The Prospector, November 16, 2021

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Delayed security response in forum

BY JULIA LUCERO
The Prospector

The Student Government Association (SGA) held a Town Hall Thursday night with the UTEP police chief Cliff Walsh and Assistant Chief Ray Rodriguez to speak about the incident that occurred Oct. 29 after two individuals who shot and killed a 22-year-old held on campus.

Rodriguez said the suspects were found inside the Union Cinema around 12 a.m. Despite frequent testing of the Miner Alert system, students were notified of the threat at 12:15 a.m. An “all-clear” message was sent at 12:33 a.m.

“When we were working on the Miner Alert, we didn’t do it well. We didn’t do it fast enough; we needed to do it faster and my apologies to you and to SGA and the students that you represent for our slow response,” Walsh said.

Walsh said the response was slow because they took too long to validate the situation.

Walsh said the police department plans on releasing Miner Alerts to students in the case of an event that jeopardizes their safety even if they are unsure of the situation to err on the safe side.

“That’s on me; I’m the one responsible for that,” Walsh said.

Students present at The Union building Thursday night shared their stories on what happened and concerns they have for the safety protocols on campus.

SGA member Michael Gutierrez said other students present inside the SGA office joined together to barricade the office doors to prevent anyone from getting in.

“It was a sobering feeling to acknowledge the fact that, if they did break in, I potentially wouldn’t go home, and I would never see my family again,” Gutierrez said.

“Whether we want to acknowledge the fact or not, this entire situation happened in this entire situation happened in this entire situation happened in this entire situation happened,” Gutierrez said.

Rodriguez said the suspects were identified as “people I know,” heightening students’ concerns for their safety on campus.

An “all-clear” message was sent at 12:33 a.m. An “all-clear” message was sent at 12:33 a.m.

Walsh asserted that the department is respectful and sympathetic of students’ experiences on and off campus and seeks to take action against the officer that made the comment.

“If you know the officer’s name or can describe him well, then go back because that’s not acceptable. It’s inappropriate, it’s unprofessional, and I won’t condone it at all,” Walsh said.

The Prospector

Ricky Martin and Enrique Iglesias in concert

BY ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ
The Prospector

Latin pop artists ignite crowd at the Don Haskins

BY IZEL GIBSON AND VICTORIA RIVAS
The Prospector

Echoing screams, long lines and bright lights filled UTEP’s Don Haskins Center, Wednesday, Nov. 10, as crowds made their way inside to enjoy the highly anticipated Ricky Martin and Enrique Iglesias first joint tour. After a year of waiting, since the tour was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, fans were excited and full of energy to sing and dance along to the most popular and electric songs of both artists.

Enrique Iglesias, an international- ly successful bilingual artist, kicked off the concert and rose from below the stage, causing the energy among the crowd to increase.

Iglesias was able to get the crowd on their feet from the moment he started singing. Opening with his 2014 hit “I’m a Freak,” the crowd could not control their excitement and sang along to every word.

From the high energy of “Chasing the Sun” off his recent release “Final Vol. 1,” to a heartfelt ballad on “Hero,” Iglesias was able to entertain the audience for a little over an hour and a half.

Never missing a beat and having everyone join in, Iglesias certainly brought back concerts to the Don Haskins with a bang.

Being the 20th performance of 26 tour dates, both Enrique Iglesias and Ricky Martin show no signs of slowing down. Iglesias played some of his biggest hits across his career, including “I Like How It Feels,” “Tonight” and “Duele El Corazon,” even putting on an encore performance of his most memorable songs.

Iglesias shared a smile throughout his performance as he ran and danced across the stage. He even stepped down to interact with fans as he asked them to sing along with him.

As Iglesias began to sing his last encore song, “I Like It,” confetti and balloons rained down onto the crowd, setting the bar high for Martin’s upcoming performance. The crowd took a quick intermission from Iglesias’ electric show, as staff quickly set up the stage for Martin’s performance. In the blink of an eye, flashes of gold and sequined backup dancers made their way to the stage.

With his hit song “Livin’ La Vida Loca,” Martin started his set with high energy to match that of Iglesias.

Martin performed for over an hour, and fans enjoyed the bright colorful lights and dance performances displayed across several big screens.

The crowd continued to sing along as Martin performed both in English and Spanish, and fans moved their phone flashlights to the rhythm of “Vivo,” Martin’s show focused on celebrating the Latin culture as he performed with his background dancers with incredible lighting visuals.

