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## The Prospector, September 21, 2021

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# THE PROSPECTOR

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SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

Assayer of Student Opinion

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

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# Homecoming Issue

## Taking a step back in time for the return of UTEP Homecoming

By Itzel Giron - The Prospector

The return of Homecoming activities is being welcomed with open arms after being postponed last year.

Beginning Friday, Sept. 24, students are invited to enjoy an abundance of activities planned up until the Homecoming game on Saturday, Oct. 2. Themed "The Roaring '20s," a lineup of events, including physical activities to countless dinners with distinguished alumni, UTEP has planned much to make up for lost time.

The Student Government Association has continued to work tirelessly to exceed expectations from previous years. After finally returning to campus, the urge to create an outstanding production has never been higher, beginning with the UTEP Homecoming Pageant.

"The Student Government Association has long awaited the moment to finally be able to execute a large-scale in-person event," said Senator-at-Large Joseline Avila, who is a director of the pageant. "For that reason, UTEP students can expect a well-executed and exciting Homecoming Pageant filled

with entertainment and participants that are equally as enthusiastic to be back on campus."

With high hopes, SGA aims to bring Miner pride back into the Magoffin Auditorium, where the pageant will take place 6-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24.

"We are sure that the presence alone of students will fill the Magoffin Auditorium with vibrancy," Avila said. "We simply expect students to show up to cheer on their fellow Miners and enjoy this memorable college experience."

For fellow SGA Senator-at-Large and a director of pageant Iberty Trevino, the pageant is not the only scheduled event she plans to attend.

At events such as the Miner Mixer, scheduled from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, Trevino invites all students to mingle with others to network and get to know fellow Miners.

"UTEP has a number of events lined up in celebration of our annual homecoming week. I encourage students, especially if you're new to campus, to attend as many as possible, I know I

will," said Trevino. "I am excited to go to the Miner Mixer planned."

Adding to the lineup, the traditional Homecoming game is set to take place at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, against Old Dominion at the Sun bowl stadium.

"After the pageant, I am ecstatic to attend the homecoming game against Old Dominion," said Trevino. "This will also be a great opportunity to hang out with friends as well as meet our fellow classmates. Most importantly, [to] show our UTEP spirit and support for our team."

Returning to sports events has come in full swing; the Homecoming game always brings people from across the Miner community together. For UTEP Junior Kitzia Macias, attending her first Homecoming game is something she has been most excited for.

"Since starting the semester I've wanted to go to a game, so having the Homecoming game be the first one I go to is exciting," Macias said. "I'm really excited to see the marching band, flags, dance team and cheerleaders hype up the crowd and get everyone

going throughout the game," Macias said.

Along with eager fans, UTEP Sophomore and dance team member Briana Carranco has long awaited to perform in front of the Homecoming Game crowd.

"The dance team and I have been working hard to prepare for the game and performance," said Carranco. "I'm excited for everyone to see what the UTEP Dance Team is all about."

With excitement being felt across the board, students are encouraged to take part in all the activities planned during Homecoming week.

"The [Homecoming] events contribute to the college experience and through these experiences, it allows students to make new friends and get out of their comfort zones because you will never know whom you will meet, let alone the amount of fun they will receive these upcoming days," said Trevino.

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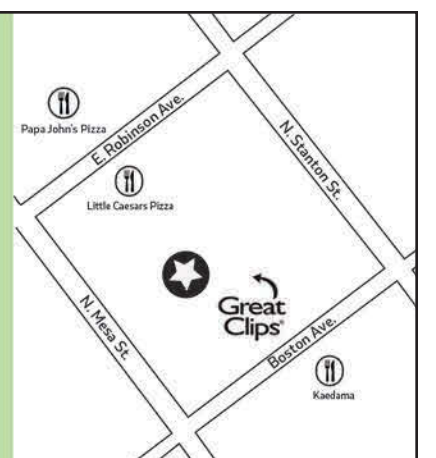
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# Opinion

Julian Herrera, editor in chief

## The other side of the glass: Embracing opportunities



BY JULIAN HERRERA  
The Prospector

The opportunities afforded to us, the living, are plentiful but often unrecognized. The bounty of our labor is seldom reaped while we are too young to care or too busy and exhausted to seize, then we become too frail to take advantage of it at all. Sometimes, we are

not even aware of the luxuries or pleasures afforded to us because we are enveloped in our own daily toil, much like the coveted seasonal fruit of your neighbors that spoils in bounds year after year.

While we could focus on the scale at which the youth have become conditioned to never say no to their employers or feel burnout when faced with myriad opportunities because of the pressure to have a vice grip on every door out of fear of being labeled useless, a micro-reading could be that students do not take enough time for recreational and social activities while enrolled in university.

Despite the hefty fees and additional charges that students fork over every semester, many never see the sheer number of events, organizations, and resources that are available to make their time in college easier, if not at least a little more fun.

