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# The Prospector, January 31, 2017

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

# THE PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 102, NO. 17

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

JANUARY 31, 2017

## THE GREAT WALL OF TRUMP

The estimated effects a wall  
would have on the border

PHOTO BY MICHAELA ROMÁN / THE PROSPECTOR

BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ

The Prospector

Donald Trump campaigned on putting up a “big beautiful wall” between the border of Mexico and the United States. On Jan. 25, President Trump started the process to begin construction with an executive order called “Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvement.”

The act calls for the “immediate construction of a physical wall on the southern border” and is an expansion of the Secure Fence Act signed by former President Bush in 2006. The act also increases the number and operational capacities of detention facilities to “detain individuals apprehended on suspicion of violating federal or state law, including federal immigration law” and gets rid of the “catch and

release” practice, where until an individual goes to immigration court they are not held in detention facilities.

### Sanctuary Cities

Trump also signed another executive order the same day called “Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States,” which threatens so-called “sanctuary cities” by withholding federal funding if they do not comply with Immigration Customs Enforcement’s request of identifying and detaining all individuals who are undocumented.

However, the vagueness of the term “sanctuary city” makes it difficult to tell which cities and towns will be affected by this order, and cities who are called sanctuary cities state that the local police force is not a federal

agency and do not want to enforce federal law.

El Paso is considered a sanctuary city by some anti-immigration advocates because the El Paso Police Department does not specifically focus on finding undocumented individuals. However, El Paso does not consider itself to be one because it generally does honor requests to hold and detain certain undocumented immigrants.

In Texas, Governor Greg Abbott has said that he will oust any elected official who “promotes” so-called sanctuary city policies. He has also said he will cut funding for those cities.

“Many of those grants, a lot of people don’t know this, especially in El Paso, \$3.8 million that Gov. Abbott is threatening to take affect children who are victims of child sex trafficking, women against violence, training

programs for sheriff deputies and juvenile justice programs for kids,” said Texas state Rep. Cesar Blanco at a recent legislative forum.

### Cost of the wall

What the wall will look like or how much it will cost is not yet clear. President Trump’s executive order is a step toward construction, but does not outline what form the wall will take. It defines the wall as “a contiguous, physical wall or other similarly secure, contiguous, and impassable physical barrier,” but that can take as many forms as already exist in the more than 600 miles of walls, fences and posts that line the southern border.

“What the government hasn’t told us is how much it’s actually going to cost, so the estimates are between 10 and 40 billion dollars,” said Josiah Heyman, director for UTEP’s

Center of Inter-American and Border Studies.

While the cost may not be clear, the effectiveness of a large barrier to “maintain complete operational control of the southern border” is well documented.

“It’s generally recognized by enforcement people inside the government, who have been quoted inside the newspapers many times, and those of us who are external experts on homeland security, that the fence slows people down, but it doesn’t prevent them from crossing,” Heyman said. “It’s a big expensive multibillion dollar political symbol, not really an enforcement measure.”

John Kelly, the newly appointed secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, said “a physical barrier in and

see WALL on page 4



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JANUARY 31, 2017

OPINION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477

Texas veterans in college  
can't win for losing

BY JASON GREEN  
The Prospector



The U.S. Supreme Court decided on Jan. 9 not to hear the case of a Georgia man, who moved to Texas after his discharge from the military, then sued for inclusion in the state's Hazlewood Act of 1923.

The piece of legislation waives tuition at public state universities for honorably discharged military veterans—or their children—who enlisted in the military while living in Texas.

The Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had already ruled that it was acceptable only for Texas veterans to be included in receiving an education at Texas institutions tuition free. Personally, I can say that this was a relief. As a Texas veteran, I am counting on the Hazlewood Act to pay for my son's higher education when the time comes, since my education is already paid for through the G.I. Bill and my Hazlewood Act money remains untouched.

Had the case been heard by the Supreme Court and the lower court's ruling been overturned, the cost to the state of Texas for the Hazlewood Act—an estimated \$380 million by 2019—could have ballooned even higher. Luckily, the Supreme Court decided that in this case it was acceptable for Texans to have something of their own.

Unfortunately, Texas Republicans decided not to leave this victory well enough alone. A bill introduced by Texas Senator Brian Birdwell, R-Grandbury, which did not pass last session would have drastically changed the Hazlewood Act to exclude more eligible people. This upcoming session, Republicans plan to attempt to change the Hazlewood Act in one way or another—to save Texas as much money as possible.

On the "Grand Old Party's" website, the first page referencing veterans states, "we must honor those who served in the armed services to defend our freedom. The Republican Party is committed to providing our veterans the care and dignity they deserve." It seems that Texas Republicans may not have read this portion of the GOP's website.

Then again, if the president himself cannot be expected to read the veteran's portion of the site, how can the members of the Texas House.

Just below the above statement is another statement that reads, "the Republican Party seeks to end the backlog in the Department of Veteran Affairs. Our veterans have earned our respect, and they

shouldn't have to wait in line for months or years just to see a doctor."

How much does President Trump care about this portion of the GOP's pledge to help veterans? Veterans who have waited for months on end to be seen at the VA hospital? Veterans who have committed suicide while waiting to be seen in the backlogged mental health clinics at the VA hospital? Veterans who have died from various diseases and sicknesses due to lack of treatment while waiting on the VA backlog?

Well, President Trump helped them by signing an executive order on his third day in office, which placed a freeze on the VA hiring any new employees to fill any of the 45,000 vacancies within the hospital system. Then again, as with everything so far during the Trump transition and flurry of executive orders, this order is also very confusing and may or may not be a complete hiring freeze. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs requested clarification—perhaps due to a lack of communication within the bureaucracy—and was told that some jobs were still eligible for hiring.

Point being, the GOP has a website with a lot of promises to veterans, none of which seem to be of any importance to the actual members of the GOP.

So now I must wonder if I need to save for my kid's college. If a promise that was made to me and my fellow veterans years ago can be yanked out from under us by a group of Republicans, who would rather save money in this area than, I don't know, maybe "tax credits for billion-dollar corporations, sales tax exemptions on gun sales, tax breaks for yacht buyers and billions on border security."

Those were not my words, they are from state Representative Cesar Blanco, D-El Paso, who is also a veteran. In an article recently for the Texas Tribune, the UTEP alumna wrote that money could be taken from plenty of other places and that during the "last legislative session, veterans were caught off guard by efforts to scale-back Hazlewood."

He stated that this session they would not be. He and his Democratic counterparts will be ready to fight, and so should Texas veterans—for their own sake and the sake of their children's education.

While we're at it—we might as well be ready to fight against that other guy, who has no idea about the GOP's commitment to veterans either.

