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The Prospector, January 18, 2022

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Beto O'Rourke returns to El Paso

BY ITZEL GIRON
The Prospector

Beto O'Rourke returned to El Paso Saturday, Jan. 8, in hopes of getting support from his hometown as he prepares to face Republican incumbent Greg Abbott in the race for Texas Governor.

Hundreds of masked individuals filled the empty parking lot of Dead

Beach Brewery as O'Rourke prepared to speak on key points of his gubernatorial campaign. From legalization of marijuana to keeping the electric grid up and running that failed last year, leaving many Texans stuck in freezing temperatures.

For San Antonio resident Patrick Chacon, O'Rourke must speak up

on things that are not only important to him but to others across Texas.

"For me, Beto really needs to make points on climate change, the healthcare crisis and how he plans on protecting Texas if the electric grid somehow fails again," said Chacon said. "I suffered tremendously during that winter storm; I

hope if Beto is elected that I don't have to worry about being in that situation again."

O'Rourke has faced much uncertainty after losing the Senate race back in 2018 to most recently dropping out of the 2020 Presidential run in 2019. Even with that strain

"I'm very confident that if we continue to see that leadership from young people, we are going to win this race."

Beto O'Rourke, during a local campaign gathering Jan. 8.

see **BETO** on **Page 3**

Escobar aims to improve conditions for military and immigrants

BY ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ
The Prospector

U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-El Paso) grew up with her parents and four brothers in El Paso's Lower Valley. They did not have much money, but they found their way with what they had. The congresswoman's unwavering dedication to the region shines through in her commitment to keeping young talent in the area, create high-skilled jobs to help retain them, and usher the city into economic growth and prosperity.

Congresswoman Escobar graduated from William H. Burges High School and then attended The University of Texas at El Paso, where she received a bachelor's degree in British and American Literature. She earned a master's degree in literature from New York University (NYU). After she graduated from NYU, she knew she did not want to pursue a doctorate in New York, deciding instead she would prefer a school in the University of California system. That plan was not to be, as she had a stopover in El Paso that resulted in Escobar becoming an English

lecturer at UTEP and El Paso Community College to save for her doctoral degree.

"I thought I was going to be an academic and I was ready to pursue a doctorate; I wanted to be a professor for the rest of my life. I never imagined my life would take this kind of journey," said Escobar in a sit-down interview with The Prospector.

In 1993, Escobar recounted that during her time as a teacher, she heard then-Border Patrol Chief Silvestre Reyes (who later served as Congressman for 16th District from 1997 to 2013) publicly state that he wanted to build a wall between El Paso and Juarez. This event inspired her to join The Border Rights Coalition, now known as the Border Network for Human Rights, where she became a self-described "hardcore activist." According to the congresswoman this is where she found her passion for "civic engagement and wanting to help a vulnerable population but also wanting to make sure that our community did not become a xenophobic community."

During the interview, Escobar

In 1996, she got involved with her first political campaign with Jose Luis Sanchez for the 16th Congressional District; the opponent was Silvestre Reyes. After the election, Escobar continued to volunteer at political campaigns for the next decade until she ran for El Paso County Commissioner. She served from 2007 to 2011 and then became El Paso County Judge from 2011 to 2017. Escobar originally ran for Congress in 2018 as a Democrat after former Congressman Beto O'Rourke (D-El Paso) decided to run for United States Senate.

detailed some key issues on which she is currently working.

Military Reform

Escobar is currently on the Committee of Armed Services and Committee on the Judiciary in Congress. She is focused on creating a safer environment for military individuals across the nation as she aims to change a toxic culture embedded into many military bases as part of the culture, she said.

"I have had service members tell me I'm not even going to bother reporting sexual harassment because I see my peers who report sexual assault and not get justice,"


Escobar said. One of the ways the congresswoman is working to change the culture is by changing the way mentorship programs work in the military, making sure they are well-funded and inclusive rather than dependent upon volunteers. She hopes to see an increase in diversity among leadership and overall to make the military a safer space for service members..

Immigration Reform

One of the biggest issues Escobar is trying to shed a light on in Congress is the border and the

see **ESCOBAR** on **Page 3**


U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar discusses military funding, immigration, bipartisanship, and student loans in an interview with The Prospector. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**




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Opinion

Alberto Silva Fernandez, editor in chief

New Editor-in-Chief Alberto Silva Fernandez aims to ensure that students voices are heard

BY ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ
The Prospector

When my parents originally moved from Chihuahua to Ciudad Juárez, my dad immediately focused on finding a way to provide my sister and I the best education possible in in the United States. He believed that the best way to ensure a better life was through obtaining a higher education. My father continues to push me to always seek new ways of learning and to look for new perspectives.

I come from a family who always encouraged me to pursue a higher education as both my parents did not have the same opportunity. My biggest encouragement during my educational journey is my sister, who I watched become the first in my family to attain a bachelor's and a master's degree.

As a first-generation college student, the idea of graduating



Alberto Silva Fernandez

from college always seemed like an impossible hill to climb, but after graduating high school during a pandemic and receiving a summer internship with the El Paso Times, I knew college was the best route for me. Thanks to The DREAM. US scholarship I was given a full

ride scholarship, and can focus on my studies and my work here at The Prospector.

I discovered journalism when I was a freshman at Montwood High School when I joined my first journalism course because I had a small interest in photography. I later joined the high school's yearbook staff, my sophomore year. My small interest stemmed into a passion that has guided me for the past six years. Photography has become my main form of self-expression and artistic expression while conveying emotion and telling the stories of my community.

At my time here at The Prospector I have served as a contributor, staff photographer and photo editor. This has given me great opportunities to cover a vast majority of events like UTEP's first ever Texas Western Gold Rush, UTEP's

football team first bowl game since 2014, political issues such as the 2020 presidential election and Texas redistricting, and various performances and events throughout campus.