Obligations to school, work and family may be the reason for not having any leisure time — and tirelessly pursuing your passion is admirable and worthy of recognition on its own. Understandably, reentering the social sphere at the moment is done wearily or not at all considering the ever-fluctuating state of COVID-19 infections and the need to keep safe. Even prior to the pandemic, however, relaxation and community engagement were an afterthought rather than a necessary function integrated into people's schedules.

As the pandemic has proven, social interaction is one of the most significant factors contributing to our mental well-being, community development, and ability to network and build meaningful relationships with others. While that may seem obvious, a stable setting in which an individual can communicate with others and col-

laborate in a constructive environment is a unique opportunity that being enrolled in university maintains at regular intervals, something that otherwise requires additional coordination and presents multiple obstacles.

Large-scale events — like Minerpalooza, for a local example — unify the participating populace under a particular facet of their identity that is not denoted by beliefs or color, bringing them closer to others without even having to ask what trait they share. There are computer labs, and groups of innovators abound on campus, all inhabiting a common space where dreams and ideas flow freely between one another. Nostalgic movie screenings, advocacy groups, stargazers, study partners and more — the individuals that the university is comprised of are exactly what makes it renowned for its academic and cultural contributions lo-

cally and internationally, and these events just make it that much easier for brilliant minds to meet.

For what personal testimony is worth, I understand how difficult it can be for some to align themselves with contemporary trends, mingle with the crowd at an event with an atmosphere like an artery about to burst, or even situate yourself between two other people at the gym. For those that wandered the perimeter and peered in through the windows at the social and involved, consider cleansing yourself of preconceptions and finding the peculiar, unexpected ways that life has attempted to invite you in all along. Life is not bleeding and waiting for better times; life is comprised of the little moments that make living a gift all its own.

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## What Texas SB8 reflects about our society



BY HANNAH L. BUTLER  
Guest columnist

On Sept. 1, Texas law SB8, also known as the Texas Heartbeat Act, went into effect. This is one of the most extreme abortion bans in the country, banning abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected (around six weeks). However, the state is not enforcing the law. SB 8 is to be enforced by private citizens who can sue abortion providers and/or any people involved in assisting an individual seeking an abortion

procedure. The law also provides no exceptions for cases of rape or incest.

There are several problems with this. First, the law's usage of the phrase "fetal heartbeat" is misleading. According to Dr. Saima Aftab, medical director of the Fetal Care Center at Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami, this "heartbeat" detected at six weeks is more like a "flutter" in the area that will later become the heart.

Second, most people do not learn that they are pregnant by the six-week mark. This means many people may be denied abortions before they have even had time to make a decision.

Finally, the provision that allows private citizens the right to sue anyone that they suspect to have aided an abortion is a direct attack on rights to privacy.

The debate surrounding abortion has been around for decades, and most people have a clear idea of where they stand. But what does this bill reflect regarding our society's views of women and their

autonomy? To be clear, transgender men and non-binary people can also get pregnant and seek abortions, but for this piece I will be focusing on the specific aspects of abortion debates and legislation that have negative implications about women, not actual access to abortion services, which is an important topic for further discussion.

When strict abortion bans and restrictions are put in place, we take away the autonomy of people affected by pregnancy. Pregnancy and childbirth take extraordinary mental and physical tolls on the mind and body, and although we are often told as children that it will be the most beautiful and rewarding experience of our lifetime, a lot of people do not want to experience it. Even those who do usually have plans or expectations about when and how they will experience it. Our agency is violated when bans and strict restrictions decide for us that we must endure pregnancy and childbirth on terms other than our own.

One of the main arguments

against abortion is that it is immoral because an embryo at six weeks — some will even go as far as to say a barely fertilized egg — is a human life and deserves the right to grow into a baby and be born. On the other side of the argument, many say that it is moral to abort a fetus before it can survive outside of the womb with a developed brain (excluding cases in the third trimester where the mother's or baby's life is in danger, but these are very rare). The thing is, there isn't a scientific measure for morality. Morals are constructed by individuals; what is immoral to one may be moral to another. The real argument is about bodily autonomy.

In our patriarchal society, women's ideas, opinions, and health are not taken seriously. Supporters of these types of abortion bans do not grant women the right to bodily autonomy, which leads to the question of women's roles in general. When our feelings and opinions are not considered in the abortion debate, and when we are not allowed to make our own decisions regarding

our bodies and lives, it is clear that we are viewed as lesser. And when there are no exceptions for rape or incest, are we even viewed as human? Is a child not also a human life when they are impregnated by a family member and must endure the trauma of pregnancy and childbirth, on top of the trauma from the rape?

Whether or not you think abortion is moral, some things are true of bans like SB8: they don't actually reduce abortions, they disproportionately affect women of color and women in poverty, and they send the message that our society doesn't value women as human beings. Those aspects are certainly immoral on my compass.

