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THE PROSPECTOR

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Assayer of Student Opinion

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

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Head to head: Future Texas governor



Democratic challenger Beto O'Rourke and Republican candidate Greg Abbott prepare for election day Nov. 8. (Left) Annabella Mireles/Prospector file photo (Right) courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

BY ITZEL GIRON
The Prospector

The Texas gubernatorial election is set to take place Nov. 8. With the voter registration deadline approaching Oct. 11, it is important that everyone knows both candidates and what they stand for. It is expected to be a tight race against incumbent Greg Abbott and Democratic challenger Beto O'Rourke. Greg Abbott holds a 6-point lead over O'Rourke in a new poll released by Emerson College and The Hill.

For 27 years the State of Texas has consistently voted for a Republican governor and the idea of Texas

turning blue seemed almost impossible until 2018, Beto O'Rourke lost by only 2.6 percent to Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, according to The Texas Tribune, which totals to about 214,921 votes.

To better understand the two candidates, here is a quick voters' guide on the two candidates.

Education

Abbott, who has been governor since 2015, has taken many stances on education, this includes last summer when Abbott signed into law HB 3979, which put limitations on what is being taught about Critical Race Theory (CRT) in

K-12 curriculums. The law limits teachers to speak about current events, the way racism is taught, and how the history of people of color is told.

Most recently, the newest bill proposal "The Parental Bill of Rights," would allow Texas parents to be the primary decision makers for their children's education. According to Abbott's website, this bill would allow for parents to access course curriculum, "protect" students from possible pornographic content in school curriculum and to remind parents that they have the right to decide if they believe their child should be held back or not.

O'Rourke, who has not held a public office since 2019, has spoken more on funding public schools, raising teacher pay and removing standardized testing. According to the O'Rourke campaign website, his main goal is to prioritize funding public schools, as he states Abbott has underfunded schools by \$4,000 per student. Other than his priorities of funding and higher pay, O'Rourke hopes to bring Texas to a top 10 rank in education.

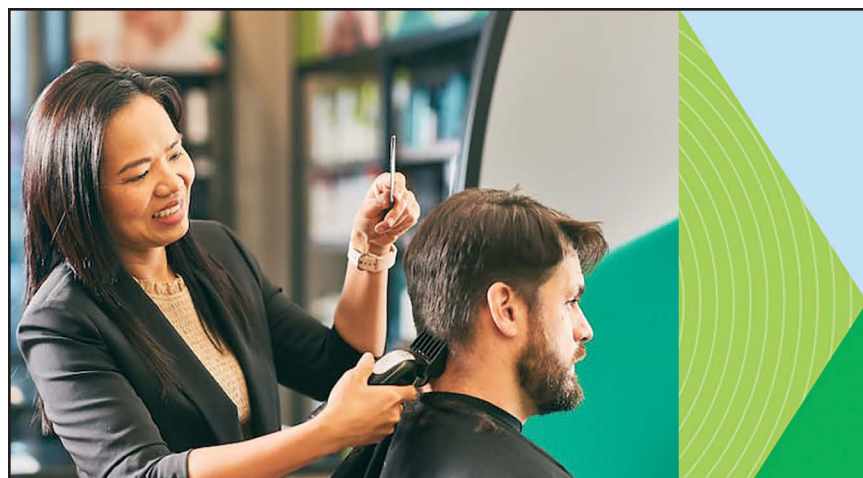
Gun control

Since the events of May 24, at Robb Elementary, gun control has become a big topic among

Texas voters and both Abbott and O'Rourke are on two sides of the table.

For Abbott, he stands for defending the 2nd Amendment, as an active National Rifle Association (NRA) and Texas State Rifle Association (TSRA) member. Abbott has only signed into effect "Campus Carry" (S.B. 11), which allows anyone who has a license to carry the right to carry a concealed handgun on university campuses. Another bill signed in his time in office was "Open Carry" (HB 1927) allowing 21-year-olds and older to carry a handgun without a permit.

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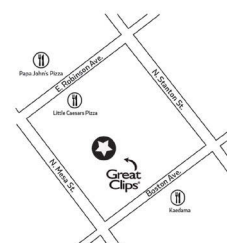
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Opinion

Emily Autumn Velasquez, editor-in-chief

New editor set on bridging the gap

BY JOSIE AVILA
The Prospector

Multifaceted, curious and ambitious are a few words that could be used to describe me since I was a little girl.

I am the youngest of five siblings, all women, and when I was born, my oldest sister was already 16 years old. A significant age gap also exists between me and the rest of my sisters. Therefore, I grew up mainly as an only child because my sisters were out of town for college for most of my upbringing.

This had its perks, though. One of them was the inspiration instilled in me from seeing my big sisters accomplish milestones for our family. I knew from an early age I wanted to pursue higher education and get a reputable job. After all, that was my parents' goal in immigrating from Mexico and raising my sisters and I here in the United States.

Another perk was getting to spend a lot of quality time with my parents. One of my core memories is my parents tuning in to Univision's 10 p.m. news show in the living room every night. I did not like watching the news because I thought it was boring. Little did I know, I would consider that field as a career when I got older.

In my household, Spanish is the dominant language. It was not until I turned 13 years old that I finally started speaking English fluently. It was then I realized the English learning process was about my identity as a first-generation bilingual Latina born and raised on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Witnessing how families on the border, including my own, are taxed with many responsibilities such as learning a new language, sparked my desire to bridge gaps of communication for Spanish-speaking communities. Even though my parents spent time watching news, their restricted access to technology



and English resources limited their greater understanding of news and politics. And this is not accounting for families outside of my own who did not have the tools to watch news.

Therefore, when I entered college at UTEP, I began serving in leadership positions on campus because the institution serves students that reflect the predominant Hispanic regional population.

I currently serve as executive advisor of IGNITE at UTEP, an organization that equips young women to run for office. I also served as a Senator At-Large in the Student Government Association (SGA) in the 2021-2022 academic year. Additionally, from April 2021-May 2022, I worked a full-time job at the Center Against Sexual and Family Violence while being enrolled as a full-time student, and developed my experience in managing social media accounts.

These experiences helped me gain the courage to apply to the Archer Fellowship Program, a Texas-based competitive program to live, study and intern in Washington D.C. I am proud to say I was selected into the Spring 2023 cohort and am currently applying to internships.

As a senior preparing to graduate upon arriving back home from D.C., I have found my interests to be in communication, news

dispersion on social media, politics, academic advancement for first-gen Hispanic students and immigration.

For this reason, I have decided to pursue a bilingual news anchor career, later in my life a communication studies professor and eventually an elected official.

Before I leave to D.C., I knew I wanted to join a group on campus that is positively impacting the student body and could give me tools to continue growing professionally. Immediately, I knew exactly that The Prospector was the group I was searching for, and I quickly applied to join the fall staff.

Now, I am here as the new audience and engagement editor and I am very happy and grateful for it. I hope to use my experience and love for UTEP to spread sound news on social media and engage as many students as possible.

Everyone I have met at The Prospector so far is fun, kind and talented. Each person has so much to offer and I genuinely could not have asked to work at a better office. I am eager to contribute to the amazing work The Prospector has already done, explore new projects and ideas, and of course, make new friends.

I am very proud of how much I have grown throughout college, and I honestly have my family, IGNITE, my best friends Gizelle, Gabby, and Isabel and my roommate Sarah to thank. Thank you for always cheering me on and reminding me of my potential when I could not see it for myself.

I also have so much to thank dance for. Dance has not only been my backbone through the ups and downs of life, but it has also given me a second family. To Ashley, Carla, Jasmin, Megan, Rubylee and Luis, from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Josie Avila is the audience and engagement editor and can be reached at jaavila16@miners.utep.edu; Joseline Avila on LinkedIn.

Why is voting crucial?

BY EDUARDO A. FLORES
The Prospector

What issues as a student, parent, grandparent, neighbor, or worker do you care about? Is it homelessness? Gun control? Immigration? Climate change? LGBTQ rights? Abortion? Student loan debt?

Before saying that voting is our civic duty and makes a stronger democracy, we must acknowledge the long history of fighting against the United States for denying citizens the right to vote.

