Ongoing campus construction: When will it end?

Over the weekend, a Dollar tree in Jacksonville, Fl. was the target of another shooting this year. Now being investigated as a federal hate crime, officials say 21-year-old Ryan Christopher Palmeter took the lives of Angela Michelle Carr, 52, Anolt Joseph "AJ" Laguerre Jr., 19, and Jerrald Gallion, 29 in a racially motivated attack. Yesterday, Aug. 28, The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill was put under lockdown as the school received reports of an armed and dangerous person on campus according to university officials. After putting the university on lockdown for hours, the shooter was apprehended after killing one faculty member. No other injuries were reported. Classes have been cancelled for Tuesday, Aug. 29.

WHEN EVERYTHING GOES UP, TUITION STAYS LOW

The UT System Board of Regents collectively came together to approve the new plan to maintain the cost of attending, making it more affordable for all UT institutions. Now full-time and in-state undergraduate students will officially pay $9,744.

M O R E T R O U B L E F O R F O R - MER P R E S I D E N T T R U M P

Former President Donald Trump turned himself in to the Fulton County Jail in Atlanta in connection to his efforts to overturn the 2020 Presidential election. It is Trump’s fourth arrest this year. This also makes him the first President in U.S. history to have their mugshot taken. Alongside Trump, 18 of his co-defendants have also surrendered themselves.

THE GOAT IS BACK

Cartwheeling herself into her eighth U.S gymnastics title, Simone Biles made history Aug. 27, as the seven-time Olympian broke a 90-year-old record she once shared with Alfred Jochim. Easing her way into victory, the gymnastics star gave a stellar performance this past Sunday in San Jose, California. Considered one the greatest gymnastics of all time, Biles dominated the floor with a 59.150 score for the day and a 118.40 combined total. Gymnast Shilese Jones was runner-up making Biles the oldest woman to win a national title.

IMMIGRANT MURDERS 11-YEAR-OLD

A Guatemalan immigrant entered the United States through El Paso back in January. Earlier this month he was accused of brutally murdering an 11-year-old girl while she was home alone. Maria Gonzalez was in her room after her dad left for work before she heard someone knocking at the door. She urgently texted her father who told her not to open the door as she was waiting in her room. Gonzalez was later found by her father under her bed after being sexually assaulted and killed by the 18-year-old immigrant. Police in Louisiana later arrested him for capital murder.
Growing up, I was not the kid to play sports or go outside and hang out with other kids. I enjoyed staying inside, playing with my toys and letting my imagination run wild. I loved writing and my English classes; I would get so excited every time I stepped into class and saw on the blackboard that we had an essay or two-page paper due. For me, writing was my outlet to be myself. Though I loved writing and was fascinated with how words can come together to tell beautiful stories, I soon became interested in the news and weather. When I was in sixth grade, my mom would film me telling the weather, and I would dress up as a newscaster sitting at my desk broadcasting the weather and news reports.

Every morning before school, I would wake up and turn on the TV to watch Good Morning America and have Robin Roberts and George Stephanopoulos greet me and tell me the news as I got ready for school. Something I still do today. I was always curious about what was happening in the world and since high school, I knew I wanted to be a journalist. I was a yearbook kid and loved it. I would tell my family members that one day, I would be working at the New York Times, L.A. Times, or The Washington Post.

But, as my senior year approaches, I am filled with so many emotions because I know that the person who entered college three years ago is a different person now. I remember feeling so lost as a journalist and not knowing where to begin. It wasn’t even to my knowledge that UTEP had a newspaper for me to join and as use a steppingstone to jump start my career. However, in the spring of 2022, one of my professors told me about The Prospector and that I should apply. However, I did not because I thought I was not good enough to join their team and write stories on campus or around El Paso.

Eventually, I found the courage to apply, and in January, I joined The Prospector as a staff reporter. I can honestly say these past few months has been the best, and I have learned so much and have grown so much as a journalist and individual. I will always cherish the memory of seeing my first story on the front page and realizing that I belonged at The Prospector.

