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'The Town and the Smelter'

UTEP exhibit pays homage to a story of injustice

Margaret Cataldi

The Prospector

"The Town and the Smelter" is the latest exhibit featured at the UTEP Centennial Museum, which showcases photographs and artifacts taken from a place and period in time that is still remembered by the El Paso community.

The American Smelting and Refining Company, better known as ASARCO, has buried its roots deep into the history of El Paso and the border.

"ASARCO shaped the Borderland by creating high-paying jobs and becoming a regional economic engine," reads an excerpt at the Centennial exhibit. "Yet, the smelter also brought horrendous workplace accidents, pollution and toxic waste that poisoned the community."

Founded in 1888, in the midst of the American industrialization, the smelter sought to mine the natural resources of the land by burning fossil fuels. It remained a popular practice nationwide for the following century, though the long-term damage to human health and the environment was widely unforeseen.

Today, there is evidence that points to ASARCO as the cause of multiple health problems observed in more than 50 former employees in El Paso. UTEP graduates Elaine Hampton and Cynthia Ontiveros found this as they conducted research. Tasked with creating a curriculum for elementary students based on air quality in 2015, the pair teamed up with the university's Environmental Offices and the El Paso Independent School District to tell the story of "Smelt-ertown." With a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, they proceeded to record the stories of 65 former ASARCO employees.

“

There was an attitude in our country that we were going to be the best industrial country...and so laws were designed so that those kinds of industries could continue forward with very little oppositions, very little regulation. ”

- ELAINE HAMPTON

UTEP graduate and researcher

see ASARCO on page 4



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Let's ban flavored e-cigarettes



Maria Ramos Pacheco
The Prospector

Something I can agree on with the Trump Administration is that flavored e-cigarettes should be banned from the market, or just like Michigan and New York

have done so far, people should work toward raising the minimum legal age to obtain nicotine products to 21.

On Wednesday, Sept. 11, President Donald J. Trump, First Lady Melania Trump and Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar announced that new policies would require flavored cigarette companies to take their products off the market, according to CNN.

Vaping skyrocketed in the U.S., especially among middle and high schoolers, just a couple of years ago and has been one of the quickest trends to get picked up by younger generations.

In 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a report that said 4.9 million high school and middle schoolers used tobacco products, an increase from 3.6 million in 2017. According to the CDC e-cigarettes were the most popular device among children and adolescents.

We constantly see the same pattern: wait until something bad happens and then the government will do something about it. Unfortunately, people have already died from causes related to vaping. There have been more than 450 possible cases of lung illness related to e-cigarettes according to the CDC.

The scariest thing about vaping for me, and probably for many others, is the idea that no one really knows the side effects of these trendy gadgets.

These devices work by heating up a liquid in order to produce an aerosol that users inhale.

The liquid can contain nicotine, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cannabinoid (CBD) oils and other substances and additives but, since there are hardly any regulations for vaping products, it is hard to know exactly what is killing people.

These types of companies began by selling the idea that vaping was helpful for adults who were trying to quit traditional smoking, but teenagers and young adults started catching onto it.

Small devices, ranging from a wide variety of shapes and colors, were suddenly in schools being used by students who most probably thought that the idea of inhaling bubble gum flavored smoke, or any other kind of the fruity flavors, was cool and better than smoking a traditional cigarette.

I applaud Melania Trump, who is finally talking about this issue. Hopefully, she will stick around to hold the Food and Drug Administration accountable as they investigate regulations for companies that produce these products.

We cannot continue letting these companies abuse of the younger generations and profit from them.

I hope Texas follows the two states that banned flavored e-cigarettes and vaping products and that teenagers realize that vaping does not make them any cooler.

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Claudia Hernández / The Prospector

E-cigarettes work by heating up a liquid, which can contain different additives, in order to produce an aerosol that users inhale.

Las esculturas de 'Sebastián' en la frontera

Alexia X. Nava Carmona

The Prospector

Enrique Carbajal, conocido por su pseudónimo "Sebastián", es el escultor de la "X" en Ciudad Juárez, México, y la esfera naranja en el edificio de Fox Fine Arts, las cuales tienen simbolismos relacionados a sus ubicaciones.