Follow Jason Green on twitter @greenevansj



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JASON GREEN / THE PROSPECTOR

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# Border opens up to reunite families



MICHAELA ROMAN, GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

**Mothers hugged their** children and spouses kissed as they walked across a bridge of cardboard and tires across the Rio Grande to hug their loved ones for three minutes on Saturday, Jan. 28.

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The Prospector

While Presi

While President Trump signed an executive order to move forward on building the wall, the Rio Grande at the U.S./Mexico border was open for hundreds of families reunited Saturday, Jan. 28. This is the third annual #HugsNotWalls event, hosted by the Border Network for Human Rights.

Undocumented immigrants living in El Paso and around the U.S. were able to see family members who could not afford visas. Some families had not seen each other for more than 20 years.

Fernando Garcia, executive director for BNHR described the event as a time of humanity and love.

"It's important to say it's also an act of protest because we need to bring attention to those families that have been in detention, deported and separated from their family members," Garcia said.

El Paso County Judge Veronica Escobar described this past presidential election as a heartbreaking era for our country.

“What I want everyone to understand, those people who are not from the border is that there is not one single man in the White House and no political party, that can change the facts and the truth about the border,” Escobar said.

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WALL from page 1

of itself will not do the job. It has to be a really layered defense.”

In Texas, all 36 State congressional members and two Senators are against the wall. Large portions of the proposed wall go over private property and the federal government would have to use eminent domain if the owners did not wish to sell.

Rep. Will Hurd, R-Tx, said in a statement that the “Big Bend National Park and many areas in my district are perfect examples of where a wall is unnecessary and would negatively impact the environment, private property rights and economy.”

Asylum seekers

In fact, the wall will not prevent the majority of those wishing to immigrate to the United States for the simple reason that they are not running away from law enforcement, but toward it. Asylum seekers from Central America, specifically Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, make up for more than half of those who are arrested at or around the border.

According to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, a data-gathering organization at Syracuse University that collects, among other information, enforcement activities of immigration officials, immigrants from those three countries in Central America made up 121,471 immigration-related arrests out of 199,223 total arrests in 2016, while Mexican immigrants trail at 39,528 arrests.

Although some immigrants are asylum seekers, they are still counted as an arrest, which distorts the data available. Advocates for stricter immigration policies, who reference the number of arrests, are actually including the number of asylum seekers as well.

“This has been known for a number of years now (that) the majority of

people arriving at the border are not Mexicans—they’re Central Americans,” Heyman said. “They’re arriving for asylum. They’re not arriving simply as unauthorized workers, and they’re literally not blocked by this enforcement mechanism. It’s not like they’re not prevented from coming into the wall, because what they do is walk up to law enforcement officers and surrender.”

“

It’s a big expensive multibillion dollar political symbol, not really an enforcement measure.

”

**-Josiah Heyman**  
**Center for Interamerican**  
**and Border Studie**

The total number of undocumented immigrants from Mexico has been in steady decline since 2007, according to the Pew Research Center. While the number of asylum seekers from Central America seeking refuge from gang violence, sexual assault and poverty have steadily been on the rise since the 1990s.

President Trump’s wall will instead force those who are not seeking asylum to take more drastic measures across more desolate regions and by paying more money to coyotes, who smuggle people across the border.

Environment

The wall will also have a significant affect on animals and flora, according to UTEP political science professor Irasema Coronado, who was appointed by former President Obama to be on the Joint Public Advisory Committee of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

“When you build anything—a wall, a barrier—or you put cement planks or steel planks up on the wall, you’re going to fragment that habitat for animals and flora and fauna,” Coronado said.

Overshadowed by the wall

While the wall may not have the most effective influence when it comes to immigration, it gets the most attention. The second executive order President Trump signed that day will actually have a broader and larger impact.

As of now, there are immigration cases that have a backlog of over 600 days. That is because the immigration court does not have enough resources to get through the amount of asylum seekers and other immigration cases.

“This means (those) who legitimately have claimed to asylum are taking forever, many of them in detention or at least part of the time in detention before they can get it resolved,” Heyman said.

The executive orders passed by Donald Trump fail to address this concern, and instead exacerbates the issue by pressuring counties and cities with a high immigration population to process all individuals whose status is in question, or risk losing federal funding.

The increase in blanket deportation also makes it difficult to find the estimated 13 percent of undocumented immigrants with criminal convictions, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ORANGE AND BLUE DAY - FEB. 4

UTEP will host an event for high school juniors and seniors to experience life as a student on campus from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Centennial Plaza. This free event will start with a pep rally featuring the UTEP band, cheerleaders and Goldiggers. All students will be able to visit their desired majors’ colleges, view degree plans, talk to different student organizations and sign a UTEP promissory note saying they will commit to UTEP as their college of choice.

UTEP, THE BORDER EXPERIENCE AND THE SCIENCE OF PTSD - FEB. 2

Hector A. Garcia, Psy.D, will give a talk on Thursday, Feb. 2, in the UGLC, room 106, at 4 p.m. to discuss his published work on the specialized treatment of combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). His most noteworthy book, “Alpha God: The Psychology of Religious Violence and Oppression” speaks about PTSD in combat veterans, masculine identity in the aftermath of war, stress and rank in organizations.

UTEP GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION EXPO - FEB. 7

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, students will have an opportunity to meet program directors and coordinators to learn about graduation education options at UTEP in room 131 of the Mike Loya Building from 4 - 7 p.m. The event will showcase over 70 master’s degree programs, 25 postgraduate certificates and 21 doctoral programs.

Trump’s executive order attempts to curb this difficulty by increasing the total amount of border patrol officers and immigration and customs enforcement agents by 15,000.

This increase will be one of the largest since the early 2000s, when former President Bush made the Customs and Border Protection agency the largest federal enforcement agency in the country.

The move by Bush also had the unintended consequence of increasing the number of abuses by immigration agents and by custom’s and border protection officers at the ports of entry. According to an investigative report by Politico, between 2005 and 2012 there was an arrest each day for misconduct by border patrol agents.

James Tomsheck, former chief of internal affairs with Customs and Border protection, told the Center for Investigative Reporting that corruption “was an undetected problem and far more severe than the actual number of arrests.”

“Another concern I have is that people are emboldened to say and do things that they feel the president wants, and I feel that might have overzealous border patrol agents, overzealous immigration agents that will take this (executive order) as a mandate to go above and beyond their duties and responsibilities,” said Coronado.

Despite the future increase of border security, people will still try to come to the United States, whether it be for work, to see family or to escape persecution. By making it more difficult to come to the US, they must rely on groups that have more resources and know-how to get across the more dangerous and desolate parts of the border, namely coyotes.