The Prospector

New district lines impact communities of color

BY ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ
The Prospector

The new congressional and legislative district boundaries were signed into law by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott in October with conflicting conclusions regarding its fairness and causing concern among state legislators.

Every 10 years, the United States sends out the census which “...helps our communities determine where to build everything from schools to supermarkets, and from homes to hospitals... [and] distribute funds and assistance to states and localities,” according to the United States Census Bureau.

After the census has been collected, state legislators gather to redraw the congressional district lines in their states. These lines determine what parts of the state members of Congress represent, and create equally populated districts.

During the third special session in the Texas Legislature, Gov. Greg Abbott’s main focus was on redrawing the congressional lines that could potentially see REDISTRICTING on page 4.

The Prospector
Opinion

Challenges forge parental perseverance

MANUEL A. HERNANDEZ ROMAN
Guest Columnist

Being a parent has a different meaning for everyone. Being a parent has been one of the best things that I could experience in life, but at the same time it is one of the most stressful. It is stressed for me not because of my daughter but because I am attending UTEP at the same time. This is my last semester, and for the longest time I assumed I would go out smooth sailing. However, childcare is a big issue for me due to the pandemic. In 2020, my grandfather contracted the virus and spent the holidays in the ICU and shortly after, he passed away. We never played down the severity of the pandemic, but it passed away. We never played down the severity of the pandemic, but we never played down the severity of the pandemic. In 2021, we achieved vaccination across all relatives. Fall 2021 arrived sooner than I expected it to. In the summer I left my job to be able to care for my daughter full-time while I enrolled in online classes. I am sure that all students longitudinal to return to campus, and I did too. Something I never took into consideration was that I would no longer be able to care for my daughter all the time. My girlfriend and I discussed endlessly the idea of childcare since she works all day. It is not a bad idea, but the idea of childcare speaks for themselves. According to Dallas’ leading news channel, WFAA, hundreds of COVID-19 cases are being reported daily in childcare facilities as of Aug. 27. These statistics terrify me. I could not live with myself if my daughter fell sick. Though the numbers differ, these new cases in children are not exclusive to Dallas. Though many say otherwise, the pandemic in El Paso is not over yet. Some parents do not have a choice, childcare allows parents with young children to carry on with their lives. I was lucky enough to have a sponsored option.

My mother volunteered to help me. At first, I was reluctant since my young siblings live with her and they have returned to school. The fact that we are all vaccinated puts my mind at ease a little. Another factor is her location. I live next to Trans Mountain, and my mother lives in Horizon City. Beggers can’t be choosers, so I overlooked everything and began to take my daughter with her every day that I have class. Four times a week I make my way to her house and back to campus. Once I am done at peak traffic time, I do the same to go back home. In total I commute about 3 hours four days out of the week. At the end of the day, I scramble to make sure I am not falling behind with my course work. My worries do not come down while I am in class since I miss being with my daughter, but she also loves my mother, so I ease a little knowing they are having a great time. I never would have thought that my final semester would be this difficult. I know how lucky I am, and I also know that many other students are in the same or worse situation that I am in. If we all come together and do the right thing by getting vaccinated and practicing social distancing, then maybe childcare could become a better option for us studying or working, and knowing our children are safe.

MANUEL A. HERNANDEZ ROMAN is a senior digital media student and may be reached at mahernandez48@miners.utep.edu.
UTEP recycling program falls by the wayside

LEVI CARLOS
The Prospector

Throughout the UTEP campus, students can find receptacles labeled aluminum cans, plastic bottles, trash, and paper—but what exactly happens to recycling after it gets put in these bins? The process is grueling and even costly, however it is something that UTEP has been doing for decades.

According to the UTEP facilities waste management webpage and their section on waste management, UTEP began its recycling program in 1998. The website also states that UTEP currently collects and processes 40,000 pounds of paper products monthly.

"Once it’s collected, we have a special dumpster that a recycling company comes out and picks up," said Louise Morales, the associate director of Facilities Services.

They actually charge us to take it away because our consumption of plastics and paper isn’t enough to be profitable," said Louie Morales, the associate director of Facilities Services.

"I think we have a lot of faculty who care about the environment," said Guillermina Gina Núñez-Mchiri, Ph.D., president of the Faculty Senate. "I think it’s inviting people to a dialogue to say we need to improve our recycling efforts and what can we do to work on them."