As I move into this new position, I want to encourage everyone to continue engaging in discussions about controversial subjects and ensure that they are discussed accurately and respectfully. I look forward to continuing speaking with UTEP students and professors about subjects that influence our day-to-day lives.

We are a student newspaper and I intend on continuing our dedication to the student body and alumni. I encourage students to send letters to the editor and any feedback, as it is greatly encouraged. I plan on increasing the quality of our content and ensuring that

students voices are heard.

I want to thank my mentors who have helped me along my journey including Justin Stene, Mark Lambie, Brianna Sanchez, Tracy Patrick Roy, Veronica Gonzalez, Julian Herrera, Anahy Diaz, Bryan Mena, and all the wonderful staff at The Prospector. I would like to thank all of you individually for believing in me and my capabilities as a journalist and as a leader, it is because of your guidance that I am here today.

Para mi familia, gracias por todo lo que han hecho por mi. Sus sacrificios y el soporte que me han dado son las razones por las que he podido salir adelante.

I would also like to thank my girlfriend and my close friends for their continued support throughout this journey.

Alberto Silva Fernandez can be reached at asilva36@miners.utep.edu; [@albertosilva_f](https://twitter.com/albertosilva_f) on Twitter

Photography is a looking glass

BY ANNABELLA MIRELES
The Prospector

I believe photography is not only artwork, but also a looking glass for people to view perspectives of events they might not have seen before. Photos paired with an enticing story enhance the readers' understanding of what is happening in their day-to-day lives. As a photojournalist, I strive to capture news, sports and entertainment events for the student body and will push to highlight events by showing the plethora of emotions events can bring out.

I like to think that photographers are storytellers, and their photos are the story, from shooting crowd shots of fans cheering for a favorite player to an action shot of that same player scoring a touchdown – from getting a wide shot of graduates at the Don Haskins Center receiving their diploma, to



Annabella Mireles

a close-up of someone's mother crying from seeing their daughter walk on stage. My goal for this semester is for The Prospector photography to encompass events in their entirety and immerse the reader in the event.

I grew up with such a supportive family and followed in my father's footsteps as a photographer. I started my journey in my sophomore year at Burges High School when I joined the same yearbook staff my father joined. I immediately fell in love with shooting and knew this was not something I wanted to keep just as a hobby, but instead make into a career. Going into my first semester at UTEP, I applied for a staff photographer position at The Prospector and am grateful to have experienced events such as Beto O'Rourke's rally for governor, meeting Congresswoman Verónica Escobar, covering a WWE event and meeting Dolores Anguiano, one of UTEP's oldest graduates.

As the new photo editor, my goal for the semester is to not only take photos that will showcase momentous events to the readers, but to

also provide a unique perspective and angles that people might not have experienced themselves. With the help of my photography team, I also plan for this semester's photos to be more artistic when doing photo illustrations and capturing the emotion in events.

As an editor, I plan to encourage an artistic environment where my photography staff can feel free to be as creative as they want with their photography. As for other staffers, I hope to inspire them to also experiment with photography as well and even get the courage to shoot events on their own. Along with providing new perspectives, I also plan to collaborate more with the reporters and editors so we can create more multimedia content and put out more videos that we can post on our website or put into The Prospector Podcast.

I am extremely grateful for this amazing opportunity and could not have done it without the wonderful people in my life. I would like to thank my family and boyfriend for always being so supportive of my passion for photography and to Alberto Silva Fernandez, current Editor-in-Chief for showing me the ropes of what this position entails and for inspiring me to always push for the best work.

I encourage everyone to tell more stories through the art of photography, and to photograph moments that may seem ordinary and mundane to give it a new perspective.

Annabella Mireles may be reached on Instagram @photographybyannabella or through email at aamireles@miners.utep.edu

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Personal information (phone numbers and address) will be used for identification only. Letters are subject to editing to fit available space, clarity and brevity.

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BETO from Page 1



Former US Rep. Beto O'Rourke holds a campaign rally for Governor at DeadBeach Brewery, Jan. 8 . Those in attendance wore Beto pins, shirts and held signs in support of his campaign. **Photos by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**

on popularity and trust, O'Rourke has once again stepped up to the plate and run against yet another Texas favorite Republican.

However, back in 2018 O'Rourke was favored to win by many young voters and celebrities across the country. On election day record numbers of voters headed to the

polls which created one of the closest senate races in Texas since 1978. A marginal loss of about 215,000 votes, O'Rourke was able give Incumbent Ted Cruz a good scare.

With that loss, O'Rourke has still been able to gather support from across all ages; from 14 to 90 years old. Those supporters include 15-year-old Allison Gaumer, a freshman at Coronado High School who, even not having the chance to vote this year, still finds herself advocating for O'Rourke.

"Something about Beto just gets me excited for what he can do for Texas," said Gaumer. "Even though I'm young and do not have a voice in voting just yet, I really hope he can advocate for all of the young people who support him but can't vote for him yet."

For about an hour O'Rourke spoke to the crowd in hopes many would feel inspired to not only vote for him on election day but support him by getting others to believe in his ideas for the State of Texas.

Finishing his speech, O'Rourke took time to take pictures with all attendees and spoke to anyone who had questions about his goals as governor. Being his first big event in El Paso, O'Rourke hopes he can

get his message across to those of his hometown and to those across the state.

I asked him how he hopes to bring more young adults to the polls and quite possibly allow him to take the win and become Texas Governor unlike his Senate bid.

"It was actually those students at UTEP that got us that close [during the Senate Race]. Young people turned out at a rate that was 500% greater in 2018 than the previous midterms," O'Rourke said. "All those UTEP and community college students and young people who don't go to college but are enlisted or maybe working a job turned out in record numbers in 2018. It got us within a little more of 2% of the sitting U.S. Senator. I'm very confident that if we continue to see that leadership from young people, we are going to win this race."

