Miners start season on the road

BY DANIEL LOPEZ
The Prospector

The Miners begin their season Aug. 24 on the road against the New Mexico State Aggies (NMSU), while also opening fall camp July 30. UTEP is coming off a 3-5 record, but lost most of their conference game, going 0-4. In 2019, the Miners lost nearly every game that was on their schedule and did not qualify for a bowl game.

Besides the Aggies being one of the UTEP Miners’ first big games of the season, its next opponent after Bethune Cookman University, which is notable, is Boise State University. The Miners are away for this game, and will face a familiar foe from the days of the Western Athletic Conference. The Broncos are coming off a 5-2 season and going into the fall, the team will decide between two quarterbacks after both previous head coaches Mike Canales and Mike Willingham were fired. UTEP begins conference play Oct. 2 against Old Dominion University. The Miners have two new head coaches after both previous coaches Mike Canales and Mike Willingham were fired. Offensive coordinator Dave Warner and defensive coordinator Bradley Dave Peveto took over for the previous coaches. With the Miners on offense now being now coached under Warner from Michigan State University, the Miners should improve even more this season. The offensive improvements last year were propelled by redshirt sophomore quarterback Gavin Hardison. UTEP’s offense last season averaged 348.1 yards per game and 5.17 yards per play, however, they ranked 101st just in front of the University of Tennessee Volunteers.

“We need to score a lot more points in the third quarter, we did not score a whole lot of points in the third quarter,” Hardison said in a statement after practice July 30. “So, I think that’s a big thing we need to improve on for sure.” Beside Hardison’s contributions, sophomore wide receiver Jacob Cowering looks to vastly improve the offense, with his speed and making the offense through the air even more consistent this season. Cowering led the team in receptions last season.

Miners will not institute mask mandate

BY JULIA LUCERO
The Prospector

El Paso Public Health Authority Dr. Hector Ocaranza has established a mask mandate for all indoor gatherings and activities effective Aug. 18. The University of Texas at El Paso will not be following the city order.

“It is my intent to have a local health authority order to have a mask mandate throughout the city and the county and all indoor establishments to include the schools to include any building, for people when they go indoors to be wearing their masks at all times,” Ocaranza said.

UTEP will not be following El Paso’s order of mask mandates, instead they will follow an executive order from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott that does not allow masks to be mandated.

“At this time, masks and see MASKS on page 4
Opinion
Julian Herrera, editor-in-chief

New Editor-in-Chief Julian Herrera aims to cultivate community discourse and increased engagement

BY JULIAN HERRERA
The Prospector

I hail from a family of educators and individuals dedicated to the protection and advancement of the underrepresented and disadvantaged. As such, my perspectives about the world and my desire to facilitate culturally rich and scholarly relationships and environments are predicated on my family’s ideals of inclusion, integrity, and involvement.

The significance of an education that not only teaches but inspires individuals to approach every topic critically and analyze objectively while contextualizing information in their own lived experiences is understated. Such an education is afforded here at The University of Texas at El Paso, and thus, having The Prospector comprised of the same individuals receiving that education grants an insight and approach to stories that maintain the integrity of objective, fact-based news while integrating the voices of historically underrepresented individuals.

My first job as a communications assistant at University Communications here at UTEP demonstrated on a grand scale the impact members of my community had locally and at a national level, representing the influence of UTEP nurturing both the intellect and culture of its students concurrently. In my time with The Prospector, I have served both as a staff reporter and copy editor, presenting me with the opportunity to engage with my community on a more enduring and personal level. Now, as editor-in-chief, I will work to provide others with the same opportunities.

I want to encourage civil discourse not only amongst my colleagues as well as a student publication but promote it across campus and in the community at-large. The liberties we retain as a student publication enable us to lend our insight to not only wide-scale issues but also a variety of subjects that may otherwise be considered too personal or central in the borderline.