Although the Faculty Senate does not have a representative that focuses on environmental issues, it has done this year include changing the landscape equipment from gas-powered to electric-powered. It also funds marketing students to produce marketing materials and outreach to expand their visibility.

According to the UTEP waste management page, recycling is collected on a building-by-building schedule, with recycling bins placed next to trash cans around campus. It makes it convenient for students to recycle.

"We have a lot of faculty who care about the environment," said Guillermina Gina Núñez-Mchiri, Ph.D., president of the Faculty Senate. "I think it’s inviting people to a dialogue to say we need to improve our recycling efforts and what can we do to work on them."

Although the Faculty Senate does not have a representative that focuses on environmentalism, they do create committees based on the concerns that students and faculty have.

"As faculty or students bring up an issue or concern, we assign the task to a committee to work on it," said Núñez-Mchiri. "If we don’t have a committee, we will create ad hoc committees to advise the faculty senate and make recommendations... I think if students consider this to be a priority that they need to bring this up to student government."

According to the UTEP waste management page, recycling is collected on a building-by-building schedule, with recycling bins placed next to trash cans around campus. It makes it convenient for students to recycle.

"I think that they have the recycle bins normally placed with trash cans and I think that’s a really good effort, but I don’t know. I haven’t really paid much attention to it," said Mía Solis, a senior at UTEP. This August, the Green Fund spent $5,000 on marketing supplies and outreach to expand their visibility. The Green Fund also spent $9,160 on marketing students to produce marketing materials and outreach efforts.

From January to August of this year, the Green Fund has spent 78% of its annual budget and so far, none of it has been spent on recycling. Some of the projects that it has done this year include changing the landscape equipment from gas-powered to electric-powered.

"Although the Green Fund does not contribute funds to help with the cost of recycling on campus, most of its funds go to sustainabilty projects such as the Green Roof expansion and revitalization. This project expanded the availability of native plants and revitalized UTEP’s Green Roof. UTEP is doing its best to provide students with opportunities to recycle their waste by covering the cost, though it is ultimately up to the students to be stewards of their own environments. Students can do this by making sure their recyclable materials are going into the correct bins and fostering a culture of sustainability."

The Student Government Association could not be reached for a comment. The Green Fund is open to the submission of “Green Ideas” and proposals. They can be accessed at www.utep.edu/student-affairs/greenfund/.

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.
Diabetes: Do you know your status?

KRISTEN SCHEAFFER
The Prospector

November is American Diabetes Month, a time to remind people that they should be conscious of their blood sugar and their risk factors.

“It was something I never imagined was going to enter into my life,” said Claudia Martinez Boyd, lecturer for the Department of Communication at UTEP and vice president of the El Paso Center for Diabetes. “I went to a doctor, and he told me, ‘You know what, your sugar came back high, and you should test that.’”

Diabetes is a disease that affects the pancreas and how it produces insulin; type 2 diabetes is the most common form, according to diabetes.org. Although diabetes can be maintained through a healthy diet and exercise for some people, this is not the case for everyone. Some people need medication or insulin to maintain their blood sugar.

“El Paso is the sixth largest city in Texas with a diabetes prevalence of 13.9% among adults, which roughly translates to 94,000 people,” said Sandra Gonzalez, executive director of the El Paso Center for Diabetes.

“Diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death in adults over the age of 75 in El Paso with 32.2% of deaths occurring in El Paso caused by diabetes compared to 20.9% and 21.2% deaths in Texas and the United States, respectively.”

“How is El Paso raising awareness? On Saturday, Nov. 6, the El Paso Center for Diabetes, a non-profit organization, hosted the Step-Out/Walk to Stop Diabetes event.”

Gonzalez explained that the El Paso Center for Diabetes offers Diabetes Self-Management (DSM) classes to help manage the disease and answers questions like how what you are eating affects you, why is your sugar high, what are the right things to eat, how to check your sugar and when to check your sugar. They also offer support groups for the community, cooking classes for families, and even a week-long kids’ camp for children living with Type 1 diabetes.

“If we could take care of our body the way we take care of our car, we could do a better thing,” Gonzalez said. “We’re very good at taking our car to get an oil change and doing a tune-up, but we’re not good at going to our annual visits.”

Both Gonzalez and Boyd explained that with awareness and management, diabetes is manageable; the key is to stay ahead of disease.