Itzel Giron is a staff reporter and may be reached at igiron@miners.utep.edu; @by.itzel.giron on Instagram; @itzel_anahi_16 on Twitter.

ESCOBAR from Page 1

process of attaining asylum. She said she has brought roughly 20% of the members of Congress to El Paso to tour the ports of entry, to show them the perspective of law enforcement, attorneys and human rights activists. Escobar said she has introduced a bill in the U.S. House that is part of a suite of bills focused of reforming the immigration system.

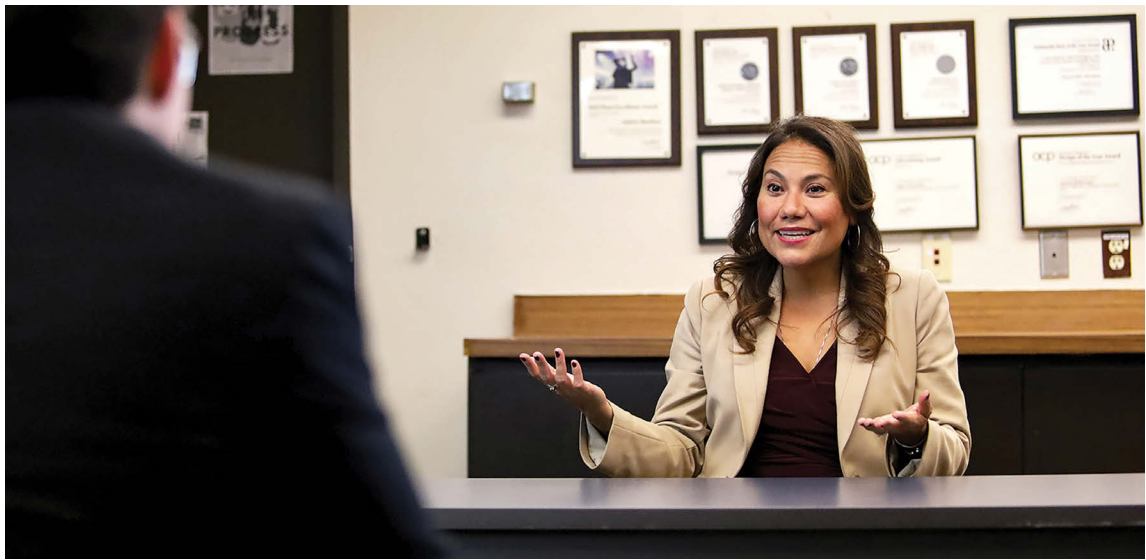
The Homeland Security Improvement Act (H.R. 3557) is focused on reforming the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to increase transparency, accountability, and community involvement, Escobar said. The bill also focuses on asylum seekers and the asylum process.

"Under normal circumstances if you're an asylum seeker, you are essentially treated as a criminal, you are processed, you can be held in a processing facility for 10 hours for 10 days or, as we saw under the Trump administration, for weeks and then you are transferred to an ICE detention facility," Escobar

said. "So, we have to make a decision as a country as to whether we are going to criminalize everyone who comes across. I reject that notion; it's not just inhumane, it's not just unAmerican, it's really expensive."

Escobar wishes to put Border Patrol back on the front lines, while also making the asylum process safe and where asylum seekers have access to child welfare, legal, and adult welfare services. The bill seeks to remodel ports of entry to make them seem more welcoming, while also making it so asylum seekers can be processed there instead of being moved from port to port, she said.

For individuals under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Escobar wants comprehensive immigration reform, which would open up legal pathways for those seeking citizenship. The Build Back Better Act, a bill part of President Joe Biden's Build Back Better Plan, passed the U.S. House in November, and



U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar discusses military funding, immigration, bipartisanship, and student loans in an interview with The Prospector. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**

is currently awaiting a vote in the U.S. Senate. The bill, Escobar said, focuses on providing resources for family leave, immigration, and healthcare, as well as addressing climate change. The bill includes help for immigrants with work

and travel permits, and relief from deportation for DREAMERS (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors), DACA recipients, farm workers, essential workers, and temporary permit holders, Escobar said.

Escobar is on the ballot in the Democratic primary March 1, running for reelection of her seat in the U.S. House of Representatives for the 16th Congressional District of El Paso.

Alberto Silva Fernandez may be reached at asilva36@miners.utep.edu.

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L Gallery
Jan 27 - Apr 15

The Fund for Ethical Practices of Transborder Art Project Space
Nov 1, 2021 - Feb 25, 2022

NEWS BRIEFS

UTEP’s COVID-19 vaccination clinics and testing sites continue their operations

Prospector Staff Report

As positive cases for COVID-19 spike again in El Paso. The clinics are free and open to the public; If you are a UTEP student, faculty, or staff there will be a dedicated line, make sure to bring your Miner Gold Card to access this line. Participants are eligible to receive the booster five months after their second dose of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, and two months after receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

You can receive your free booster shot at the Undergraduate Learning Center’s lobby from 9:30am to 2:00pm on Wednesday and Thursday for the following three weeks:

Wednesday Jan.12 and Thursday Jan.13
Wednesday, Jan. 19 and Thursday, Jan. 20
Wednesday, Jan. 26, and Thursday, Jan. 27

UTEP Library announces hours of operation for Spring 2022

Prospector Staff Report

As the beginning of the semester approaches, the UTEP Library announced via email their operation hours, in which their services will be available to cover students’ needs. The library will continue to work with students to ensure the best academic experience possible, despite the circumstances, providing their service with the University Writing Center, librarian assistance, study rooms, interlibrary loans, etc.

Jan. 18-May 13
• 7 a.m.-10 p.m., Mon-Thurs.
• 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Fridays
• 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturdays
• Noon-10 p.m., Sundays

Spring Break
• Closed, Sunday, March 13
• 8 a.m.-5 p.m., March 14-18
• Closed, Saturday, March 19

Cesar Chavez Day
• 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, March 25

For additional information, call the library at 915-747-5672 or email ask@utep.libanswers.com.