“Now you have this much more vulnerable and exploitable people who don’t have the same connections,” Heyman said. “You have (an) increasing entry of scarier and more sophisticated and more coercive criminal organizations into the business of human smuggling. What building a bigger, longer wall does is simply reward the people who can bypass it more.”

**Left behind**

Left to the whims of the changing executive administration are those who have been separated from their families for years, even decades.

The Correa family has been separated by the US/Mexico border for more than 10 years.

Getting the right paperwork is often a matter of time, often decades, as well as a matter of money. Hugo Correa has not been able to change his status since crossing the border, and has since remained separated from his family.

“We got together and he came over here, and I’ve been trying to get paperwork for him, but it’s very difficult,” said Claudia Correa, Hugo’s wife who accompanied him.

The Correa family was briefly reunited due to the #HugsNotWalls event on Saturday, Jan. 28, where families who live on opposite sides of the wall could meet for three minutes without fear of deportation.

Mariela Ramos had only seen her Dad once when she was 7 years old, she is now 25.

“I’m really excited, I’m so pleased that they did this event. I mean he’s really sick and I thought I was never going to see him again,” Ramos said.

It was third time #HugsNotWalls was able to cross barriers and bring families together, but thousands are not as lucky as the Correa family or Mariela Ramos.

Follow Christian Vasquez on Twitter @chrismvasq

UNIVERSITY POLICE TAX SCAMS

WATCH OUT FOR THESE RECENT TAX SCAMS

- An email scam that uses a corporate officer’s name to request employee Forms W-2 from company payroll or human resources departments.
- Sending fake emails purporting to contain an IRS tax bill related to the Affordable Care Act.
- Imitating software providers to trick tax professionals.
- Demanding fake tax payments using iTunes gift cards.
- IRS warns taxpayers about bogus phone calls from IRS impersonators demanding payment for a non-existent tax, the “Federal Student Tax.”
- “Verifying” tax return information over the phone.
- Soliciting W-2 information from payroll and human resources professionals.
- Pretending to be from the tax preparation industry.

IRS reminds taxpayers against telephone scammers targeting students and parents during the back-to-school season. The IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages or social media channels to request personal or financial information. In addition, IRS does not threaten taxpayers with lawsuits, imprisonment or other enforcement action.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

# Do you do your own taxes, if not who does?

ALONZO MARTINEZ, CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ, ANDREW RIOS, NINA TITOVETS / THE PROSPECTOR



**AIDE ESCANUELA**  
Junior geological science major  
“Yes I do my own taxes through the Turbo Taxes app, it makes it easy and simple.”



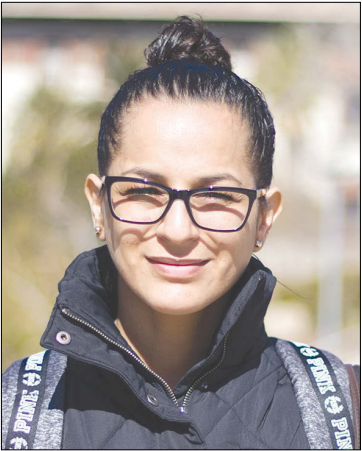
**DANIEL SEYFFERT**  
Senior computer science major  
“No, I have never done my taxes before.”



**CRYSTAL CORRAL**  
Junior graphic design major  
“I don’t do my own taxes; we do them as a family.”



**ERNESTO SANTILLAN**  
Junior digital media production major  
“I have an uncle that does taxes, so he gets my taxes done for me.”



**GEORGINA MARTINEZ**  
Sophomore social work major  
“I work in Juárez. Over there I pay my taxes every two months so I don’t have to pay it once a year, and I do my taxes here too.”

## Coalition helps low-income families do their taxes for free

BY GRECIA SANCHEZ  
The Prospector

For the third consecutive year, UTEP will offer free tax assistance through the Coalition for Family Economic Progress. GECU, IRS, EPISD and the El Paso Collaborative among others partnered with UTEP to prepare basic tax returns for families with a combined annual household income of up to \$54,000.

CFEP works as an alternative for the community to help prepare taxes up until

the April 18 deadline. CFEP will be open to UTEP students Saturdays from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Boquillas Hall located in Miner Canyon.

The service will only be provided to those who are filing married, jointly, as head of household or single. According to Carmen Gonzalez, the program manager for Outreach and Student Access at UTEP, CFEP does not serve married couples filing separately because both parties need to be present.

“They all go to a process of not only the person that enters the information, but there is a quality reviewer that goes through the application as well, and after everything is good to go, then the system actually goes to another diagnostic to make sure that everything is correct,” Gonzalez said. “Then it is submitted electronically and then, within a certain period of time, the system will actually come back and let you know that it has been accepted.”

Gonzalez said in the case of a mistake, the IRS can send it back to the site coordinator to fix.

CFEP functions depending on the registered volunteers on behalf of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. Gonzalez first started reaching out to find volunteers at UTEP last year.

“We thought it would be really great if we could host it here at UTEP, if we could find the place, so that we could serve our UTEP community and the surrounding community,” Gonzalez said. “We are

preparing for this upcoming season and hoping to partner and to collaborate with the same entities or the same different departments.”

Carlos Rodriguez, a master’s student in business administration, has been volunteering with VITA for four years. He will run a site for the upcoming tax service at UTEP.

“I started in my sophomore year here at UTEP and I have just been doing it.

see TAXES on page 6

# Street tacos

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“When you do take accounting, you take tax law, business law, things like that. So the first time that I was actually volunteering, I was actually taking a tax law class, so it went hand in hand,” Rodriguez said. “So some things that we would go

"I have marketed myself to just let people know that I help with taxes and that I can do your taxes. To gain more experience would not only benefit me, but benefit others that I'm helping too," Graell said. "Because it is very important that everyone knows of the regulations so they

“More than anything I’ve been able to give back to others in return for what I’ve gotten as an education, and it always feels great to be able to give back by helping others going in the right direction,” Graell said.

Follow Grecia Sanchez on Twitter @grecias068

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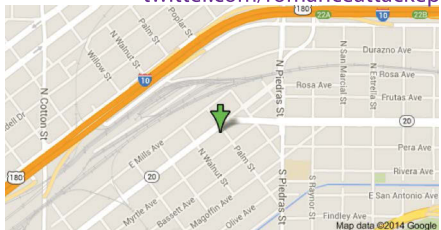
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JANUARY 31, 2017

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR  
LESLIE SARIÑANA, 747-7477

‘Cabaret’ a must-see musical at dinner theater

BY ALEJANDRA DE LA CERDA

The Prospector

The UTEP Dinner Theatre kicked off the year with the Broadway classic musical “Cabaret” on Jan. 27, which promises to entertain both students and adults. With songs like “Welcome to Berlin,” “Money” and “Cabaret,” the musical was a success on its first night of performance.