Additionally, I do not want anyone to fear confronting or engaging with subjects that are difficult due to their controversial nature or overall complexity. These topics must be approached purely in an academic sense with evidence and corroboration by professionals and experts, but I believe by promoting the discussion of these issues, it is possible to normalize healthy social deliberation and actively create change.

First and foremost, however, we are a student newspaper driven by the inquiries and interests of the student body. News, sports, and entertainment will be concisely delivered information relevant to Miners and alumni, but broad enough to allow for unique topics pertaining to the student experience, impactful and significant events at a national level. I also hope to expand the reach of our content with a revitalized emphasis on multimedia productions coordinated by Anahy Diaz, our multimedia editor.

As multimedia editor for The Prospector, I invite you to build on this experience by listening to The Prospector Podcast, a biweekly, student-run podcast recapaging the top stories surrounding UTEP and the El Paso community. Although our podcast has taken on various styles and segments since its debut in 2014, in the past year and a half it has remained consistent with its goal to uplift voices and keep the community informed. How do we achieve this? By taking listeners to the scene.

In its third and fourth season, The Prospector Podcast brought listeners to the forefront by creating audio stories surrounding events like the Black Lives Matter protests, Jill Biden’s, Ph.D., visit to El Paso and unique traditions found at the border. These stories include the voice of journalists and experts, but our aim is to give you more than the journalistic insights which already emerge in the stories and photos The Prospector produces. We want you to listen to the voice of those seeking a space to be heard. Through our news, entertainment and sports segments, we want to continue expanding on our commitment to be a valuable resource for our listeners. This new season of The Prospector Podcast will invite new informative and fun discussions with students and experts in the border region. We want listeners to hear the thought and passion behind the work, context, competing viewpoints, and decisions affecting our day-to-day lives. If you’re looking to learn more about the unique and pressing aspect of our content with a revitalized emphasis on multimedia productions coordinated by Anahy Diaz, our multimedia editor.

As a journalist, I look forward to the future of podcasts, as I am sure you do. I look forward to my time as EIC with great pride, dedication, and joy.

BY ANAHY DIAZ
The Prospector

The Prospector Podcast returns this fall, to stay...
**Study abroad students to travel again**

**Countries open up for students after a year of uncertainty**

BY JULIA LUCERO

UTEP study abroad students return to traveling after a year and half of programs and countries being initially hesitant, but later realizing that study abroad was a special experience.

Senior Kimberly Anaya will join a study abroad program in the virtual programs abroad program facilitates information about studying abroad programs, provides guidance on completing applications, informs students on safety and risk, discusses financial options, and grants UTEP students a study abroad scholarship.

Any student studying abroad must first receive clearance and permission from the UTEP IOC. The committee looks at students' applications on why it is essential to join a study abroad program. This committee is looking at location and safety prior to students traveling, Brandford-Calvo said.

"We continued to have information sessions, individual sessions and group sessions," Brandford-Calvo said. "We continued to meet with them and inform them about the process of studying abroad because the fact that they could not go abroad for a whole year did not mean that they were not going to go abroad as soon as the borders open or programs open."

Though the Study Abroad office has a handful of students going away this year, Brandford-Calvo forecasts another hundred of students in the program again in the next two to three years. Students interested in joining the important programs can contact the Study Abroad office at (915) 747-5664 or email them at studyabroad@utep.edu.

Because we continue to have a lot of students interested in studying abroad programs, the UTEP Study Abroad office has been working on informing students about the changes on a daily basis.

**UTEPE alumna wins prestigious $50K international poetry award**

**This is the way I can express myself and play with the language as I wish.**

David Cruz Lopez, poet

"The first part of the book is an homage to a series of important poets along history. Some poems are about poets who were followed during World War II because of politics and racial problems," Cruz said. "The second part of the book is about the present, and it's like an internal exploration and meditation."

Cruz finished writing his book five years ago and is now working on other projects which he hopes to finish soon. He now plans on starting his Ph.D. in Hispanic studies in Seattle, WA.