Carbajal nació en Ciudad Camargo, México, en 1947 y empezó su carrera como escultor en 1968. Desde entonces, sus obras han aparecido en galerías nacionales e internacionales.

Una de sus obras es la "X" en Ciudad Juárez, la cual es un homenaje al ex-presidente de México Benito Juárez, quien reemplazó la "J" por la "X" en el nombre de "México", según Carbajal.

"La convirtió en México. Mexicano es ... de raíz más prehispánica y ligeramente más nacional", dijo Carbajal. "Porque México, con X, es dos mil veces más bella que Méjico, con J."

La esfera naranja en Fox Fine Arts representa el crecimiento de UTEP, aparte de salir de una "dicción matemática", según Carbajal.

"Es una simbología que representa a la universidad, al crecimiento que hubo de la universidad", dijo Carbajal.

Siendo de Ciudad Camargo, Carbajal considera la frontera una zona "entre lo americano y lo mexicano".

"Es una región de personajes que se inter-cambian y que conviven entre culturas y que convierten eso en un área muy diferente que el centro de México, que el centro de la Unión Americana", dijo Carbajal.

Actualmente, Carbajal está celebrando sus 50 años de carrera en una exposición en San Antonio que incluye mucho de su trabajo.

Para más información de Carbajal visite su página oficial, sebastiansculptor.com, o sus páginas de Facebook y Twitter.

Nava Carmona puede ser contactada a través de prospector@utep.edu

UTEP's Physics Department welcomes new chair

Victoria Almaguer

The Prospector

Mark Pederson joined UTEP from the U.S. Department of Energy, with a research background in chemical physics, condensed-matter physics and computational physics, and he is embracing his new role as chair of the physics department at UTEP.

Prior to joining the university's faculty, his career was spent in performing, managing and funding research for the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C.

Pederson said he enters his position with enthusiasm.

"I feel like this is what one should do after having the opportunity to manage science for as long as I have," Pederson said. "I came down to an interview and I fell in love with this campus."

Pederson hopes to revamp the way that physics is thought of in the traditional classroom setting. To him, physics is more than just science,

it is a way to think outside the box and solve problems.

With a holistic approach to transformation, Pederson aims to learn the inner workings of UTEP's Physics Department before suggesting any changes.

"One of the most important things that a new chair should (do) is listen before proposing changes," Pederson said. "It's something that one must do."

He hopes that through this new role, he will be able to inspire students to think about physics as more than just a career and to retool the department.

"There's a lot more that happens in the classroom that you find out about many years down the road," Pederson said. "It's a way of problem solving and it's that classroom instruction that helps students solve important problems within their generation."

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THE PROSPECTOR

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SPEAK YOUR MIND

Teens are making viral mass shooting memes on TikTok

Valeria Olivares

The Prospector

Teenagers and young adults have been posting memes about school shootings on TikTok that have quickly gone viral.

TikTok is currently the number one entertainment app in Apple's App Store and, according to an article by Kaya Yurieff for CNN, it has "been downloaded about 80 million times in the United States, and nearly 800 million times worldwide, according to data from mobile research firm Sensor Tower. Those figures exclude Android users in China."

Joshua Mannila, 15, has racked up more than 300,000 likes for a video captioned "2019 back-to-school shopping in the United States," in which he looks up bulletproof backpacks and vests. La Roux's hit song, "Bulletproof," plays throughout the video.

His meme has been played more than one million times.

"I didn't think it would blow up," Mannila said. "I made that video just like, 'Oh, it's back to school season, let's go get some bulletproof backpacks because our schools are turning into a shooting range.'"

After a user posted the meme on Twitter, another replied, "I mean I guess it's better than being swallowed by a nonstop sense of dread and impending doom when you're 14 years old."

Paul Carrola, an associate professor for UTEP's Department of Psychology, has found that trauma is a constant theme that has surrounded his research.