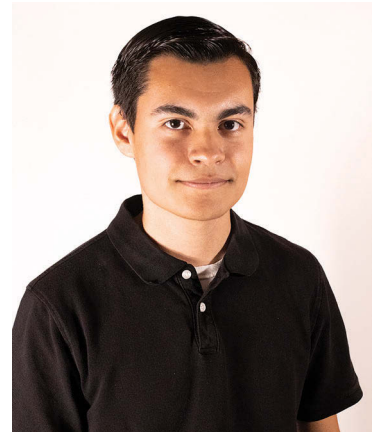
In the beginning, the U.S. Constitution only allowed white male citizens over the age of 21 the right to vote. Women were denied the right to vote until 1920, when the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified. In the same way, African Americans were not guaranteed basic voting rights until President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act in 1965. 18-year-olds were not allowed to vote until 1971, when the 26th Amendment was ratified, followed by the Vietnam War.

As a UTEP political science student conducting research and interpreting data on voting behavior and political participation, it is easy to observe that young individuals are the least likely to be registered.

Individual apathy is commonly cited as the primary reason why young people do not vote, but that statement is false. The best example to prove that argument wrong is the young political organizations that exist across the United States. No matter your political affiliation, there are organizations led by young people.

El Paso has the UTEP/EPCC Texas Rising, El Paso Young Democrats/Republicans, and Justicia Fronteriza. Similarly, we have the Young Democrats of America and the Young Republican National Federation at the national level.

The question now is, if it is not apathy, then why does the young population have the lowest number of people registered to vote? Many young voters experience difficulties arranging their work and school schedule, finding transportation to the polls, or understanding where to vote. Some students have two jobs while simultaneously being full-time students or fulfilling their



role of a child, sibling, cousin, and even parent.

However, as young voters, we must understand and reflect that the only thing we can decrease in a world where problems increase every day is waiting for a change. Our votes today influence the future of the country and the lives of our upcoming generations. History books and textbooks will someday include our time periods, but it is up to us to decide how the history of today will be told.

An example of how just a few votes decided U.S. history includes the 1960 election, where Richard Nixon would have been elected president instead of John F. Kennedy if only approximately one person from each voting place had voted differently.

"If all of you had voted the other way – there's about 5,500 of you here tonight – I would not be President of the United States," said President John F. Kennedy April 28, 1961, at a dinner of the Democratic Party of Cook County in Chicago.

In the same way, the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson would have resulted in his removal from office in 1868 if just one U.S. Senator had voted differently.

Another example includes the state of Texas, formerly known as the "Republic of Texas" which, after its independence from Mexico, was invited to join the Union, but if only one U.S. Senator had voted differently, it would have never become part of the United States in 1845 nor became the 28th state. The original vote in the Senate was a tie at 26-26, but Sen. Henry Johnson, R-Louisiana, changed

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Are Democrats wagering democracy?

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS VALENZUELA
The Prospector



With the 2022 election primaries finally in the rear-view mirror, questions are beginning to surface about the Democratic National Committee's (DNC) approach for the general election.

Coming into this election, left-leaning political action committees (PACs) have funded the primary campaigns of several right-wing extremist candidates across the country. The idea is that if Republican primary voters nominate individuals with extremely conservative views, the general electorate will vote for a more moderate-appearing Democrat candidate.

This strategy seemingly stems from an idea in political science. Named after former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, the Cantor effect states that whenever an attempt at bipartisanship is made, politicians face the wrath of a partisan primary voter block and lose to a more extreme candidate in the party. In the specific case of Cantor, his close work with Democrats in the latter half of his political career affected his constituents' views around him. Cantor was beat out in 2014 to primary opponent and Tea Party candidate Dave Brat, according to the New York Times.

Another example of the Cantor effect comes out of the 14th Congressional District of New York where, in 2018, veteran politician and high-ranking House Democrat

Joe Crowley lost to the now-controversial figure Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in their primary bout. A similar premise to the fall of Cantor in 2014, Crowley lost mostly due to his moderate appearance to his primary voters. Cortez was the more progressive candidate out of the two which appealed to the far-left voters in this primary.

The most recent example of the Cantor effect in play, and frankly the most relevant to this upcoming election, is the defeat of Wyoming Congresswoman Liz Cheney. The daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney lost her primary election to a far-right extremist in Harriet Hageman.

Hageman was backed by former President Donald Trump and has pushed The Big Lie. The Big Lie is the idea that President Joe Biden lost the 2020 Presidential Election, and that Trump is the legitimate Commander in Chief. This idea was a fallacy meant to delegitimize the Biden Administration.

Regardless, Cheney has been a

major critic of the former president going as far as to co-chair the Jan. 6 Committee, which is tasked with investigating Trump's involvement in the Jan. 6 Insurrection.

Cheney's involvement in the committee pushed several primary voters, in a state where Trump won by over 50 percent in 2020, to vote for the Trump approved candidate Hageman. Cheney lost her primary by nearly 64,000 votes per the Wyoming Secretary of State.

The DNC has pushed to weaponize the Cantor effect. In races all over the country, far-right candidates have taken money from Democratic PACs. The approach does have precedent in U.S. politics.

In 2012, former Sen. Claire McCaskill won her general election race in Missouri versus Tea Party Republican Todd Akin. Rather than supporting Akin early on; however, McCaskill's campaign spent millions in the latter half of the general run and ramping up funds during the two weeks leading up to the 2012 general election, according to NPR. McCaskill won her race by just 15 percent. It is difficult to know if McCaskill won strictly because of her campaign's strategy or because of the high general election turnout. Nonetheless, democratic PACs took the idea and ran with it.

In an interview with NPR's "All Things Considered," host Ari Shapiro asked McCaskill what her team was thinking in contributing so much money to her opponent.

"In my situation, there were three viable candidates, and Todd Akin was kind of the weirdest one. I knew he might say some weird things if he were nominated," McCaskill said. "So, we took a poll, figured out what Republican voters would really like about him, and we spent millions of dollars promoting him by telling Missourians all the things that the Republican primary voters liked about him, but the general election, independent voters did not like about him."

This approach laid the groundwork for liberal PACs this election. Take for example the congressional race in California's 22nd Congressional District, a Republican stronghold. The House Majority PAC, who is heavily affiliated with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, sent out ads for primary-hopeful, Chris Mathys. In the ads, the House Majority PAC highlighted how great of a conservative he is, and ran as a true conservative backed by Trump.

On his website, Mathys states, "I will do everything possible to restore our conservative values and make sure America never becomes a socialist country."

According to the New York Times, Mathys did not receive the nomination losing to David Valadao, who voted to impeach Trump after Jan. 6. It would be safe to assume that Valadao secures that congressional seat come November, erasing Democrat's hopes of flipping that seat.

The great gamble did not pay off

in California, but this strategy has played out favorably in other races. Take the current Pennsylvania Gubernatorial Election featuring Democrat Josh Shapiro and Republican Doug Mastriano.

Mastriano fits the mold of who Democrats are trying to force into the general election. Mastriano is anti-choice, anti-LGBTQ+, an election denier and an insurrectionist. Mastriano played a significant role during Jan. 6, providing buses to Washington, D.C. and outright participating in the attack. Democrats successfully helped Mastriano win the Republican nomination, pitting him against Pennsylvania's current Attorney General Josh Shapiro per NBC News.

This strategy has presented several ethical questions from both sides of the aisle. Some are worried that in enabling such extremist candidates, U.S. politics will continue to appear divisive and drive away even more independent voters in future general elections. Democrats are concerned that, if this plan falls short of success, the result will be a Republican-held House and Senate.

Several conservative pundits wonder if Democrats are resorting to these tactics because they fear their agenda will not resonate with the electorate. Regardless, Democrats are undoubtedly taking a massive risk in enabling such dangerous candidates and placing them so close to power.

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela is the sports editor and can be reached at erivas7@miners.utep.edu. @rivasesmanuel2 on Instagram.



COMIC BY MAYA ALVARADO

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his vote, allowing the measure to pass 27-25. Thus, it can be said that Texas annexation was the result of a single vote.

The outcome of the 1960 election and the two U.S. senators that we

now consider our history were chosen by our ancestors, whose votes continue to impact the present day. We are now witnesses to how their votes become a way to put their ideals and vision of the future into practice. Change can always be

made, but only if all voices become heard on the ballots, especially young people whose population constantly increases.

The path to full voting rights for all American citizens was long and often challenging, but this

November, American voters will get the chance to vote in the 2022 midterm elections. All 435 House seats and 35 of the 100 Senate seats are on the ballot. Additionally, 36 out of 50 states will elect governors, including Texas, where democratic

candidate Beto O'Rourke will challenge incumbent Gov. Gregg Abbott for the gubernatorial seat. The official election date to cast your ballot is Nov. 8.