Uncertainty overwhelms the El Paso community as COVID-19 infections rapidly increase across the borderland region. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

Students discuss UTEP’s safety protocols amid COVID-19

BY VICTORIA RIVAS
The Prospector

Uncertainty overwhelms the El Paso community as COVID-19 infections rapidly increase across the borderland region. Despite the arrival of omicron, a new highly infectious COVID-19 variant, UTEP has announced that students, faculty and staff will be returning to campus for in-person classes starting Tuesday, Jan. 18. “We are planning for the spring semester to start as planned. There will be no delayed start or shift to online classes at this time,” UTEP President Heather Wilson said. UTEP’s announcement comes as the city of El Paso’s Public Health Department reported its first 12 confirmed cases of omicron Monday, Jan. 3. “As has been the case throughout the pandemic, the levels and patterns of the disease are different in El Paso than they are in East Texas. We monitor data daily and will continue to do so,” Wilson said. COVID-19 infections have increased in El Paso County since November 2021 as families

gathered to celebrate the holidays. As of Saturday, Jan. 8, El Paso city officials reported 702 new cases compared to 593 new cases at the same time last year. Currently, there are 9,442 active cases of COVID-19, with 462 patients hospitalized, including 132 patients who were placed in ICU. “We are deeply concerned with the current rising trends we are experiencing on the number of positive cases, hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19,” said El Paso Public Health Director, Angela Mora, in a press release. “It is imperative that the community isolates and quarantines if they are experiencing symptoms, have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual or are awaiting test results.” The Texas Department of State Health Services reported on Jan. 8, 43,255 new confirmed COVID-19 cases, raising the total of active cases to 524,720 across the state. Amid the recent announcement by UTEP, several students feel the university lacks the necessary safety protocols and fails to accommodate

high-risk individuals or students who have family members with underlying diseases. Veronica Camacho, 43, a UTEP creative writing student, feels unsafe going back to school and urges the university to go back to hybrid or remote learning since her sister is a long-haul COVID-19 survivor. “We just don’t want to die or become sick,” Camacho said. “We should be given options to protect ourselves.” Other students like Daniela Ruiz, a cellular and molecular biology student, consider not returning to school this semester or transferring to another university for their safety. “I got COVID from attending lectures, and I would get emails three times a week about recent exposures. I believe we should have a choice based on how fast numbers are rising and because of past family members who I have lost,” Ruiz said. “I rather lose my semester or switch to New Mexico State University (NMSU).” Compared to UTEP, NMSU requires all employees, including

student employees, to become fully vaccinated by Jan. 4. All students need to provide proof of vaccination or submit their COVID-19 test results weekly. NMSU also requires all students and staff to wear face masks indoors. At this time, masks and vaccinations are not required for UTEP students and employees, but they are highly encouraged to practice social distancing. “We are working with the city to host more vaccination clinics on campus early in the semester,” Wilson said. Other UT System schools are delaying the start of their semester for a few weeks or transitioning to remote learning like the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD). UTEP offers students COVID-19 testing at the Student Health and Wellness Center located on the first floor of the Union Building East. Students can also use the two dedicated drive-up lanes at the COVID-19 Mega-Testing Site at 3333 N. Mesa at Kern Drive.

As COVID-19 infections increase in the borderland, the city’s COVID-19 testing mega-sites deal with staffing shortages causing El Pasoans to wait between three to five hours to get tested. “Right now, they’re about 20% staffing out due to COVID, whether they’re positive or in quarantine. So that’s a big hit to the operation,” El Paso Emergency Management Director Chief, Mario D’Agostino, said during a city council meeting. El Paso’s Public Health Department recently announced, Thursday, Jan. 6, they will follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated guidelines to reduce isolation restrictions from 10 to five days for those who test positive for COVID-19. “We continue to urge the community to get vaccinated or get their booster shot, in addition to following all health and safety precautions to include frequent hand washing, wearing a face cover, and practicing social distance,” Mora said.

Victoria Rivas is the Arts and Culture Editor at The Prospector and may be reached at rivvas7@miners.utep.edu, @VicRivas_18 on Twitter.

Arts & Culture

Victoria Rivas, editor

Grammy award-winning artists perform in El Paso

UTEP's 2021-2022 concert series brings big names in spring

BY VICTORIA RIVAS
The Prospector

UTEP's Don Haskins Center is ready to be filled with fun, music, screams, and bright lights as fans prepare to welcome and enjoy the performances of their favorite international artists as part of the 2022 concert series:

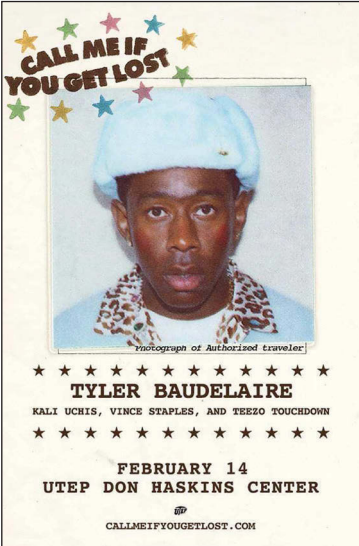


Bad Bunny

To start the year, international superstar Bad Bunny, a young Puerto Rican urban artist and rapper, will perform at the Don Haskins Center at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11. He is a multi-platinum recording artist, Grammy Award winner and multiple Latin Grammy Award winner. The show will be his second performance of his highly anticipated North American tour “El Último Tour Del Mundo.”

Bad Bunny will perform hits from his latest albums such as “YHLQMDLG,” “Las Que No Iban A Salir” and “El Último Tour del Mundo” all in one show.