To this day, the story of “Cabaret” still holds a truth in society. It dates back to 1938 just before the rise of the Nazi Party in Berlin. The play’s topics such as abortion, homosexuality and the equal rights of citizens are still an issue 60 years after the story was written.

Walking into the dinner theater, I had no idea what I was about to experience for the first time in my life. People all around me are having dinner and, most importantly, having a good time. I asked Silvia Berdeja, one of the spectators, about her experiences while attending these performances.

“We love the environment of the theater, the director always does a great job, and it is really interesting to see what new musicals they will bring to UTEP,” Berdeja said.

Starring UTEP students Lauren Pena as Sally Bowles, John Levick as Clifford Bradshaw and Joel Aguilera as the Master of Ceremonies, or the emcee. It started off with a welcome from the Kit Kat Klub, in a comedic yet sensual style.

“Leave your troubles outside!” shouted the Master of Ceremonies. “Outside is winter, but inside it is really hot.”

Writer Clifford Bradshaw arrives in Berlin to write his next novel. He attends the nightclub where Sally Bowles suggests that they meet backstage. This chance meeting eventually turns into a love affair. Clifford later experiences the same type of encounter with Kit Kat Boy Bobby.

The romance between Clifford and Sally continues to grow, and everything seems to be going well until the situation in Germany begins to get more violent with the rise of Hitler. Sally is pregnant, and with the thousands of abortions she’s had before, she is willing to see a doctor and do the same once again. Clifford decides that he wants to return to America, yet Sally refuses to leave her life at the cabaret.

“Caberet” is an astonishing and fierce musical whose issues continue to affect us today, from prejudice, ho-



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

Cabaret opened January 27 at the UTEP Dinner Theater and will run until Feb. 19.

mosexuality, abortion, and fighting for equal rights, all are part of who we are. These issues divide us, and it is great to remember what we continue to fight for, by accepting each other, with differences and flaws.

A great show awaits, be prepared to get out of your typical night and

experience something incredible. Extended dates were added due to public request.

The UTEP Dinner Theatre is located on the second floor of the Union West Building and has dinner performances at 7 p.m. on Feb. 1-4, 8-11

and 16-18. There is a no-dinner matinee at 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 5, 12, 19. Prices range from \$17.50 to \$46.50, and you can buy tickets at the UTEP Ticket Center or at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). For more information, call 915-747-6060.

Alejandra may be reached at [alejandradelacerta5@gmail.com](mailto:alejandradelacerta5@gmail.com).

Carnage returns to El Paso with special guests



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

DJ Carnage will be at the El Paso County Coliseum Feb. 3, at 7 p.m.

BY MIKE FLORES

The Prospector

DJ Carnage is making his way to El Paso for his RARE tour on Feb. 3, starting at 7 p.m. at the El Paso County Coliseum.

Diamante Anthony Blackmon, known as Carnage onstage, is from Guatemala City and fell in love with deejaying in high school, when his mom and stepdad gave him music software to toy around with. Blackmon’s first move was to produce on the software and share it with his followers on his MySpace page.

After experimenting with putting his music on MySpace, Blackmon’s work slowly started getting noticed. Blackmon eventually dropped out during his 10th-grade year in high school to pursue his career in the music industry, after the hip-hop duo, The Cataracts, took interest in one of his beats on social media.

Quickly chasing his dreams, Blackmon traveled to Los Angeles in hopes of taking his next leap in the art of deejaying.

However, his visions did not go as planned. Blackmon had no other choice but to move back in with his family, who did not support his decision to quit school in the first place, and he planned to start hitting the books again.

But this didn’t mean that Blackmon ever gave up. He remixed ASAP Rocky’s “Big Spender” and that’s when Blackmon became known as Carnage. Carnage was put on the map after the Trinidadian-rapper, Theophilus London, released the remix on his Rose Island Vol. 1 mixtape.

Now Carnage has produced his first studio album, “Papi Gordo,” and has claimed a spot on DJMags top 100 DJs for three-straight years. Carnage is responsible for two-top 100 singles: “I Like Tuh” and “November Skies.”

The 26-year-old DJ is known for his ability to combine electronic beats, house music and trap beats along with hip-hop trends in his work. Carnage has performed live in prestigious events such as Tomorrowland, Ultra Music Festival and Neon Desert.

El Paso loves their EDM music, and DJ Carnage does not disappoint in that category. Other EDM DJs such as Tiesto, Hardwell, Headhunterz and Borgore have combined their music with Carnage.

Rappers like ASAP Ferg, Migos, Young Thug, G-Eazy, Lil Uzi Vert and others have made their music with Carnage working his skills on the turntable.

For the special guest appearance in Carnage’s RARE show on Friday, the up-and-coming hip-hop artist Lil Yachty has confirmed his talents will be present on center stage. The two have collaborated to produce “Mase in ‘97”. But that is not the only contribution Yachty could bring to the Sun City, his hits “One Night,” “Minnesota” and “Broccoli” will likely be played for the fans in attendance.

Lil Yachty let his fans know how ecstatic he is to perform for his first time in El Paso via Instagram. The rapper posted a picture of the lineup and captioned, “I can’t wait to party with you El Paso.”

Opening up the night with GTA, Boombox Cartel, Super Duper Kyle, Junkie Kid and Skellism will be a treat the coliseum has stirred up for El Pasoans.

Tickets range anywhere from \$20 to \$45 at Ticketmaster or at the box office at the Coliseum.

It’s not the DJs first time in the border city. Carnage tweeted on Jan. 17, in anticipation of the concert, “Rare El Paso is about to be such a life changing experiment... I’m so excited.”

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @MikeTheReal



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# El Paso-born playwright returns home

BY ANDREW RIOS  
The Prospector

On Feb. 2, students will be able to join nationally known playwright Octavio Solis in a rare opportunity to discuss his works in a Q&A session followed by a reading of his hit play “Lydia” at the UTEP Fox Fine Arts Building first floor studio theater at 6:30 p.m.

Solis is recognized by many in the theater and Latino community for many of his contributions such as winning national awards like the National Latino Playwriting Award and Henry Award for Outstanding New Play, and through his most successful play “Lydia,” which has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Solis has had his performances shown at A-list theaters across the nation. Some of those plays include “Lydia,” “Santos & Santos” and “Man of the Flesh.”