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Texas politics and its future

BY VICTORIA RIVAS
Guest Contributor

Midterm elections are around the corner and the future of Texas politics lies in the hands of citizens with the right and power to elect candidates who speak to their needs and political views.

Texas voters will not vote for U.S. senators or the White House in the upcoming elections. Therefore, voters will only see one congressional race on their ballots.

At the state level, Texans will vote for governor, lieutenant governor, Texas attorney general, comptroller, land commissioner, agriculture commissioner and one of the seats on the Texas Railroad Commission.

Other statewide races include three seats on the Texas Supreme Court and three seats on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. El Pasoans will vote for the county judge and district representatives at the city and county levels.

Midterm elections are 34 days away. Recent events and laws have caused many controversies statewide, including gender affirmation, immigration, reproductive rights, gun control and education that could shape the election results.

Gender-Affirming Care

Gender-affirming care is medical care to help a person transition from their assigned gender at birth to the gender they identify with.

Since February, Gov. Greg Abbott issued an order in which the Department of Family and Protective Services began investigating parents for providing gender-affirming care to their transgender children.

Parents could be criminally charged with child abuse and their transgender children could be placed in foster care.

Several LGBTQ+ advocacy groups, like Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), have filed a lawsuit in



A protestor lies down on the ground during a Black Lives Matter protest May 31, 2020. **Alberto Silva Fernandez/Prospector File Photo**

the Texas State Court on behalf of the affected families, claiming that gender-affirming care is medically necessary. Since Sept. 16, a judge in Austin has temporarily stopped the state investigations on families.

“Loving and affirming your child and empowering them to be themselves is the highest calling of any parent, no matter your child’s gender,” PFLAG wrote on Twitter.

Immigration

Abbott launched Operation Lone Star in response to Biden’s administration’s attempt to end Title 42 and has been busing migrants to Chicago, New York City, Washington D.C., and most recently, outside of Vice President Kamala Harris’ residence.

“Texas has banned over 11,000 migrants to sanctuary cities,” Abbott said. “Until the Biden-Harris administration stops denying the border crisis they’ve created, Texas will continue bringing the border to their front door.”

Due to an overflow in local shelters, El Paso leaders have been forced to bus migrants to New York City or release them to the streets.

According to an article by El Paso Matters, the El Paso city government spends \$300,000 daily on migrant response. According to the

Texas Tribune, data released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protections show migrant encounters at the border are higher today than before Operation Lone Star began.

Beto O’Rourke responded to Abbott’s immigration response on the Jimmy Kimmel show by saying, “It isn’t doing anything for them. It isn’t doing anything for us. It is not addressing the underlying challenges we have in terms of our immigration system.”

Reproductive Rights

After the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, the Texas trigger law came into effect Aug. 25.

Texas’ trigger law criminalizes abortion since fertilization unless the patient faces a life-threatening condition from the pregnancy, with no exception for rape or incest. Violators can face up to life in prison or a penalty of \$100,000.

Under the Affordable Care Act, most private health plans must provide birth control and family planning counseling at no extra cost.

A judge in Texas will review the case Kelley v. Becerra, which threatens the requirement for most health plans to provide coverage for preventive care. While birth control is still legal, it is not widely available for low-income residents.

of Roe v. Wade June 24, which stripped women of their federal protection and rights to abortion. After the ruling, many states who had trigger laws went into immediate effect; for Texas the trigger law went into effect in late August.

For Texans, the law means abortion is criminalized at the time of fertilization, the patient and those who assisted in doing the abortion can face life in prison or a \$100,000 fine. Abbott wants to prevent cities and counties from using Texas tax dollars to fund abortions.

O’Rourke has voiced his opinion on giving Texas women back the right to choose what they do with their bodies. He has also spoken on strengthening investments in affordable contraception, cancer screenings, and other crucial family planning services, as well as support healthy babies and combat Texas’ maternal mortality crisis by expanding Medicaid and increasing pregnancy Medicaid eligibility to one-year-postpartum.

LGBTQ+ Rights

In February, Abbott ordered state child welfare officials to investigate parents of transgender children for

A student’s how-to guide for voting

BY KRISTEN SCHEAFFER
The Prospector

As November draws closer, so does election time and with a publicized race this year, some may be overwhelmed by how to vote. Election Day is scheduled for Nov. 8.

The seat that has been in the news is for Texas state governor. However, there will be local elections taking place as well, which can have a more direct impact on the community.

“Sample ballots for the November 2022 General Election are available on our website under the ‘Current Elections’ page,” said Melissa Rosales, elections and information coordinator. “If voters want their personalized sample ballot for this upcoming election, under the ‘Am I registered?’ search engine, complete all required fields, press search and their sample ballot will be available on the top right side of the screen.”

All candidates’ names are on these sample ballots for anyone who wants to research the candidates for whom they may wish to vote.

To determine if a resident is registered, a quick visit to epcountyvotes.com can let students enter their information to determine if they are already registered. From there, people can register either in person or by mail by going to their website and downloading the voter registration application. Postage is pre-paid and the address is already on the application.

“Registration applications are also available at any U.S. Post Office, the Department of Public Safety, El Paso County public libraries, and Texas Health and Human Services Commission offices,” Rosales said.

Anyone can do early voting and it is a way to skip the lines on Election Day. Early voting will take place between Monday, Oct. 24 through Friday, Nov. 4. Residents can go to any early site or any election site to place their vote.

A list of voting sites can be found at epcountyvotes.com with an option to look up the closest voting location to where you are.

The only thing required to vote is a photo ID. Approved forms of identification include a Texas driver’s license, Texas election ID certificate, Texas personal ID card, Texas handgun license, military photo ID, citizenship certificate and a passport.

In the state of Texas, to qualify for mail-in ballots, residents must be either: 65 years or older, have a disability, be within three weeks of giving birth before or after Election Day, out of the county or serving jailtime. A ballot by mail application must be completed and received by Oct. 28.

For those interested in volunteering, call 915-546-2154, or complete the “Poll Worker Interest Form” located on their website.

The November 2022 General Election is only a few weeks away, and Rosales encourages people to get registered.

Kristen Scheaffer is a contributor and can be reached at kmscheaffer@miners.utep.edu.

ELECTION from cover

O’Rourke stands on the other side showing great opposition for “Open Carry” and even more so after the events at Uvalde. Though O’Rourke does not want to ban all firearms but rather have better laws put in place to secure these weapons. Some of these laws including raising the age to buy a firearm to 21, having a red flag law system, better background checks and better storage laws.

O’Rourke has openly called out Greg Abbott on his lack of change in gun safety, both during the aftermath of the 2019 El Paso Walmart shooting and most recently, the Robb Elementary shooting, where O’Rourke called Abbott out in front of city leaders, other state officials and the people of Uvalde.

Border & immigration

In our border city, we have recently seen an influx of immigrants flood the downtown streets, which has become a big part of this coming election. According to Customs and Border Protections, roughly 1,500 migrants are crossing our border which has caused concern.

Gun Control

Almost five months after the Uvalde shooting at Robb Elementary School and three years after the Walmart shooting in El Paso, gun control policies continues to be a major topic among politicians.

In Texas, anyone older than 18 years old can buy a firearm. Since September 2021, people 21 and over no longer need a state-issued license to carry firearms outside their houses or vehicles.

“Every Texan needs to know that Greg Abbott made us less safe by ignoring law enforcement and allowing people to carry guns in public without a background check, training or permit,” O’Rourke said.

A Texas judge ruled Sept. 19, that people under felony indictment have the right to purchase guns under the Second Amendment.

Since 2016, individuals with a Texas concealed handgun license have been allowed to carry concealed handguns on campus.

Education

In 2021, Abbott signed the Critical Race Theory bill, which prevents teachers from teaching Critical Race Theory (CRT) in K-12 public schools.

Teachers are no longer required to teach specific topics of women’s rights, civil rights and Native American history.

Banned books are a topic to look into as they limit teachers.

According to a new analysis released by PEN America, Texas has banned over 800 books about slavery, sexual abuse, puberty, identity, sexuality, racial experiences, and LGBTQ+ experiences more than any other state.

With election day fast approaching, these are some of the topics that should be looked into before deciding on who to vote for.