Courtesy of Chesnot

Teenagers are using TikTok, an app that has been downloaded nearly 800 million times worldwide according to CNN, to post mass shooting and school shooting memes that quickly go viral, reaching more than a million views and hundreds of thousands of likes.

"Using humor when talking about something very, very tragic ... is a coping strategy," Carrola said.

He added that, although it is not the best coping strategy out there, dark humor can be helpful for people who are constantly exposed to death and other graphic things in order for them to be able to function, like first responders.

"I wasn't going into it trying to make fun of school shootings," Mannila said. "I was just trying to state the fact that they are making bulletproof backpacks and people are taking these precautions because you could die at school, which is kind of a weird thing to say, but it's the truth."

TikTok users can easily find more memes like Mannila's by scrolling through the app or by

searching for the #darkhumor hashtag, which has almost 130 million total views.

Carrola explained that the consequence of relying on dark humor is that it can quickly become the person's response to anything that is stressful.

"Becoming desensitized is a defense mechanism; it's a way to shut it off so I can function," Carrola said. "The problem with that, long term, is that you can't relate to people when you become desensitized or it's more difficult to relate to people once you desensitize yourself, because you don't want to experience feelings."

Only this year, there have already been 309 mass shootings in the U.S. in which gunmen killed 340 and wounded 1,277, according to Vox's collection of data from the Gun Violence Archive. Since late 2012, there have been more than 2,200 mass shootings in the country.

"I'm just kind of used to it now," Mannila said about mass shootings in the U.S., adding that he believes memes like his make light of a situation that is no longer a "what if," but a "when it happens."

When it comes to the best way to cope with the tragedies that occur throughout the world, Carrola recommends "talking to people and processing your feelings" and for teenagers to find an adult in whom they can confide.

"If someone is feeling like they're stuck and they're having problems dealing with it, there is no shame in going to counseling," Carrola added. "It's a very normal, healthy thing to do. It doesn't mean that there's something wrong with you."

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El Paso community gathers along with the world for the Global Climate Strike

Margaret Cataldi

The Prospector

A crowd gathered Friday, Sept. 20, at Memorial Park to rally for environmental justice as part of a global climate strike.

Dozens of citizens — old, young and even some pets — assembled on the lush lawn to listen to the various speakers who highlighted the importance of saving our planet.

"We are faced with one of the greatest crises of our time. It's very easy for us to feel hopeless and to feel like this problem is too large for us to tackle," said Miguel Escoto, leader of Sunrise El Paso, the local branch of a nationwide movement that advocates to prevent climate change. "This climate strike is just the beginning of an environmental revolution here in the city."

The topics discussed were both global and local, ranging from the environmental impact of

the U.S. military and war to the unsafe levels of smog produced by the Western Refining plant south of I-10.

Concerning local issues within El Paso, they also touched on some of the resolutions that can potentially improve our conditions, such as transitioning from fossil fuels to clean energy by abolishing natural gas plants within the city and replacing them with solar plants. The proposed Green New Deal was also a popular topic of discussion.

One El Pasoan decided to attend the climate strike after hearing about it at a concert she recently attended.

"I didn't know it was a global strike, which is awesome," Tiffany Stevenson, 24, said. "I heard that it was going to be at Memorial Park, which is super close to where I live, so I decided to come by and learn as much as I could."

Events like this climate strike are important for spreading awareness about environmental issues that the average person might not have heard about.

"I think a lot of people are aware of climate change, but it's something that is really easy to not think about on a day-to-day basis," Stevenson said.

With the rapid decline of our planet's environment, it is critical that every person makes a conscious effort to help reverse climate change, be it as simple as reducing one's carbon footprint or becoming a frontline advocate for change.

Margaret Cataldi may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



Courtesy of Flickr

People gathered Friday, Sept. 20, at Memorial Park to rally for environmental justice as part of a global climate strike.

ASARCO from page 1

"We really wanted to keep that story alive," Hampton said. "And a piece of that was 'Well, there's some of the men who have worked in the smelter and they have some stories to tell.' So we started interviewing those men and when the men told us those stories, they were fascinating."