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# ED gives grant for COVID-conscious schools

BY JULIA LUCERO  
The Prospecter

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced a grant program that will fund school districts being penalized by their state for enforcing COVID-19 safety protocols.

A press release issued Sept. 9 by the ED says the grant program, “Project Supporting America’s Families and Educators,” is part of President Biden’s plan to combat COVID-19.

“Educators, leaders, and parents are working hand-in-hand in communities across the nation to protect school children returning to in-person learning, and the Biden Administration will do everything it can to support them doing right by kids,” the release stated.

The grant program will use fund-

ing within the ED from Title IV, Part F, School Safety National Activities, of the Every Student Succeeds Act, according to the release.

School board members or superintendents from local school districts that have had their pay cut for enforcing COVID-19 safety in schools will be able to apply for the Project SAFE grants.

“Every student across the country deserves the opportunity to return to school in-person safely this fall, and every family should be confident that their school is implementing policies that keep their children safe,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona.

UTEP political science professor Rebecca Reid said withholding funding from schools is designed to punish schools for making the

politically “wrong” decision.

Without proper funding, schools cannot provide the equipment needed for quality education, cannot offer competitive salaries for teachers to attract and keep quality instructors, and are limited in their ability to be accessible in providing adequate resources for children with disabilities and low-income families, Reid said.

“Failure to provide relief to these schools and communities, whether from the state or federal government, therefore ensures that these disparate impacts continue and worsen,” Reid said.

The CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all students 2-years-old and older, staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools regardless of vaccination status.

“Right now local school officials

are trying to keep children safe in a pandemic while their governor picks a fight with them and even threatens their salaries or their jobs, talk about bullying in schools. If they’ll not help – if these governors won’t help us beat the pandemic, I will use my power as president to get them out of the way,” President Biden said.

Reid said the federal government has the authority to mandate masks and vaccines for people in their jurisdiction and interstate travel. They can influence state mask mandates through financial incentives and regulation of interstate commerce, and assist state response activities in public health emergencies.

“Due to these precedents, the SAFE Grant Program falls under federal constitutional powers under

the Spending Clause and public health acts. The SAFE Grant also follows federal powers in education policy, where the federal government can influence education by allocating funding to districts that follow certain federal guidelines,” Reid said.

“We should be thanking districts for using proven strategies that will keep schools open and safe, not punishing them. We stand with the dedicated educators doing the right thing to protect their school communities, and this program will allow them to continue that critical work of keeping students safe,” Cardona said.

Julia Lucero may be reached at [prospecter@utep.edu](mailto:prospecter@utep.edu)

# Abortion access becomes non-existent in Texas

BY VICTORIA RIVAS  
Staff Reporter

Texas’ new abortion law, also known as Senate Bill 8, is a near-total ban on abortions starting as early as six weeks.

The law took effect Wednesday, Sept. 1, when the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5 to 4 vote, denied an emergency appeal by Texas abor-

tion providers to block the new state law.

“Taken together, the Act is a breathtaking act of defiance – of the Constitution, of this Court’s precedents, and of the rights of women seeking abortions throughout Texas,” Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in her dissent. “The Court’s order is stunning.”

The new Texas law is one of the strictest in the nation, which bans abortions before many women know they are pregnant.

“No freedom is more precious than life itself. Starting today, every unborn child with a heartbeat will be protected from the ravages of abortion,” said Texas Gov. Greg Abbott via Twitter.

Isabel Herrera, 20, a St. Edwards University student and advocate for voting rights, reproductive justice, and Latino outreach in Austin, Texas, was heartbroken when SB8 passed.

“Enforcing SB8 further enforces the idea that a pregnant person somehow has less rights than a 6-week-old fetus,” Herrera said.

“Taking away someone’s right to choose is wrong, and we need to think about the law not only as a ban on abortion, but as a ban on decision making.”