Only a few tickets are available, and prices range from \$339 to \$1,564

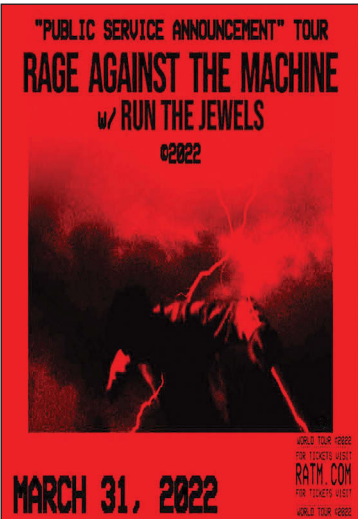


Tyler, the Creator

Tyler, the Creator, a Grammy-winning rapper, will perform at the Don Haskins Center at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 14, on the “Call Me If You Get Lost” tour. Kali Uchis, Vince Staples and Teezo Touchdown will join Tyler, the Creator, as the opening acts.

The tour is named after his latest album, released in June 2021, and debuted at number one on the Billboard's 200 charts. The tour will kick off Feb. 10 and end April 8, as he performs in 34 different arenas including El Paso.

Tickets are still available and range from \$32 to \$269.



Rage Against the Machine

Rage Against the Machine, an American rock band, will perform at the Don Haskins at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 31, with special guests Run the Jewels, after they postponed their tour twice because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The rock band will start their reunion tour “Public Service Announcement” in El Paso, and all tickets purchased for the initially scheduled date are still valid.

Few tickets are still available, and prices range from \$150 to \$547.



Ricardo Arjona

Multiple award-winning Guatemalan singer-songwriter Ricardo Arjona will perform at the Don Haskins at 8 p.m. Friday, April 1. His performance is part of his new tour, “Blanco y Negro,” as he promotes his two latest albums released during the pandemic.

With more than 20 million records sold, Arjona is one of the best-selling Latin American artists of all time. He is known for his ballad, rock and Latin pop music.

Tickets are still available, starting from \$54 and VIP packages from \$632.

see **ARTISTS** on page 6

Buy your tickets!

Phone
915-747-5234

Email
utc@utep.edu.

For more information about the upcoming concerts and performances at UTEP's Don Haskins Center, contact UTEP's Ticket Center.

UTEP's Miner Welcome is back to kick off spring semester

BY VICTORIA RIVAS
The Prospector

UTEP's Miner Welcome is back to greet new and returning students with various activities, games and giveaways throughout campus.

The events will occur during the first two weeks of classes, starting Monday, Jan. 17, through Friday, Jan. 28.

Students can participate in more than 25 exciting activities to start the semester and celebrate their Miner pride. Students must present their Miner Gold Card before participating in any event.

Monday, Jan. 17

UTEP's Housing and Residence Life will start the celebrations by hosting a campfire and hang out 7-9 p.m. at Miner Canyon and Miner Village. Free food and entertainment will be provided, and the event is a chance for new residents to meet their resident assistants and fellow residents.

Tuesday, Jan. 18

UTEP's Student Engagement and Leadership Center (SELC) will host a first-day-of-school photo-shoot to celebrate the start of the spring semester.

The event will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Union Plaza South. Graduating seniors are encouraged to bring

their caps and gowns or borrow one from SELC to motivate students to finish strong.

UTEP's Orange and Blue Spirit Crew will host Shoot for Two, in which students will have the opportunity to have a basketball shootout with other students and UTEP basketball players. The event will take place 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Centennial Plaza.

Wednesday, Jan. 19

UTEP's Student Government Association (SGA) and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), along with other organizations and departments will host a Health and Wellbeing Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Union East on the third floor and Union Bridge.

The fair is a three-day event and will provide students with information about campus health, wellbeing resources, academic support services, and campus safety initiatives.

Students can participate in a series of interactive activities, including beat COVID rage painting, therapy dogs, oxygen bar, chair massages, dance lessons, and giveaways.

UTEP's SELC and Fraternity and Sorority Life will also host Meet the Greeks from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Union Plaza. The program allows students to meet with members of UTEP's fraternities.



Members of the UTEP Volleyball team cheer during the first annual UTEP Gold Rush at Centennial Plaza, Aug. 23, 2021. **The Prospector**

Students can celebrate Miner pride to support the men's and women's basketball teams during UTEP's Orange and Blue Spirit Crew Pep-Rally.

The event will take place from noon to 1 p.m. at the Union Plaza. The basketball players and coaches will be present at the event.

Thursday, Jan. 20

Students can receive a free yoga mat during polar yoga sessions. The indoor yoga classes will take place from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Union East Templeton Suite room 313.

UTEP's Recreational Sports Department will offer three yoga sessions from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

UTEP Athletics will host Picks with Players. Students will have the opportunity to take pictures with Paydirt Pete and UTEP's men's and women's basketball players from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Centennial Plaza.

The first 150 attendees will receive clear drawstring UTEP bags at the Roast the Roadrunners event from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Don Haskins Center.

The event is a Fiesta of Roasting UTSA's Roadrunner men's basketball team with mariachi, folklórico dancers, free pizza, and wings.

Monday, Jan. 24

UTEP's SELC invites students to join student leaders for coffee to learn about leadership skills, workshops, and future leadership conferences. The gathering will take

place from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Union East.

Thursday, Jan. 27

Students can learn about UTEP's Edge philosophy and receive free goodies. The event will take place from 11 a.m. to noon at the Union East.

UTEP's FSL will host the Sorority Open House from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Tomas Rivera Conference Center.

The program occurs every semester, and students can meet with members of UTEP's sororities and learn more about their organizations.