“What I do know is that diabetes is something that you absolutely can control, and it shouldn’t control you,” Boyd said. “We live in a community where 30% of us have diabetes. It’s a very high population of people living with diabetes that don’t even know they’re living with diabetes. Number 1, you must get tested and number 2, start making changes necessary to get control of it.”

Gutierrez said that if the current plan moves forward and is successful, it will mean less representation in Austin for at least the next 10 years.

The proposed district map was originally drafted by chair of the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting Sen. Joan Huffman (R-Houston), who has garnered a large base of support from GOP members of congress for the redistricting plan.

“The map of the Texas House today reduces El Paso’s representation in two ways: first by drawing two Latinos who represent border districts into one district and second by drawing El Paso’s fifth seat into South Texas,” said El Paso Rep. Lina Ortega. “El Paso could have retained five seats, but the map which passed the Texas State House gives this community only four. This means less representation in Austin for at least the next 10 years.”

Kristen Scheaffer is a contributor and may be reached at kscheaffer@miners.utep.edu.

REDISTRICTING from page 1

RUBIN CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS
VISIT OUR GALLERY AND DON’T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW THE AMAZING INSTALLATION BY ARTIST

AKI TSUTAJA: ENOLA’S HEAD

GAKU TSUTAJA: ENOLA’S HEAD

UNTIL DECEMBER 10

THE PROSPECTOR • NOVEMBER 16, 2021
UTEP’s SELC celebrates First-Gen week

Eduardo A. Flores

For some students, coming to college every day and facing daily challenges is a journey that they have expected, but for others, they are making history within their families.

Tears and laughter surged as students, faculty and staff joined UTEP’s Student Engagement & Leadership Center (SELC) during a celebration to show their pride for being part of first-generation college students.

First-Gen week is a celebration that institutions across the nation observe each year from Nov. 8 to Nov. 11 for students who are the first in their families to attend college.

SELC organized a special lunch that featured the attendance of panellists and special guests who shared their stories of success in support of first-generation students on the third floor of the Union Building East, Nov. 8.

The panelists invited included Aristotle Mendoza Jr., Ph.D., executive vice chancellor of academic affairs for the UT System, Andrea Cortina, vice president and UTEP chief of staff; Marc Cox, Ph.D., chair of UTEP’s Pharmaceutical Sciences Department and Karol Brito, senior biological sciences major at UTEP.

“I would advise first-gen students to surround themselves with people who are as ambitious as they are. Who are just motivated, maybe not by the same reasons, but nevertheless motivated to get their education career done,” said Brito.

UTEP President Heather Wilson was also present during the ceremony. She spoke about the significance of celebrating the determination of students, faculty and staff who are or were the first in their families to earn a four-year degree.

“I was the first in my family to graduate from college, so I recognize the importance of developing the talent of first-gen students,” Wilson said. “At UTEP, 51% of graduating seniors in 2020-21 reported that they were first-gen. We join the nation today in celebrating them.”

Students in attendance received exclusive swag, t-shirts, and pens. They also were able to take pictures of themselves and their friends to capture the moment while signing a thank you card and were given the opportunity to meet other first-gen students to speak about their aspirations.

“I am proud because it is something that not everyone usually does, and I know all of the efforts we are putting in will help us in the future to achieve our goals,” said Samuel Moog, a UTEP mechanical engineering student.

Saul Fontes, a 21-year-old Chicano studies major at UTEP, shared a similar sentiment.

“It can be intimidating being in spaces and doing things no one in your family has done before because you do not have someone explain the process,” Fontes said. “I am very proud of being first-gen, and it has become a source of motivation whenever I’m struggling with something that’s school school-related.”

First-gen students, faculty, staff and alumni were also invited to the UTEP Men’s basketball first home game against New Mexico at the Don Haskins Center, Nov. 9.

“First-gen students, faculty, staff and alumni are making history within their college life. Graduating seniors can now purchase their first-gen cord to wear at the commencement ceremony at the UTEP Bookstore for $16 each.”

Those wishing to post to social media about the celebration are encouraged to use #CelebrateFirstGen.

For additional information regarding UTEP First Gen students visit www.utep.edu/student-affairs/first-generation/events.

Eduardo A. Flores is a contributing editor and may be reached at eduardo@utep.edu.

UTEP’s SELC celebrates First-Gen week with activities highlighting first generation students and their stories.