Herrera has attended several rallies at the state capitol to voice her

see **ACCESS** on page 6

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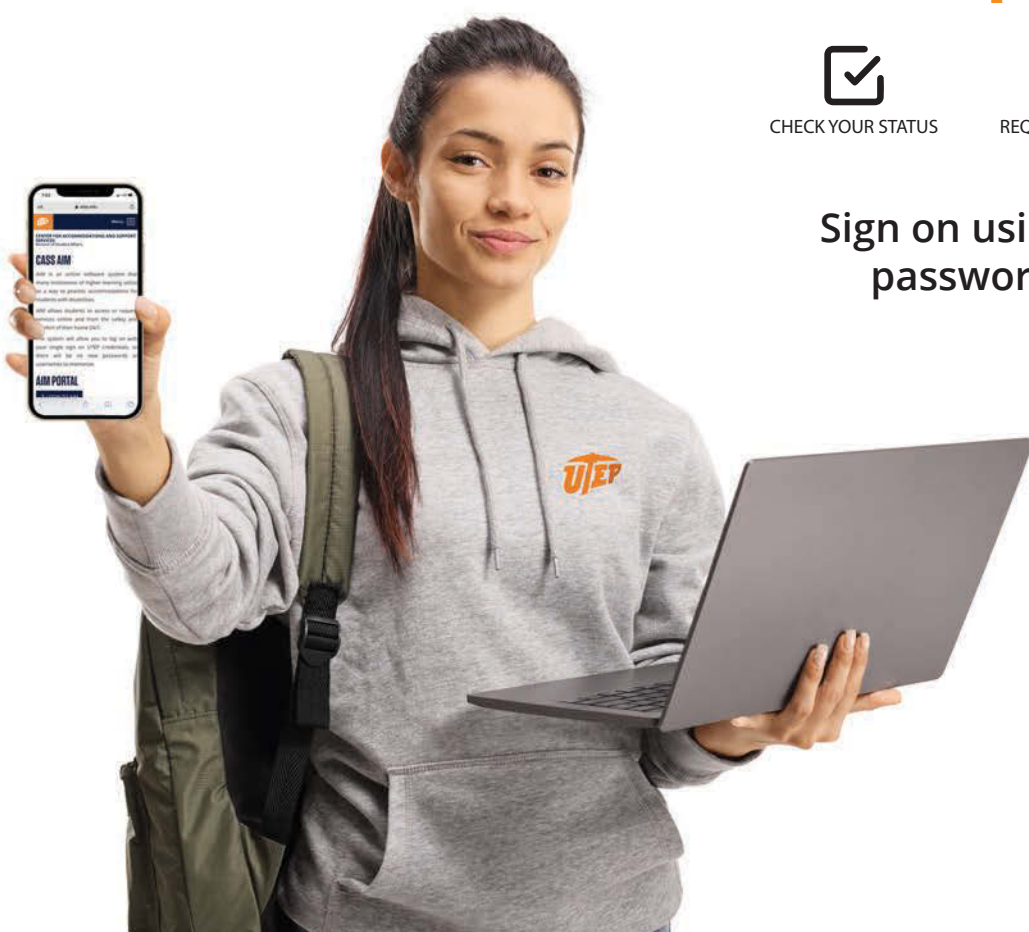
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# El Paso remembers the events of 9/11

BY EDUARDO A. FLORES

The Prospector

The United States suffered one of the deadliest terrorist attacks on American soil in history 20 years ago, where nearly 3,000 people were killed. Four planes from commercial airlines were hijacked and flown into the World Trade Center towers in New York City, the Pentagon, and one crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

On the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, people across the country rendered tribute to the lives lost on that tragic day, including the city of El Paso, Texas.

Over 70 El Paso firefighters played a part in climbing the training tower 22 times at Fire Station 18 dressed in full gear, recreating the 110 floors of the Twin Towers. The El Paso Fire Department held the memorial ceremony on Sept. 11 to remember all the first responders who lost their lives on duty in September 2001.

"Today, we honor the 343 firefighters, police officers, and other



ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Rows of American flags were placed on the lawn of the Centennial Plaza as a solemn reminder of the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001 at The World Trade Center.

public service agencies who helped render aid that day and gave the ultimate sacrifice," said El Paso Fire Department Captain Manuel Maldonado in an interview for KFOX.

Also present at the memorial was El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser.

"They are out there to protect our city, our country, and that is why we are here to remember the men and women who gave their lives 20 years ago," Leeser said.

Each firefighter had a name and a picture of a fallen firefighter from

9/11 on their back during the ceremony.

Additionally, the El Paso Texas Flags Across America hosted a commemorative ceremony with U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar, D-El Paso, in attendance.

"It's important to reflect on moments like these. Moments when our country was tested, Americans were tested when we were attacked, and we came together to defend the rights and freedom, and this is one of those days for us to remember our strength and our resolve and resilience," said U.S. Rep. Escobar, D-El Paso in an interview for KVIA-7.

El Paso Community College and the University of Texas at El Paso also honored the civilians and first responders who lost their lives with a memorial of U.S. flags outside their campuses.

The University of Texas at El Paso planted 2,996 American flags on the lawn of Centennial Plaza. Meanwhile, the El Paso Community College placed their memorial next to the Enrollment Services Center building at the Valle Verde

campus.

The El Paso Community College also organized a memorial walk called "Freedom Walk" at the Valle Verde campus Sept. 10 where local students and community members came together in remembrance.

Further, a former student from the University of Texas at El Paso was able to stand in for El Paso at the national level. Virginia Macias was among four Archer Fellows from The Archer Center that participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on Sept. 11.

"We are proud to take part in this time-honored tradition that pays tribute to the sacrifices of America's service members," according to a statement released by the Archer Center.

Over the years, the city of El Paso has maintained the promise to commemorate 9/11 every year to demonstrate their respect to the families of all the victims of the tragic tragedy.