As the new web and copy editor, I am beyond excited to start this new journey, as I am here to display the amazing work that our newspaper has to offer. There is so much talent at The Prospector, and my main goal is to highlight the hard work that all our writers and photographers put in.

I want to engage with the student community and city and make our website easily accessible so you can read our stories day and night. So, you can feel more connected with us and life in the Borderland.

There is still so much room for me to grow as a writer and journalist and I can’t thank Assistant Director Crystal Hinga enough for shaping me as the writer and journalist I am today and reminding me not to write like a ‘reporter.’

Erik Acosta is the web and copy editor and may be reached at emacosta6@miners.utep.edu.
Tourism vs. colonialism: Spot the difference

The entirety of the United States was built on stolen land, by the hands of stolen labor. As a result, there remains to be an immense loss of culture across multiple indigenous groups due to forced assimilation and eradication of once sacred languages, practices, etc. However, wherever a profit can be made, it will be. This is the nature of the tourism industry. Some people may argue tourism is born from a place of genuine curiosity and wanting to embrace different cultures. While this may be true, the most common defense of tourism is that it “boosts the economy.” Is this true though, and if so what cost? Hawaii is the first place that comes to mind for most people when the argument of tourism is brought up. Its economy is mostly made up of money that pours in due to touristy stays and activities. While this may sound worthwhile promising for locals and Native Hawaiians, studies and local opinions show it is not. With the high volume of tourists that vacation on the islands each year, there is a direct misuse of the land’s natural resources. Many residents are displaced and the environment critically suffers because of these visits. Some specific examples of the damage done to the Native and local population by tourism include an ongoing water crisis due to pollution of natural sources as well as an increase in housing prices, causing purchasing and owning a house in Hawaii relatively impossible. Native and local Hawaiians across social media platforms have plead with tourists to leave their home off any destination vacation lists. Not only do visitors tend to cause an abuse of resources but have a general lack of respect for the spiritual and cultural significance of the land and people. One most famous example of this is Jennifer Lawrence making a joke out of rubbing her butt on sacred rocks despite knowing they were culturally significant. Though she later apologized, it was still upsetting to many to see her display such disregard. Another recent and famous incident involved a Spanish woman visiting Mexico, who climbed a sacred Mayan structure known as El Castillo (Kukulcan Pyramid). She proceeded to dance on it despite the warnings of several signs and warnings from surrounding people. After she reached the bottom, she was verbally berated and drenched with water from the crowd due to her disrespect. I believe people should listen to locals about what clear boundaries and wishes regarding travel to their homeland. Especially during times of crises like the one Hawaii is currently facing with its wildfires.

To make a long story short, maybe don’t make the trip when it is not a welcome one or do research on the territory that is planned to visit so a little more respect can be given to another culture’s homeland.

My journey into the world of multimedia

Capturing life in El Paso has always been a quest for me to achieve. The borderland is rich in Hispanic culture through family, friends, music, and events. Throughout the UTEP campus, the culture continues through every student continuing their education. Creating a platform for everyone to enjoy is what I want for my career as a multimedia journalist.

Growing up, I have always had an interest in movies and writing. I have always been the creative type of student and struggled in many of my classes that involved a formula or equation. During winter break in 2022, I applied to The Prospector where I received a staff reporter position for the spring semester. On the first day, I felt anxious because I didn’t have much experience in AP-style writing or the ins and outs of journalism. After meeting all my coworkers and staff, I was instantly reassured that everything was going to be okay. Through this position, I learned everything that I could. My love for writing and interviewing grew and I became the person I yearned to be. At the end of spring semester, I took a chance and applied for the multimedia editor position. To my surprise, I received the position and finally got the creative outlet I’ve always wanted. I was scared and had so many ideas but limited experience in how to execute them. Throughout the summer, I created videos and continued the podcast. Even though I was so scared of sharing my ideas and work, I realized that I was doing well. I am so excited to continue this position during the fall. I want to represent the borderland through videos and podcasts that I create. This platform is not just for me, but for the students at UTEP and El Pasoans to share their opinions, stories, and voices. I am extremely excited about the fall semester and the events that will be held on campus and across El Paso. It is an honor to work with great journalists and receive experience as an editor and multimedia creator. Learning is my number one priority as I go towards my career after graduation, but I will work hard to showcase the great students, organizations at UTEP and the people of El Paso.

