

11-3-2020

The Prospector, November 3, 2020

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Public health crisis trickles to UTEP *More than 400 cases reported within two weeks*

Isaiah Ramirez
The Prospector

The number of UTEP-affiliated COVID-19 cases has skyrocketed since Oct. 12 and it consists of the number of positive cases through UTEP's testing program and the number of people who've reported their positive status, the university's COVID-19 dashboard shows.

From Oct. 12 to Oct. 25, there was a total of 443 positive COVID-19 cases through both the testing program and the number of people who self-reported. In the week of Oct. 12 to Oct. 18, the dashboard reported 191 positive cases through UTEP testing along with 30 self-reported cases. For the week of Oct. 19 to Oct. 25, it was 199 cases through the university's program along with 23 that were self-reported.

There is a cumulative total of 527 positive cases conducted by the program, and 85 self-reported cases

since the university began reporting its COVID numbers Aug. 24.

The purpose of the COVID-19 testing program is to find asymptomatic UTEP employees, students, and staff that will be on campus for the fall semester.

The testing program is an interdisciplinary effort led by faculty in the Border Biomedical Research Center and various departments. It also involves staff from the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects and Information Technology and University Relations. The program is funded by federal dollars through the CARES Act.

According to UTEP President Heather Wilson, in the last few weeks the number of people taking advantage of the UTEP testing sites has increased significantly, as last week approximately three-quarters of those who tested positive through the program had not been on campus for at least two weeks prior

to the test with mostly students who are taking one hundred percent online classes.

There's also a surge of COVID-19 cases and a rise in hospitalizations in the City of El Paso, leading to a public health crisis. A record 13,926 active cases were reported by the city on Oct. 27 and 839 people are currently hospitalized. UTEP has opened a drive-thru testing site in collaboration with the city as there is a public demand for more testing sites in El Paso.

State drive-thru testing site available to the public

UTEP began hosting a state drive-thru testing site Oct. 21 which is available to the public at the Schuster 1 parking lot, off Schuster Avenue at the Spur 1966 roundabout on the south side of the campus. Testing is available Monday through Friday and UTEP will conduct up to 1,000 tests a day.

Anyone five years old or older with or without symptoms can receive the free test which operates from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Sunday. Results will be provided via email within three to five days and if residents do not have an email address, they will be notified by phone call.

No appointments are needed for the drive-thru site however once the daily capacity is reached within the site the site will be closed for the day to additional testing.

"During these unprecedented times, our focus and priority remains on the health and safety of our residents," El Paso Mayor Dee Margo stated in UTEP news release. "This includes making more testing sites available to address the demand during the surge in new cases."

There are only three testing sites available in El Paso and with the surging amount of cases, another site is beneficial to the city.

Designated UTEP line

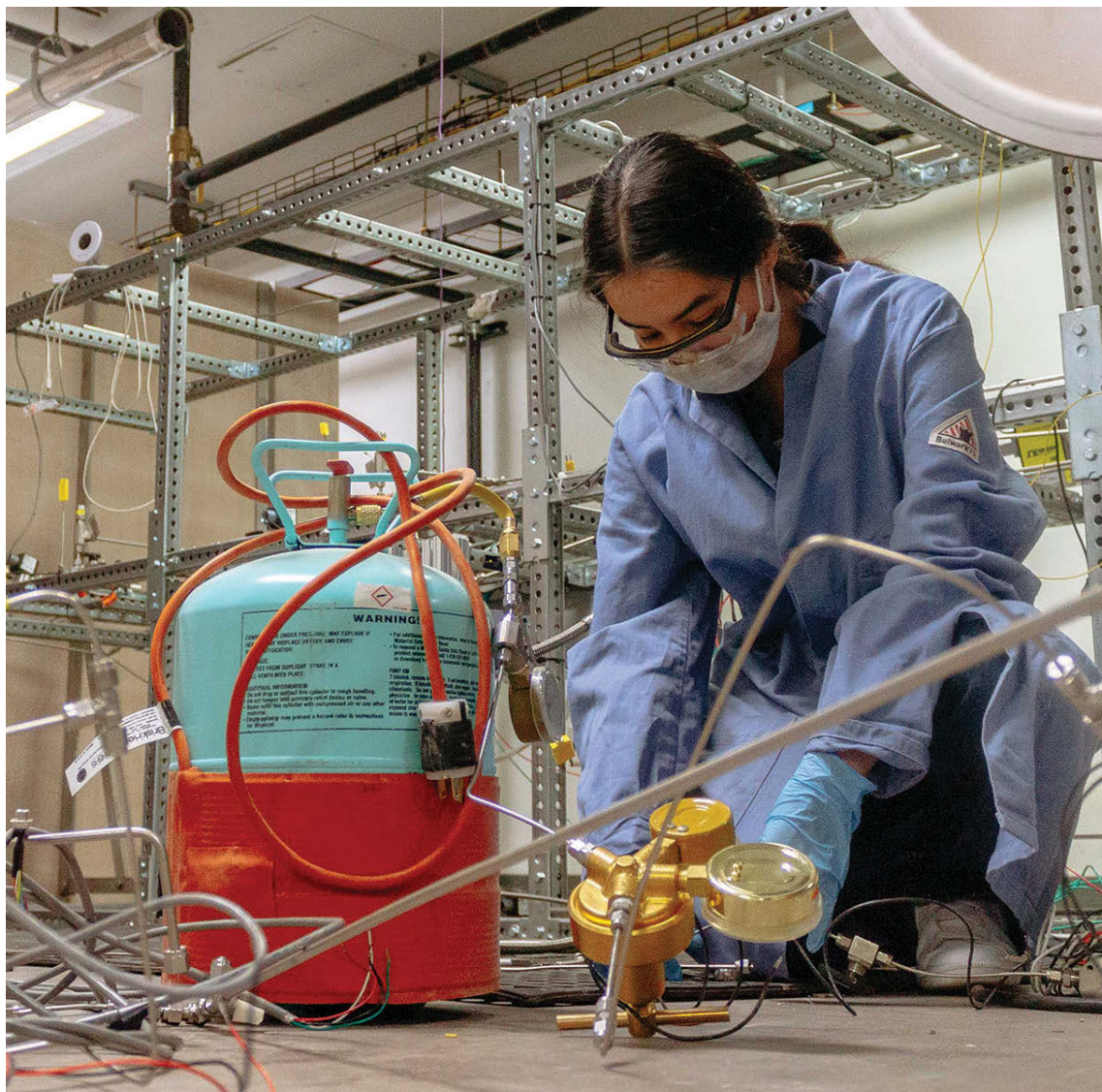
UTEP has negotiated with the city for the drive-thru site to have a separate line designated for UTEP employee, students, and their family members in the same vehicle. You must show your UTEP Miner Gold Card to have access to the designated line and if you do not have your ID you will be asked to join the general public line. The line is free and no appointment is needed.

Starting Oct. 27, the UTEP line is available Monday through Friday, in the Schuster 3 parking lot between Prospect Street and Lawton Drive from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or until the daily capacity is reached. According to a news release sent by the President's Office, the wait times averaged in the UTEP lines were 30-40 minutes while the state drive-thru testing lines were an hour-and-a-half.

To help speed up the process

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Exploration and Technology Research provides opportunities



Photograph by Hugo Hinojosa/The Prospector

CSETR Aeronautics and Defense Division supports the research and development of unmanned aerial systems, missile systems, and hypersonic technologies.

Musicians call misogyny, abuse in music industry

Daniela Ramos
The Prospector

Misogyny and sexual misconduct in the entertainment industry isn't anything new.

From the Harvey Weinstein scandal to Kesha's legal battle with Lukasz Sebastian Gottwald, or "Dr. Luke," women in the entertainment and music industry have always faced sexism and the frustration that comes along with it.

"The music industry involves a lot of late nights and drinking, and in those situations it's common for people's sense of what's appropriate to go out the window," Lara Baker, events manager at the Association of Independent Music (AIM) told the French magazine, Marie Claire.

"A woman will be in a taxi with her boss or a client after a gig and he'll suddenly start kissing or groping her and she's expected not to mind. It's not easy for her to speak out when it involves a colleague or client and her reputation is at stake."

This reality is what gave birth to the global #MeToo movement in 2017, but sexual misconduct and abuse doesn't just plague Hollywood — it plagues local music scenes too.

Imbalance and objectification

Flora Newberry, a long-time musician and UTEP researcher on gender issues in the music industry, said women in the music industry, including herself, constantly have to grapple with sexist attitudes and this power imbalance with abusive authority figures.