Born in El Paso in 1958, Solis’ passion for theater was sparked at 14 years old when he joined the theater program at Riverside High School. Solis was cast in a play, where he had both his first real kiss and his first

stage kiss, he was stage-struck and since then has never looked back.

He pursued his dream and earned a Masters of Fine Arts at Trinity University in Dallas. Solis began as an actor and writer, but when casting directors became more interested in his writing than in his acting, he became a playwright.

In Dallas, Solis began to feel he was hitting a glass ceiling, and considered moving to Chicago or New York, where there are larger theater communities, but ultimately he wanted “to go to a place with more of a Mexican-American experience” and decided to settle in San Francisco.

Growing up on the Borderland and having been born to immigrant parents left a large impression on Solis. His plays are often based on his own experiences in El Paso and his background in the Mexican-American culture. Solis describes growing up in El Paso as being able to see the first and third-world from his backyard. The playwright writes these stories not because of his Latino heritage, but rather because they are the stories of where he was born, and So-

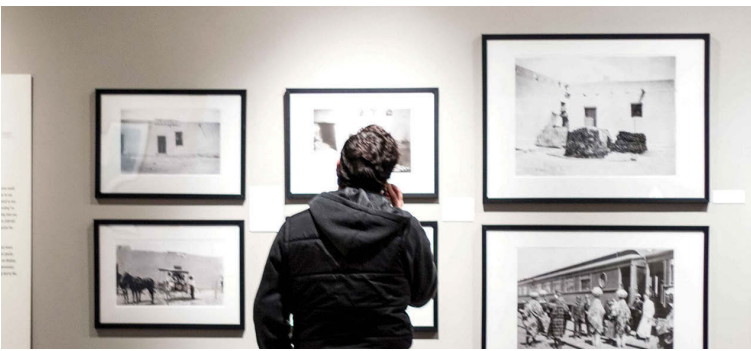
lis believes the border region is filled with untold stories. Underneath the surface of the Mexican-American culture, his plays consist of the same universal themes of love and loss.

The UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance will be performing Solis’ most critically acclaimed play this spring—“Lydia.” The play is about the Flores family, who migrated from Mexico to the United States, similar to Solis’ upbringing. The play focuses on the Flores’ disabled teen-aged daughter and their undocumented maid Lydia.

The play explores the struggle of being an immigrant on the Texas/Mexico border in addition to the disabilities and challenges facing them and their daughter and their perseverance of the American Dream despite their situation. Lydia also explores the themes of family, sex and homophobia. The mood can be described as funny, but incredibly dark and disturbing at the same time.

Solis will be at UTEP Feb. 2-3 to discuss his work. Both events will be free, but there is limited seating available.

# Centennial Museum exhibit celebrates Isleta Pueblo history



ANDREW RIOS / THE PROSPECTOR

“Time Exposures: Picturing a History of the Isleta Pueblo in the 19th Century” will be up at the Centennial Museum until June, 3.

BY LESLIE SARIÑANA  
The Prospector

The Centennial Museum unveiled an exhibit showcasing the history of the Isleta Pueblo tribe called “Time Exposures: Picturing a History of Isleta Pueblo in the 19th Century.” A portion of the exhibit is dedicated to the local Tigua Tribe from the Ysleta Pueblo del Sur.

The opening ceremony took place Saturday, Jan. 28, and kicked-off a

year-long celebration to commemorate the museum’s 80th anniversary. The exhibition was organized by the Pueblo of Isleta tribe in New Mexico.

The exhibit included photographs of the people and drawings that depicted the beginnings of the tribe and their way of living. The Isleta and Ysleta tribes are sister tribes, and the photographs captured a timeline of their cultures and how they have evolved after separating.

UTEP sophomore, a double major in psychology and theater, Stephanie Paz, said this exhibit makes her proud to be a Tigua. She said this exhibit is rewarding and it is important because it marks as one of the first steps to raise awareness about the Ysleta/Isleta cultures. She has grown up on the Socorro reservation her whole life and has been an active member of the Tigua community.

“To have something at UTEP, where 24,000 students can go see, is super rewarding for us...”

— Stephanie Paz,  
sophomore double major in psychology and theater

“We have our cultural center down in Ysleta, but not a lot of people visit it. We don’t have a lot of tourists go and see the cultural center and our museum there,” said Paz. “To have something at UTEP, where 24,000 students can go see, is super rewarding for us because we’ve been here for so long and it wasn’t until recently through casino culture that people learned about Tigua Indians, and not necessarily our culture or the history behind them.”

Paz also said that UTEP does not do a good job of including Native Americans. She said that most Native Americans decide to go to school outside of El Paso because UTEP does not offer any scholarships or programs that highlight Native Americans. Many Tiguas decide to attend the University of New Mexico because they offer programs that celebrate their culture and exclusive scholarships for Native Americans. She said that slowly changes for Native Americans are being made at UTEP. This is exhibit is a start.

The exhibit will be on display in all three galleries of the museum’s main floor through June 3.

Leslie Sarinana may be reached at theprospector.ent@gmail.com.



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JANUARY 31, 2017

SPORTS

EDITOR  
JASON GREEN, 747-7477

EXCLUSIVE: Nash speaks out about fraud indictment

BY JASON GREEN  
The Prospector

On Monday, Jan. 30, former UTEP women's basketball star Jenzel Nash, her fiancée Terrance Yelder and five others were taken into custody by federal agents.

A federal grand jury recently indicted former Nash, Yelder and the five on charges of conspiracy to commit bank fraud and several counts of false statements on loan or credit applications.

The indictments state that the defendants conspired from July 31, 2013 to March 22, 2016 to defraud financial institutions across the country out of \$237,000, without specifying who on the indictment did what action or received how much money.

According to Nash, this is what made her want to speak out the most.

"The media are making it seem like I just walked into a bank and got \$20,000, when it was a car loan and a bike loan that are already paid off," said Nash. "So, I didn't do anything wrong other than working at Chubby's."

The Chubby's that Nash is talking about is Chubby's Bronx Deli, formerly at 2400 N. Oregon St., right outside the UTEP campus. The sandwich shop was a favorite of UTEP students and boosters, as well as the athletic department, who often served Chubby's sandwiches at functions and to the media prior to athletic events.

Chubby's Bronx Deli is closed now, and it's last owners, according to paperwork filed with the city, were Quiet Bui, Gerald Marr and Ann Crowe; all names unfamiliar to anyone who has done business with Chubby's in the past.

That is because the actual owner was the main person named in the grand



Nash would have been UTEP women's basketball's senior leader on the court in 2017, instead, she finds herself in federal court.

jury indictment, Michael Annabi. Like the people who appear to have owned Chubby's during its last year of existence, it appears that perhaps a lot of people around him may not have fully known him.