“Utterly compelling…for me, Aristotle and Dante Dive into the Waters of the World” by Benjamin Alire Sáenz former UTEP creative writing professor.

Maria I. Guerrero Duran

Former UTEP professor Benjamin Alire Sáenz recently announced his book, “Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe,” will soon hit the big screen and released the sequel “Aristotle and Dante Dive into the Waters of the World.”

Born in New Mexico and raised in El Paso, Sáenz attended UTEP where he received his master’s degree in creative writing and continued his professorship with the MFA Creative Writing department.

The book was published in 2012 and hit the New York Times bestseller list, winning multiple awards such as the Stonewall award for best YA LBGT book in 2013, the Michael L. Printz honors for young adult literature in 2013 and the literary award Lambda for LBGT young adult literature in 2013.

Based in 1987 El Paso, “Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe” tells the story of Aristotle Mendoza and Dante Quintana, two teenagers who meet under ordinary circumstances but discover the realms of interpersonal relationships and the universe they hold within each other.

Due to these two characters’ natural quest for identity and belonging, the audience can establish a connection with the story, especially in this day and age where teenagers and young adults are trying to be at peace with their sexual orientation and the outer world.

Sáenz’s book empathizes with teenagers and young adults in the borderland who struggle to express themselves in Mexican American culture.

After its enormous success in the publishing world, the story was slated to become a major film in 2017. On Nov. 3, it was announced that filming had been completed for the adaptation.

“And that’s a wrap! Filming officially ended for #AriAndDanMovie and I couldn’t possibly be more proud of this hardworking and talented trio,” said Sáenz via Instagram, talking about Max Pelayo and Reese Gonzalez, who will bring Aristotle and Dante to life.

The film will be led by the Mexican actor Eugenio Derbez and the Latin actress Eva Longoria, who worked closely with the Latinx debut director Aitch Alberto, a writer for the HBO Max show “Duster.”

Among the list of producers are Eugenio Derbez, and the Grammy award winning songwriter and composer Lin-Manuel Miranda.

In addition to the film adaptation, the novel sequel “Aristotle and Dante Dive into the Waters of the World” hit bookstore shelves and online platforms Oct. 12. Just days after its publication, the sequel got selected for Barnes & Noble’s Best Books of 2021 list and reached number one on the New York Times best selling YA list. You can also follow Benjamin Alire Sáenz on Instagram @benjamin.alire.aren to keep up to date with the film adaptation and buy his books at bookstores.

Maria I. Guerrero Duran is the web editor and may be reached at maria@utep.edu.
Miners show talent at Open Mic Night

ALLISON RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

All sorts of talent filled the night at the second-floor lounge of the Union East building on Nov. 10 as UTEP’s Student Engagement & Leadership Center (SELC) hosted their first Coffee House Open Mic Night.

Miners got to show off their talent in front of an audience of their peers. Some students performed original songs and covers while others made their fellow students fall out of their chairs with laughter while flexing their stand-up comedy skills. One student even demonstrated their slam poetry skills. Refreshments such as coffee and delicious hot chocolate were provided to audience members. Guests also got to enjoy sweet treats such as brownies and cookies. Attendees also got to write inspirational quotes with colorful markers on the dry erase board that was there.

“We know that there’s a lot of talent here at UTEP, and we wanted to showcase that. This was a great way to welcome everyone back and it’s a good distraction for everyone before finals’ week,” said Elizabeth Jakobsen, a sophomore in Neuroscience and intern for SELC. “We will host another Coffee House Open Mic in the spring semester as well.”

Everyone who attended joined in on the fun, as many of the performers interacted with the audience and engaged them in their performances. Even though performing in front of a live audience can be nerve-racking, none of the performers let that stop them from putting on a great show. Once stand-up comedian left it all on the stage and was the highlight of the whole night.

“I’ve been writing jokes for a while now, and I had always wanted to try stand-up comedy. I saw that there was going to be an open mic, so I thought I’d come try it out,” said Brandon Joseph a junior majoring in Psychology. “I think my performance went alright until I made a risky joke, but that’s comedy, it’s all about taking risks.”

Other performances included one student who sang Frank Sinatra’s “Fly Me To The Moon” to his partner and did an a cappella version which included the whole audience clapping on beat. Another student almost brought the audience to tears when she showcased four of her personally written poems about her life.

“I feel pretty good about my performance, it was nice to show off my poems to other people instead of just keeping them to myself,” said Elise Kimsherendon a sophomore majoring in theatre performance.