Often male producers or directors use their power over female musicians to exploit their image

"If you wanted work or to be assigned important parts, you'd have to dress or look sexy,"

-Flora Newberry,
musician and
UTEP researcher

for success or appeal, Newberry explained.

"If you wanted work or to be assigned important parts, you'd have to dress or look sexy," she said.

Newberry grew up in New Jersey and got her graduate degree at The Juilliard School in New York City where she used her degree to become an orchestra trumpeter player.

"This was a double-edged sword, because that meant you were most likely to get a part if you were a woman, but then you'd wonder, why are they really hiring me? Is it because of my talent or my looks?" Newberry said in regard to her experiences as a young female trumpeter in New York.

Mikaela Valdez, a local female musician and music teacher, said El Paso's music scene is no exception when it comes to misogynistic attitudes and gender-oriented roadblocks.

"I feel like among men there's almost a sort of camaraderie, whereas, it takes female musicians

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I've never been into politics, but I now stand against Trump



Isaiah Ramirez
The Prospector

Politics isn't my thing, so I'd like to say that right off the bat. It's a topic of conversation I've stayed away from for most of my life, but this country needs a reliable leader who's competent, communicates efficiently and is ethical — at the very least.

President Donald Trump isn't that leader, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic taking more and more lives each day.

Renowned journalist Bob Woodard spoke with Trump in February before the first COVID-19

related death was confirmed in the U.S. At that time, Trump already knew the severity of the virus, saying it was deadlier than the flu and "tricky" due to its airborne transmission, yet he downplayed the virus as millions became infected and hundreds of thousands died.

When the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention made its initial recommendation April 3 for the public to wear cloth or face coverings, Trump said it was going to be a "voluntary thing."

"You can do it. You don't have to do it. I'm choosing not to do it, but some people may want to do it, and that's OK," Trump said. "They're making a recommendation. It's only a recommendation."

Although mask wearing has become extremely politicized, a study published in *Nature Medicine* this month asserted that wearing masks may possibly save well over 100,000 lives through the end of February 2021.

More than 227,000 COVID-19 deaths and more than 8.85 million cases are evidence of the consequences of downplaying the severity of a deadly virus. Not

only can the president not protect American citizens, he can't even protect himself.

Trump announced he tested positive for COVID-19 in early October and went on to spend four days at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington D.C., after being treated with various medications including remdesivir, then after being released from the hospital, he once again dismissed the pandemic by telling Americans "don't be afraid of it" and saying he felt "better than 20 years ago."

Two words: tone deaf. And it must be nice to have 24/7 access to health care and experimental drugs, all while recovering in a luxurious presidential hospital room.

If the President of the United States downplays a global pandemic even after contracting the virus himself then what is the public going to think? On Oct. 17, only 12 days after being discharged from the hospital, Trump held a campaign rally in Janesville, Wisconsin in Rocky County, which recently reported its highest levels of COVID-19 cases.

"... he can't even protect himself."

-Isaiah Ramirez

The desire to hold public rallies, disregard the health recommendations of experienced scientists and go forward with business as usual, are irresponsible, selfish and deadly concepts for Trump to grasp. Pushing aside the pandemic along with the heartbreak it has caused millions of Americans, is not the act leadership but rather not an act of irresponsibility.

Those around Trump have also tested positive for the virus including First Lady Melania Trump, Barron Trump and his top aides like Hope Hicks and Stephen Miller. Despite experiencing the virus firsthand, Trump has focused his attention on discussing anything other than ways to flatten the curve. Instead he told the public he is a leader for simply

going to Walter Reed, noting nobody would have done what he did, which is a load of baloney (bologna if we're being fancy).

A leader puts others before themselves, but Trump has failed to take the necessary actions that he should have taken in the initial stages of the pandemic. As a result, this country and its people has greatly suffered.

He has mocked the necessary restrictions and guidelines set in place by the country's top health officials, and even mocked Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden for wearing a mask during their presidential debate.

The health and safety of those living in this country should be a top priority for America's leaders, but unfortunately, it isn't for Trump. He is not the leader this country needs or has needed. My hope is that this pandemic does not continue to define our country more than it already has and we come out of this political nightmare stronger on Nov. 3.

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Business

Health care tech to drones: Business competition fosters innovation

Sven Kline

The Prospector

On its third year, the Mike Loya Center for Innovation and Commerce has returned once again with its four week-long business pitch competition, a contest between groups of students competing with business ideas for a cash reward in funding and the opportunity to network.

Sponsored by Studio G, the competition is currently being held virtually as teams workshop their ideas for a chance to win \$1,700 to utilize for their business venture. Formed with the intent of aiding entrepreneurial university students and alumni, Omar Delgado, research coordinator at the Mike Loya Center who also oversees Studio G, said the competitions "are designed to provide learning, funding, and networking opportunities to student entrepreneurs from a variety of academic and professional backgrounds."

"Students may use the cash awards from the competition to help fund imminent tasks in their venture's trajectories," Delgado

said. "Furthermore, candidates will enhance their business pitch, which will improve their effectiveness in pitching to potential investors. A winning pitch is essential to all entrepreneurs as they embark on seeking investments from funding entities, such as angel investors and venture capitalists."

This year's cohort consists of three teams; the INIIB, Triple L, and the ASIRA Technologies LLC.

"(Our idea) is a tangible anatomical model made with a 3D printer (3D X-Ray Model) for your doctor and the patient to have a clear understanding of what is happening inside your body before a surgery," said Jesus De Pablo of team INIIB. "Additionally, if you need a prosthesis for the surgery, like a cranial plate, with the anatomical model that we previously made, we will 3D print it and make sure it is an almost perfect fit for your body."

According to De Pablo, the anatomical model and prosthesis will give doctors a visible outlook before surgery, reducing patient's recovery and surgeons operating room time.

"We strongly believe the path we are taking along with research, will

be the future of diagnostic imaging," De Pablo said.

Triple L on the other hand is focusing on developing a business with a strong consumer relationship by developing a car wash mobile application.

"Our business idea is a platform to self-employ people to wash cars based on the customer's location, using ecological products. Think about Uber but implementing the concept of car washing," said Alan Lopez a UTEP graduate student part of the Triple L team.

Triple L's goal is to make its business appealing to both the consumer and the employee, Lopez explained. Consumers will benefit from having an ecological car wash delivered to their home, while employees will have the flexibility to work according to their own schedule.

"We believe that creating a mobile application will establish a stronger consumer relationship. Especially using the idea of geolocation, because then we can notify them about our service directly to their phones when we are at a close distance," Lopez said, believing

his team's business idea will be most appealing to the judges. "Our generation has a greater awareness to environmental changes; therefore, our service will appeal to its caring for the planet."

The ASIRA Technologies LLC's business idea consists of two parts, as explained by team member Daniel Rios, the "services" and "products."

"The services are drone mapping and land surveying using the latest technology in drone and processing this information into a project management software," Rios said. "Our products will be that part of the revenue from the services will help fund innovations in drone technology and its applications into dangerous situations such as fires, gas contamination, search and rescue."

Rios and the rest of the team, hope their business idea can also appeal to UTEP students who may be interested in the topic of drones.

"The use implementation of drone technology is becoming more evident in many parts of the country and we believe it is a technology that will keep going," Rios said. "With this business idea, we could offer jobs, opportunities to UTEP students

interested in this area and keep innovating this type of technology."

Though only one team have the chance to win the funding prize, all teams have the potential to win bonus prizes for participating and the opportunity to learn valuable skills in the business field.

"Candidates receive valuable guidance and feedback from subject matter experts from the Mike Loya Center for Innovation and Commerce and Studio G, as well as from the startup experts comprising the judging panel," Delgado said. "The teams gain valuable knowledge and experience to present at other pitch competitions within the program, as well as in local, state, and nationwide competitions."

With a plethora of candidates and ideas, this year's participants, soon to be determined winners, are set to bring innovative ideas and jobs to the local community.

The cohort meets virtually every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for the four weeks of October from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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VOLUME 106, NO. 6

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The Prospector is published by the Student Media and Publications Board, 105 Union East, 500 W. University Ave. El Paso, Texas, 79968. The Prospector appears in print once per week on Tuesdays during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper is not printed during holidays and when classes are not in session. The Prospector does provide news online at www.theprospectordaily.com.

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Cases from cover page

when you arrive at the drive-through site, please be sure to read the signs and fill out the online registration while you are waiting your turn for testing. The state testing registration form is not the same as UTEP's Coronavirus Proactive Testing Program consent form to participate in walk-up testing on campus.

The purpose of the designated UTEP line is the convenient option it gives UTEP students that are taking classes entirely online, and faculty and staff that are working remotely as well as allowing their family members to get tested in a faster line than the general public.