"Mikey (Annabi) always treated me like a little brother. He always asked me, did I want to go with him and his family on vacation. He always looked out for me when he could, maybe I didn't have enough money for something I needed, he would give it to me," said Terrance Yelder, who worked at Chubby's along with Nash. "But, the only reason we were involved (in the indictment) is because we worked for him."

Yelder said that he and Nash often felt like family when with Annabi. Nash and Yelder are the only two people named in the indictment who are not actually related to Annabi, according to Yelder.

Nash has not played for the UTEP women's basketball team this season as a result of an unnamed violation of team rules. According to Nash, she was suspended when she began to be uncooperative with the investigation into her and her boyfriend's alleged bank fraud.

"I was a witness up until November, when I got kicked off my team because I didn't go to a third meeting with the FBI, so after that I became a suspect," said Nash. "They wanted me to tell them

things about Mikey (Annabi) that I do not know."

All Nash does know is that she got two loans, one for a car and one for a motorcycle. According to Nash, they have both been paid off. Also according to Nash, Annabi's name was not on either of the loans.

"No, just that I worked there," was Nash's response when asked if his name was used on the loan paperwork. "He (Annabi) wasn't there either."

UTEP women's basketball head coach Keitha Adams has continued to offer verbal support for Nash, yet is unable to comment specifically on her situation. She stands by the team's earlier statement

that she was suspended for an unspecified violation of team rules.

"I'm going to say my prayers for things to go well for Jenzel. I care about Jenzel. That's probably more than what I'm supposed to say, but I'm just going to say my prayers and wish for the best," said Adams upon the announcement of the indictment. "I'm not going to get into anything and I really can't elaborate any more than that."

Nash is officially off the basketball team at this point. She has already earned her degree in criminal justice and was working on her master's in leadership studies. Her goal before all of this

I didn't do anything wrong other than working at Chubby's.

- Jenzel Nash,  
former UTEP women's  
basketball player

was to be a police detective. Yelder is worried about that goal now.

"She feels like her life is over as far as being a detective," said Yelder. "Only thing we can do is keep God first and pray for the best."

Follow Jason Green on Twitter @greenevansj

Football to announce 2017 signings during luncheon



Last season, football head coach Sean Kugler brought in his highest-ranked recruiting class ever.

BY JASON GREEN  
The Prospector

The UTEP football team will hold a signing day luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 1, where members of the Miner Athletic Club and other members of the public and media will hear head coach Sean Kugler talk about the players who have committed that day to play for the Miners for the next few years.

The players who will put pen to paper on Wednesday have already given a verbal commitment to Kugler and his

staff, but could still back out up until the papers are faxed into the athletic department. This year's class is not flashy by any stretch of the word, but definitely fills the needs and could surprise—as Kugler's recruiting classes have been known to do—a few years down the road.

Last year's recruiting class was ranked eighth in Conference-USA by Rivals.com, the highest ranking for a Kugler recruiting class during his tenure at UTEP. The results may not have shown in the win column, but there was some impressive play from members of the recruiting

class, including running back Quadraiz Wadley and receiver Walter Dawn.

Wadley could be the replacement for all-world running back Aaron Jones, who is leaving for the NFL, and Dawn had the second-longest single play of the UTEP season with a 74-yard receiving touchdown.

This year's class appears it will not reach the sheer enormity of the 2016 24-member recruiting class, but this year's projected 11-member class features some likely stars.

Defensive tackle Trace Mascorro and linebacker Kobie Herring brought a 2A State Championship to the tiny town of Refugio, Texas, and will head to El Paso from southeast of San Antonio together for the 2017 football season. Both players were Associated Press 2A Defensive Players of the Year for the state of Texas, and Herring was the Class 2A Defensive MVP for 2016. For the season, the two combined for a ridiculous 353 tackles for the Refugio Bobcats.

An area of major need for the Miners is in the kicking game. Kicker Jay Mattox is gone and so are his 40 career field goals and 257 career points. UTEP would have been without a kicker this season, until the team locked-in on kicker Jake Friant from Alpharetta, Georgia. Known for his powerful leg, Friant should continue the trend of UTEP opponents having no opportunity to return kickoffs, which Mattox began during his time as a Miner.

Another area of great need for the Miners, especially in Kugler's system and in the absence of Aaron Jones, is the fullback position. Darrin Laufasa has graduated and will test the NFL waters as well and leaves a large hole in the UTEP backfield. Only two weeks ago, Forest McKee, a linebacker from Onate High in Las Cruces appears to have stepped in to fill that hole.

Although McKee is the sixth-ranked inside linebacker in New Mexico, according to 24/7 Sports, he has already told Rivals.com that he will move to fullback full-time at UTEP. McKee runs a 4.6, 40-yard dash and compiled 864 yards and nine touchdowns for Onate. McKee could continue the UTEP trend of having freshmen start early in their career as a Miner.

Quarterback problems continued to plague the Miners last season as Boise State transfer Zach Greenlee began the season under center and lost the job following an injury to Ryan Metz. The same thing happened the previous season when Mack Leftwich's season ended due to injury and Metz took over. This season, Metz may just go into spring camp as the presumptive starter, were it not for the Miners bringing in yet another quarterback.

In 2015, it was Kavika Johnson, in 2016 it was Eastwood's Mark Torrez, and this season—if things go as planned—the Miners will sign their highest-rated quarterback of the Kugler era.

Alex Fernandes from Austin's Vandegrift High School is a three-star rated passer by 24/7 Sports, who had offers from Holy Cross and Princeton as well as receiving interest from Kansas, Kansas State, SMU and Southern Miss. Based on 24/7 Sport's rankings, Fernandes would rank as the highest recruit in the class of 2017 for the Miners.