Of the 64 men and one woman interviewed, 55 said that they had developed some form of

respiratory, gastrointestinal, skin or bone disease years after working at the ASARCO plant, 14 even developed cancer.

"When you look at the chemicals that were produced or let out into the air, the chemicals they were exposed to, all of these things certainly can be attributed to the exposure of (the chemicals)," Hampton explained.

Despite these findings, there was still insufficient evidence to hold ASARCO accountable

and many of the former employees were unable to receive compensation for their declining health.

Health problems that developed later in their lives were not the only negative factors that former ASARCO workers faced. The workplace conditions were alarmingly unsafe and many accidents ensued over the years as a result. Smelertown was not the only case, however, as hundreds of factories across the nation experienced similar conditions.

Unsafe factory environments were commonplace throughout the U.S.'s industrial era, though it is difficult to decipher why these factories operated that way.

"There was an attitude in our country that we were going to be the best industrial country, we're going to have the best materials, the best manufacturing, the best mines, the best coal industry, the best gasoline ... and so laws were designed so that those kinds of industries could continue forward with very little opposition, very little regulation," Hampton said.

Perhaps the most notable part of the exhibit and of ASARCO's story is the scientific break-

through made possible by studies done in the area surrounding the plant in the 1970s.

"I think the important thing is that, right around 1970, would be when the United States was understanding how dangerous chemicals were," Hampton said.

Hampton added how Joe Piñon, a local pharmacist, uncovered much of what we know now about the negative health effects caused by toxic fumes.

"He was the one who did that famous study, drawing concentric circles around the smelter, testing the levels of lead in the blood of the children in each of those spots ... That is proof that, if you are close to ASARCO, your children had much more lead exposure," Hampton explained.

This breakthrough, in conjunction with a number of other isolated incidents, was what ultimately led to the closing of the El Paso ASARCO plant in 1999, followed by its demolition in 2013.

The museum's exhibit showcasing one of El Paso's historic landmarks will run through Jan. 25 of next year.

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Short plays interpret Walmart shooting

Paulina Spencer

The Prospector

The Dramatist Guild of America and the Department of Theater and Dance at UTEP hosted an evening of original short plays Tuesday, Sept. 17, at The Plaza Theatre in Downtown El Paso. The event aimed to dramatically interpret the day of the shooting that shocked the border town to its core over a month ago.

"El Paso Strong: an Evening of Short Plays by El Paso Playwrights" featured emotional and heart-wrenching plays by local award-winning playwrights such as Octavio Solis, Isaac Gomez, Georgina Escobar, Yadira de la Riva and Jesus Valles.

"These pages. This is so powerful. A minor form of magic and a spell like no other will be cast next Tuesday, mark my words," Escobar wrote in a Facebook post, days prior to the performances.

Escobar conducted a call for playwrights after The Dramatist Guild of America contacted her to collaborate, which resulted in an overwhelming number of submissions. The submissions that adhered best to the strict guidelines were selected for the event.

The night consisted of 21 short plays performed by the UTEP Department of Theater and Dance that ranged from dark comedies to tear-jerking plays.

"The Rest of a Life", written by Escobar herself, tells the story of what could have been the last conversation of two victims of the Walmart shooting, Jordan and Andre Anchondo. The play is humorous in nature and depicts what a regular five-minute conversation between a couple could have been on a regular day at Walmart before the massacre took place.

"We say, 'We have the rest of our lives together,' and he says, 'If we can survive Walmart for one hour, we can survive the rest of our lives,'" Escobar said about her play. "But unfortunately, we understand the irony."

While many of the plays were related to the shooting itself, some were about the tight relationship between the city of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez and others touched on hot-button issues

“
It hurt me, it hurt my
community, my cul-
ture, the place where
I grew up.”

— DIANA GUADARRAMA OLAY
UTEP student

such as gun control. Most of the plays incorporated bilingualism and "Spanglish" to represent the laidback Mexican-American culture in El Paso.

Elias Perales, an 18-year-old performer, said that he felt proud of being part of a production that helped the people in his community heal.

"We made people's voices heard and it was a beautiful process, even for us," Perales said. "Even if it sounds cliché, we are here together."