Comparison: universities and cities

New Mexico State University (NMSU) which is in proximity to UTEP reported 64 positive cases since Oct. 5 with 40 cases reported in the last two weeks.

There are 5,965 active cases in Dona Ana County with an average of 151 cases reported over the last seven days. Dona Anna County is New Mexico's southern hot spot according to the Las Cruces Sun News with the second highest case total among the states 33 counties.

Over the last seven days Rice University located in Houston, Texas conducted 4,768 tests with five positive reported tests. Since Aug. 1, Rice has conducted 48,225 tests with 49 reported positive cases.

NMSU and Rice University's COVID-19 testing program is similar to UTEP's in that it is voluntary, and its purpose is to find asymptomatic individuals who will be on campus during the fall semester.

El Paso currently has a daily average of 1,080 cases over the past seven days which is the highest reported average in the State of Texas.

El Paso County Judge Richard Samanigo imposed a curfew Oct. 25 to be set in place for the next two weeks to slow the spread of the COVID-19 crisis within the city.

Other testing locations

Testing Locations in El Paso include El Paso Community College Valle Verde Campus, 919 Hunter Dr.; Nation Tobin Recreation Center, 8831 Railroad Dr.; and SISD's Student Activities Complex, 1300 Joe Battle Blvd, as well as the UTEP state drive-thru testing site.

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Musicians from cover page

more effort to find people to collaborate with who aren't going to take advantage of them or use them just as the 'token' female in the group," Valdez said.

While Valdez admits she's lucky to have made connections with the right people some of her closer fellow female musicians haven't been as fortunate.

"I'm close friends with a girl that did go through something like that with her band," Valdez said. "They were all male and they just used her for sex appeal, rather than for her talents and she's so talented."

With looks and appearances dictating the value of women in music, the sheer pressure to look a certain way and be extremely talented to have a chance at being successful can take a serious toll on young women's self-esteem.

"Just for being a female, you're not recognized for your talents and hard work as a musician, instead you're only seen as a token female," Valdez said.

Predatory attitudes

As a trumpet player, Newberry entered one of the most male-dominated environments for musicians. If you were to look up "trumpeter (musician)" on Google, only a single woman is listed among 50 artists recognized for playing this particular instrument.

"I had very difficult experiences with my trumpet professor, when I was an undergraduate, he would use sexual metaphors all the time involving parts of the male anatomy to describe music," Newberry said. "I feel like he did it just to embarrass me, because I was a girl, and I didn't know how to deal with it."

Valdez has been playing the drums for 10 years in El Paso. She began her journey when she was 16 years old, encountering abuse as a female artist shortly after.

"When I was playing in bands in my late teens and early twenties, that's when I experienced 'machismo' the most," Valdez said. "It's a predatory attitude in that people know exactly who to take advantage of, they know who they can use."

Both Newberry and Valdez were victims of sexual harassment at a young age.

"During my undergraduate degree I experienced some things that are still very traumatic for me, even 40 or 50 years later," Newberry said. "One of the orchestra directors, in charge of assigning the parts of the

symphony, would say that if we wore shorter skirts, he would give us better parts, and would constantly tell off-color, sexual jokes. I was 19, I was terrified, so I would just laugh and nod along."

Those involved in taking advantage of women in the music industry, are usually people familiar with them: directors, producers, colleagues or fellow band members.

"It's interesting because even though you end up working with and playing with people whom you consider your friends, this still manifests," Valdez said.

This behavior can create an uncomfortable environment for female musicians, at best, and a life threatening one, at worst.

"It's hard to realize that you don't have to deal with it, you don't have to be treated this way," Valdez said. "It usually goes away once you find your voice, but some people never do."

Culture of machismo and abuse

Through her personal experiences and career research, Newberry said El Paso has been approving and embracing of female leaders in music.

"I have experienced the El Paso scene as very supportive to me as a woman musician," Newberry said. "But I think it's because I'm at a much different point in my career, since I have heard from younger women that they have had more issues or pushback when trying to break into the music business."

Newberry is a band director and music teacher and plays in a local band with her husband.

"I haven't ran into any machismo while playing, but I think it's because my time performing here in El Paso has always been alongside my husband," Newberry said. "Other men won't mistreat you if you're with a man."

If women are not bothered or harassed by men when another man is in her company, then this begs for the question of: who are they really respecting?

However, it's important to note the environments in which abuse, harassment, and machismo take place. These are usually settings with young crowds and young musicians.

"I have 100% seen machismo in the El Paso music scene," Valdez said. "You have to be much better than the men as a female musician. Just to get people to listen, you have to steal their attention by being extraordinary. That is square one for women: you have to be great."

Young local female artists like

Valdez, are still proving themselves as worthy in an industry that only deems them as such, if they exceed expectations or follow along with disrespectful and abusive agendas.

"Since you obviously can't start out being amazing, you remain unknown for a while, and you are overshadowed, naturally," Valdez said. "I can't speak for other cities, but for sure in El Paso that's just the way that it works."

Valdez, who performs at local bars, admits she rarely sees female musicians, as machismo abounds among young male musicians.

"There is sexism, but also straight up abuse: physical, emotional, verbal abuse, from people that are your colleagues, people you should trust," Valdez said.

For this reason, local online groups like "Chingonxs For Change" on Instagram, have emerged in order to support survivors in the El Paso music and art scene in response to its machista culture and "in the interest of restorative justice and healing."

Reports of sexual assault in El Paso

In El Paso, sexual assault merely accounted for 2%, rising to 3% in northeast, of a total of 19,315 crimes documented on 2018, according to the El Paso Police Department's (EPPD) annual report of that same year.

When compared to national clearance rates of sexual assault, El Paso's percentage of cases is slightly lower, comprising 28.6% against the national average of 34.5%.

Nonetheless, this percentage does not include the incidents and crimes that went unreported.

While both Newberry and Valdez don't recall hearing about specific cases of sexual assault within the UTEP community, the results of a 2017 student survey indicate otherwise.

The online questionnaire, conducted by UT Austin's Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, was taken by alumni within the University of Texas (UT) system, including 3,012 UTEP students, according to the El Paso Times.

The survey focused on offenses like stalking, sexual harassment, sexual and domestic/dating violence involving students within UT institutions, both on and off campus.

UTEP's results revealed 7% of students had been raped after enrollment, 17% of female undergraduates reported being stalked, 20% of students reported being sexually harassed by fellow

UTEP alumnus, and 12% reported sexist gender harassment by either a faculty or staff member of the university.

Though UTEP's percentages matched the average for institutions across the UT system by reporting 6%, 13%, 25%, and 14%, respectively, they were still alarming.

"Even one case of sexual harassment or assault is too many," Gary Edens, UTEP's vice president for student affairs, told the El Paso Times in March 2017.

The results of these questionnaires let UTEP officials and leaders know students weren't speaking out when being victim of any of these offenses, considering only 11% of victims confided in a UTEP faculty or staff member, according to Edens.

"We want to make sure that students are comfortable, and this is an open and safe environment to report anything that has happened," Edens said.

In 2017, according to UTEP's 2018 annual security report, five cases of rape were reported on campus property, along with one case of fondling, one case of domestic violence, four cases of dating violence, and 16 cases of stalking.

The reported cases show a low percentage of victims e than those on the survey, indicating the vast issue of under-reporting among UTEP students.

'You can prevail'

Despite the odds stacked against female artists, female musicians across the globe, like Newberry and Valdez, have been amplifying their voices in favor of progress and awareness on sexual abuse.

As for conquering specific gender obstacles, Valdez said it starts with learning one's own true value and where it lies in the world.

"A good relationship with yourself, is probably the best thing that can help you get by through these struggles, learning to respect your journey, talents, and hard work is essential," Valdez said. "Just continue to remind yourself that you're a badass, and to never accept anything less than respect from others."

Having overcome obstacles herself, Newberry has this piece of advice for young women who are starting their artistic career.

"Be tenacious, hold on, insist on your work and your profession because you can prevail," Newberry said.

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Group says accessible parking costs too much

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

An online petition by the Texas State Employees Union (TSEU) is asking UTEP to make its Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) parking spaces on campus free of charge for individuals with disabilities.

As of Oct. 19, the "UTEP: Reverse Exclusionary ADA Parking Permit Prices" petition has 1,859 signatures, only 141 away from its goal of 2,000. According to TSEU, UTEP's ADA parking fee for 2019-2020 school year was "the highest" among University of Texas institutions, costing \$500 and \$250 for employees and students.