Victoria Rivas is a guest contributor and may be reached at vrivas7@miners.utep.edu; @VicRivas_18 on Twitter.

child abuse. According to The Texas Tribune, the order came only seven days prior to the primary election. Abbott has not made any announcements stating any assistance or support for the LGBTQ+ community, while Texas has one of the largest LGBTQ+ populations in the country according to the Movement Advanced Project.

O’Rourke has made it clear he wants to pass the state’s first comprehensive nondiscrimination law and protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of all Texans, according to his website.

“I will always fight alongside you to ensure that you’re able to live freely as yourself, free from attacks and discrimination,” O’Rourke said in a tweet after Abbott’s announcement of state welfare being able to investigate parents for child abuse.

Miners are encouraged to register to vote by Oct. 11 to take part in early voting Oct. 24-Nov. 4 and should keep in mind election day is Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Information used was found with the help of betoorourke.com, gregabbott.com and texastribune.org.

Itzel Giron is the multimedia editor and can be reached at iagiron@miners.utep.edu; @by.itzel.giron on Instagram; @itzel_anahi_16 on Twitter.

Texas Rising gets students involved

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

As election season begins to creep up, it is important for UTEP students to know what is going on in their government both locally and nationally, especially since young people make up the majority of the demographic of voters.

A great organization on campus that focuses on such topics is Texas Rising. Their mission is to create a more inclusive state and to promote equality and social justice for all Texans by organizing, advocating, voting and training future leaders.

“Texas Rising is a student-led organization that seeks to empower young Texans to fight for progressive issues that they believe in,” said Texas Rising member Michael Gutierrez. “That can be anything from LGBTQIA+ rights, immigration reform, criminal justice reform, climate justice or reproductive justice.”

The group is very involved in the community and is devoted to sponsoring activities focused on critical issues facing both local communities and the state of Texas.

Some activities include voter registration drives, Get-Out-The-Vote campaigns, issue and candidate forums, hands-on political training, tabling events, attending rallies, organizing events in the commu-



Campus organizer Carla Palacios speaks and tells reporter Alyson Rodriguez why students should join Texas Rising. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**

nity, creative direct actions and media events. There are chapters across Texas at almost every large university, including UTEP.

“I’ve been in Texas Rising since May 2019 because one of my friends was the campus organizer before me,” said campus organizer Carla Palacios. “I then went to the summer institute where I was taught how to organize at school, learned about Texas government and politics, and how to get more involved in your community. We’ve been rebuilding the chapter from the ground up since COVID.”

Currently the group holds voter registration tabling every Monday and Wednesday at the UTEP library to get students registered. There are also general meetings

being held weekly, where the group discusses political topics such as El Paso Government 101 and other informational talks. Texas Rising also collaborates with many other groups around campus in order to advocate for issues.

“Texas Rising is a great way of getting involved as activists or organizers in the community,” Palacios said. “People should join if they are interested and passionate about social justice issues. The group has fostered and built many organizers who have grown up to be leaders.”

Gutierrez explained the importance of voting not only in national elections, but local elections.

“It’s important to vote because it affects your life and the things you care about, especially locally, because a lot of people look to national elections as a time to go vote but it’s not,” Gutierrez said. “The things that are very important are state and local stuff because those affect your area and community directly. So, if you’re not actively involved in the community issues and community candidates that are running in your area, then you have people who are elected to positions that aren’t advocating for the same things you want to advocate and fight for.”

Other progressive groups include Vote El Paso! which is an organization that helps and informs

students how they can register and receive information about voting. IGNITE at UTEP equips young women to run for office and aims to increase gender representation.

“The last day to register to vote before the next election is Oct. 11,”

said Texas Rising advocacy and fields organizer Sofia Avant-Meir.

To find out more information on Texas Rising follow them on Instagram @texrisingutep.

Alyson Rodriguez is a staff reporter and may be reached at aerodriguez20@miners.utep.edu; @alyson_rod1127 on Twitter.

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What to expect on your upcoming ballot

BY JOSIE AVILA
The Prospector

In this year's Texas midterm elections, races across federal, state, county, and local levels will be on the ballot. The following information aims to break down the races

specific to El Paso voters. According to Texas Tribune, the races on the ballot include governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, land commissioner, agriculture commissioner, comptroller, a seat from the Railroad Commission, district based judicial

seats, State Board of Education, and congressional and legislative representatives.

Running for Texas governor is current incumbent Greg Abbott (R) against Beto O'Rourke (D), as well as libertarian (L) and green party (G) candidates. Below the governor is lieutenant governor Dan Patrick (R) seeking re-election against Democrat and libertarian candidates, similar to the state's highest civil case lawyer, attorney general Ken Paxton (R).

The agriculture commissioner oversees agriculture production and promotes healthy lifestyles and economic development. All but the land commissioner is up for re-election. This seat oversees state land through the Texas General Land Office (GLO) and administers disaster recovery funds.

Collecting taxes in Texas is the comptroller's role, and a railroad commissioner regulates gas and oil industries.

The State Board of Education sets policies for Texas public schools. It has 15 districts across the state and competing to represent El Paso in District 1 are Michael "Travis" Stephens (R) and Melissa N. Ortega (D).

U.S. Congress Representatives hold two-year terms, and you can expect current incumbent Veronica Escobar (D) and her opponent Irene Armendariz-Jackson (R) on

the ballot.

The Texas House of Representatives proposes area focused laws and resolutions and is divided into 150 districts, all of which are up for re-election. El Paso alone is divided into five districts, but only House District 75 and 76 are being contested. Find out who represents you under "Am I registered?" at epcountyvotes.com.

In the judicial branch, there exists two types of courts, trial and appellate. Trial courts are where a judge presides over a case and decides. If citizens are unsatisfied with the judge's decision, they may request an appellate court to review their case. These courts have jurisdiction over specific geographical regions, except for the Texas Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals.

The Texas Supreme Court is the highest appellate court for civil and juvenile cases. It is composed of nine justices and has statewide jurisdiction; therefore, all Texas residents can vote in every race for the nine spots. This election, justice places 3, 5 and 9 are on the ballot and you can find the names of the candidates on your sample ballot.

Like the Texas Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals also has statewide jurisdiction and is the highest appellate court, except that this court focuses specifically on criminal cases. Justice places 5 and 6 are up for election.

According to txcourts.gov, the Court of Appeals "have intermediate appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal cases appealed from district or county courts." There are 14 courts of appeals in Texas and the 8th court has jurisdiction over El Paso. The court is composed of three justices and running for place 2 are Jeff Alley (R) and Lisa Soto (D).

Like the Texas House of Representatives, district judges vary based on your location. Some seats are up for re-election and whether they are running contested, you can find their names at epcountyvotes.com.

On a county and local level, some of the most important seats in every election is where you will find the most uncontested seats, and perhaps that is why you have never heard of those positions at all.

A few of the most notable positions include the county judge and county commissioners, which are divided into four depending on the precinct voters live in.

Some county judges will also be on the ballot. Also pay attention to city proposals and City Council Representative districts 1, 5, 6, and 8 who will be on the ballot.

Most importantly, please research the candidates. A search on Google may give you a place to learn about why they deserve your vote.

Josie Avila is the audience and engagement editor and can be reached at jaavila16@miners.utep.edu; Joseline Avila on LinkedIn.

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THE TALK WILL BE IN SPANISH WITH SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION TO ENGLISH

Honduran multi-disciplinary artist Adán Vallecillo makes site-responsive and research-driven projects, many of which think about political economies and the natural world.

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Arts & Culture

Meagan Garcia, editor



Michaelangelo's "Creation of Adam" is his most famous painting and depicts the relationship between God and mankind. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**

The Sistine Chapel makes it to Sunland Park Mall

BY MEAGAN GARCIA
The Prospector

The city of El Paso is getting a new cultural kick with "Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel: The Exhibition." In this 90 minute experience, patrons get to experience Michelangelo's famous work featured in the Sistine Chapel without having to go through any tourist chaos or pay for big travel expenses.

Located on the second level of Sunland Park Mall is an old storefront that was transformed into the suite where the exhibit is currently being held.

Upon entrance, the space is dark and highlighted with ambient music and lighting. To mimic a real church, rich classical music is played softly in the background while exhibitiongoers get to peruse the dozens of works featured throughout the room.

Whether it was choosing the cities to premiere it in or choosing the building where it would be held, plenty of thought went into the planning of this exhibition.