Cruz explained that he was surprised by the borderland's culture and its uniqueness. He said the borderland has impacted his writing and will continue to do so.

"I feel like a guest, who wants to stay," Cruz said.

Victoria Rivas may be reached at prospector@utep.edu, @VicRivas_18 on Twitter.
FOOTBALL from page 1

School District (EPISD) met Tuesday, Aug. 17 night to vote to sue Texas Governor Greg Abbott and install a mask mandate for schools. “The Socorro ISD (SISD) Board of Trustees voted to comply with the City of El Paso Health Authority order mandating masks in indoor settings which goes into effect Wednesday, Aug. 18,” an announcement from SISD said.

EPISD board voted 6-1 on mask requirements in all district facilities. “Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for the COVID-19 vaccination. Further, it is important to continue maintaining 6-feet social distancing and handwashing as critical steps to slowing the spread of the virus,” Ocaranza said.

Mike Cox. The unit ranked 46 overall last year. The unit has a chance to improve with some key players returning to UTEP and with a new scheme under Pereto. “We have new faces that are trying to learn schematically. We are trying to get the timing down,” UTEP Head Football Coach Dana Dimel said in remarks at a July 30 press conference.

One of the key players returning is junior starting defensive end Praise Amawehile. Amawehile made a significant impact for the Miners last season. Amawehile had a nose for the ball and was always in the backfield. Last year, he was named All-Conference USA second team, had 19 tackles, four quarterback hurries, a forced fumble, and a fumble recovery.

The Miners’ cornerbacks play is another factor to watch on this defense, as they do tend to make plays to impact the ball game. One of their key players returning this year is sixth year senior starting cornerback Derksey Yvon. Inyang played a key role last year in the Miners defense. He started all eight games on defense, had 32 tackles, two tackles for losses, a pass breakup and two forced fumbles. He was also named to the Conference USA preseason watch list.

Regarding the Miners health, Athletic Director Jim Senter wanted everyone in athletics to be vaccinated at 100%. “It’s a very personal choice,” Senter said during a sports media day press conference Aug. 5, while stressing education for their student-athletes on the benefit of the vaccine. “I prefer to see 100% vaccination. That’s my goal, but I don’t think we’ll get there. I don’t think our country will get there.”

RETURN from page 1

Support Services, Wiebe said. Whether students who cannot receive the vaccine can take a specific or all courses online will be left to the professors, Wiebe said. “As a university, we need to make reasonable accommodations to the extent that’s possible; it may or may not be possible in a given course,” Wiebe said.

Union Services Director Ofelia Dominguez is excited to see UTEP students return to campus, as she experienced an empty building last year. “It’s good to have some of the student life back in the building,” Dominguez said.

Dominguez found comfort in the choice of being able to wear a mask in an indoor setting. “It’s still easy to say the greetings to have ours, what impact that’s going to have later on down the road. I’m just hoping that the people attending these events continue to practice, by choice, mask wearing or social distancing and making sure that they continue to follow the guidelines that have been said,” Dominguez said.

UTEP junior Jacob Aguirre is eager to get back into student life on campus. “Everything’s been closed off ever since the pandemic for like a year and a half and I think that more students are going to be more willing to go to more events or go to Minerpalooza, just to actually get out there and be able to have college experiences like we’re supposed to,” Aguirre said.

The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) has an online portal with a three-question application for students with disabilities or temporary disabilities. CASS will then meet with students virtually or in person to discuss their case and determine what accommodations the student is eligible for.

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To see the full
UTEP Miners
football schedule, see page 7

utepminers.com

Danny Lopez may be reached at prospectortoday@utep.edu.

Advertisement
Entertainment

Megadeth kicks off diverse concert series

Latín favorites headline fall concert series at UTEP Don Haskins Center

BY JULIAN HERRERA
The Prospector

The Don Haskins Center, 151 Glory Road, welcomes a lively slate of musical artists for its 2021 concert series. Tickets for each of the concerts are available at Ticketmaster, ticketmaster.com or utep.edu. All tickets for shows purchased prior to postponement will be honored.