"To keep the campus accessible to its faculty, staff, and students, especially those who are disabled, we demand that the University immediately address its exclusionary ADA parking permits," TSEU wrote in the petition addressed to UTEP

President Heather Wilson, Vice President for Business Affairs Mark McGurk, and Director of Parking and Transportation Jerri Herrera.

The next highest ADA parking prices, according to the petition, stemmed from the University of Texas at Arlington with prices ranging from \$200-\$273. The lowest fee came from The University of Texas of the Permian Basin with \$55. UTEP first responded to the petition in an interview conducted by KTSM Channel 9, where McGurk said the parking fees at UTEP pay for services such as the institution's parking garages and shuttle services.

McGurk told The Prospector that all of the UTEP employees and students that are buying inner campus permits pay the exact same price as the ones for the ADA parking permit. McGurk added that the comparison of the data collected by the TSEU is not an apples-to-apples comparison and UTPB's low

charge of fifty dollars is due to the university only having surface lots available for parking. UTPB does not have any parking garages like UTEP, McGurk explained.

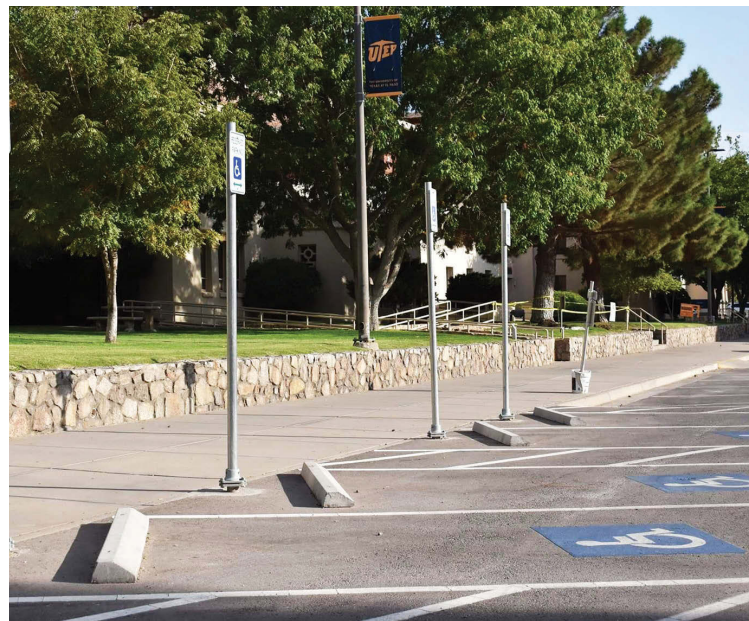
McGurk said the group's charges are "misleading" because other costs factor in, saying it is not the highest rate in the entire University of Texas System.

"When you build a parking garage, you pay debt surface normally over a 30-year period and it cost around \$25,000 per parking space, so they are very expensive to build," McGurk said.

Others think that it's strange that so much parking revenue is required to subsidize infrastructure and maintenance costs.

"I think part of the issue is that it is interesting that our parking permits would have to pay for the infrastructure and maintenance of

See Disabled on page 4



Photograph by Salette Ontiveros/The Prospector

UTEP's ADA parking fee for the 2019-2020 school year was the highest amongst University of Texas institutions with a \$500 fee and \$250 fee for employees and students, respectively.

Entrepreneurship challenge promotes green energy

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

A new grant-funded initiative at UTEP is set to promote sustainability, green energy and entrepreneurship — all at the same time.

The “Green Energy Entrepreneurship Challenge” is a three-day bootcamp that will consist of a green energy business pitch competition where UTEP students will participate as part of the curriculum for certain courses. They can also earn prizes at the end of the competition.

The initiative is being spearheaded by Hadjimarcou, Ph.D. chairman of the College of Business Administration’s marketing and management program, as principal investigator and Michael Garcia, director of the Mike Loya Center for Innovation and Commerce as the co-principal investigator.

The Green Energy Challenge will also consist of workshops sponsored by Venture Well, an organization that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship in higher education, which the same group providing a \$10,000 to the project.

According to the organization’s website, the grant is known as a “faculty planning grant” with the goal of implementing workshops to build concepts of sustainability into the curriculum of existing college courses while building new circular programs that include modern concepts of sustainability.

UTEP has already been in talks with the University of Texas at the



Photo courtesy of UTEP

In this project, students will participate in a three-day virtual Bootcamp as part of their classroom curriculum to create, build, or modify services, products, or processes in clean-tech sectors.

Rio Grande Valley on developing the workshops and holding virtual events in the future relating to the sustainability challenge with community partners such as El Paso Electric.

“One of the reasons we got the grant is because we entered into a collaboration with UTRGV and we are working together where we both develop workshops and events that cover the whole Rio Grande Valley,” Garcia said.

Garcia said that Venture Well is very interested in being able to better serve the Hispanic demographic and both universities will help in that effort.

Initially the Mike Loya Center’s idea for The Green Energy Challenge

was for it to be a single event that would focus on developing renewable and sustainable sources in this region.

That idea was scrapped in place of the workshops stemming from Venture Well’s desire to see the sustainability concepts in UTEP’s curriculum instead.

“Venture Well told us that our idea for an event was great, but what they really wanted to see was those kinds of concepts built into the curriculum and what we are teaching in our classes,” Garcia said.

Within the workshops, the main topics will cover how to be an entrepreneur, understanding the different kinds of markets in business, financial planning

associated with starting a business, while weaving in concepts of sustainability.

But the coronavirus pandemic did bring upon difficulties in organizing the Green Energy Challenge.

Purchasing extended Zoom licenses, Web X platform licenses, and becoming more efficient at Microsoft Teams were just a few of the hurdles that Hadjimarcou and Garcia had to figure out how to jump over.

“This environment is very challenging and takes a lot more work and planning, but the Mike Loya Center figured it out early,” Garcia said. “It’s very challenging for our customers and clients, who are the people that engage with our students in the competition, that there is no way to assure how things are like on their side as far as connectivity.”

But despite the obstacles, the team at the Mike Loya Center along with Hadjimarcou found a way to make it work.

“This is a team effort from our principal investigator who is a consulate expert in this field to our team at the Mike Loya Center which includes research and we have a very dedicated team that is making this happen,” Garcia said.

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Disabled from page 3 the garages,” Murga, Ph.D., associate professor, graduate adviser and associate chair in UTEP’s department of sociology and anthropology, said.

Chew, Ph.D., associate professor of instruction in the department of history, was one of the individuals that worked with the TSEU to create the petition believes the ADA community should have been consulted prior to initiation of the parking projects.

“It is very unfair to charge certain sectors of the population without first asking them if they feel that it is a cost that are willing and able to pay,” Chew said.

Several individuals took to social media to express their opinion on UTEP’s ADA parking prices.

One Twitter user named Lydia O’Dell said, “You have to pay to park in their ADA spots? I get having a parking permit in general but whole ass extra one if your disabled?”

According to UTEP’s parking website, disabled parking areas are enforced 24 hours a day. A ‘Class H’, which is a UTEP ADA parking permit, allows the holder to park in any ADA space in the color zone designated by the permit, except for those spaces specifically marked as reserved.

Annual permit fees are assessed based on the zone requested. ADA inner campus parking for the 2020-2021 school year is \$525 for employees and \$200 for students. The parking site also mentions that if an individual is unable to find an ADA designated space, they may park in any available space that is not a reserved space.

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NOVEMBER 3, 2020

EDITOR PAULINA ASTRID SPENCER, 747-5161

Hotel reopening reveals multi-million-dollar renovation

Alyson Rodriguez

The Prospector

More than a hundred years since its original opening, the historic Hotel Paso del Norte in downtown El Paso reopened its doors to the public after a multi-million-dollar renovation.

The newly refined hotel, originally opened on Thanksgiving Day 107 years ago, underwent a \$1.5 million renovation making it one of the sturdiest structures in El Paso.

Zach T. White, a local businessman, financed the renovation of the 351-room hotel with the goal of restoring the hotel to its original glory. The building, originally designed by Trost & Trost, was envisioned to be a first-class hotel that would attract people to the Southwest.

Some new features of the hotel include the distinguished dome bar, which stands at 25 feet in diameter, with a mosaic Tiffany glass covering the top of the black and white marble bar. From the high ceilings cascading down from the dome are four original chandeliers, accompanied by accented walls with red and gold trimmings. In the lobby there is an 8-foot bronze statue of the famous Mexican General Pancho Villa welcoming the U.S. General John J. Pershing. There is also over 33,000 square feet of space for guests to host meetings, events, and special celebrations.