"Coming in and being able to offer something that we assumed we would hit a big population and also coming to a place where it would be appreciated, was the reason we came to Sunland Park Mall in El Paso," said Niko Plesons, who works with Fever, the company hosting the event.

Even the layout of the room was intricately planned so that exhibitiongoers could enjoy a slow-paced showing of the Sistine Chapel without being in Vatican City.

Plesons explained that the CEO of Special Entertainment Events with Fever visited the Sistine Chapel himself in Vatican City and was displeased with the experience. From heavy crowding to a rushed tour that restricted photography, he wanted something different.

"He wanted to give people a chance to see things, not only 60 feet over their head like you would in the actual chapel, but five feet

WHO: MICHELANGELO

**WHAT: MICHELANGELO'S
SISTINE CHAPEL: THE
EXHIBITION**

**WHEN: SEPT. 30 TO
JAN. 1, 2023**

**WHERE: SECOND LEVEL,
SUNLAND PARK MALL**

in front of their face," Plesons said. "Blown up, life size and allow people the time to enjoy it on their own."

Michelangelo's most renowned works are blown up, draped across the top wall to imitate the Sistine Chapel ceiling and arranged throughout the room in an accessible way for people to view. Aiding in the well-planned flow of this exhibit are descriptions and QR codes that, once scanned with a cell phone, provide people with an audio tour for the accompanying pieces.

At the end of the interactive exhibit, is a conveniently placed merchandise table that sells clothing, tote bags, prints and more to help viewers commemorate their visit.

"If you're interested in art and you want to come see something that you wouldn't be able to see unless you went across the world, come check it out," Plesons said.

The exhibit opened Sept. 30 and will be available for viewing until Jan. 1 at Sunland Park Mall. Tickets are \$22 for regular patrons and 20 percent off for students.

For information on dates, tickets and hours of operation, visit sistinechapelxhibit.com/el-paso/

Meagan Garcia is the arts & culture editor and may be reached at megarcia19@miners.utep.edu.



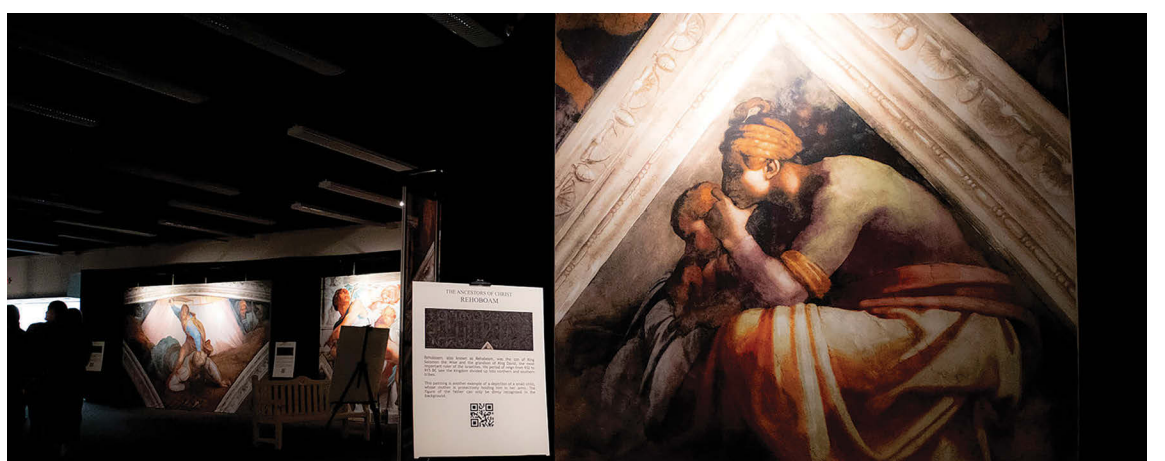
"The Last Judgment" shows the renewal of God's Kingdom according to the New Testament and was created about 25 years after the completion of the ceiling frescoes.

Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector



"Stories From Genesis" is separated in several parts and shows the creation of the universe, creation of man and original sin, and the fall and first rebirth of man through the stories of Noah.

Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector



"Rehoboam" also known as Rehabeam, is a painting that depicts a small child whose mother is holding him.

Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

Match steps and break borders at ‘Pasos Ajenos’

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ
The Prospecter

Traveling to a new country to pursue a better life is a sacrifice that many migrants are currently making in their journey to the U.S. They flee due to circumstances such as violence, environmental factors, economic opportunities and other reasons. Recently there have been a record number of Venezuelans crossing into the U.S. from Mexico.

Considering the current immigration situation, UTEP’s Centennial Museum has welcomed a new exhibit called, “Pasos Ajenos: Social Justice and Inequalities in the Borderland.”

This exhibit was created to communicate the abstract concepts of oppression, racial inequalities and power to the larger audience within the borderlands. The title “Pasos Ajenos” is meant to recognize our communal and humanitarian capacity for empathy, solidarity and inclination for justice as we try to walk in the shoes of others.

“This is a collaboration with two professors at New Mexico State University and their colleagues,

artists and a carpenter who incorporated all of their ideas and made them into a reality,” said Daniel Carey-Whalen, director of the Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at UTEP. “‘Pasos Ajenos’ is telling a story of putting yourself in someone else’s shoes. It’s telling the story of the border through non-traditional lenses.”

- Some exhibits included:
- “Environmental Justice”
 - “La Loteria”
 - “Many Hands”
 - “Omitted Narratives”
 - “Carmelita Torres and Bath Riots”
 - “Welcome to Texas”
 - “Border Book”
 - “Buffalo Soldiers in the Borderlands”
 - “State & Grace”
 - “Who is a Migrant”
 - “Labor”
 - “Community Basket”
 - “Seeing your Social Significance”
 - “Mapping or Perceptions”
 - “Soundscape”
 - “Good, Bad, Complicated”
 - “Caution Sign on the Border”
 - “Language Tool Kit”
 - “Love without Borders”



The ‘Pasos Ajenos’ Exhibit located in the Centennial Museum portrays the social justice and inequalities in the Borderlands. From displays to videos to posters, the museum offers information of the issues occurring within our community. **Photo by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospecter**

The exhibition showcases many hard topics in interactive ways. Visitors of the museum can learn about these things through playing card games, writing on the wall, a tall cylinder with revolving segments, and many other interactive activities.

“Each of these vignettes is dealing with an issue on the border and a lot of times they’re about negative things that have happened,” Carey-Whalen said. “It’s important to talk about that side of history.”

One portion of the exhibit that stands apart from the rest is “Love

without Borders.” It incorporates a healing element to the exhibition. This art installation allows people to heal the division or the borders that they are feeling by sharing with another person. It features a telegram made from wire from one of the co-creator’s grandparents talking about the love that they share and how they cannot wait to see each other again. This art piece is meant to show that love cannot be separated by a wall, love will always transcend borders.

“Our mission here is to focus on the cultural and natural history of

this region. El Paso and Juarez are one community, but we are separated by this border,” Carey-Whalen said. “We like to tell the story of the border community and it is important for us to be telling these stories. I really like this exhibit because it helps us look at the complexities and it does it in a very fun way.”

The interactive exhibition is open from Aug. 13 to March 4, 2023 at Centennial Museum.

For more information visit utep.edu/centennial-museum/

Alyson Rodriguez is a staff reporter and may be reached at aerodriguez20@miners.utep.edu; [@alyson_rod1127](https://twitter.com/alyson_rod1127) on Twitter.

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For additional information, contact SGA at 747-5584 Union East Building, Room 304.

Sports

Emmanuel Rivas, editor

Political moments in sports



Colin Kaepernick appears on a Nike ad that reads “Believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything” after taking a knee for the pre-game national anthem to show his stance on racial injustice in the U.S in 2016. Photo courtesy of Brechtbug/openverse

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL
The Prospecter

Sports are much bigger than the game. Whether athletes use their platform to speak out about current issues or needing to diversify personnel in the team's office or the league, sports have begun to shed light on important topics the world faces today.

Back in 2016, former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick took a knee during the national anthem to send a message of social injustice and police brutality that was happening at the time and has continued to this day. Kaepernick began his silent protest during a preseason game against the Houston Texans Aug. 14, where he sat on the bench out of uniform. In a preseason game against the Green Bay Packers Aug. 26, Kaepernick sat on the bench in uniform, where his protest began to be noticed.