Follow us at El Paso On The Move for updates

UTEP sophomore Samantha Salazar gets ready for the Fall semester in movies and writing. I am so excited about the fall semester and the events that will be held on campus and across El Paso. It is an honor to work with great journalists and receive experience as an editor and multimedia creator. Learning is my number one priority as I go towards my career after graduation, but I will work hard to showcase the great students, organizations at UTEP and the people of El Paso. In addition, I am also extremely excited about the fall semester and the events that will be held on campus and across El Paso. It is an honor to work with great journalists and receive experience as an editor and multimedia creator. Learning is my number one priority as I go towards my career after graduation, but I will work hard to showcase the great students, organizations at UTEP and the people of El Paso.

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ON THE COVER

Registration:
Location/Start/Finals: McKelligon Canyon Amphitheater Court Yard Race Times: 8:00 am Packet Pick-up, Late Registration Begins 7:00 am - 7:45 am Gates Open: 7:45 am (SHARP!)*
Registration Fees (non-refundable): El Paso Central SDA Church @ 1801 McRae Blvd.
Packet Pickup, Late Race Day Registration: 7:00 am - 7:45 am
Location/Start/Finals: McKelligon Canyon Amphitheater Court Yard Race Times: 8:00 am Packet Pick-up, Late Registration Begins 7:00 am - 7:45 am
Gates Open: 7:45 am (SHARP!)*
Registration Fees (non-refundable):
Early Registration through September 11th $30 NO PACKET PICKUPS ON FRI. SEPT 15th or SAT. SEPT 16th
Late and Race Day Registration $35 • Active Military $25 NO RACE SHIRTS AT RACE DAY REGISTRATION
Children under 12 years $20 • Team Registration $25**
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LETS MONDAY

Follow us at El Paso On The Move for updates

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

UTEP sophomore Samantha Salazar gets ready for the Fall semester in movies and writing. I am so excited about the fall semester and the events that will be held on campus and across El Paso. It is an honor to work with great journalists and receive experience as an editor and multimedia creator. Learning is my number one priority as I go towards my career after graduation, but I will work hard to showcase the great students, organizations at UTEP and the people of El Paso. In addition, I am also extremely excited about the fall semester and the events that will be held on campus and across El Paso. It is an honor to work with great journalists and receive experience as an editor and multimedia creator. Learning is my number one priority as I go towards my career after graduation, but I will work hard to showcase the great students, organizations at UTEP and the people of El Paso.
Maui, An island on fire

BY MEAGAN GARCIA
The Prospector

The birds cannot chirp, the trees cannot breathe, and people cannot live on some of the islands of Hawai‘i as the state was devastated by flames earlier this month. The wildfires first started in the upcountry region of Maui, Aug. 8, and spread across nearly land for days, destroying everything in its path.

This catastrophic event led to masses of people being unaccounted for, countless homes and businesses wrecked, and more than 100 individuals confirmed deceased. While there are many factors that contributed to the spread of the fires, it is alleged that the source came from Hawai‘i Electric Light Company, Inc. (HECO). The county of Maui recently filed a lawsuit against the company and argues that HECO’s downed power lines are what ignited the surrounding brush.

Certain weather conditions such as droughts and Hurricane Dora did exacerbate the situation as strong winds and dry grass carried the flames across such massive region. The wildfires moved quickly and did not allow a lot of civilians the time to react or evacuate as needed, which resulted in extreme measures being taken.