Friday, Jan. 28

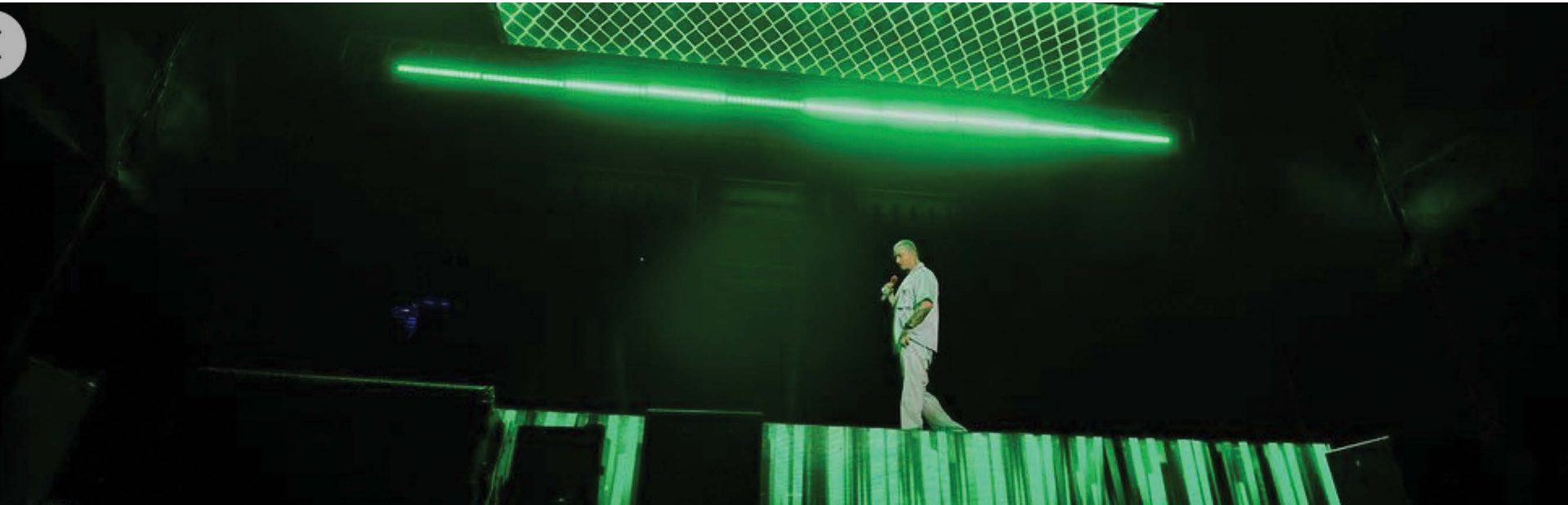
SELC will celebrate first-gen UTEP students, faculty, staff, and alumni during the First-Gen Friday event from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Union East.

SELC will also kick off its Friday Night Flick movie series from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Union Cinema. Students can enjoy watching “Inside Out” with free popcorn and refreshments.

For information on the events, visit www.minetracker.utep.edu/events?query=miner%20welcome.

Victoria Rivas is the Arts and Culture Editor and may be reached at vrivas7@miners.utep.edu; @VicRivas_18 on Twitter.

ARTISTS from Page 5



Header and picture above, courtesy of J Balvin via Instagram. ALL CONCERT POSTERS ARE COURTESY OF THE DON HASKINS CENTER.



Jeff Dunham

Jeff Dunham is ready to make the public laugh as he performs his comedy show along with his irreverent cohorts, Peanut, Walter, Jose Jalapeño, Bubba J, and Achmed the Dead Terrorist at 8 p.m. Sunday, April 24.

Dunham is a comedian and ventriloquist who has gained a unique

space in the comedy world for more than 30 years and has participated in standup specials on Netflix, NBC and Comedy Central. His upcoming show is part of his international tour “Jeff Dunham: Seriously!?” Ticket prices range from \$48 to \$357.



J Balvin

Latin sensation J Balvin will perform at the Don Haskins for the third time at 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 4. J Balvin is a Colombian reggaeton superstar, a multi-platinum recording artist and Latin Grammy winner.

He is coming to El Paso for his highly anticipated “José Tour,” named after his fifth album. J Balvin will visit 25 cities across North America. Ticket prices range from \$61 to \$375.

Tickets for all concerts can be purchased at Ticketmaster or UTEP’s Ticket Center. All tickets that were purchased before

postponement are valid for the new dates.

“We are currently following state mandates and are not requiring proof of vaccines, nor are we requiring masks, only encouraging them,” Brandon Martinez, event and marketing manager at UTEP’s Office Of Special Events, said.

For more information about the upcoming concerts and performances at UTEP’s Don Haskins Center, contact UTEP’s Ticket Center by phone at 915-747-5234 or through email at utc@utep.edu.

Victoria Rivas is the Arts and Culture Editor at The Prospector and may be reached at vrivas7@miners.utep.edu; @VicRivas_18.

Sports

Emily Autumn Velasquez, editor

UTEP women’s softball team prepares for season

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL
The Prospector

UTEP softball kicks off its 2022 season this spring with the UTEP Invitational.

The Miners have a weekend of doubleheaders Feb. 10-11, which wraps up with a game Feb. 13. UTEP is set to begin its season with a home opener against Idaho State Thursday, Feb. 10 and concludes the weekend of the UTEP invitational with a game against Abilene Christian Sunday, Feb. 13.

UTEP softball is set to host 11 of its 28 non-conference games and will participate in tournaments such as the Littlewood Classic Feb. 18-20 and the Lobo Classic Feb. 24-27. The Miners are set to take on four Power 5 schools, including Big 10 affiliate University of Minnesota and PAC-12 affiliates University of California, Berkeley, Arizona State University and University of Arizona.

UTEP will reignite the rivalry of the Battle of I-10 when the Miners travel to New Mexico to play New Mexico State University at 6 p.m. Mar. 2; UTEP will later host NMSU at 6 p.m. Apr. 5.