Kaepernick began to take a knee Sept. 1 against the then San Diego Chargers with his former teammate, safety Eric Reid. Kaepernick continued his protest for the entire 2016 season, where he received backlash from fans and was turned away a few times from the National Football League after a few workouts with various teams.

Despite not playing in the National Football League, Kaepernick's protest continued to take over the NFL. Many teams or players began to take a knee, holding a fist up or staying in the locker rooms during the national anthem.

“I AM NOT GOING TO STAND UP TO SHOW PRIDE IN A FLAG FOR A COUNTRY THAT SUPPRESSES BLACK PEOPLE AND PEOPLE OF COLOR.”

Colin Kaepernick,
Former NFL quarterback

According to The Washington Post, in 2017, the NFL and the players coalition agreed to provide players with funds for their community activism endeavors. In 2017, the NFL began the “Inspire Change” campaign, but it only began to gain traction in 2020 after the death of George Floyd.

Before the “Inspire Change” campaign came about, the NFL implemented the Rooney Rule, named after former Steelers owner Dan Rooney, to increase the number of Black coaches interviewed for coaching jobs. However, accord-

ing to a Sept. 21 Washington Post report, there has not been a significant increase in Black coaches despite the rule.

Former Miami Dolphins Head Coach Brian Flores filed a lawsuit against the NFL for discrimination against him and other black coaches in the hiring process.

The Rooney Rule has allowed for more people of color to be interviewed, but many coaches explain that their interviews were just to say that the teams had interviewed a minority candidate.

Former Los Angeles Chargers Head Coach Anthony Lynn said that he was offered more interviews, but he refused to meet with team organizations who had yet to interview a minority candidate because he did not want to be their token interview.

“I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO BE A TOKEN INTERVIEW.”

Anthony Lynn,
Former NFL Head Coach

According to The Washington Post, in 1989 Art Shell was the first Black head coach in the NFL and after he was hired, there was a rise in Black coaches. Unfortunately,

the number began to decline, in recent years there have only been 24 Black coaches.

To this day, Black coaches continue to be denied top jobs in the NFL and are twice as likely to be fired after leading a team to a winning season.

Women working in male-dominated sports is something that is still unheard of, until Sarah Thomas broke ground and became the first NFL female referee

Thomas is currently entering her eighth season, as more women begin to take jobs as assistant coaches, referees and president for team organizations in various leagues.

In the NFL, there is currently only three female referees for the 2022-2023 season, but the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) have picked the first all-female officials for the Men's World Cup.

According to the New York Times, FIFA selected Stéphanie Frappart, Salima Mukansanga and Yoshimi Yamashita to officiate the event along with three more women as assistant referees.

There have been several women making a name for themselves in the NFL, such as Jennifer King who became the first Black female

assistant coach.

During the 2020 Super Bowl, Tampa Bay Buccaneers assistant defensive line coach Lori Locust and assistant strength and conditioning coach Maral Javadifar became the first women to win a Super Bowl. Another important moment came about July 7, when the Las Vegas Raiders hired Sandra Douglass Morgan as the team president, making her the first Black female team president in the NFL.

“I HOPE WE GET TO A POINT WHERE ALL PEOPLE ARE AFFORDED EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES”

Maral Javadifar,
Tampa Bay Assistant
Strength and Conditioning
Coach

Moments such as Kaepernick taking a knee, the lack of Black coaches, and women working in a male-dominated world are altering moments in sports that shine a light on various important topics the world faces today.

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

COMMENTARY

The NFL pushes LGBTQ+ inclusivity

Are all fans ready?

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS VALENZUELA
The Prospector

The National Football League (NFL) has historically been hesitant toward LGBTQ+ inclusivity for their fans or their players, prime examples from past and present include former player Michael Sam and current player Carl Nassib. Granted, the league's outward stance has shifted in recent years, however, this has not been without backlash from some outspoken fans.

It is important to look at how sports leagues, who have massive platforms, use their status. The NFL in recent years has taken steps to promote voting, social justice and racial diversity.

This shift toward a socially holistic approach from the league stems from a change in demographics within the U.S. Seeing where the league stood and what it stands for today makes for an interesting discourse.

One of the most pivotal LGBTQ+ moments in the NFL came when University of Missouri defensive end Michael Sam was drafted in the seventh round of the



2014 NFL Draft by the then St. Louis Rams.

Sam identified as gay in a time when certain states had bans on same-sex marriage. Gay marriage was not federally protected until a year later in 2015, when the US Supreme Court ruled on *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

When Sam publicly came out, he would become the NFL's first openly self-acknowledged gay player.

Sam came out in the months leading to the draft, leading some to speculate that his stock would tank. Sam was projected to go somewhere in the third or fourth rounds but fell to the seventh round where the Rams picked him up.

Controversy regarding his sexual-

ity inflamed the football landscape. During an appearance during a Missouri basketball game, where his 2014 team was recognized for their Cotton Bowl championship, anti-gay protesters from the Westboro Baptist Church gathered to protest Sam. Students gathered to counter-protest the members of Westboro in support of Sam, with CBS Sports' Chip Patterson reporting thousands of students participating.

The social landscape has changed since Sam was last in the league. As previously mentioned, gay marriage is now federally protected, but several other strides have been made toward inclusivity for LGBTQ+ people. As more public figures come out as members of the LGBTQ+ community, the easier for others to come out themselves.

Take, for example, Tampa Bay Buccaneers linebacker Carl Nassib. Nassib publicly came out in July of 2021 on an Instagram post and became the first player to come out while in the NFL.

"I just wanted to take a quick moment to say that I'm gay. I've been meaning to do this for a while now, but I finally feel comfortable enough to get it off my chest," Nassib said.

Several fans were quick to express their support for Nassib.

"Wow! To be the first NFL player who feels comfortable enough and okay with themselves enough

to be open and honest is a really encouraging thing to see and it will certainly inspire and help others!!!" said an Instagram user.

Others felt appalled by Nassib's announcement.

"I just threw up in my mouth a little," commented one user.

"Imagine being gay...that why u suck at football," said another.

The entire NFL fanbase may not be ready to accept gay men in football, but the NFL itself has recently come out to support its' LGBTQ+ fans and players.

In June 2021, days after Nassib publicly came out, the NFL began to push the "Football is..." campaign.

In a Twitter post, the NFL posted a video featuring statements that opened with "Football is." The first phrase that appears is "Football is Gay." Proceeding this statement are other statements like "Football is Lesbian," "Football is Queer," "Football is Accepting" and "Football is for Everyone." The video then cuts to a rainbow-colored NFL Shield.

The video also announces the NFL's partnership with The Trevor Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing awareness and suicide prevention amongst LGBTQ+ children. The NFL matched a \$100,000 donation that Nassib contributed for the Trevor Project.

The tweet did not hesitate to stir up a debate amongst fans.

"Is football still for straight people...I think I need a video telling me that it is," a user responded.

Another user said, "I came out as Straight but didn't feel the need to make a huge stupid deal about it!!"

Other users were much more supportive of the NFL's push for inclusivity.

"I never thought I'd see the day that the NFL would support my community," commented a user. Another said, "Thanks for standing by people who often desperately need it...The NFL has a massive platform, glad to see taking civic responsibility."

The NFL continues to promote LGBTQ+ inclusivity. This year, the NFL created an affinity group, NFL Pride. NFL Pride is tasked with promoting inclusion within the workplace. Nassib also contributed to the Trevor Project in 2022 matching donations of up to \$100,000 dollars.

Clearly there is still a way to go toward inclusivity amongst fans, but with the NFL and other sports leagues promoting and supporting the LGBTQ+ community, they can create a safe and welcoming environment for all regardless of race, gender, sex or any other identifier.

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela is the sports editor and can be reached at erivas7@miners.utep.edu. @rivasemmanuel2 on Instagram

Soccer loses 3 straight matches

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS VALENZUELA
The Prospector

After not losing five straight matches, the UTEP Miners soccer team have lost two games on the road versus Western Kentucky University (WKU), Charlotte, and at home to the University of Alabama-Birmingham (UAB).