The three restaurants located in the hotel have a distinct culinary scene and southwestern décor. Drinks and food served at the restaurants are inspired by El Paso, the Texas mountain and Basin



Photograph by Salette Ontiveros/The Prospector

The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places on January 5.

region. They serve enchiladas made with handmade tortillas from Sabor, hand cut steaks from 1700 degrees Steak House and homemade gelato with freshly baked items from Dulce.

The rooms have a south western motif and offer views of the Franklin mountains, Juarez, and downtown El Paso. Other newly lavish amenities include the 10th floor rooftop pool, boutique, cigar bar, fitness center, and upcoming spa with a state-of-the-art salt therapy room.

According to a Paso del Norte Hotel's newsletter the early 20th century, guests would celebrate with drinks while watching the Mexican revolution from the hotel's 10th floor.

The Paso del Norte hotel was originally scheduled to open in 2018 but was delayed due to construction

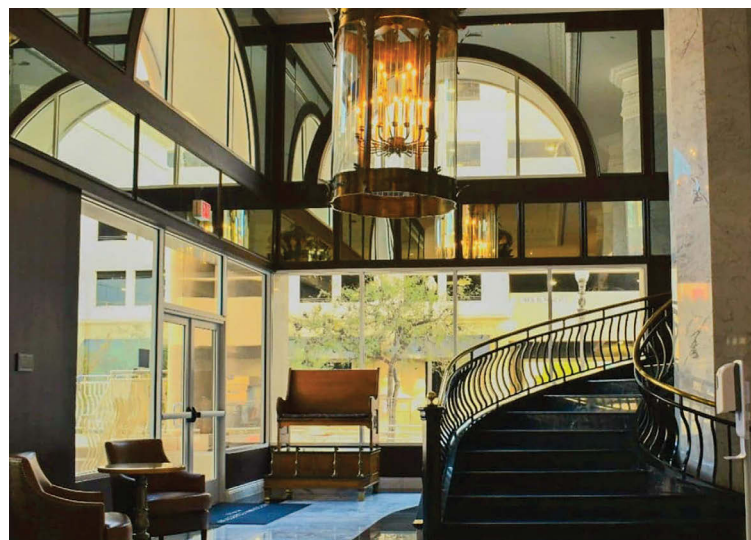
issues and COVID-19 business restrictions.

However, the hotel is now open for safe travel and dining. It is among one of the world's first hotels to open with a virus-killing air filtration system throughout the property. Its state-of-the-art plasma air system can kill 99% of bacteriophage in the air after 10 minutes of use.

The hotel opened its doors on Oct. 8, and hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 15.

For more information about the hotel one may visit its website at www.hotelpdn.com.

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Photograph by Salette Ontiveros/The Prospector

The newly refined building underwent a \$1.5 million renovation.



Photograph by Salette Ontiveros/The Prospector

It recently underwent a complete and total renovation, and reopened its doors as part of Marriott's Autograph Collection on October 8.

Leyendas keep folklore alive

Exodis Ward

The Prospector

"La Llorona," "El Cucuy" and "El Chupacabras" may be familiar names to some El Pasoans, who grew up hearing scary stories in the borderland. Though it seems that these stories are just to scare children, they play an integral part in El Paso's culture. Meredith Abarca, Ph.D., a literature professor at UTEP who teaches a Mexican folklore course, explained the importance of folklore in the borderland.

"Folklore helps maintain a sense of cultural practices and beliefs. It's created out of necessity, to share world views and ways of looking at life, by common folk," Abarca said. "It keeps a connection to the past while having room for modifications for the present and the future."

By recounting "leyendas," or legends, culture and tradition can be passed on from one generation to the next through the form of music and stories. Families also use legends to teach lessons to children about safety and morality.

The legend of La Llorona ("The Weeping Woman"), is an example of a famous Mexican legend that has been told in the Southwest from generation to generation. The tale tells the story of a young woman who married a rich man and had two children. One day she finds her husband with another woman, so in a fit of rage, she drowns her children in

a river. After realizing what she had done, she drowns herself too. When she arrives to the afterlife, she's asked where her children are. She says she doesn't know and isn't allowed into the afterlife until she finds them. As a result, she roams near bodies of water looking for her children while screaming "ay, mis hijos," or "oh, my children".

"Go back to Greek mythology, you have her. (La Llorona.) This is archetypes," Abarca said. "That's another thing certain, traditions carry on and transcend cultural traditions. They change."

Abarca grew up in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas and had a similar story told because of the river near her home, but as she's grown older, she's also heard other versions.

"I have students from Chihuahua and La Sierra, where she (La Llorona) lives by the cliff or the lake. It depends on the geography. The specifics of the story are going to change but not so much the implications of the story," Abarca said.

El Cucuy in Mexico, the Boogeyman in America and Croque Mitaine in France is another example of how lore is transformed depending on the place of origin. The Mexican urban legend focuses on the story of a father who locked his kids in a closet after misbehaving. Later that day, he went into town, forgetting his

See Folklore on page 6

'Trial of Chicago 7' an echo of today's society

Marisol Adame

The Prospector

For anyone wondering why The Trial of the Chicago 7 so successfully portrays a story from 1968 and makes it so relevant to the current state of the country, it's not just because of excellent screenwriting and outstanding performances. It's also because it inherently reflects we are bound to repeat and continue on repeating our history through the injustices of a broken system.

During many instances I felt my blood boil and quickly rise to my head, and I would find myself constantly clenching my fists in frustration. My eyes filled up with tears in the exact manner that Bobby Seale's, portrayed by Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, eyes did when he was gagged in court by a Judge's ruling, which happened after many attempts at trying to defend his right to counsel in the same court. These reactions happened because I was recognizing these scenes that echo so many of today's stories.

I got all these feelings because I knew that I was not seeing just a movie based on past events, but I was seeing a reflection of a movie we're all currently living through. I kept thinking about who will write the movie script, 40-50 years from today, about the current events and protests. Who will play the role of those who are seeking justice out on the streets and are being gassed,

tasered, beaten, arrested or even run over? Is anybody right now making a list of names of all the lives that have been taken and lost so far?

Then I realized that while we can't decide who will play our role in the future, we can decide what role we get to play in the present. We can decide to use our voice, especially and specifically through voting within the next few weeks.

Another aspect that The Trial of the Chicago 7 helped me reflect on is how the perception of individuals that are part of a larger movement or group, can easily be taken out of context. Here are these people on trial for taking their ideas and defending their rights in a country that needs healing as much as they do; but their representation of those ideas was taken out of context which developed into chaotic and tragic events. It can often become easy to judge certain movements based on what we read or see in the news or on the internet but what a movie like this one does is present each individual side of what every person is going through. A movie like this can help us empathize with individuals on a much more human level.

For a moment, while watching the film, I was feeling hopeless and trapped in a horrible cycle of injustice, violence, loss and helplessness. And then in the scene where Abbie Hoffman, portrayed by Sacha Baron Cohen, takes the

stand he mentions something that gave off a bit of release and a bit of hope. He quotes president Lincoln in his inaugural address in which he said, "When the people shall grow weary of their constitutional right to amend their government, they shall exert their revolutionary right to dismember and overthrow that government." Then Hoffman is questioned as to how a government can be overthrown or dismembered peacefully and to this Hoffman responds, "In this country, we do it every four years." And although some of the terms used in these quotes may seem radical or extreme, they speak to a desire and need for change under dire circumstances. I believe this scene is among the ones that resonated most with me. Because even if at this moment some people might not feel confident in that voting is enough to fix a broken system, it is a starting point.

The Trial of the Chicago 7 helped me understand that it is, now more than ever, time to vote the change we want to see. It is time to get informed and let our voice be heard. And whether we choose to get to the nearest voting poll or mail in our vote, we must do it now. November 3rd is the deadline and it's getting closer and closer. It's time to vote because our lives depend on it.

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Books, shows, and games to binge during pandemic

Exodis Ward

The Prospector

The adjustment period for quarantine was rough for many of us. We went on Spring Break last semester and never returned to in-person lectures. Nothing could've prepared us for the way this year would go. As we prepare for our potential second lockdown, I thought about how I managed to stay sane the first time. Here's what I read, watched and played during lockdown.

To read

"Sharp Objects" by Gillian Flynn

Back from a brief stay in the psych ward, journalist Camille Preaker returns to her small hometown to get the story of two young girls who were murdered. For years, Camille has avoided speaking to her hypochondriac mother and her seemingly perfect half-sister. Back in her Victorian-style mansion, Camille finds herself relating to the victims. Camille must deal with the psychological puzzle of her past to get the story.