In conference play, the Miners will host four of its eight conference games beginning March 11 when UTSA comes down to the Sun City for a three-game series. UTEP



UTEP softball will start its 2022 season on Thursday, Feb. 10. The team will introduce several new players and Pitching Coach Lena Springer. **Photo by Alberto Silva Fernandez/The Prospector**

will also host Louisiana Tech March 25-27 and Middle Tennessee April 22-24 and it will close out conference play against UAB May 6-8.

During the fall season, head coach T.J. Hubbard added additional talent to the 2022-2023 roster. UTEP welcomed infielders, teammates, Marijn Crouwel (C/3B)

and Hunter Harkrider (SS) from Odessa College, Virginia Tech transfer Kaylee Hewitt, Cal State Northridge transfer outfielder Savannah Favre, and infielder from Grayson College Cheyenne Stark (C/UTL).

For the 2023 season, Hubbard added pitcher Breanna Ford from Calallen High School.

“We are excited to welcome Breanna to UTEP,” Hubbard said in a news release from UTEP Athletics. “She is a talented lefty that will add a new dimension to our pitching staff. Breanna comes from a well-coached high school and travel team. Her skill set and competitiveness will be a welcome addition to our team. We can’t wait to see

Breanna in El Paso next fall!”

Along with welcoming some talent to UTEP, Hubbard also added Ohio State alumna and pitching coach Lena Springer. Springer spent two years at Delaware State leading the pitching staff.

Springer brings a Power-5 playing experience at UCF (2013-14) and Ohio State (2014-17), participating in three NCAA Regional Tournaments, once with UCF and twice with Ohio State. Springer completed her senior season with a 2.74 ERA, 8-4 record, and ranked second on the Buckeyes with 74 innings pitched.

“Springer has experience at a high level playing in the Big 10 and even on the international stage,” Hubbard said. “I believe her experience as a player, as well as an instructor, will help lead some of these newcomers that we have as well as the program itself to a whole other level within Conference USA and even on a regional scale.”

UTEP starts its 2022 season when it hosts Idaho State University in a doubleheader game at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10.

All stats and quotes for UTEP courtesy of UTEP Athletics. .

Katrina Villarreal is a staff reporter and may be reached at kvillarreal1@miners.utep.edu.

UTEP Alum Don Maynard dies at 86

BY ITZEL GIRON
The Prospector

Legendary New York Jets wide receiver Don Maynard passed away Jan. 10 at the age of 86, only 15 days shy of his 87th birthday.

Not only was Maynard an NFL Hall of Famer, but he was also a part of the Texas Western College Football program, now known as UTEP. He played at Texas Western for three years before he was



Archive photo.

drafted in 1957 by the New York Giants.

Maynard was the 109th pick in the ninth round of the NFL draft even though he only caught 28 passes from 1955-57 during his

time at Texas Western. However, he was able to turn those receptions into scores and averaged 27.6 yards per catch.

Maynard was only showing a little bit of his talent at Texas Western; only known as a small halfback and safety, he eventually became an even bigger standout when arriving at the Giants training camp in 1958. It could have been that he showed up in a cowboy hat and boots or in full Western attire, but Maynard would soon stand out in the NFL, American Football League (AFL), and the Canadian Football League.

After one season with the Giants, Maynard was cut and was then playing for the Canadian Football League. Soon was picked up by the New York Titans (renamed the Jets in 1963) to play in their first season

as part of the AFL.

Soon Maynard was a star wide receiver in the AFL, where he was elected to the All-Star team four times. It was 1965 when Joe Namath became the star quarterback and joined Maynard in becoming the star duo of the team.

Maynard and Namath became unstoppable, taking the Jets to the AFL championship against the Raiders, which they won thanks to the strength of Namath and the speed of Maynard. With a hamstring injury that occurred against the Raiders, Maynard was used as a decoy and still helped the team win Superbowl III. Unfavored to win the Super Bowl against the Baltimore Colts, the Jets overcame the odds and pulled off an upset win in 1969.

Maynard played for 15 seasons,

having spent 13 with the New York Jets, and retired in 1973. When he retired, he became the NFL’s all-time leading receiver with 633 catches, played in four Pro Bowls and was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1987.

Maynard died in Ruidoso, New Mexico in an assisted living facility, where his son Scot stated his father’s death was “an accumulation of health problems including dementia.” His death not only affected those in the NFL, but here locally as he will be remembered as a legend by UTEP alumni and others across the borderland. Maynard is survived by his wife, Anna Maynard; his two children, Scot and Terry, and five grandchildren.

Itzel Giron is a staff reporter and may be reached at iagiron@miners.utep.edu; @by.itzel.giron on Instagram; @itzel_anahi_16 on Twitter.

UPCOMING MEN’S BASKETBALL HOME GAMES					
Thursday	UTSA - January 20	7 p.m.	Sunday	Marshall - February 13	1 p.m.
Thursday	Florida Atlantic - January 27	7 p.m.	Saturday	UAB - February 26	7 p.m.
Saturday	FIU - January 29	7 p.m.	Thursday	Rice - March 3	7 p.m.

COMMENTARY

Is there hope for UTEP men’s basketball?

BY DANNY LOPEZ
The Prospector

In the beginning of 2021, fans were rejoiced by the hiring of head coach Joe Golding, former head coach of Abilene Christian University. There was excitement throughout the town and the sense that the Miners were on their way back to winning season’s just like in the past.

But that has not been the case so far as the Miners are midway through their 2021-2022 season. UTEP is currently 8-8 in non-conference games and 1-3 in conference play.

In its first matchup the Miners were able to pull off an 85-57 victory against Western New Mexico University. The team looked to have fundamentally improved at first glance, with the offense clicking, and getting whatever shot they wanted, whether it was inside the



Danny Lopez

paint or from the 3-point line. The defense also played well by forcing turnovers and getting steals.

Then came adversity when the Miners traveled to take on a tough opponent that was New Mexico State University (NMSU). NMSU took control of the game early and rattled the Miners. UTEP couldn’t find their offense for the majority of the first half and struggled

defensively. But UTEP only trailed 30-35 at the end of the first half.