UTEP at WKU-Sept. 22

Before heading to Western Kentucky, the Miners were 3-5-2 and 0-1-2 in conference play. UTEP had just tied against LA Tech in a 2-2 nailbiter. The WKU Hilltoppers were 4-4-1 and 1-1-0 in conference play. The Hilltoppers had just come of a 0 to 1 loss versus LA Tech. WKU got off to a hot start scoring in minute 12 thanks to junior forward Lily Rummo. The goal came from an assist from senior forward Katie Erwin. After 12 minutes, no team managed to score a single goal. The Miners fell to the Hilltoppers 0-1, bringing the Miners' record to 3-6-2.

UTEP at Charlotte-Sept. 25

Prior to this matchup, the Charlotte 49ers were 3-6-2 and 2-2-0 in conference play. The 49ers had just come off a 2-0 win versus LA Tech. The first half of this match was scoreless. In minute 62, junior midfielder Tash Hudson scored a goal thanks to an assist from sophomore defender Kiara Pralle. This put the score at Charlotte 1, UTEP 0. It was not long before Charlotte scored again. Graduate student Haley Shand scored the 49ers second goal of the night after an assist

from sophomore forward Macey Bader. To seal the game, Charlotte scored one final goal in minute 82 of the match. 49ers' senior midfielder Julia Patrum passed the ball to Bader for the third and final goal of the night making the final score Charlotte 3, UTEP 0.

UAB at UTEP-Sept. 29

Coming into this game, the UAB Blazers were 7-2-2 and 4-0-0 in conference play. The Blazers had just come off a 1-0 win against Florida Atlantic. The first half of this match was quiet with both teams struggling to score.

UAB had 17 shots throughout the game, while the Miners only produced four shots. In minute 64, senior defender Asha Zuniga scored a goal off an assist from junior midfielder Jessica Wheeler. This put the score at UAB 1, UTEP 0. UTEP could not answer UAB's goal leaving the game without a point. UTEP committed several penalties. In this match, the Miners produced 12 fouls while the Blazers had only 6.

In their past three games, the Miners were outscored 5-0. The Miners leave the month of September with only two wins.

The Miners now face Florida Atlantic University at 5 p.m. Oct. 7 at FAU Soccer Stadium in Boca Raton, Florida.

The next Miners home game will be against Middle Tennessee at 1 p.m. Oct. 16 at University Field.

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela is the sports editor and can be reached at erivas7@miners.utep.edu. @rivasemmanuel2 on Instagram

UTEP volleyball expands its win streak to six games

BY ROMAN P. CARR
JOEL MOLINA
The Prospector

UTEP Volleyball (9-7, 3-0 C-USA) went up against the LA Tech Bulldogs (7-10, 1-2 C-USA) at 6:00 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30.

The UTEP Miners gave no room for a comeback as they defeated the LA Tech Bulldogs on a 3-0 set victory; 25-12, 25-14, 25-16.

The Miners pummeled the contenders every which way, putting up a total of 35 kills, 7 aces and 8 blocks with 32 assists and 34 digs.

In no way throughout the entirety of each set did it look like Bulldogs were going to end up winning this one, as they could find no rhythm to maintain a steady flow against the Miners.

On the other side, UTEP dominated the competition with their fast-paced game play and incredible setups during each set.

UTEP Volleyball standout and redshirt freshman outside hitter Torrance Lovesee recorded a total of 9 kills, 2 blocks, and 6 digs.

Lovesee played a big part in the Miner victory pushing forward throughout the course of the game. Meanwhile, on the opposing side for the LA Tech Bulldogs, sophomore defensive specialist McKenzie Johnson recorded one ace, one assist and three digs, teaming up with redshirt junior outside hitter

Andrea Spasojevic who recorded a total of seven kills and five digs, giving their best effort in attempting to defeat the Miners.

Freshman setter Mattie Gantt for the Miners recorded a grand total of 16 assists and five aces pairing with outside hitter and UTEP star player Serena Patterson who recorded seven kills, five blocks and one assist, also playing a big part in the Miner victory.

These stats, alongside the victory over the Bulldogs, put a big smile on head coach Ben Wallis' face as the Miners celebrated giving the fans and staff a great showcase.

Nevertheless, the Miners still have a long season ahead as they fight for a championship run.

"We defended really well and we served it tough," said Head Coach Ben Wallis.

The UTEP volleyball team picked up a conference win over the University of North Texas (8-11, 2-2 Conference USA) Sunday, Oct. 2.

The win brings the Miners' win streak to six games with their overall record now being 10-7 and conference record sitting at 4-0. This places them second in Conference USA.

Outside hitters Serena Patterson and Torrance Lovesee registered 14 kills each. Middle blocker Kaya Weaver led the way in the block category with a career-high of 10.

Outside/right side hitter Sara Pustahija and outside hitter Ema Uskokovic also set career-highs in blocks with six each.

Setters Hande Yetis and Mattie Gantt contributed a total of 43 assists amongst them both.

"We expected it to be a war and

we were able to get the victory over a really good team," said head coach Ben Wallis in a press release.

A war it was as North Texas pushed the Miners to a five-set match, which had UTEP taking the first two matches, 25-23 and 25-14, and North Texas taking the next two matches, 25-21 and 25-17, to even out the score.

In the fifth and final set, the Miners and North Texas went toe to toe. North Texas took a 10-8 lead.

The Miners answered with the help of a kill by Pustahija, a service ace by Yetis, and a block by a combination of Miners.

They were able to come back and take an 11-10 lead. North Texas would come back to tie the game, but the Miners pulled away and took the set 15-12, after a service error, two kills by Lovesee, and a service ace by defensive specialist, Hula Crisostomo

"We didn't give them anything," Wallis said in a press release. "They earned those third, third and fourth set wins. But to be able to get right back at it emotionally with a bunch of young people out there,"

The Miners' next match will be at noon Saturday, Oct. 8 at Memorial Gym. There they will face a number 22 ranked team in Rice."

The UTEP volleyball team is looking to expand their win streak to seven games.

Roman P. Carr is contributor and photographer and may be reached at rpcarr@utep.miners.edu. @23rd.era on Instagram. and Joel Molina is a contributor and can be reached at jmolina16@miners.utep.edu

Highlighting Hispanics in sports journalism

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS VALENZUELA
The Prospector

Editor's Note: Contains mentions of sexual assault.

Sports journalism may present itself as shallow in the eyes of many. But the profession goes a lot deeper than most would expect. Anything from deciding who to start or bench in your fantasy league to finding out if your favorite player is out with an injury or not, sports journalists ensure that the information sports fanatics need is available.

However, sports journalists behind the work tend to go unnoticed, especially for those in marginalized communities. In observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, it is critical to look at journalists who work to empower other Hispanics by surpassing borders and languages.

MJ Acosta Ruiz

MJ Acosta Ruiz is the host of "NFL Total Access" at NFL Media. She is currently the only bilingual Dominican woman on air at NFL Network. Ruiz grew up in Washington Heights, New York but moved to Miami in her teen years. Growing up, Ruiz spent most of her time on the basketball court given her father's background playing for the Dominican National Team.

Ruiz is also a victim of sexual assault in the workplace but acknowledges how she was not alone in her experiences.

"The person who gave me (one of my first) job(s) in the field was also the person who sexually assaulted me. And that was something that I never spoke about...We are conditioned to think [it's our fault] and victim blame: 'I did it to myself.' But it wasn't my fault," Ruiz said in



MJ Acosta Ruiz from NFL Media, Andrez Cantor from Telemundo Deportes, Hugo Balta from The Chicago Reporter, Marly Rivera from ESPN, and Luiz Gerardo Bucci from CNN Deportes are all successful Hispanics in the sports journalism field. **Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons**

an interview with People CHICA. "I wish I knew that there were people that not only went through it but that would support me, lift me up, and encourage me to do what I had to do for myself."

Ruiz has also been an avid advocate for naturalistas in sports journalism. Naturalistas are people who choose to style their hair in its natural state. In the case of Ruiz, her hair is naturally curly which sets to an afro. For the longest time, hair like Ruiz's would be considered unprofessional and would cause primarily people of color to lose out on job opportunities.

Andres Cantor

Andres Cantor is an Argentinean sportscaster for Telemundo Deportes. Cantor has dedicated a generous portion of his career to soccer. Going back to the 1990 FIFA World Cup, Cantor popular-

ized the iconic "¡GOL!" scream to U.S. audiences. Cantor was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina but moved to Southern California in his teen years where he attended San Marino High School and graduated from the University of Southern California.