Metal Tour of the Year

Thrash and groove metal icons Megadeth and Lamb of God join forces on the co-headlined “Metal Tour of the Year” at 6 p.m., Aug. 24 at the Don Haskins Center. With Megadeth front man Dave Mustaine recently recovered from throat cancer and Lamb of God coming off a critically successful album in 2020, both artists are prepared to bring their revitalized forces on the co-headlined “Metal Tour of the Year” at 6 p.m., Aug. 24 at the Don Haskins Center. The event includes the first-ever Miners back on campus. One of hosted events to welcome UTEP The Prospector

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ
UTEP Rec Center presents first-ever Late Night at the Rec

Kane Brown
Kane Brown brings his country-pop hybrid sound to the stage at 7 p.m., Sept. 11, on the “Worldwide Beautiful Tour.” The winner of multiple ACM and CMT awards, Brown is the first artist to have simultaneously number ones on all five main Billboard country charts. Limited tickets remain from $63 - $347.

Maluma
Latin pop singer-songwriter Maluma continues his “Papi Juancho Tour” at 8 p.m., Sept. 24. With over 18 million records sold, Maluma is one of the best-selling Latin music artists and has collaborated with the likes of Shakira and The Weeknd. Tickets: $80 - $401.

TobyMac
Christian hip-hop artist TobyMac on his “Hits Deep 2020” tour will perform 7 p.m., Oct. 11. The multi-Grammy award winning artist has found great success in spreading his message over a 34-year-long career and has sold more than 10 million albums. Tickets range from $8 - $30.

Alejandro Fernández
Alejandro Fernández unites fans of traditional Mexican folk and pop music on his “Hecho En México Tour 2021” at 8 p.m., Sept. 18. The son of Vincente Fernández, Alejandro is one of the best-selling Latino music artists and is known for his success branching out into a multitude of musical styles. Tickets start at $13 and VIP packages run $295.

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Alejandro Saenz
Alejandro Saenz’s “La Gira 2021” hits the Don Haskins Center stage at 8 p.m., Oct. 26. Three-time Latin Grammy winner for Album of the Year, Saenz diversified his sound and branched into rock and ballads in addition to his Latin pop and Flamenco to great success worldwide. Tickets start at $20 and VIP packages start at $229.

Iglesias and Martin
Kings of Latin pop Enrique Iglesias and Ricky Martin unite on stage at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 10. Iglesias’s crossover bilingual appeal and Martin’s influence bringing Latin pop to the U.S. mainstream has resulted in international celebration and earned them both the title of kings of the genre by the public. Tickets from $23 and VIP packages from $399.

Christian Nodal
Christian Nodal hits the Don Haskins Center stage on his “Botella Tres Botella Tour” with special guest Guera MX at 9 p.m., Dec. 18. Nodal struck a chord with lovers of traditional and Regional Mexican music, garnering critical acclaim for his debut album and remaining on an upward trajectory with every release in his career of only a few years. Tickets start at $32 and VIP packages start at $347.

For information on the concert series or other events at the Don Haskins Center, visit the UTEP Ticket Center, available by phone at 915-747-5234 or email at utc@ utep.edu.

Julian Herrera may be reached at prospector@ utep.edu or julian_h Herrera on Instagram.

CHRISTIAN NODAL

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Late Night at the Rec at the UTEP Recreation Center. The event ended at midnight, and was free to all UTEP students, faculty, staff, alumni, family, friends, kids and guests.

There was something for everyone at this celebration. Activities included a Mega Dodgeball tournament, extreme archery, Smash Bros tournament, 3-on-3 laser tag, dancing, inflatables, Sumo wrestling, Xtreme bull riding, intramural sports tournament and more. There will be free giveaways and prizes. Attendees enjoyed free food, drinks, and music, as well as a water volleyball tournament. People who attended had access to the rec center that evening for an after-hours workout session.