At the start of the second half, NMSU increased their lead 32-41 three minutes into the second half. The Miners again would struggle on offense and defense, and would go on to lose this contest 77-71.

When continuing their non-conference play, the Miners would have up-and-down results.

UTEP pulled off two straight wins after their loss at the Pan American Center. Those two wins came against the University Of the Pacific and Northern New Mexico College. The Miners participated in the Cerebro Sports Turkey Classic Tournament and the West Star Bank Tournament. The Miners were able to win one game in both tournaments, but they would go on to lose in the second round of both tournaments..

The Miners lost to the University

of Kansas and NMSU. UTEP losing to the Jayhawks would be the largest loss this season so far with a final score of 52-78. Then they lost 69-72 to NMSU in heartbreaking fashion.

In conference play the Miners have continued to struggled. They currently have losses to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Louisiana Tech University, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

The only win the Miners have so far in conference play is against the University of Southern Mississippi.

The Miners tend to struggle on the offense, whether it’s struggling to shoot consistently from the 3-point line or just finishing a lay-up at the rim. There seems to be an issue just scoring overall with this unit.

Defensively, the Miners are able to pick up the slack when the offense

struggles. The Miners defensive play is aggressive, denying the lane pass, taking a charge, or getting a steal and pushing it in transition for a bucket. But when the team looks overmatched, they are not able to play defense as well and at times let the game get away from them and have to play from behind.

The struggles are due to a new offensive system that is being put in place, and players having to adapt to new habits. Coach Golding is trying to get them to learn in practice that playing hard and fighting for extra possessions will help them succeed on the court.

Overall, I believe this will be a year the Miners struggle a lot. In the long run, they will learn from their struggles and become a better team, whether it be this season or in due time.

Daniel Lopez is a staff reporter and can be reached at daloopez23@miners.utep.edu.

THE PROSPECTOR

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New Year’s Resolutions and New Year Fun!

Check out some of the activities at the Student Recreational Sports Department!

Spring 2022 - Programs at the SRC

Fitness Classes

Mondays/Wednesday/ Fridays - \$30 per class (one-time payment)

Time	Program	Room/Instructor
6:45am-7:45am	Power Yoga	110A/Rina
7:30am-8:30am	Boxing	130/Gustavo
9:00am-10:00am	Weight Sculpting	130/Axel
9:30am-10:30am	Abs and Glutes	120/Rosa
11:00am-12:00pm	Isolation Pilates	120/Rosa
11:00am-12:00pm	Boxing Conditioning	130/Juan
1:00pm-2:00pm	Karate	110A/Berto
4:00pm-5:00pm	Circuit Training	120/Pamela
4:00pm-5:00pm	Cardio Kickboxing	130/Juan
5:15pm-6:15pm	Traditional Yoga	110A/Rina
5:30pm-6:30pm	Body Sculpting	130/Juan

Wednesdays Only - \$15 per class (one-time payment)

Time	Program	Room/Instructor
12:00pm-1:00pm	Conditioning Yoga	130/Axel
12:00pm-1:00pm	Vinyasa Yoga	110A/Ceona
5:00pm-6pm	Zumba	120/Rafael

Tuesdays/Thursdays - \$25 per class (one-time payment)*

Time	Program	Room/Instructor
6:45am-7:45am	Yoga and Meditation	110A/Rina
8:00am-9:00am	Circuit Training	120/Pamela
9:30am-10:30am	Total Body Challenge	120/Rosa
10:00-11:00am	Hatha Yoga	110A/Ceona
11:00am-12:00pm	Toning Pilates	120/Rosa
11:30am-12:30pm	Yoga Flow	110A/Ceona
12:30pm-1:30pm	Kickboxing	130/Gustavo
2:00pm-3:00pm	Kizomba (Dance)	120/Gustavo
3:30pm-4:30pm	Salsa	120/Gustavo
4:00pm-5:00pm	Boxing Conditioning	130/Juan
5:00pm-6:00pm	Bachata (Dance)	120/Gustavo
5:45pm-6:45pm	*Spin Life \$30 per Class	130/Mariel
6:00pm-7:00pm	Zumba	120/Rafael

Fridays Only - \$10 per class (one-time payment)

Time	Program	Room/Instructor
12:00pm-1:00pm	Restorative Yoga	110A/Ceona

League Event

Season Starts

Registration Deadline

Captain’s Meeting

Basketball	February 1st	January 30th	January 25th @ 7pm
Indoor Soccer	March 8th	March 6th	March 1st @7pm
Softball	April 5th	April 3rd	March 29th @7:30 pm

Tournament Event

Season Starts

Registration Deadline

Captain’s Meeting

Table Tennis	February 7th	February 6th	February 1st @7pm
Call of Duty (Virtual)	February 21st	February 20th	February 15th @7 pm

One Day Tournament Event

Season Starts

Registration Deadline

Captain’s Meeting

Racquetball	February 1st	January 31st	January 25th @ 8pm
Dodge Ball	March 9th	March 7th	March 1st @7pm
1v1 H.O.R.S.E.	April 5th	March 29th	March 29th @7pm
Kickball	April 12th	April 11th	April 5th @7pm
Basketball Shooting	April 19th	April 18th	

Outdoor Adventure Program Trips

Date of Trip	Trip Name	\$ Member / \$Non-Member	Registration Deadline
February 12	Ski Apache, NM	\$70 / \$80	February 10
March 5	Carlsbad Caverns	\$15 / \$20	March 3
March 26	Hueco Tanks (Tope Rope)	\$10 / \$20	March 24
April 15-17	Davis Mountains SP	\$50 / \$75	April 10
April 30	Hueco Tanks (Bouldering)	\$10 / \$20	April 28

UTEP RECREATIONAL SPORTS DEPARTMENT

3450 Sun Bowl D

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