Diana Guadarrama Olay, 21, felt empathetic throughout the plays, stating that she discovered her feelings of sadness and fear were felt by others, too.

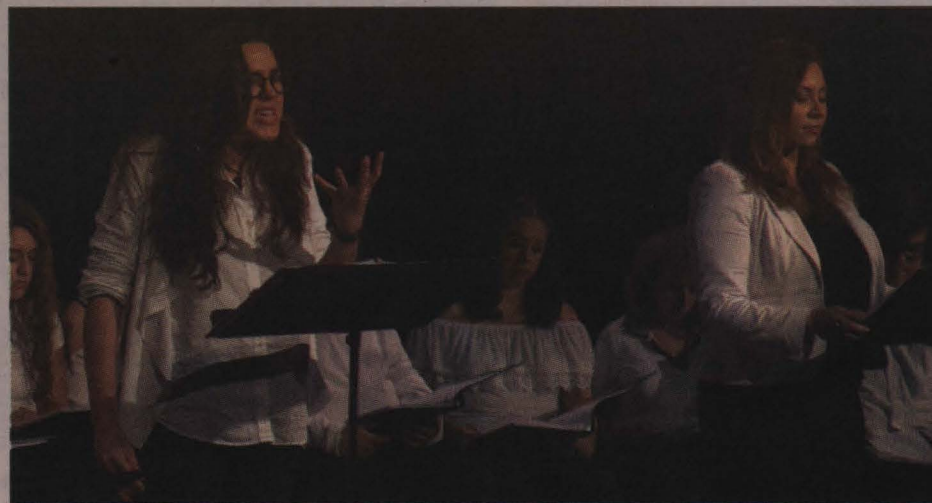
"It hurt me, it hurt my community, my culture, the place where I grew up. It impacted the way we relate to Mexico and how we all unite as one culture," Guadarrama Olay said about the aftermath of the shooting.

Escobar hopes to make the production a tour that will travel throughout the country to perform.

"I wish this could expand and be a national event," Escobar said. "I'm collecting the pieces and sending them to the Dramatist Guild and see if we can create pop-up events around the country."

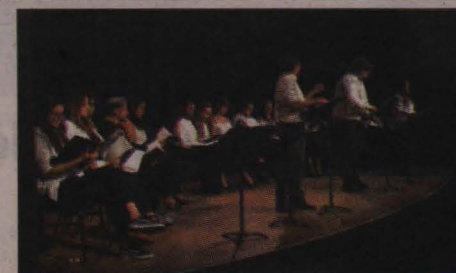
For more information on upcoming events by the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance, visit utep.edu/liberalarts/theatre-dance/events.

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Anette Baca / The Prospector

Above: Mandy Shantyne performs "Sister Cities" at the Philanthropy Theater Tuesday, Sept. 17.



Anette Baca / The Prospector

Right: Jesus I. Valles performed "Ice Breaker" at the Philanthropy Theater Tuesday, Sept. 17.



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Professor explores cartel risks after deportation

Marisol Chávez

The Prospector

Jeremy Slack, Ph.D., assistant professor of geography in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at UTEP, presented his book "Deported to Death: How Drug Violence Is Changing Migration on the U.S.-Mexico Border" to a full audience on Thursday, Sept. 19 at the Bloomberg Auditorium in the University Library.

"I think we're often stuck in a very blank map mindset where we see what happens on one side or we see what happens on the other side, and we don't necessarily connect the two well enough," Slack said during the presentation, referring to how an immigrant's life after deportation from the U.S. is often ignored.

The book is based on Slack's most recent research, in which he interviewed about 1,100 deported immigrants across six Mexican

border cities to learn about the aftermath of deportation.

The high risk of violence and increased vulnerability to cartels are among the consequences that 40,000 immigrants face after arriving to Mexican cities they do not know following deportation, Slack said.

"The mass deportation of people from the United States to Mexico has exacerbated an already hyperviolent situation whereupon organized criminal groups and corrupt authorities prey upon deportees," Slack read from his book during the presentation.