This one threw me for a loop. Not only did it grab me from the beginning, it kept me hooked. The book is loaded with memorable characters and dark twists. Even when you think you understand something, there's even more layers to it. I was sure I knew how the book would end and in the last five pages, I was pleasantly surprised. I will recommend this book to fans of mysteries.

"The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls

"The Glass Castle" is a memoir of Jeannette Walls' vibrant childhood. When he was sober, Jeanette's father was an intelligent, charismatic man. Her mother was an equally



Photo courtesy of EA

The Sims 4, a life simulation game that gives power to create and control people.

vibrant artist, who didn't want to be a mother. The book centers around the Walls children, who raised themselves and took care of one another.

A two-year-old Jeanette Walls stands on a stool, boiling weenies. She sets on fire soon after. The shock value and questions I had are what lead me to read the book. It quickly became one of my favorites to reread. The resilience of the children is remarkable; Despite their flighty parents, they all grew up to be successful people. I have a few memoirs I enjoy reading and this one is worth picking up over and over.

"In the Woods" by Tana French

Three children leave their tiny neighborhood in Dublin to play in the forest. When the children don't return, the police search begins. One of the three children is found with

his shoes soaked in blood and his memory of what happened, gone. The book follows the boy as an adult. He's a detective investigating the murder in a young girl in those same woods. As he uncovers the mystery, he uncovers his past as well.

I'm currently reading this one. It's gripping, dark and intriguing. Though I haven't finished the book yet, I'm curious about the author's use of symbolism.

To watch

Twitch app

Twitch is an app where people can livestream anything. I'd always known about it, but never felt the need to download it. I never really have free time to watch anything other than a couple of YouTube videos before bed. With this newfound free time, I watched gamers stream, create music or just

chat. Not only did I discover some talented streamers, it was cool to connect to others.

Netflix

With all the negativity on the news, I think it's fair to say we all could use some laughs. Netflix's Community and Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt are great shows for laughs. When I want to watch something dramatic, I watch Grey's Anatomy. Grey's Anatomy has 16 seasons, so I'll never run out of episodes to watch. Ozark's is another favorite of mine. The storyline is ridiculously good, and I've re-watched it twice.

Hulu

Killing Eve follows Eve Polastri a British intelligence investigator in charge of profiling the killer responsible for a series of mysterious murders in Europe. The more she and the assassin become intertwined. This show is crazy, absolutely insane. The show teeters dark and can tilt toward comedic in a millisecond. Sometimes, you'll find yourself laughing as the dark stuff happens, it's remarkable. Jodie Comer and Sandra Oh are complete stars.

To play

The Last of Us: Part 2

I know mentioning this game in this list is going to leave a sour taste in some people's mouths, but this game dropped in June and I've spent an ungodly amount of time on it. Say what you want about the story, but you can't deny the combat is fun. The new mechanics make combat more engaging and the encounters exciting. The locations are gorgeous and lush. Personally, I enjoy the new customization elements they added.

Playing the game with the least number of materials available adds a new layer to the game. The game seems to shine in that aspect.

The Sims 4

The Sims 4 game is the type of game that you binge play for six months and don't look at again for the other six months. I'm not a huge fan of playing with actual sims unless I'm ruining lives, but over quarantine, I found myself spending hours building houses. The variety of tools allows for any type of style of home to be built: Modern, Cottage, Mediterranean. Lately, I've been on a tiny home kick. I absolutely love to stuff as much furniture as I can into the smallest amount of space. It's easy to lose track of time on this one.

Minecraft

Minecraft was a wonderful way to connect when we couldn't leave our homes. I spent a lot of time with my nieces and nephews in this game. My favorite part of this game is that there's no "proper" way to play. Some players like to build. Some like to explore and fight to survive. Other players can make it their goal fight the Enderdragon and find treasure. I appreciate the openness of the game and the relaxing soundtracks. This one will eat up your time too.

Though I'm in the middle of the semester and I won't have time for games, maybe this list can provide time-wasting ideas for when the semester is over, and students find themselves with loads of free time.

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Folklore from page 5

children were still inside the closet. When he returned, he discovered his barn and home on fire, along with his children dead. The cursed man spent years looking for his children inside different closets, eventually he began growing an appetite for them.

Although the story slightly changes according to location, the lesson remains the same: behave or face the repercussions.

There are minor differences in the stories, for example, El Cucuy is often described as a hairy monster. The Boogeyman is described as a masculine or androgynous figure, while the Croque Mitaine is a spirit.

"There are a number of those types of legends," Abarca said.

Abarca also discussed the similarities between Robin Hood and Juan Malverde. Both were known for stealing from the rich to give to the poor. Location aside, the biggest difference between the two men was that Malverde became a saint.

If one is questioning how different cultures share the same leyendas, Abarca explains humans share the same struggles; therefore, relating to the same tales.

"As the human species, we're dealing with the same issues: life, death, hunger, religion or spirituality, afterlife," Abarca said. "In cultural practices, we find expression for them and that's why you find similar traditions across different cultures. I find it wonderful that folklore is in all of us and what we do."

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In Review: Animal Crossing soothes mid-semester anxiety, pandemic apprehension

Exodis Ward

The Prospector

As the semester chugs along, I've been looking for new ways to wind down before bed. I'm a huge fan of reading, but lately I've been reaching for my switch to play Animal Crossing: New Horizons. It's easy to see why; between the calming music, enthusiastic characters and flexible to-do lists, its relaxing to forget the impending doom on Blackboard.

Here's why Animal Crossing is the perfect game to wind down with:

There's no pandemic

Life has surrounded the pandemic for so long that when I watch television, I find myself thinking, "Where is their mask?" or "Why are they so close to each other?" Now, don't get me wrong; this pandemic IS a big deal. Between the upcoming election, the sharp increase in Covid cases in El Paso, classwork and actual work, it's been exhausting. It's literally depressing news all-day, every day. I've worked so hard to avoid being morbid. It's exhausting. At the end of the day, it's nice to forget how bleak things are. Even if it's for a short matter of time. In fact, the Centers for Disease control recommends taking breaks from watching the news to preserve mental health. With that in mind, I encourage other students to find

something to distract themselves from the news outside.

Connecting with others

The CDC recommends people maintaining healthy relationships and build a strong support system to get through traumatic times, such as a pandemic. With city-wide orders set to stay away from others, it can be hard. Calling, texting and Zoom calls have exploded in popularity but, meet-ups in Animal Crossing are fun too. It's not quite the same as visiting friends and family but it's still fun. With Halloween coming up and restrictions set, it can be a fun substitute for traditional trick-or-treating. Even if we can't mingle in real life, we can mingle in game which almost half as cool.

The tasks are fulfilling

Do you know how fulfilling it is to watch an island come together? I chose where to put my shops and houses. Also, doing the little "chores" for the day are calming: Fishing, gardening, picking fruits and selling goods is a good way to calm the mind. Also, the customization aspect of the game is easy to get lost in. The CDC recommends spending time on activities you enjoy to protect your psyche, so I spend a lot of time customizing my island. Most recently, I spent the evening beautifying my orchard and flower

garden. It was relaxing.

Time exists, but not really

In a world that full of deadlines and impending doom, it's nice to have a space where there's literally no expectations. Tom Nook will ask you to do certain tasks, but there's no timeline for them. Recently, I needed to create furniture for the three new villagers that were arriving. I could've taken all week but I ended up making the pieces in the evening. I absolutely love that there's no rush to do anything. I love being in control of when things get done and how quickly they get done.



Photograph by Hugo Hinojosa/The Prospector

Animal Crossing offers a variety of activities to play with friends.

SPORTS

NOVEMBER 3, 2020

EDITOR MICHAEL CUVIELLO, 747-5161

Miners tentatively set to play against FIU

Michael CuvIELLO

The Prospector

The UTEP Miners are scheduled to play the Florida International University (FIU) Panthers Nov. 7 if COVID-19 precautions do not derail the matchup.

Both teams are coming off a weekend in which its games were canceled due to pandemic precautions.

North Texas canceled its game at UTEP due to the current spike in El Paso and FIU's cases had to call off its game at Marshall due to multiple positive tests for the Panthers.

For the season so far, the Miners are 3-3, after winning its first three games, then losing its last three contests. In its past two games, the Miners have played well controlling its games but turnovers and penalties have resulted in losing results.

Currently, the Panthers sit winless at 0-3 while having two games postponed on the season. In its last game played, FIU lost to lower-division opponent Jacksonville State at home 19-10. In that game the Panthers only generated 173 yards of total offense while giving up 444 yards on defense to Jacksonville State. Overall, the Panthers are only averaging 275 yards a game while giving up 458 to opponents.