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## UTEP Nursing navigates special COVID-19 training

BY JULIA LUCERO

The Prospector

The University of Texas at El Paso Nursing Program contributed toward the treatment and mitigation efforts against COVID-19 by distributing vaccines and working with COVID-19 patients in local hospitals.

Dean of UTEP School of Nursing Leslie Robbins, Director of Bachelor of Science Nursing Program Tracey Merworth, DNP, and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs Laura Rodriguez, DNP, say that the nursing students helped contribute to the UTEP COVID-19 vaccination clinic. Graduate students were working as RNs in local hospitals taking care of COVID-19 patients, and the School

of Nursing faculty volunteered to provide vaccinations at several vaccination sites in the border region.

First-year nursing program student Alyssa Crose said it was rewarding to know the nursing program was able to make an impact during a historic time period.

"We are not allowed to work with COVID patients; however, as a UTEP nursing student, we were given the opportunity to help our university give vaccinations and aid in the process of those getting the COVID vaccine, so that the process was much more organized and efficient. We were able to do this by helping sanitize equipment and watching over those who just received their vaccine for the first 15 minutes," Crose said.

"The UTEP vaccination clinic launched in January, as they began vaccinating high-risk individuals working closely with COVID-19 patients," an official from UTEP's University Communications said.

"UTEP nursing students were able to engage in learning by attending clinicals at hospitals, outpatient clinics and private practices," Robbins, Merworth, and Rodriguez said.

"Nursing students needed to adapt to changes when they had a limited amount of clinical experiences to get the required amount of clinical hours," Robbins, Merworth, and Rodriguez said.

"The nursing program requires a certain number of actual clinical hours providing care to patients

each semester, and as clinical sites adjusted to the ever changing COVID-19 landscape, the availability of clinical experiences was limited. This required our students to be flexible and adapt to many changes over the semester," Robbins, Merworth, and Rodriguez said.

Nursing student Stephanie Vasquez says she was lucky enough to obtain all her clinical hours during the pandemic.

"As nursing students we had many limitations when it came to patients who had precautions," Vasquez said. "Almost every patient at each hospital I went to had COVID-19 or were suspected of having it. I don't know what clinicals were like before COVID-19."

The early stages of the CO-

VID-19 virus affected the way the nursing students navigated their curriculum.

"The beginning of COVID impacted the program significantly," Crose said. "We went from attending class in person to Zoom sessions and recorded lectures. We weren't able to meet with our peers for group assignments, so we would have to video chat and work through our work that way."

UTEP Nursing leaders said they were not hesitant to send the students to their clinicals during the early stages of COVID-19 because they are trained in taking care of patients with infectious diseases.

"The nursing curriculum includes proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)," Robbins, Merworth, and Rodriguez said.

The biggest challenge the nursing program faced during the beginning of the pandemic was the limited Personal Protection Equipment, Robbins, Merworth, and Rodriguez said.

"Prior to the pandemic, PPE was only needed in certain areas at hospitals and they were able to provide the equipment for nursing students; during the pandemic the nursing program was required to provide that equipment for students," Robbins, Merworth, and Rodriguez said.

Vasquez said students that just started nursing school should appreciate every moment.

"Students who just started nursing school are now able to experience things I never got to experience," Vasquez said. "Appreciate any simulated hospital days because many of us lost that opportunity."

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# Entertainment

## UTEP celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ  
The Prospector

¡Feliz 16 de septiembre! ¡Viva Mexico! ¡Viva la independencia nacional! ¡Viva Hidalgo! ¡Vivan los heroes que nos dieron patria!

Hispanic Heritage Month began Sept. 15. Across the country, citizens celebrate all the contributions and influence of Hispanic culture in American history.

The month was established in 1968 under the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson. Originally the celebration only lasted a week, but it was extended by President Ronald Reagan to one month. Schools and universities around the country commemorate this special month with concerts, presentations, and exhibits.

“Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to share the inspiring stories of Latinx people from all around the world that we don’t often get to see in mainstream media and culture. Being in a city such as El Paso it is important for us to celebrate the culture of the community that we’re in,” said Elvira Carrizal-Dukes, a professor of Chicano Studies at UTEP.

At UTEP the Chicano Studies department and the Student Engagement and Leadership Center have joined forces to host many activities and events to observe the month.

“This year the Hispanic Heritage celebration centers on Latino recipients of the Medal of Honor. Many of whom are from the El Paso/Juarez region. We wanted to raise awareness about the role of

Latino veterans in the military,” said Dr. Dennis Bixler-Marquez, director of the UTEP Chicano Studies department.