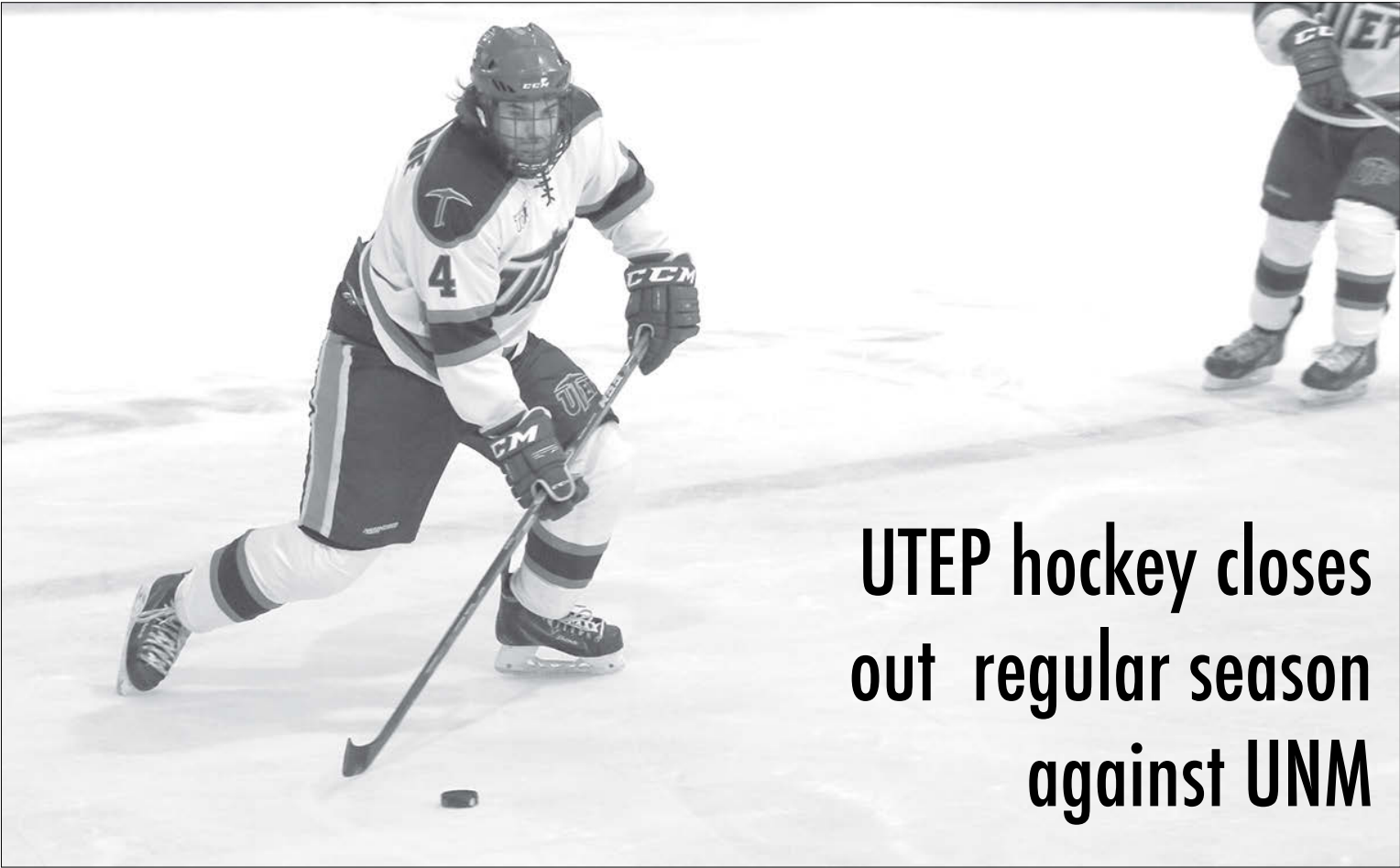
The 6-foot-4, 195-pound pro-style quarterback threw for 1,559 yards and 11 touchdowns during the 2016 season. Fernandes committed all the way back in mid-2016 and has remained committed to the Miners throughout the 2016 football season.

Sometimes surprises pop-up on signing day and players who were initially committed to other schools can change their commitment at the last minute. During Kugler's time at UTEP, the team has avoided being the team being abandoned at the last minute for the most part.

A surprise or two could go a long way toward helping the Miners' standing in the recruiting class rankings. As it stands, the class is ranked 14th, last in C-USA by 24/7 Sports, heading into Wednesday's signing day.

Follow Jason Green on Twitter @greenevansj





# UTEP hockey closes out regular season against UNM

FILE PHOTO/ THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP Miners club hockey team is now 26-3 and heading into their last weekend of regular season play against the New Mexico Lobos, followed by the TCHC playoffs.

BY AUGIE TOURIS  
The Prospector

The UTEP club hockey team has been nothing short of remarkable in their second year. Rebounding from a rough 2015-2016 first season, the team has done battle against the likes of Texas A&M, Texas and New Mexico among others. The Miners started their season with a 5-1 win versus Texas Chris-

tian University, notching a second win against TCU and defeating North Texas before dropping their fifth game to Texas A&M. The Miners did not look back after that, rolling to a 22-2 mark by mid-January. The Miners lost to Northern Arizona, before succeeding in revenge with back-to-back 8-5 and 9-1 victories against said club.

The UTEP team has been led by Jeremy Rezaeepour, sophomore business major, who leads the team in points, with 34 goals and 33 assists. Lukas Znosko, sophomore kinesiology major, leads the team in goals with 37 and has added 28 assists. In goal, Aleksander Lazarski, sophomore biochemistry major, has been consistent, with a goals against average of 2.49.

The Miners are averaging over six goals a game, and have scored goals in all but one game, greatly reducing the strain on Lazarski in the net. Fresh off an 8-2 win versus Grand Canyon University and sitting at 26-3, the Miners look to close out the season strong before they host the Texas Collegiate Hockey Conference (TCHC) tournament Feb. 9-11. All but one

spot in the first-ever championship tournament has been claimed, with UTEP and Dallas Baptist in the no. 1 and no. 2 seeds. “The support of UTEP and the city of El Paso has been amazing,” coach Tom Herman said, alluding to the sizable crowds that the team has seen at home multiple times this season. “It’s been a great season, but it’s not over yet. We are looking forward to the challenges ahead.” The Miners will look to ensure their finish in the top 12 regionally, and they currently sit at no. 10. They will close out the regular season with back-to-back home games versus New Mexico, Feb. 3 and 4. Facing the Lobos the team will see an opponent that gave them close games in two previous meetings. Meeting back in November in Albuquerque, the Miners won by scores of 3-2 and 6-4. The Lobos have played UTEP closer than any other squad on their schedule. UNM is 12-4-5, and as hockey goes, overtime games occupy the third column if lost. New Mexico is led in goals by Nate Taglialeami, who has 14 goals and 14 assists. Austin Short and Graeme Chiasson are also major contributors, with 28 and 26 points, respectively. These last two games should be a good end-of-the-regular season test for the Miners as they prepare themselves for the TCHC tournament. Admission is free for UTEP students with a valid student ID. The Miners play their home games at El Paso County Events Center.

Follow Augie Touris on Twitter @atouris85

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# Men’s basketball heating up in time for Blazers visit

BY JEREMY CARRANCO  
The Prospector

The UTEP men’s basketball team is undefeated (3-0) at home in Conference-USA play and will play their next four games at home. The Miners (6-14, 4-4 C-USA) need to continue the home cooking in hopes of staying within the top half of the conference standings. Currently, UTEP sits in a tie with UTSA for the seventh spot.