Offensively for the Panthers have taken a considerable step back, passing the ball after NFL bound James Morgan left for graduation. For the season, the Panthers have shuffled three quarterbacks in and out of the starting lineup, with freshman Stone Norton taking most of the snaps. Norton has completed 53 % of his passes while throwing three touchdowns and no interceptions. Neither of FIU's



Photo courtesy of UTEP

UTEP football players scramble onto the field at Louisiana Monroe, Sept. 26.

other quarterbacks has thrown a touchdown or constructed over 34% of their passes.

One of the few bright spots on offense for the Panthers has been senior running back D'Vonte Price, who has 303 yards rushing with an 8.7 average per rush. Sophomore Shaun Peterson has been a very effective backup running back for FIU with 168 yards on the ground, two touchdowns and a six-yard rushing average. The Panthers have had two runs of over 60 yards for scores this season.

With the struggles at quarterback and the loss of its top four receivers from last season, the receiving corps has had its battles to gain valuable experience. Junior Bryce Singleton is the only receiver with over five catches on the season with seven receptions for 90 yards and a touchdown. Junior Sterling Palmer

is a three-year starter at tight end that has been a reliable target for the Panthers.

The Panthers return three offensive linemen from a front five that was among the best in the nation the previous year and had the least amount of sacks in Conference-USA (C-USA) in 2019 with 14. Unfortunately, the line has already given up 12 sacks in three games this season, as the line has struggled to protect its inexperienced quarterbacks. The line has been consistently good in the run game.

On defense, the Panthers have struggled with little support from the offense at sustaining drives to keep it off the field. FIU lost four of its top four tacklers from last season, including the leader of its defense in linebacker Sage Lewis who led the team in tackles with 93.

Last season's leading pass rusher

for the Panthers has only appeared in the first game of the season for FIU and the team sorely misses his pressure from the end spot. Sophomore Davon Strickland has returned from a season-ending injury that forced him to miss the final nine games to lead the team in sacks with two in three games.

Senior Jamal Gates leads an undersized linebacking corps after being the second leading tackler last season with 85. Gates is currently third on the team in tackles with 19, with fellow senior Tyson Maeva also having 18 tackles on the year along with a sack. Senior Josh Powell, the other starter, has 18 tackles on the season.

FIU's secondary is a deep group even after losing three of its top tacklers from last season. Twin brothers Richard and Rishard Dames are two leaders of the Panther secondary. Currently, Richard leads the team in tackles with 23 while his brother has 15 plus an interception.

Overall, the secondary has only two interceptions in three games and has allowed 245 yards per game in the air.

One place the Panthers have a massive advantage over the Miners is in head coaching experience. Butch Davis is in his fourth season with Panthers and has compiled a 23-19 record, including three bowl appearances in three seasons. Davis's overall college coaching record is 86-62, including stints at the University of Miami and the University of North Carolina. Davis also has NFL coaching experience with two Super Bowl rings as an assistant with the Dallas Cowboys and a head coach at Cleveland.

On paper, this looks like a favorable matchup for the Miners.

The Panther's struggles in the air, along with protecting the quarterback, should give the Miners ample opportunity to get pressure on the quarterback. Focusing on the strong Panther running game should give the Miners a blueprint for success on defense.

Giving up over 300 yards to Jacksonville State should play to the Miners offense's strength with its ability to use multiple backs. A steady dose of freshman Deion Hankins and Ronald Awatt should be a winning game plan. The FIU run defense was also shredded for over 200 yards by Liberty University in its first game of the year. Expect the run early and often against FIU.

Having played twice as many games as the Panther should be a distinct advantage for the Miners against an inexperienced defense. The Panther line has struggled in pass protection, while UTEP has shown vast improvement at getting to the quarterback.

Prediction: Miners 24, Panthers 21

The likelihood of this game going on as scheduled is quite precarious due to the recent COVID-19 spike in cases in El Paso and FIU players testing positive the previous week. Stay tuned for any updates on the status of the game.

UTEP is scheduled to play FIU at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Sun Bowl in El Paso.

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Cross Country finishes among top-10 finishers at C-USA XC Championships

Heriberto Perez

The Prospector

The UTEP men's and women's Cross-Country team competed Saturday, Oct. 31 in Birmingham, Alabama, at the Conference USA (C-USA) Cross Country Championships. Four members of the team finished in the top-10 of the championship. Sophomore Titus Cheruiyot finished in fifth at the men's 8K competence, junior Rodgers Korir in sixth. Senior Carlyne Chepkosgei finished in seventh place at the women's 6K competence and junior Karoline Daland in ninth. Cheruiyot, Korir, and Chepkosgei all earned All-C-USA First Team honors, while Daland was named All-C-USA Second Team.

Cheruiyot clocked in a 24:11.7, earning fifth place, Korir clocked 24:22.97 finished in sixth place. For the rest of the team, sophomore Kenneth Talavera finished in 27th place with his personal record (25:37.03), Boaz Ronoh (26:15.83) placed 38th. Juniors Michael Sims (26:41.61) ranked 49th, and Yusuf

Mohamud (27:50.84) placed 62nd who also registered best personal records.

For the women in the 6K event, Chepkosgei recorded 21:38.43 to finish in seventh place, and Daland registered a personal-best record with 21:39.54 to finish in ninth place. The rest of the team's times for UTEP were sophomores Joan Kimaiyo with 22:59.28 finished in 33rd, and Valerie Gonzalez with 24:57.72 who recorded her best personal time. Senior Andrea Lucero with 23:42.92 finished in 55th, and sophomore Jacquilyn Orozco recorded her season-best time record with 26:23.08.

The men's team finished in fifth place in the championship with 125 points due to the suitable individual performances that the athletes had; Charlotte won the team title with 31 points. The women's finished in seventh place with 175 points; Middle Tennessee won the team event with 31 points. The winner of the women's side was Rice's Grace Forbes, who recorded 19:58.60, and from the men's side, the champion was Charlotte's Nickolas Scudder at

23:36.28.

"I am proud of both the men and women performances at the Conference Championship today," UTEP Cross Country Head Coach Paul Ereng said. "The women managed to place Chepkosgei and Daland in top ten, seventh and ninth. Today's performances shed lots of improvement from the last two meets.

"The men's team also did their best to place Cheruiyot and Korir in first team all-conference in fifth and sixth. I believe these performances were a great effort considering all the challenges we faced throughout the season due to the pandemic. Overall, I'd like to congratulate both teams for their outstanding commitment and performances."

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El Paso Locomotive season in review

Heriberto Perez

The Prospector

The El Paso Locomotive ended up the 2020 USL Championship season as Western Conference finalists and Group C leaders. With a total of 16 games played, the border team had a record of nine winnings, two losses, and five draws, with 24 goals scored and 14 against (+10 goal difference).

"We grew from last year, we showed an improvement, we showed a different level of toughness," Locomotive coach Mark Lowry mentioned in a zoom meeting after they lost the conference final. "So much to be proud of and so much stuff that we can use now to be stronger the next year."

This season started in March, but the Locos just played one game due to COVID-19 and did not resume play until July. In July, El Paso won one game (vs. Rio Grande Valley FC Toros 1-0), lost one (vs. New Mexico United 1-2), and tied one (vs. New Mexico United 2-2).

August started with a defeat from the Locos against the team that

eliminated them in the conference finals; it was against Phoenix Rising FC, who gave El Paso the second defeat of the season 3-1. Then, the Locomotive had two wins in a row and was when they started its undefeated streak against Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC 4-2 and the defending champions the Real Monarchs SLC 1-0. The Locos closed up the month with a goalless draw against Colorado and another victory against Real Monarchs 2-1.

September was an excellent month for the Locomotive; El Paso had four wins in a row against New Mexico 3-2, San Antonio FC 2-1, Colorado again 2-0 and Real Monarchs 1-0. El Paso closed out the month with two scoreless draws against New Mexico and on the road against Colorado.

In October, El Paso just had one game on the road. The Locomotive had its best offensive output in that game, scoring four goals in a shutout of Salt Lake City 4-0. In the playoffs, El Paso faced FC Tulsa first. After finishing regulation tied 2-2,

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El Paso won on penalty kicks 4-2. El Paso moved on to the semifinals its nemesis New Mexico. In a challenging game, El Paso tied in regulation again 1-1 and pulled out another win in the penalty phase 5-3.

For its final game of the season, the Locomotive traveled to the Western Conference Final in Scottsdale, Arizona, where the El Paso faced the last team it had lost to in the regular season, the Phoenix Rising. In a very close game, El Paso managed to tie the game before the end of regulation and forced the match to the penalties once again, but the Locomotive could not pull out the win this time. The final result was 1-1 (4-2), and as Locomotive hit the end of the road for the 2020 season.