“I’ve never had an outlet for my poetry besides posting it on social media. I thought this would be a good way to let things go, have fun and meet new people. My poetry has always been a therapeutic outlet for me, it’s a way to express my emotions about my life.”

To find out about more events being hosted by SELC, visit their website, www.utep.edu/student-affairs/selc/ and follow them on Instagram @utepselc.

Alyson Rodriguez is a contributor and may be reached at aerodriguez20@miners.utep.edu; @alyson_rod1127.

LATIN POP

from page 1

Martin changed outfits several times, while fans enjoyed singing his hit songs “La Mordidita,” “Maria” and “She Bangs.”

Fans also enjoyed Martin singing two duets with Christina Aguilera in a pre-recorded clip for “Nobody Wants to be Lonely” and with Maluma in “Vente Pa’ Ca.”

Although Iglesias and Martin did not perform together, fans still enjoyed an extraordinary Latin performance.

PHOTOS BY ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ/THE PROSPECTOR

Enrique Iglesias (left, bottom right) and Ricky Martin (top right) perform at the Don Haskins Center Nov. 10, 2021.
Miners fall short of comeback

DANNY LOPEZ
The Prospector

The Miners (1-1,0-0 C-USA) lost to New Mexico State University (NMSU) (2-0,0-0 WAC) on Nov. 15 at the Pan American Center in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The Miners had a brief lead in the first quarter but could not get that back. UTEP had a hard time scoring on offense, with one of their early struggles being 0 for 7 at the 3-point line in the 77-71 loss.

In the start of first half, the Aggies got on the board with a rebound to go up 2-0. Then the Aggies went up 4-0 after a layup from senior forward Donnie Tillman. UTEP started cold on the offense, going 0 for 3 on 3-pointers. Redshirt junior guard Souley Boum got the Miners on the board with a layup to make the score 4-2. However, NMSU quickly answered back with a 3-pointer to go up 7-2. Just moments later in this match up, Boum found himself at the free throw line after getting fouled. Boum went on to make one free throw and would get the put-back on the rebound to put the score at 7-6. Senior forward Alfred Hollins tied the game 10-10 after a layup. NMSU went up 15-12 after an impressive 3-pointer. The Aggies added more to their lead after making some free throws. Quickly, however, the Miners went on a scoring run that started with junior guard Jamal Bieniemy cutting the lead to 19-14 after a layup. Then redshirt junior forward Tydus Verhoeven brought the lead down to 19-16 with hard-fought bucket. The Aggies Nonetheless answered that run and increased their lead to 22-16 after another 3-pointer. At the 5:41 mark the Aggies went up 26-16 after a free throw was made. Bieniemy cut the lead down to 30-20. Bieniemy moments later put the score at 33-25 after a layup. Then, sophomore guard Keonte Kennedy made a 3-pointer to cut the Aggies’ lead to 33-28. Boum sank two free throws to bring the lead down further to 33-30. However, the Aggies got one more bucket to fall in and took a 35-30 lead at halftime.

In the start of the second half, NMSU would come out to go up 38-30 after an explosive 3-pointer. The Miners quickly responded to cut the lead to 38-32 with a layup from Kennedy. At the 11:10 mark, Boum drained a three to cut the score to 56-47. NMSU then went on a scoring streak to go up 65-47. Bieniemy got a jumper to fall but the Aggies still led at 67-51.

“New Mexico State is a really good team and has a coach that is one of the best in the country,” UTEP Head Coach Joe Golding said. “I loved the way our guys competed the last 5 minutes and got it to a two-possession game.”

Kennedy at the 4:40 mark would get a tear drop to go in to put the score at 72-57. The Miners got a couple of more buckets to fall, but they would not be enough to win this contest. The Miners would fall to the Aggies 77-71.

The Miners return home at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16, at the Don Haskins Center to face Northern New Mexico College.
UTEP Miners fall to North Texas

UTEP faces loss in final minute of the game

Emily Autumn Velasquez

The UTEP Miners (6-4, 3-3 Conference USA) traveled to North Texas (4-6, 3-3 C-USA) to face the Mean Green on Saturday, Nov. 13, and managed to lose in the final minutes. The Miners were struggling to get a rhythm going offensively, but at the end were looking to make a comeback when down 17-7 with seven minutes left in the fourth quarter.