If people were not able to leave or reach shelter in time, they were forced to wait for rescue by the sea. Fortunately, the Coast Guard was able to rescue those who were entering the Pacific Ocean to protect themselves.

In addition to the physical suffering people went through, there was also an irreparable loss of culture due to the fires. Lahaina, a town in Maui that is known for its rich history and cultural significance, took the brunt of the damage. What was once the original capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom, is now severely decrepit that the destruction has been likened to that of a bombing. This is especially devastating for some considering how much significant infrastructure is lost, but the struggles and resistance of Native and Indigenous people were also built across the island, which is also a piece of the recently lost culture that is cherished.

Many people have not only been displaced from their homes, unable to contact their loved ones, and separated from their families, but now must worry about rebuilding their livelihood to survive. There are multiple reputable charities and crowd-funding efforts being made in order to help people relieve this loss. Relief can be provided by supporting local efforts over social media as well as informing others of the situation.

Death Star Law: An end to progressive policies in Texas

BY SOYA SIERRA
The Prospector

An ominous cloud shadows the reputation of UTEP as it recently became at risk of losing its accreditation. Thousands of students await the unknown, as the degree they are working hard for could lose its validation. University officials referred to the news as ‘minor issues’ yet students are still pondering over what happened this summer to arrive at this situation. The piece of paper that cost money, sweat, and tears may be invalidated as UTEP is struggling to keep its accreditation. UTEP received a letter from SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges), June 23, that informed university officials they were under warning status. SACSCOC is the organization regularly checks on southern state higher education institutions in the United States to ensure they are providing quality education to their students.

According to the action letter sent to President Heather Wilson, SACSCOC recommended that the institution be placed on a warning status for six months. For failure to comply with those core requirements which include; full-time faculty, program length, qualified administrative-academic officers and program faculty.

The disclosure statement states UTEP failed to fulfill the standards of five regulations imposed by the SACSCOC to remain accredited. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, John Wiebe added that “the changes towards faculty and staff with an email saying, ‘[SACSCOC] determined that they needed additional documentation of our processes and procedures related to five standards,’” Wiebe continued. “Based on the June 29 letter and our conversations with SACSCOC staff, it is clear to me that the concerns have to do with further documentation, rather than the substance, of the standards.”

The spread of misinformation led many students to fail to realize the news was not substance based, rather lack of documents. Students who well informed about the situation are unfazed about the accreditation because of how minor the issues are. Andrea Seanez, a graduate student now working towards her master’s in public administration, mentions how she is grateful for her education at UTEP regardless of the news. “I am still very grateful [of being a UTEP student].” I graduated with my undergrad here at UTEP and ‘I’m getting my masters,’ Seanez said. “The issue of the accreditation isn’t a matter of the content of the school, the proper documents were not provided as required.”

With this email, UTEP announced this warning as a non-trivial issue, as they hope to take the necessary measures to keep UTEP accredited. With little comment on the situation from the university, UTEP students are anxiously waiting for Sept. 8, which will declare whether the warning will be lifted.

‘Coming from different countries in hopes of finding quality education, international students say they are the most confused about this news. They see leaving the comfort of their homes to be faced with the risk of their degree being invalidated is wrongful scary. Due to El Paso being a border city, many international students are reliant on UTEP to provide them with a college education. Giovanna Carmina Ibarra Bermudez came to UTEP aiming to obtain her master’s in biomedical engineering.

“I’m from Puebla, Mexico. I have my bachelor’s in biomedical engineering from a college in Mexico City,” Bermudez said. “I think it’s important to have that accreditation. I don’t have as many options because I’m from Mexico, so UTEP is the [only] option for me.” Whether UTEP students are concerned or disregarding this news, the university being placed under warning is significant. Losing their accreditation could mean nursing graduates not being able to go into graduate schools. Aspiring teacher graduates may not be able to take their certification in biomedical engineering. Graduates may have a difficult time finding jobs.