Events for this celebration include everything from arts and exhibits to conferences and everything in between. “Big Ideas for USA/Mexico Border Prosperity: On Sustainable Manufacturing for the Future Symposium” will take place at UTEP and the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez Sept. 23 and Sept. 24. The “Alejandro Fernandez: Hecho En Mexico Tour 2021” concert will be at 8 p.m., Sept. 18, at the Don Haskins Center. Happening now through December is the “Chico MacMurtrie: Border Crossers” exhibit being shown from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Rubin Center for the Visual Arts, on the UTEP campus, off University Avenue near the Sun Bowl parking lot. There is also a book presentation “Hope Lighting: Testimonios of Mothers and Caretakers Raising Children with Special Needs and Abilities on the U.S.-Mexico Border” Oct. 20 by Associate Professor Sociology and Anthropology Gina Nunez-Mchiri, director of UTEP’s Women’s and Gender Studies Program. There will also be many panel presentations including “Growing Our Own: Developing and Supporting Tomorrow’s Latino College Leaders” by UTEP’s Higher Education Leadership faculty at 4 p.m. Oct. 6 in room 405 of the Education Building. A bilingual play “Cenicenta” will run from Aug. 16 to Nov. 3, sponsored by UTEP’s Department



ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP President Heather Willson gives an interview after the El Grito ceremony at the Centennial Plaza on Sept. 16.

of Theatre and Dance.

“I think this is an important time to commemorate our complicated history,” Carrizal-Dukes said. “We should bring awareness to this history, but also bring pride and inspiration. There are so many wonderful things to consume about our rich culture.”

She said UTEP students should participate in Hispanic Heritage month because it’s possible that they weren’t taught about their culture in K-12.

“It is their duty to learn as much knowledge as they can from different perspectives, and this is

another perspective of our culture,” Carrizal-Dukes said.

“UTEP’s El Grito Ceremony: Commemoration of the Declaration of Independence” was held Sept. 16 at Centennial Plaza. Special guests included Mauricio Ibarra, consul General of Mexico in El Paso, and the Band and Color Guard from the Instituto Tecnológico de Ciudad Juarez (ITCJ).

“The goal that we have for Hispanic Heritage month is to have events that expands student’s knowledge about different facets of society in which Latinos are actively involved,” said Bixler-Mar-

quez. “We’re making sure that the university’s public programming reflects who lives in the community. I want students to learn about the accomplishments and challenges that our ancestors faced and the history they have in this nation. It’s our job to pass this knowledge to the next generation.”

To get more info on the events or to see what events are happening visit, [www.utep.edu/provost/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/event-calendar.html](http://www.utep.edu/provost/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/event-calendar.html).

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A member from the Instituto Tecnológico de Ciudad Juarez band and color guard team waves a Mexican flag on Sept. 16.



ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR  
A member of Mariachi Frontera performs “Que Bonito es Chihuahua” at the El Grito ceremony on Sept. 16.

**NURSES** from page 4

Everything is slowly going back to normal, many of us don't know what 'normal; nursing school is. Appreciate and thank your professors, this transition wasn't easy for them either."

UTEP Nursing leaders said they are proud of the grit nursing

students displayed while moving to online learning, virtual clinical experiences, ongoing changes to hospitals, and outpatient or private practice clinical assignments, Robbins, Merworth, and Rodriguez said.

"I am proud to say that I will soon be a UTEP Nursing graduate,"

Vasquez said. "This program has gone out of its way during a pandemic. They provided us with all the materials necessary during each semester. They always made sure we were safe from this killer virus. Thank you for everything UTEP, you've been awesome."

Cruse said she is proud of the

way the UTEP Nursing Program handled the COVID-19 situation.

"I'm proud of our program for dealing with a catastrophic event in such a way that makes it less difficult for us as students as well as helping us through unfortunate times! Being a nursing student during this pandemic has not been

easy, so I am proud of myself and others for staying optimistic and choosing to see the light at the end of the tunnel," Cruse said. "Becoming a nurse is a privilege, which all of us are all working very hard toward regardless of the obstacles that we have faced."

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**ACCESS** from page 3

opposition and spread information and resources about abortion funds statewide.

"Banning abortion simply bans safe abortions after those six weeks are up; this bill is not about safety or about protecting fetuses, it's about control," said Herrera.

Southwest Coalition for Life, a nonprofit organization that focuses on uniting the pro-life community in El Paso and Southern New Mexico, believes the SB8 bill is a big step in the right direction in protecting the right of life.

"We are now more committed than ever before to rallying the community to compassionately empower women and couples facing unexpected pregnancies to be heroes of their circumstances," said Mark Cavaliere, Executive Director of Southwest Coalition for Life.

According to Texas abortion providers and advocates, the new law prohibits abortion care for at least 85% of Texas patients and forced many abortion clinics to close.

"This law most certainly affects women's rights. The government will now have control over them,

and with this new law being enforced, several women could end up hurting themselves by having an illegal abortion, or worse, harm themselves just to lose the embryo," said Kimberly Diaz, 22, a UTEP student.

The bill prohibits abortions after an ultrasound detects a fetal "heartbeat." There is no exemption for rape or incest, only for medical emergencies.

