to spread the football. (Senior) Nick



ECU ATHLETICS MEDIA RELATIONS /Special The Prospector

East Carolina sophomore wide receiver Justin Hardy leads the Pirates with 322 all-purpose yards and three touchdowns.

Lamaison is their veteran starting quarterback. UTEP uses a committee of running backs in (sophomore) Nathan Jeffery, (freshmen) Autrey Golden and Xay Williams," McNeill said. "On defense, they have an attacking front seven that emphasizes movement and blitzing. We have to

make sure we are ready to face pressure similar to what we felt last week against North Carolina."

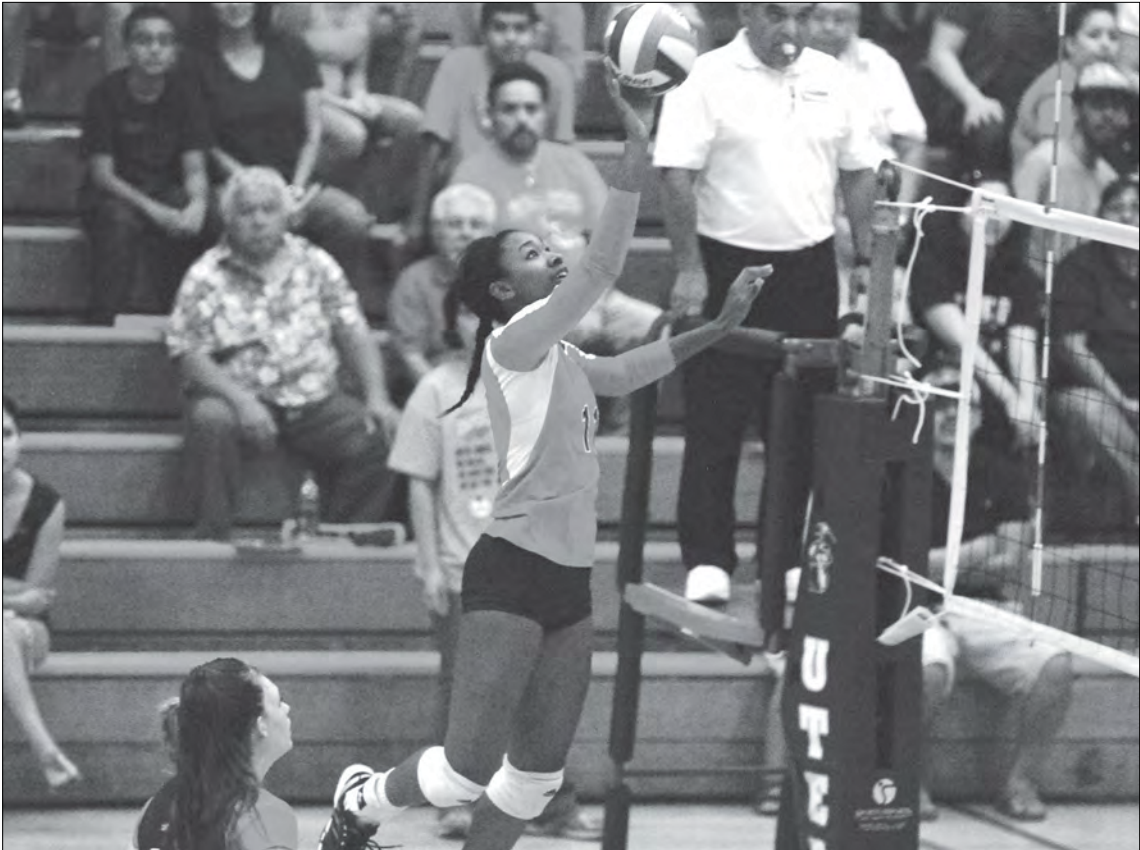
The Miners are coming off a 37-26 loss at Wisconsin, where they managed to get within three points of the Badgers in the fourth quarter, but pen-

alties and a fumble trumped UTEP in the end.

Aside from losing the game, senior safety Richard Spencer suffered a knee injury and will be out for the remainder of the season. Price said they will

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Horton boosting team's expectations



JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector

Junior outside hitter Jeane Horton was named Conference USA athlete of the week on Sept. 24.

BY HERMAN DELGADO
The Prospector

Junior outside hitter Jeane Horton has been displaying a dominant effort on the volleyball court.

She currently ranks 21st in the nation and second in Conference USA in kills per set.

Horton was a key piece in the 3-1 victory against Southern Miss on Sept. 23 at Memorial Gym.

"She was pretty much unstoppable in that match," UTEP coach Ken Murphy said. "Every now and then they would try to make a little adjustment and she would see it really fast and she would immediately adjust and be effective."