Conference-USA will only be taking the top 12 of the total 14 C-USA teams into their tournament this season.

The Miners are coming off their first road win of the season this past Saturday night with a blowout against Marshall, 91-68, in Huntington, WV. There is no question this was UTEP’s biggest win of the season as they entered the night as 14-point underdogs. UTEP shot an impressive 58 percent from the floor as four Miners scored in double-figures, with center Matt Willms and guard Dominic Artis combining for 49 of the Miners’ 91-point total. The win for UTEP snapped a 12-game home court win streak for the Thundering Herd dating back to last season.

UTEP has now won four of their last five games since losing 12 straight. Head coach Tim Floyd called this five-game stretch, after the UTSA win on Jan. 21, “challenging,” with high praise for league frontrunners Middle Tennessee, UAB and Louisiana Tech, all of which the Miners will be playing in their next three games.

Second place UAB (14-8, 7-2 C-USA) is first with a visit Thursday night, Feb. 2 at the Don Haskins Center. The Blazers are a hot team as well

having won seven of their last eight games. They are coming off a blowout just like the Miners with an 87-43 win against Southern Mississippi this past Saturday night. Last season, the Blazers topped the Miners in Birmingham, 87-80. It was a game that saw four Blazers score in double figures, including returning junior forward William Lee, who captured a double-double with 18 points and 12 rebounds.

Lee was named the Conference-USA Defensive Player of the Year last season as he finished second in Conference-USA and eighth in the NCAA with 2.9 blocked shots per game. He currently leads the Blazers this season in both points and rebounds per game. UTEP will clearly be focused on limiting Lee’s presence inside both offensively and defensively.

UTEP has begun to see their own resurgence inside with center Willms, who is coming off the two best games of his career. Willms had a career-high 27 points in the loss at Western Kentucky this past Thursday and 25 in the win at Marshall, hitting 24-of-31 shot attempts. Willms will be key for the Miners’ inside game against Lee and the physical Blazers, who live with their offensive scoring in the paint.

Forward Paul Thomas is looking to stay hot on the Don Haskins floor. Thomas was key during the Miners’ last home stand, picking up two double-doubles and finishing with a total of 45 points and 32 rebounds. Thomas has been stellar from the floor as well, shooting an average of 70 percent during that stretch.

The Blazers will continue to be without starting guard Nick Norton, who

is out for the season. Norton tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee during a season-opening victory against Arkansas-Pine Bluff on Nov. 11. Norton was a second-team all-conference pick as one of the league’s top point guards, scoring 8.9 points per game with 5.1 assists per game as a sophomore, including a 13-point performance against UTEP last season.

The key for the Miners will be continuing to score effectively in the paint and stopping the Blazers from doing the same. UTEP’s 60 points in the paint against Marshall is eye-popping

and should make this game against the Blazers an entertaining inside battle.

Despite the absence of Norton, the Miners cannot let the Blazers have it easy from the outside either. UAB has been hot from behind the arc in their last three games, shooting an overall 55 percent. Young freshman guard Nate Darling was surprising in the Blazers’ win against Southern Mississippi. Darling came off the bench to lead all UAB scorers with 20 of the total 43 bench points for the Blazers, nailing seven of 10 shot attempts and six of nine from behind the arc.

During halftime of the UAB game, UTEP will honor Jeep Jackson, one of the Miners’ all-time greatest icons from the 1980s. Jackson passed away suddenly at the age of 23 after playing in a benefit basketball game for the Miners on May 15, 1987.

Following UAB, UTEP will welcome first-place Middle Tennessee Saturday, Feb. 4, to the Don Haskins Center.

Tip offs this week will be different than the normal 7 p.m. UAB will be set for a special 8 p.m. tip off, and Middle Tennessee at an earlier 6 p.m. tip off.

Follow Jeremy Carranco on Twitter @J\_Carranco22



FILE PHOTO/ THE PROSPECTOR  
The UTEP men’s basketball team currently sits in the top-12 in Conference-USA and in a tournament spot.

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February 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> | 6-9 p.m.

SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY PARK  
(DURANGO ENTRANCE)

CHIQUAHUAS POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Box Office Attendants  
Cleaning Crew  
Retail  
Guest Services  
Ushers  
Ticket Takers  
Maintenance Staff  
Parking Lot Attendants  
Facilities and Grounds Crew  
Security  
Game Day Entertainment Staff  
Mascot Helpers  
Kids Playground Attendants  
Bark Brigade

SPECTRA POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Barback  
Bartender  
Catering Runner  
Catering Server  
Concession Cook  
Concession Prep Cook  
Concession Cashier  
Concession Runner  
Concession Stand Lead  
Concession Stand Manager  
Concession Supervisor  
Distribution Supervisor  
Distribution Worker  
Kitchen Cook  
Kitchen Supervisor  
Kitchen Worker  
Restaurant Runner  
Restaurant Server  
Vault Cashier  
Vault Supervisor

The Chihuahuas are looking for qualified, hardworking candidates with great guest service skills. Candidates must be 16 years of age to apply, must be able to pass a background check and must be able to work all home games and additional events as needed. Candidates must be 16 years of age to apply, must be able to pass a background check and must be able to work all home games and additional events as needed.

THE EL PASO CHIHUAHUAS ARE PROUD TO BE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

NOW HIRING  
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

DO YOU LIKE ADVERTISING?  
DO YOU LIKE CHALLENGES?  
ARE YOU OUTGOING AND SELF-MOTIVATED?  
DO YOU HAVE EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS?

Requirements:  
Full Time UTEP Student  
GPA minimum of 2.0

For more info:  
500 W University Ave.  
Union East Bldg Rm 105



# GET YOUR TAX REFUND FOR FREE\*

Details at [freetaxeselpaso.org](https://freetaxeselpaso.org).

Get help filing your taxes for free with Volunteer Income Tax Assistance! VITA's trained volunteers are ready to help you.

Visit us at our UTEP location! We have many trained volunteers ready to help you get your taxes filed.

## **Boquilla Hall at UTEP**

3490 Sun Bowl Drive

El Paso, Texas 79902

February 11 & 25: 12:30–3:30 p.m.

March 4 & 25: 12:30–3:30 p.m.

April 1 & 8: 12:30–3:30 p.m.

To find out what to bring, visit [freetaxeselpaso.org](https://freetaxeselpaso.org)  
or dial 211.

Service is first come, first served — so don't delay!

\*For qualifying households.

free  **TAX** assist