His new book detailed the experiences of these deported immigrants, such as the story of 46-year-old Jonathan. Originally from Hermosillo, Mexico, Jonathan arrived at the Mexican state of Tamaulipas after deportation, where he was targeted by the Zetas cartel to smuggle marijuana through the desert.

Director of the UTEP Center for Interamerican and Border Studies Josiah Heyman, Ph.D.,



Marisol Chávez / The Prospector

Slack presented his book to a full audience on Thursday, Sept. 19.

intervened during the presentation to emphasize that the immigration policies referenced in the book are called "Migrant Protection Protocols" by the U.S. government.

"The idea that sending them back to wait in these border cities is some way of protecting them - is just absurd," Slack said.

Slack also opposed the idea that migrants should be willing to suffer the consequences

of detention and deportation because they automatically assume the risks that come with migrating.

"One can be afraid of their own country and also not like being in prison. Those two things aren't mutually exclusive," Slack said.

Professors, students and other members of the community were in attendance at the presentation.

"I thought it was really good. It touched me on a personal level because I had somebody who was, unfortunately, affected from the violence in 2010," said Cassandra Vargas, a junior anthropology major at UTEP, referencing the wave of cartel-related violence in Ciudad Juárez that led it to be known as the most dangerous city in the world back in 2011.

Slack's book is available in hardcover, paperback or eBook versions through the University of California Press at ucpress.edu.

Marisol Chávez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

NAMI to host suicide awareness vigil

Sasha Minjarez

The Prospector

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of El Paso will hold a vigil to raise awareness, as well as pay respects, to victims of suicide from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27 at San Jacinto Plaza in Downtown El Paso.

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness month, a time to diminish the stigma surrounding mental illness, extend mental health resources and promote healthy discussions on such a heavy issue.

According to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, suicide is the leading cause of death in the United States among college students. The data collected by their study on suicidal thoughts, attempts and deaths reflects that university students compromise about half of the suicide rates per 100,000 people in the general population.

"I think it's something that we're not looking at enough. I feel like a lot of people aren't taking it to heart," UTEP sophomore Jacob Hampton said. "It doesn't affect you until it affects you personally, be it someone in your family or yourself, but you still see it going on around you."

According to Boston University's Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, preserving mental health is important for academic performance because it sustains concentration and it assists students with handling pressure, among other things

"I think students are under a lot of stress and the university should try to increase awareness

of suicide and make it very public that there are resources to help students, such as counseling or advising," UTEP graduate student Hazeel Hernandez said.

Support groups such as the NAMI UTEP chapter are available to students. The phrase "Replace 'I' with 'We' and Illness turns into Wellness," can be seen on their flyers, which perfectly captures the "NAMI on Campus" mission.

The student-led club serves as an alliance within the college community and aims to spread mental health awareness through support, advocacy and education.

"We are particularly sensitive to issues related to suicide and we can provide support and guidance to students who may be feeling emotionally overwhelmed," said Jorge A. Marquez, assistant director of Counseling and Psychological Services at UTEP.

"In the past, NAMI at UTEP has held vigils on campus and has invited family members of victims of suicide to talk to the campus community," Marquez said. "Currently, NAMI on Campus is looking to re-build its membership because a number of NAMI members have graduated."

"I think that there should be more activities pertaining to suicide because maybe there's a lot of people that are embarrassed of saying that they want to commit suicide," junior Keila S. Plascencia said. "If there are more events like this, people will let go of those feelings."

For more information on NAMI El Paso, visit namiep.org

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La Union Corn Maze reopens for fall



Claudia Hernandez / The Prospector

La Union Corn Maze reopened its doors to the public on Saturday, Sept. 21, where it will run until its closing weekend on Nov. 2. On Halloween night, La Union will be giving out free candy and hosting a costume contest where the top five contestants will win free passes for next year's maze. For its conclusion on the weekend of Nov. 2, La Union will have fireworks together with their annual pumpkin smash. To read the full story by Jaquenline Martinez, go to theprospectordaily.com

Miners' turnovers sink improved effort

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

The Miners fought gamely for almost three quarters with an erratic passing game that was compounded by an injury to senior starting quarterback Brandon Jones. Up to this point, they had overcome three interceptions, including one by Jones.