The student rec center has hosted several after-hours events over the summer in order to get students involved in their school and

see NIGHT on page 6

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THE PROSPECTOR · AUGUST 24, 2021 · PAGE 5
Minerpalooza returns to UTEP’s campus Friday

BY ELENA NOREZ
The Prospector

Over a year since the coronavirus pandemic forced UTEP to cancel Minerpalooza and a host of other events meant to bring students together, businesses and establishments have begun reopening to the public. UTEP has also made a full return, beginning with the comeback of the longtime campus tradition, Minerpalooza at 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 27, in the Glory Road Bowl Stadium. This 31-year-old school festival is complete with vendors, games and performances from hip-hop stars Coolio, Ying Yang Twins, and Pete’s Playground along with a beer and wine garden for guests 21 and over. Students may be excited to see the return of this campus custom to welcome them back to school after having to stay home for a year. One of those students is Claudia Gill, 19, chemical engineering major at UTEP. Gill said she is excited about the new Battle of the Bands performance at this year’s Minerpalooza. “You get to see a lot of the talent that El Paso has to offer,” Gill said. “Even though it might not be like, you get to see a lot of the talent that El Paso has to offer, “ Gil said. “I think it’s really good for them. It sounds like a first experience of a university event to things like that, this will be a warm welcome back to campus.”

I guess, what would be considered bigger artists, it’s totally cool being able to see the community coming together and showing off the talents that they were given.” For this year’s return of Minerpalooza, the university has focused on promoting the Battle of the Bands. For this performance, UTEP gives the power to the people by allowing students and others to vote for which artist they believe should perform at the festival. By visiting the Minerpalooza page on the university’s website then clicking on the Battle of the Bands banner, users are allowed to watch the artists perform and then determine who is worthy of their vote. The artists competing for a performance at Minerpalooza are Coco Butter, Le Voryage, Rivers Ventura, Tony Jupiter and Soul Parade, all of whom are local talent making their debuts in the Sun City.

“I think it’s great that we are having Minerpalooza again since it is giving many students a sense of normalcy,” said Nefatli Reyes, 19, UTEP student majoring in biological sciences. “The Battle of the Bands is even better since we get to see and learn new artists.” With the Battle of the Bands making its premiere at this year’s Minerpalooza promises to be a warm welcome back to campus.

Elena Norez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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FOOTBALL
7:30 p.m. Aug. 28, New Mexico State University, Home
7 p.m. Sept. 4, Bethune-Cookman University, Home
7:30 p.m. Sept. 10, Boise State University, Idaho, Away
7 p.m. Sept. 26, The University of New Mexico, Home
7 p.m. Oct. 2, Old Dominion, Home
5 p.m. Oct. 9, Southern Miss, Away
7 p.m. Oct. 16, LA Tech, Home
4 p.m. Oct. 30, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Away
2 p.m. Nov. 6, The University of Texas at San Antonio, Home
2 p.m. Nov. 13, University of North Texas Denton, Texas, Away
2 p.m. Nov. 20, Rice, Home
TBA, Nov. 27, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Away

MEN’S BASKETBALL
Nov. 9, W. New Mexico, Home
Nov. 13, New Mexico State University, Home
Nov. 16, Northern New Mexico College, Home
Nov. 19, Pacific Stockton, Away
Nov. 22, UC Riverside, Home
Nov. 24, Florida A&M, Home
Dec. 3, New Mexico State University, Home
Dec. 7, Kansas University, Away
Dec. 12, University of Miami, Away
Dec. 16, McNeese State, Home
Dec. 21, NC Central, Home
Dec. 22, Sam Houston, Home
Dec. 30, UAB, Away