Cantor has experience in both Spanish and English commentating. His first major assignment in English commentating was the 2000 Sydney Summer Olympics, where he covered both men's and women's soccer matches for NBC. Cantor has continued working for NBC, covering the most recent Olympics in Tokyo. Cantor's legacy lives on through his son, Nico, who works for CBS Sports, Univision and TUDN.

Hugo Balta

Hugo Balta is currently an associate editor for The Chicago Re-

porter, a publication dedicated to documenting Chicago's issues dealing with race and poverty. Prior to his commitment with The Chicago Reporter, Balta was senior director of Hispanic initiatives at ESPN. In this role, Balta established short- and long-term projects with the goal to better accommodate the Hispanic sports fanbase.

Marly Rivera

Marly Rivera is a Puerto Rican sportswriter at ESPN and ESPN Deportes. According to her ESPN Press Room bio, Rivera does most of her work from New York, focusing on the New York Yankees. Rivera is one of only a few women in the Baseball Writers' Association of America and is the only Latina in the association. Her contributions extend beyond her professional career. Rivera used her professional platform to highlight the tragedies

in Puerto Rico following the catastrophe caused by Hurricane Maria.

Rivera covered a game between the Minnesota Twins and the current-day Cleveland Guardians. This game was played in Rivera's hometown of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"While my home country, including my family, was still struggling with damaged homes and months with no electricity, it was an honor to bring much needed joy to my beautiful island," Rivera said.

Luis Gerardo Bucci

Luis Gerardo Bucci is a Venezuelan born sportscaster for CNN Deportes. Starting his career in Venezuela, Bucci earned his degree in sports journalism from the Universidad Santa Maria in Caracas. Bucci moved to Miami, Florida in 2008, joining Telemundo Media. Bucci then joined CNN Deportes in 2011 as a sports anchor for a little over a decade. There, Bucci influenced the Hispanic community via sports. Currently, Bucci is working as a sports anchor for NBCUniversal where he covered the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

Having these wonderful Hispanic sports journalists serving as trailblazers in the industry while also paving the way for a younger generation of ambitious and marginalized journalists is exhilarating. It shows that, despite being in a system that tends to favor white men, Hispanics, and other people of color, their talent to the table.

Information provided by NFL Media, NBC Universal, ESPN and CNN Deportes.

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Miners build momentum against Charlotte

Following their massive win over Boise State, UTEP (3-3, Conference USA 1-1) trekked to North Carolina to face Charlotte (1-5, Conference USA 0-2). In their previous two matchups, UTEP fell to the 49ers. This matchup presented a different outcome with the Miners pulling off a crucial win.

This was the Miners' first win in the Eastern time zone in school history. Prior, the school's record was 0-25-1.

For the full recap, visit theprospectordaily.com

UTEP 41					TEAM STATS			CHARLOTTE 35				
PASSING Q. HARDISON	C/ATT	YDS	TD	INT	425	PASSING YARDS	442	PASSING Q. REYNOLDS	C/ATT	YDS	TD	INT
	10/14	173	3	0	173	RUSHING YARDS	346		22/38	346	4	1
RUSHING B. HANKINS	C/ATT	YDS	TD	INT	252	YARD PER PLAY	96	RUSHING B. BYRD	C/ATT	YDS	TD	INT
	20	112	0	5.6	7.2	1ST DOWN	6.7		13	80	1	6.2
RECEIVING R. SIMITH	C/ATT	YDS	TD	INT	3/11	2ND DOWN	27	RECEIVING R. SPENCER	C/ATT	YDS	TD	INT
	4	106	2	26.5	3/3	3RD DOWN	5/11		7	160	1	22.9
DEFENSE D. KNIGHT	C/ATT	YDS	TD	INT	59	4TH DOWN	2/2	DEFENSE D. PARKER	C/ATT	YDS	TD	INT
	6	2	1	0	10(99)	TOTAL PLAYS	66		6	2	0	0
					33:40	PENALTIES YARDS	8(74)					
						TIME OF POSSESSION	26:20					

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COMMENTARY

The NFL's concussion protocol problem

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL
The Prospector

Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa was carted off the field during the Dolphins vs. Cincinnati Bengals game Thursday, Sept. 29. Tagovailoa was later taken to a local hospital with a head and neck injury.

In 2011, the National Football League put together a board of independent directors of NFL-affiliated physicians and scientists, including a few advisors of the NFL Players Association (NFLPA).

The board put together an NFL game day concussion diagnosis and management protocol, it is reviewed each year to ensure the players' safety. The NFL has a six-step process to see if the player is a "no-go," a video review of the play, a review of concussion signs and symptoms, an inquiry regarding the history of the event, all Maddocks questions and a focused neurological exam.

The NFL is currently facing backlash for its concussion protocols because of a recent injury Tagovailoa suffered four days before the game against the Bengals.

During the game against the Buffalo Bills on Sunday, Tagovailoa went down after a hit from the Bills



defense which caused Tagovailoa to hit his head on the field. When he got up to walk, he began to stumble.

The Dolphins medical staff took Tagovailoa into the locker room to evaluate him for a concussion, but he came back after halftime to finish the game. The Dolphins organization later said it was a back injury and that Tagovailoa was cleared by the medical team to re-enter the game.

Four days later, the Dolphins were playing against the Bengals and Tagovailoa took a big hit once again, but this time he remained on the field as medical professionals

approached him. Tagovailoa was placed on a stretcher and taken to a hospital.

"PLAYER HEALTH AND SAFETY IS AT THE CORE OF THE UNION'S MISSION, OUR INVESTIGATION INTO THE POTENTIAL PROTOCOL VIOLATION IS ONGOING,"

NFL Players Association,
Tweeted Statement after Thursday night's game

Since Tagovailoa's hit brought many questions, the NFLPA is currently investigating the situation to determine if Tagovailoa was examined thoroughly for a concussion in Sunday's game against the Bills.

One thing that is on everyone's mind is, why did the Dolphins allow Tagovailoa to re-enter the game on Sunday when he noticeably stumbled as he walked to the huddle?

According to ESPN, the NFL concussion protocol refers to that kind of stumble as "gross motor instability." The Dolphins explained that the reason for the stumble was due to the back injury, but after Tagovailoa took the hit not once was he grabbing his back. When you go and watch the videos you can see that Tagovailoa hit his head on the field in almost the same fashion.

On the NFL's Player Health and Safety website, they show an in-depth description of how they

conduct concussion protocols.

There are also various individuals watching the game from different perspectives to examine the plays where injuries occur; someone had to have seen the play where Tagovailoa hit his head.

Thankfully Tagovailoa was released from the hospital in Cincinnati and was able to travel back with the team. According to ESPN, Tagovailoa has undergone testing that showed no structural damage to his head or neck area; he was alert and has feeling in all his extremities.

According to ESPN, the unaffiliated neurotrauma consultant that was involved in clearing Tagovailoa during Sunday's game has been fired as many sources are saying that he has made several mistakes.

The NFL and the NFLPA have

agreed to make modifications to the current concussion protocols in order to enhance player safety. The agreement in modifying the current protocols is subject to formal approval and could take effect in week five of the NFL season.

The NFL and the NFLPA released a joint statement Saturday, Oct. 1:

"The NFL and the NFLPA agree that The NFLPA's Mackey-White Health & Safety Committee and the NFL's Head Neck and Spine Committee have already begun conversations around the use of the term 'Gross Motor Instability' and we anticipate changes to the protocol being made in the coming days based on what has been learned thus far in the review process," the joint statement said.

"The NFL and NFLPA share a strong appreciation for the unaffiliated neurotrauma consultants who contribute their time and expertise to our game solely to advance player safety. This program has made our game safer for the athletes who play it for the past twelve seasons."

Many are glad to hear that Tagovailoa is alert. He is expected to receive an MRI and is currently in concussion protocol.

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

UTEP ALUMNI has a RING to it!

FALL 2022

Ring Events

Aug. 30 - Aug. 31	10 am - 3 pm
Sept. 27 - Sept. 29	10 am - 3 pm
Oct. 11 - Oct. 13	10 am - 6 pm
Nov. 8 - Nov. 10	10 am - 3 pm
Dec. 6 - Dec. 8	10 am - 3 pm

Fall 2022 Ring Ceremony - Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m.
 Undergraduate Learning Center (UGLC) Room 106
 Graduating Students and Alumni who purchase a ring from Jostens by October 14 are invited to participate in the Ring Ceremony. For more information, or to RSVP to participate please email us at ringceremony@utep.edu

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