"We've made huge strides as a football team," Coach Dana Dimel said. "When you compare it to where we were a year ago, we played a team in the bottom half of the Mountain West and they blew us out. Today we played a top Mountain West team and there were plenty of chances for us to win."

On the first drive of the day, the Miners took the ball 79 yards on 10 plays and continually punched it up the middle. This resulted in a four-yard touchdown run through a pile of defenders for senior running back Treyvone Hughes against the Nevada Wolf Pack at the halfway point of the first quarter.

After being tied at seven points apiece, the Miners went on to retake the lead in the second quarter with another strong 10 play drive by the offense, capped off with a six-yard touchdown run by Hughes, with his second of the day. This drive would also feature graduate transfer tight end Jess Trussel with an impressive 39-yard reception and a key fourth down, nine-yard reception that took the Miners into the red zone.

Senior quarterback Kai Locksley had been rotating as a starter with Jones but became a solo act when Jones took a hard hit in the third quarter. Locksley had as much success throwing to the other team as he did with his own teammates en route to completing two of six passes for 10 yards with two interceptions.

The major turning point of the game was late in the third quarter with less than two minutes left, the Miners took over at their own seven after a holding call ruined great field position on Senior Walter Dawn's kick return to around midfield. This penalty resulted in a swing of 42 yards in the wrong direction.

Backed up deep in their own territory, only down by a field goal, the Miners started off the drive with a strong seven-yard carry by junior running back Josh Fields. On second down, the line broke down and Locksley took a four-yard sack to set up a long third down, needing seven-yards to go. On the next snap, Locksley was under heavy pressure as he tried to hit his receiver for a first down with a hard fast throw which resulted in an interception by Nevada at the UTEP 14 yard line.

Four plays later, Nevada's Kelton Moore burst into the end zone from the five-yard line, giving



Michael Cuvillo / The Prospector

UTEP Miners' senior quarterback Brandon Jones drops back in the pocket, looking to make play downfield against Nevada Wolf Pack during the first quarter with a tight game with score tied 7-7 Saturday, Sept. 21.

the Wolf-Pack a nine-point lead at 30-21 with 13 minutes left in the game.

Showing great resilience, the Miners moved the ball to midfield on back to back first downs including a key third down pass from Locksley to sophomore wide receiver Tre 'Shon Wolf for 10 yards. The drive came to a complete stall for the Miners on a holding call which backed them up 10 more yards. Now facing 20 yards to go for a first down and no passing game to speak of the Miners were forced to punt with about nine minutes left in the game.

Still trailing by nine points, the Miners made one last defensive stand forcing third and long when the Wolf-Pack struck with a 41-yard gut punch on a pass to running back Toa Taua that took them inside the Miner three-yard line. This drive would end in a one-yard touchdown by the Wolf-Pack's Kelton Moore, his second of the night, to seal the game 37-21.

Overall on the night, the Miners' defense had major trouble containing Nevada's starting quarterback senior Cristian Solano, making his second career start with freshman Carson Strong out of the lineup. Solano rushed for 100 yards on 10 carries and passed for 182 yards.

see TURNOVERS on page 8

Miners begin conference play

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

Conference play is approaching for the UTEP football team (1-2) and their first matchup is against Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles (2-2). The Miners were defeated by the Golden Eagles in the regular season finale last season 39-7.

The Miners are coming off a 37-21 to the University of Nevada and the Miners look to open conference play with a win against the Golden Eagles.

Strong running back tandem for UTEP

Senior running back Treyvon Hughes and junior running back Josh Fields provided a strong one-two punch against Nevada rushing for a combined 144 yards against the Wolf Pack. Hughes leads the Miners through three games in rushing with 244 yards and rushing touchdowns with four. The bruising running back for UTEP provided the Miners' first touchdown of the game against Nevada and tacked on 41 yards in the Miners' first offensive drive.