Hardison was able to help bring the team down the field in a seven-play, 98-yard scoring drive that led to a four-yard rushing touchdown by junior running back Ronald Awatt. After this scoring drive, the Miners had the momentum and the defense to force UNT to go three and out. This left the Miners with 2:47 left in the game to play. After a 12-yard rush from Awatt and a 32-yard connection between Hardison and senior wide receiver Justin Garrett, the Miners were set up at the UNT 25-yard line. While the Miners couldn’t get much more than that, the drive is what set up the 37-yard field goal. Junior kicker Gavin Baechle was able to tie the game 17-17 by nailing that field goal with only 55 seconds remaining in the game.

In the second half, the Miners were able to get on the board first after a 76-yard connection between Hardison and sophomore wide receiver Jacob Cowing to give the Miners a lead of 7-0. This is the longest pass play the Miners have recorded this season, and the second-longest connection the Miners have recorded this season, which is a career long. Hardison and quarterback Gavin Hardison recorded a 27-yard rushing play, which is a career long. The Miners defense can take advantage of offensive mistakes on both sides of the ball. However, during their three-game losing streak, they haven’t managed to record a single takeaway. They also failed to record a sack for the second straight game. They are looking to get back into the rhythm they found at the beginning of the season as they finish out their regular season.

On a brighter note, with a 9-yard catch late in the third quarter, Cowing became the seventh UTEP player to reach 1,000 receiving yards in a season. Cowing has recorded 1,097 yards in 2021, the fourth most in a season in school history. Cowing also managed to post his 12th 100-yard receiving game of his career with seven receptions for a career-high tying 174 yards. This 100-yard receiving game also means he is tied at second with Reggie Barrett (played from 1987-1990) and makes him one game shy of tying the school record of thirteen 100-yard games, set by Chuck Hughes (played from 1964-1966). The Miners are looking to bounce back and snap this losing streak in their next game which is at 2 p.m. Nov. 20 at the Sun Bowl. They will face Rice in their last home game of the season and UTEP’s senior class will also be honored at this game. Students can qualify for a free ticket with the use of their Miner Gold Card. Starts acquired with the help of UTEP Athletics.

Emily Autumn Velasquez is the sports editor and may be reached at eavelasquez@miners.utep.edu.}

UTEP preps for final home game against Rice

Miners to take on Owls Nov. 20

Danny Lopez

The Miners (6-4, 3-3 Conference USA) face an aggressive University of Rice (2-4, 3-3 C-USA) Nov. 20 at the Sun Bowl Stadium. UTEP is trying to distance themselves on a season on a strong note and is looking forward to a bowl game after their successful regular season.

The Owls come into this matchup with an offense that can average over 300 yards and are led by senior quarterback Jake Constantine and sophomore running back Aric Brousard. In their losses, however, Rice averages under 200 yards and struggle with third-down conversions on offense.

Rice’s defense this season has taken a pounding as the Owls are giving up more than 4.6 yards per game and get gashed regularly against teams they have lost to previously.

The Miners defense can take advantage of Rice and their inability to convert on third downs. The Miners, in their recent loss against FAU, would force the Owls to finish 2-15 on third down conversions. The Miners’ defense has been playing relatively well this year, being ranked ninth overall in the country and first in Conference USA. But now, UTEP has fallen in that category due to the recent losses to Florida Atlantic University and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

The Miners’ secondary needs to play tighter due to the fact that despite being able to keep teams under 200 yards, they are susceptible to giving up big plays, especially at crucial times. One example being against FAU, where just before the half there was a blown coverage by the Miners that enabled a touchdown.

On offense, the Miners must start off faster and get on the ground running. Their three losses have been because they have had slow starts and an offense that struggles to get into a rhythm. Their runs when playing a good defensive opponent usually means they average around 3.2 yards per game offensively.

Overall, the Miners seem to have a decent chance at winning this game, but they must stick to the script if they want to come out victorious in this match up.

UTEP still has a chance at qualifying for a good bowl if they are able to win out, but it will not be a walk-in-the-park for the Miners as they need to continue to put up a strong front. UTEP being bowl eligible is something that has not been done since their last winning season in 2014.

The Miners will host Rice at 7 p.m. Nov. 20 at the Sun Bowl for the Miners’ final home game of the 2021-2022 season. Students can get free tickets using their Miner Gold Card by visiting studenttickets.utep.edu for more information.

Danny Lopez is a staff reporter and may be reached at dalopez23@miners.utep.edu.