"Texas will always defend the right to life," Abbott wrote on Twitter.

According to The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the term fetal "heartbeat" is misleading because embryos do not possess a heart at that time of the development stage.

"This extreme Texas law blatantly violates the constitutional right established under Roe v. Wade and upheld as precedent for nearly half a century," President Joe Biden said in a statement. "The Texas law will significantly impair women's access to the health care they need, particularly for communities of color and individuals with low incomes."

Roe v. Wade, a 1973 Supreme Court landmark decision, grants women the right to access abortion

legally across the country before fetus viability.

"Reproductive justice is a right, and no one should have to struggle and fear for their wellbeing if they want to get an abortion," said Herrera. "One of my favorite statements is that Roe is the floor, not the ceiling because it is absolutely true. Women should have the freedom to make their own decisions about their bodies no matter where they live."

The new abortion law relies on private citizens to enforce the law rather than the government. Private citizens can sue abortion providers or anyone that helps a woman get an abortion after six weeks and receive a \$10,000 cash reward if successful.

"This new law will endanger patients and clinicians, putting physicians who provide necessary medical care, or even offer evidence-based information, at risk, by allowing private citizens to interfere in women's reproductive health decision making," said The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in a press release.

"This law virtually eliminates women's access to evidence-based,

comprehensive care and information, and denies women their right to make decisions about their own health."

Rideshare companies like Uber and Lyft announced they will pay for their drivers' legal fees if they are sued under the new Texas abortion law.

"The Biden-Harris Administration will always fight to protect access to healthcare and defend a woman's right to make decisions about her body and determine her future," Vice President Kamala Harris said in a statement.

The Justice Department filed a lawsuit Thursday, Sept. 9, against the state of Texas over the new state abortion law, calling it "unconstitutional."

"The Act is clearly unconstitutional under longstanding Supreme Court precedent," said Attorney General Merrick Garland. "The United States has the authority and responsibility to ensure that no state can deprive individuals of their constitutional rights through a legislative scheme specifically designed to prevent the vindication of those rights."

Both Herrera and Diaz are pleased

with how Biden's administration has responded to the new law, and they are hopeful they will continue to fight for women's reproductive rights.

"The Biden Administration's response was well-structured and effectively showed SB8 for what it is; senseless," Herrera said. "I remain hopeful that his administration will do everything in their power to ensure access to safe and legal abortions in Texas and the nation."

The Texas State Legislature also passed Senate Bill 4, which would prohibit access to abortion-inducing pills like misoprostol to patients who are more than seven weeks pregnant. The bill still needs to be signed by Gov. Abbott.

Across the southern border of Texas, Tuesday, Sept. 7, the Supreme Court in Mexico voted to decriminalize abortion, a landmark that legalizes abortion across the country.

"SB8 is an unnecessary attack on women's bodily autonomy," Herrera said.

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# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH 2021



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# Sports

Emily Autumn Velasquez, editor



## UTEP takes on Old Dominion for Homecoming game

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL  
The Prospector

UTEP football faces off against Old Dominion University (ODU) at the Sun Bowl Stadium on Oct. 2 to close off UTEP's Homecoming week. After canceling Homecoming last year due to COVID-19, the Miners are planning on making this night one to remember. The Miners have back-to-back home games as the week before they hosted the University of New Mexico Lobos for Texas Western night.

Old Dominion began their season 1-1 after a loss to Wake Forest (42-10) and a win against Hampton (47-7). In the win against Hampton, Old Dominion set a single game record with a total of 358 rushing yards with both running backs redshirt freshman Elijah

Davis and freshman Jon-Luke Peaker rushing over 100 yards. Graduate transfer quarterback from the University of Central Florida (UCF), D.J. Mack Jr. rushed for 57 yards along with three rushing touchdowns.

Old Dominion's defense has played a huge role during the first two games they have played in. Both junior and freshman defensive ends Marcus Haynes and Amorie Morrison have made it a point to sack the quarterback in both games; Haynes has two sacks while Morrison has 2.5 sacks. Part of the success on defense is senior linebacker Jordan Young, who has a combined total of 14 tackles from both games.

The Miners began their season 2-0 for the first time since 2005, but

later fell 2-1 after the loss against Bosie State. In both wins against New Mexico State and Bethune-Cookman the Miners were dominate on offense, putting up 452 total yards in the win against New Mexico State and 472 total yards in the win against Bethune-Cookman. Redshirt junior running back Ronald Awatt and freshman running back Willie Eldrige put up a combined total of 244 rush yards of the 289 rush yards against Bethune-Cookman; during this game as well, redshirt sophomore quarterback Gavin Hardison threw a career-high of three touchdowns, while sophomore wide receiver Tyrin Smith had a career-high of receptions (four) and yards (76).