Horton, along side teammate, junior Malia Patterson, were named C-USA athletes of the week after their win against Southern Miss.

Horton said her teammates motivate her and help her in practice to prepare for every game, using that as a competitive drive.

"I don't think I'll go against any harder ballplayer than Jacqueline Cason," Horton said. "Me and her go at it every day, she blocks me all

the time, so if I can get over Jacqueline, I can get over anybody in the conference."

Horton said that she and her teammates were shooting for a 20-game winning season. Now, they have a whole different agenda and a much bigger goal.

"I see it happening, but we're still taking it one game at a time and we're just going to take each game and hopefully we can get that mark," Horton said. "But our main goal is to go to the conference tournament and win it all."

Horton has made an impression on her teammates and they are very much in agreement as to the quality of player and level that she is at. Senior outside hitter Bridget Logan complimented Horton.

"She is a player that has really grown in the past three years that she's been here, and she's become quite a good offensive weapon," Logan said.

Horton also said that the community support and fan base in El Paso is what motivates her and her teammates to work hard and take it to the next level.

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Football

Natkin back with a purpose



Former UTEP consensus All-American tight end Brian Natkin, was hired as offensive line coach on Dec. 20, 2011. BRANDY POSADA / The Prospector

BY EDWIN DELGADO
The Prospector

Miner fans may see a familiar face roaming the sidelines at football games this season.

Brian Natkin, former UTEP consensus All-American tight end, is on his first year as coordinator after being hired as offensive line coach on Dec. 20, 2011.

"I'm familiar with UTEP, (head) coach (Mike) Price and (offensive coordinator) Aaron Price," Natkin said. "I love El Paso and I take a lot of pride in UTEP and it's great to be back."

Senior center Eloy Atkinson said he enjoys playing under Natkin and believes the UTEP offense can improve and find success with his help.

"I really like working with him, he is a great coach, he is fun to be around, he is aggressive, he is physical," Atkinson said. "Since he played here, he loves UTEP, he's here with a purpose."

After helping the Miners to a 8-4 mark and an appearance in the Humanitarian Bowl in 2000, Natkin

spent time in the NFL from 2001-02 playing for the Tennessee Titans and St. Louis Rams.

In 2003, Natkin returned to UTEP to complete his Bachelor's degree in criminal justice then became a graduate assistant in 2004 and 2005. He was later hired as the offensive line coach by Football Subdivision Conference (FCS) program, Northern Colorado.

With his experience as a player and coach, Natkin learned the importance of attention to detail and has incorporated it in his coaching philosophy.

"We focus on everything," Natkin said. "We have to be able to run block, we have to be able to protect the quarterback and do our screens. We got to do everything."

Price said he's satisfied with the job and the progress the offense has made during the offseason and the early part of the season with the help of Natkin.

"Brian has done a really great job," Price said. "He has made the guys tougher, the offensive line has done an excellent job in the offseason re-

habbing their injuries and did a great job in the summer getting prepared for the season."

As a Miner, he led all tight ends nationally with 44 catches for a total of 787 yards in 2000. During his career at UTEP from 1998-2000, Natkin totaled 172 receptions for 1,934 yards and became an All-WAC (Western Athletic Conference) selection three consecutive years from 1998-2000.

According to Natkin, the biggest strength of his offensive line is the tightness of the group, they help each other out learning from their mistakes and has also been impressed with the leadership of some of his veteran players like Atkinson and senior James Nelson.

"It's great to work with a coach who has a lot of pride in what he does," Atkinson said. "The type of mentality he has and the type of player he used to be really helps us out to improve and keep working hard."

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JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector
Horton currently ranks 21st in the nation and second in C-USA in kills per set.

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The Miners will play seven of their remaining 13 regular-season games at home before the C-USA tournament on Nov. 16 in Tulsa, Okla.

"We get really good support here in El Paso," Murphy said. "I think

there's a lot of good volleyball fans and I think they pay attention. As our program has improved, we have been able to win some more matches and I think they've noticed and they come out a little bit stronger."

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JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector
Senior wide receiver Mike Edwards posted a season best 151 yards and two touchdowns for the Miners in the 37-26 loss to Wisconsin on Sept. 22.

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try and redshirt Spencer and bring him back for a fifth season in 2013.

This will be the fourth meeting between the two schools, with the Pirates holding a 2-1 advantage over the Miners.

UTEP's only trip to Greenville was in 2008, when the Pirates defeated the Miners 53-21. Last season, the Miners defeated East Carolina 22-17 for their very first victory in the series.

The Miners will try to improve on their C-USA road record of 6-22.

"I'm really excited about this game. We haven't mentioned it to you guys, but there's no question in the back of our minds that this game is going to be crucial," Price said. "Everything to this point was preseason football. The conference season is what it's all about. This game is what it's all about."

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