"We became a better team on and off the field, that gave us a better understanding of each other and what's required and what's needed to be successful in the USL," Lowry said. "We had a will to win and a desire to succeed, we got a lot of trust in each other, and that's the key; you don't know what you have until you're in the trenches with each other, and I think we have played in the trenches this season at times and I think we have shown what we have."

For the second consecutive season, the Locomotive reached the conference finals only to come up short of a championship game appearance. Lowry said he thinks the team has a lot to build on for next season and wants his team to be more aggressive in the coming year.

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Football has second game postponed due to COVID

Michael CuvIELLO
The Prospector

For the second time this season, the UTEP Miner football team had a football game canceled due to COVID 19 concerns. The Oct. 31 game against North Texas was canceled Tuesday, Oct. 27 by North Texas, citing the spike in El Paso's coronavirus cases. Previously the University of Southern Mississippi canceled its game due to multiple players on its team testing positive for the virus.

Currently, El Paso has peaked in its COVID-19 cases with almost daily records for highs in new cases. As of this recording, El Paso had 1347 daily new cases and over 15,000 active cases. ICUS in El Paso area hospitals were being maxed out with 232 people in ICU and 939 people hospitalized due to COVID 19.

The total active cases in the Sun City exceed over 20 states total cases for their entire population.

In a news release, North Texas University President said that he was worried about his athletes' health and safety due to the El Paso outbreak.

Not since August has UTEP announced that any football players have tested positive for COVID-19. During the month of August, UTEP had a total of six football players test positive but were asymptomatic.

Since the season started, UTEP has not announced any failed COVID tests. North Texas had three positive tests within its athletic department Oct. 26, including one athlete, most likely a football player.

UTEP athletic director released

"Student-athlete infections have been nearly non-existent due to their diligence in following the recommended safety protocols and frequency of testing."

-Jim Senter, UTEP's Athletic Director

a statement after the North Texas cancellation announcement.

"Student-athlete infections have been nearly non-existent due to their diligence in following the recommended safety protocols and the frequency of testing. While we believe that our department and our fans have followed all of the best practices to ensure a safe experience, the disease is at very high levels around us. We understand El Paso's desire to encourage people to stay home this weekend."

UTEP President Heather Wilson also released a statement addressing the canceled game

"We are disappointed that North Texas has chosen not to come to El Paso for the football game this weekend. We have a safe place to play and no players who are sick or in isolation, and North Texas has not indicated that any of their players are ill. We made the decision earlier today not to allow fans in the stadium. We are proud of the diligence that our student-athletes, coaches and staff have shown to put us in a position to play every week. We look forward to further discussions with Conference

USA and North Texas on whether or when this game will be rescheduled."

To further complicate the issue, El Paso country judge Ricardo Samiengo has ordered a two-week shutdown for the city of El Paso and recommended that residents of the country stay home if possible.

The Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is hotly contesting Samiengos order as unconstitutional and not valid. This order has no power over school districts, collegiate or professional sports, so those individual entities will have to make those decisions.

The Canutillo, El Paso, and Socorro school districts have suspended play for the next two weeks while UTEP made an early week decision not to have fans present at the North Texas game before its cancellation.

At this time, UTEP has a home game scheduled for Nov. 7 against Conference USA opponent Florida International University, who also had last weekend's game canceled due to COVID 19 concerns.

Florida International had to call off the game due to a lack of available scholarship players due to positive

COVID tests. Florida International also has one other game canceled this season against Charlotte for similar reasons.

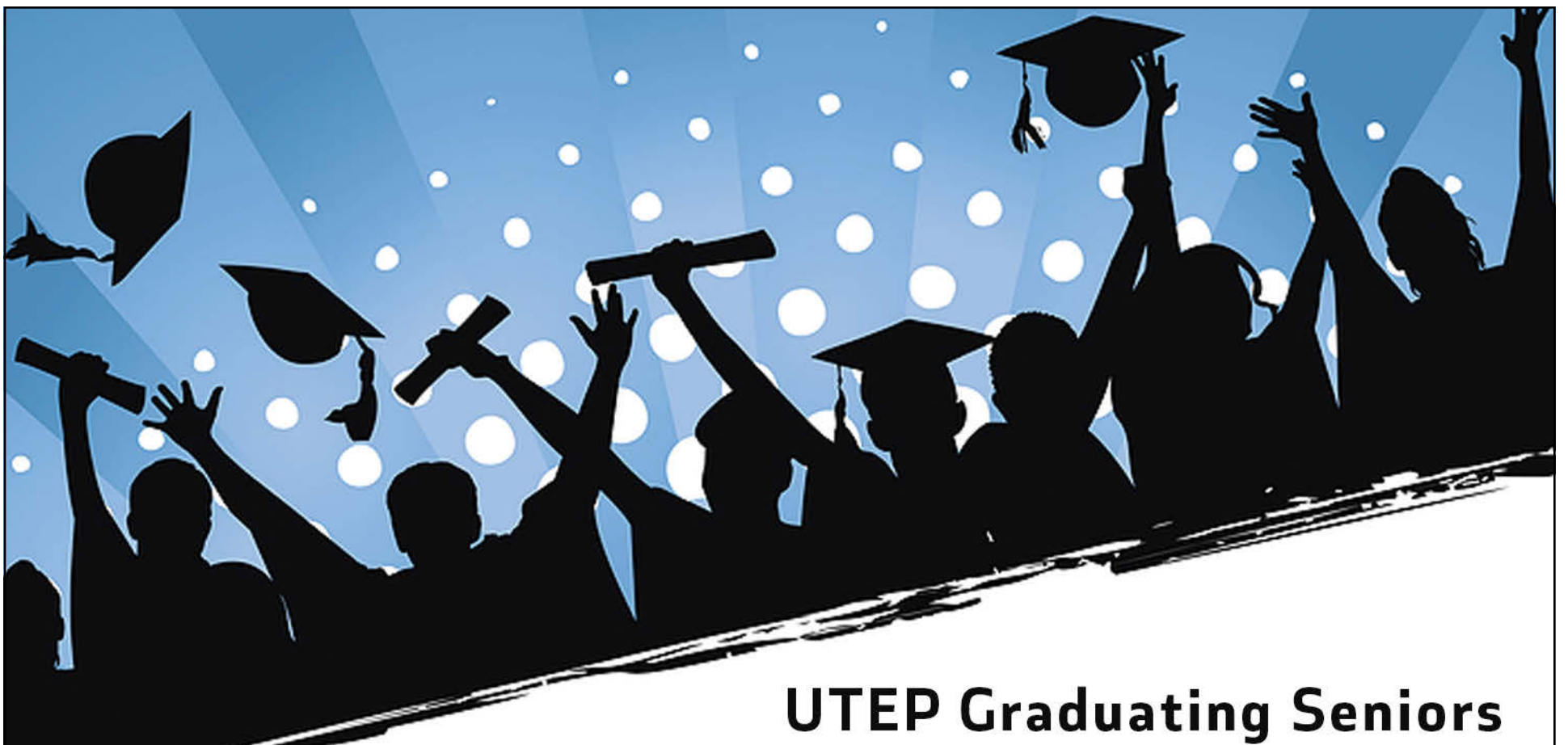
So, with the current rate of infection in the El Paso region and Florida International's current level of athletes testing positive, there is a distinct possibility that the game could be in serious jeopardy of not being played.

Conference USA recently pushed back its Championship game to allow an additional two weeks to use for postponed games. Divisional Games will be a priority, so the Florida International game would likely not be rescheduled. Both North Texas and Southern Mississippi are divisional opponents, so those games would be the priority for being made up.

With the UTEP football team's continued improvement, further postponement or cancellations will be quite a blow to Dimel and UTEP players. Unfortunately, the current pandemic has only worsened as the year has gone on for the El Paso area and many sections of the country. We are currently experiencing a much higher level of infection and hospitalization than we have at any point of the pandemic, so much remains in limbo.

As it stands now, the season could very much be in jeopardy if infection rates do not subside in the region. At this point, there are way more questions than answers for El Paso and the UTEP football team.

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UTEP Graduating Seniors

The Prospector wants to celebrate your accomplishments. Send us your farewell message along with your grad photo and we will publish it in our special Graduation Issue. This special digital issue will be available at theprospectordaily.com on November 24.

All graduating seniors who submit their messages will participate in a raffle for a UTEP diploma frame.

Email your message to: prospectorads@utep.edu

Messages must be no longer than 50 words.

Deadline to email messages: November 13, 2020.

The Prospector reserves right to edit any messages it deems inappropriate.