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
1 p.m. Nov. 7, St. Mary’s, Home
7 p.m. Nov. 11, UAH, Home
1 p.m. Nov. 13, University of North Dakota, Home
7 p.m. Nov. 17, New Mexico State University, Home
7 p.m. Nov. 20, Northern Arizona University, Home
5 p.m. Nov. 26, Seattle University, Away
5 p.m. Nov. 27, Kansas University, Away
TBA, Dec. 1, New Mexico State University, Away
TBA, Dec. 4, Utah State, Home
TBA Dec. 13, Texas State, Home
TBA Dec. 19, University of New Mexico, Away
11 a.m. Dec. 21, Air Force, Home
TBA Dec. 30, UAB, Home

CROSS COUNTRY
Sep. 4 at UNA, TBD
Sep. 16 at NMSU, TBD
Oct. 2, Linn of Pinsville, TBD
Oct. 16 NCAA Pre-Nationals, TBD
Oct. 30 Conference USA

VOLLEYBALL
Noon Aug. 21, Grand Canyon, Home
4 p.m. Aug. 27, UC Irvine, Away
2 p.m. Aug. 28, San Diego State, Away
7:30 p.m. Aug. 28, Idaho State, Away
10 p.m. Sept. 3, Arizona, Home
7 p.m. Sept. 5, Northwestern, Home
1 p.m. Sept. 5, NMSU, Home
9:30 a.m. Sept. 10, GCU, Away
2:30 p.m. Sept. 10, Portland, Away
Noon Sept. 11, Portland, Away
10:30 a.m. Sept. 17, Texas Southern, Away
6:30 p.m. Sept. 17, TAMUC, Away
Noon Sept. 18, Tarleton State, Away
5 p.m. Sept. 23, UTRGV, Away
Nov. 10, Rice, Away
Nov. 2, Rice, Away
Nov. 8, UTSA, Home
Nov. 11, UT, Home
4 p.m. Nov. 15, Southern Miss, Away
10 a.m. Dec. 16, Southern Miss, Away

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By Katrina Villarreal
The Prospector

After not allowing fans to attend the games in person due to COVID-19, UTEP sporting events will operate at full in-person capacity beginning this fall. The UTEP sports season kicks off Aug. 10 with the UTEP Soccer team facing off against Colorado College on the road. The UTEP Soccer season begins Aug. 19 against Big 12 affiliate Texas Tech Red Raiders at Lubbock. UTEP Soccer will also face off against SEC affiliate Texas A&M on Sept. 5 at College Station and rivals New Mexico State University Aggies at home on Sept. 9. The Miners have a total of four home games and eleven road games. “We are excited to get started this season,” Women’s Soccer Coach Kathryn Balogun said. “Our non-conference schedule has some really difficult opponents that we think will prepare us well for C-USA.”

After winning their first Conference USA tournament since 2008, the UTEP Volleyball team kicks off its regular season on the road against Idaho State at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 28. The Miners will also face off against PAC-12 affiliate Arizona at 10 a.m. Sept. 3. The Miners meet rival New Mexico State University Aggies at 1 p.m. Sept. 5. The volleyball team will have a total of 10 home games, 10 road games and six neutral games. “I’m extremely excited to get our fans back into Memorial Gym to see this team play,” Head Coach Ben Wallis said. “In two years, our fans back into Memorial Gym to watch the Miners or tune in on FS1. The Miners have our El Paso fans back into the I-10.” Miners meet Mountain West affiliate Boise State University on Oct. 30. The Miners have two bye weeks, of Alabama at Birmingham Dec. 30. The Miners have two bye weeks, Feb. 5 and Feb. 24. The date of the Conference USA tournament has not been announced yet, but is looking to be held in Frisco, Texas. The Miners have nine home games and nine road games.

“Conference USA is a tough and competitive league. This league has tremendous players and great coaches,” first-year UTEP Head Coach Joe Golding said. “We have the utmost respect for every program in this league. We look forward to having our fans back in the Hawkins Center and making it the toughest place to play in the league.”

Season tickers for the upcoming soccer, volleyball, football, women’s basketball, and men’s basketball are now on sale.

Gavin Hardison throws the ball down the field during practice Aug. 16.
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