UTEP's defense also played a huge role in the wins against New Mex-

ico State and Bethune-Cookman. In both wins against New Mexico State and Bethune-Cookman, defensive back Dy'vonne Inyang tied a career-high of six tackles. The defense also had a combined total of three sacks and were able to hold New Mexico State to 190 yards and 67 plays. Despite allowing a season-high of 54 points and 461 yards in the game against Boise State, the Miners defense has played a huge role on the team.

This is the fourth time that UTEP meets Old Dominion. Old Dominion leads the series 2-1, as UTEP looks to tie it at two apiece. The last time these two teams met was Oct. 29, 2016, at the Sun Bowl Stadium where Old Dominion came out victorious with a score of 31-21. The last time the Miners won against

Old Dominion was Oct. 11, 2014, with a close score of 42-35.

UTEP hosts Old Dominion at 7 p.m. Oct. 2 at the Sun Bowl Stadium. UTEP students qualify for free tickets to all football games with their Miner Gold Card; to sign up for your free ticket visit [studenttickets.utep.edu](http://studenttickets.utep.edu) for more information.

All stats for Old Dominion found on Old Dominion Athletics official website, [odusports.com](http://odusports.com).

All stats for UTEP found on UTEP Athletics official website, [utepminers.com](http://utepminers.com).

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## UTEP Football prepare for game against UNM Lobos

DANNY LOPEZ  
The Prospector

The Miners (2-1,0-0) are coming off 51-13 a loss to Boise State University Friday night. Their next opponent is the University of New Mexico on Sept. 25.

UNM comes into this game with an offense that is very complex. Last year they finished with a 0-0 record due to a cancelation of their 2020 season because of the pandemic, which also affected other teams throughout the country.

In this upcoming game, the Lobos have a couple of players to look out for and how they can make an

impact in this game.

Senior transfer quarterback Terry Wilson for UNM poses a big threat to the Miners defense with his passing skills and ability to get away from the defense. Wilson was named Mountain West player of the week after having a good performance. He threw for a career high 381 yards on 26-of-37 passing with three touchdowns. The Miners last game let up over 400 yards in passing and through the ground. UNM is posing a similar challenge to this defense.

Another player that has a chance to really put the Miners on their

heels on defense is running back Bobby Cole. Cole rushed for 546 yards on 97 carries and averaged 5.6 yards, a valuable piece to the Lobos' offensive flow. This offense has a lot of similar plays from former offensive coordinator, Arizona State University Danny Gonzales, now the head coach of the UNM football team.

Defensively, the Lobos are a stout defensive team. In one of the wins earlier in this season, the Lobos only allowed 187 yards overall, and barely gave up any yards rushing on the grounds. In the same game, the Lobo's had five sacks, three

takeaways, 10 tackles for a loss, and six pass break ups.

Offensively, the Miners must have a similar start like the same way they did against Boise State if they want to overcome Lobos' defense. In their loss against Boise State, their offense stalled a lot of the time after one strong drive that ended in a field goal. The Miners had 200 yards worth of offense, but could not score more than 13 points.

If the Miners want to have a shot at winning this game, they must follow the strategy for success employed in the game versus New Mexico State University to pull out

the win.

UTEP still has a firm grasp on the conference and they have not played anyone to affect their record, even if they're second place behind University of San Antonio.

The Miners host the University of New Mexico at 7 p.m. Sept. 25 at the Sun Bowl Stadium. Students can get free tickets to football games with a Miner Gold Card. Visit [studenttickets.utep.edu](http://studenttickets.utep.edu) for more information.

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# Recap: UTEP faces off with Rice University.



ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

TOP LEFT: Emerson Kidd passes the ball to her teammate against Rice University on Sept. 16.

TOP RIGHT: Molly Sutherland chases the ball while playing against Rice University on Sept. 16.

BOTTOM LEFT: Vic Bohdan jukes an Owl player during the game on Sept. 16.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Jojo Ngongo makes a play against Rice University's players on Sept. 16.



## The Student Recreation Center

The Department of Recreational Sports provides access to innovative programs, services and facilities inclusive to all UTEP students that build a balance of lifelong healthy habits with academic excellence.

Scan for Fall 2021 Fitness Classes



### HOURS OF OPERATION

#### Main Facility:

Mon - Thurs	5:30am to 10:00pm
Friday	5:30am to 8:00pm
Saturday	8:00am to 5:00pm
Sunday	12:00pm to 5:00pm

#### Pools:

Mon & Wed	5:30am to 9:00am and 4:00pm to 9:00pm
Tues & Thurs	10:00am to 2:00pm and 4:00pm to 9:00pm
Friday	5:30am to 9:00am and 1:00pm to 6:00pm
Saturday	10:00am to 3:00pm
Sunday	12:00pm to 4:00pm

### FALL 2021 MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR STAFF/FACULTY

Annual Rate: September 1st, 2021 - August 31st, 2022

F/S - \$230  
F/S Spouse - \$230  
F/S Child - \$100