Fields has rushed for 135 yards this far in the season which ranks him second on the team and is averaging 4.4 yards per game. The former Americas High School star complimented Hughes game against Nevada with strong runs accumulating 44 yards for Fields.

The Southern Miss defense has been somewhat effective against the run, allowing 122 yards a game through three games. That ranks the Golden Eagles in third amongst Conference-USA teams in rushing defense.

Stop the passing game of the Golden Eagles

Southern Miss averages 303.8 passing yards per game on their young season, ranking them first amongst Conference-USA teams, and redshirt junior quarterback Jack Abraham has thrown for 1,164 yards this season.

One of Abraham's main targets, redshirt senior Jordan Mitchell, leads the team in receiving yards with 322 and has two touchdown receptions.

see CONFERENCE on page 8

CONFERENCE from page 7

Southern Miss totaled 174 yards through the air in their last game against the second ranked team in the nation, the Alabama Crimson Tide, who is known for its stingy defense.

So far this season, the Miners have given up 255 passing yards per game through three games, and have not been beaten deep downfield often.

UTEP Football Head Coach Dana Dimel rotated senior quarterbacks Brandon Jones and Kai Locksley, living up to his word prior to their matchup against Nevada. Both quarterbacks had a subpar game with both signal callers throwing interceptions; Jones throwing one and Locksley two.

The UTEP offense had just 116 passing yards between the two quarterbacks against Nevada and it seemed as if the offense could never find

a rhythm passing the ball. The Miners are averaging just 146 passing yards per game, ranking them dead last in Conference-USA teams.

Jones suffered a shoulder injury against Nevada and was seen wearing an ice pack sling around his shoulder postgame.

"It hurt really bad, but I'll be fine. I just have to stay in the training room this week and got to get it healed up," Jones said in the Nevada postgame news conference. "It's nothing serious."

"As far as improving consistency, I think we just have to get the ball out of our hands and find open guys and that just comes through practice," Jones added. "I mean it's week three of the season, we still have a lot more games to go and we just have to keep taking shots down the field."

UTEP takes on Southern Miss at 5 p.m. Sept. 28, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Isaiah Ramirez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

**Rubin Center
for the Visual Arts**

Join us for the 2019 fall exhibitions opening reception at the Rubin Center. We will have a cash bar, DJ, performance by Armando Cortes, artist from Total Collapse at 6 pm. Exhibiting artists Brian Maguire and Kristen Morgan, along with curator Andres Poyan Estrada, will all be present.

The University of Texas at El Paso
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Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
and Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
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Opening Reception:
September 26, 2019
5:00 - 7:30 pm




#SeeYouAtTheRubin

TURNOVERS from page 7

The defense of the Miners had trouble stopping Solano from breaking out of the pocket for long runs and never put enough pressure on him to get a sack. Solano came through for the Wolfpack with his first career touchdown passes.

Overall, up until the late third quarter interception by Locksley, the Miners were playing on even keel with Nevada who were an eight-win bowl team from last season that also plays in a stronger conference.

The Miners' offense more than doubled from last week's offensive output, gaining 278 total yards including 162 yards rushing, led by Hughes with 80 yards.


"Good things happened when we ran it," Dimel said. "Not as much when we threw it."



Michael CuvIELLO / The Prospect
Freshman defensive end Praise Amaewhule chases Nevada runningback Toa Taua Sept. 21, 2019

UTEP plays at Southern Mississippi at 5 p.m. Sept. 28, in conference play.

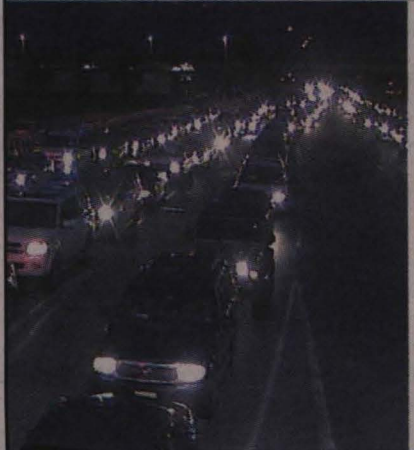
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