Many await to see if the sun will shine brighter again on the home college of the Sun City as the countdown to Sept. 8, begins.

End of quote: this is a contributor and may be reached at meagan.garcia@utep.edu.

Could UTEP’s accreditation be at risk?

The Prospector • AUGUST 29, 2023
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Will campus construction ever end?

BY ELISHA NUNEZ
The Prospector

Ongoing construction at UTEP has led to all kinds of reception, from students and faculty alike. Big red signs scatter across campus as students walk straight to or around the construction to their classes. While some may be complaining or praising the construction, others wonder when it will all end.

According to UTEP staff, some of these projects are set to finish within another year or so. As construction continues, what does the end goal mean for UTEP students?

UTEP’s Assistant to the AVP Facilities Management, Sheila Awalt considers the construction a way to “enhance the students’ experience.” The university says with these new facilities and resources, students can enjoy materials all fit for a Tier 1 research university.

One of the latest editions to campus is the Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace Center, meant to provide cutting edge research with more educational space.

“So currently we have the Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace Building that is across from the Chemistry and Computer Science Building at the corner of Hawthorne and Rim,” Awalt said. “That building broke ground last year, so we’re looking at construction at least through the next year on that building.”

One misconception of this construction on campus is that it has not been ongoing. UTEP has been a recipient of grants for new facilities for years, and these projects are the result of such awards. With these new buildings and roadwork, like the current improvement of Schuster Avenue controlled by the city, students can look forward to newer, upgraded resources.

“Those large-scale students and faculty projects are the result of such awards,” Awalt said. “That building broke ground last year, so we’re looking at construction at least through the next year on that building.”

One misconception of this construction on campus is that it has not been ongoing. UTEP has been a recipient of grants for new facilities for years, and these projects are the result of such awards.

Other benefits of the upgraded street include improved lighting, drainage, landscaping, signing and more. Though dealing with the construction can be frustrating to some, or stressful as one UTEP student recalls it.

“It doesn’t directly affect where I drive through on campus, but I can imagine it’s super stressful for the people with parking near it,” Loraine Salazar, a psychology major at UTEP said. “It definitely affects everyone since traffic builds up all around campus.”

They say it is the journey, not the destination that matters, but for construction on campus, it may be the other way around for some students.

Although these projects will continue into the next year and 2025, the better resources for students may just be worth it.

Elisha Nunez is staff reporter and may be reached at egnunez2@miners.utep.edu

DEATH STAR

from page 4

housing opportunities.

The wage theft policy, which protects workers from not being paid properly, as well as the minor-focused curfew placed in 1996 and revised in 2006, face possible invalidation if a state court decides it conflicts with a state law.

In a statement to a local El Paso news outlet, Mayor Oscar Leeser showed his own disagreement with this bill and the threat it imposed on the minor-focused curfew.

“Other large cities across the state, their police departments all opposed it because it’s a good tool,” Leeser said. “They opposed it because it gives them the opportunity to make sure that our kids are safe.”

El Paso County Commissioner, David Stout shared his opinion about the bill in a recent statement to El Paso Matters.

“We’re elected to try to protect our people from things like natural disasters, to other types of crises, to support our workforce, to provide safe housing, to make sure that we have clean, potable drinking water, the solutions to all those types of issues look differently from city to city and county to county,” Stout said.

To read more about the impact of the Death Star Law on the state of Texas and our the borderland head to our website theprospector.com

R. Venus Urquiza is a contributor and may be reached at rsurquiza@miners.utep.edu
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The most anticipated reunion of the year: ‘Y Soy Rebelde’

BY VENUS URQUIZA
The Prospector

Taking us on a trip down memory lane to one of the most anticipated concerts of the year, the Mexican pop group Rebelde (RBD), opened their ‘Soy Rebelde’ reunion world tour, Aug. 25 at UTEP’s Sun Bowl stadium. After 15 years of separation, the group came out and gave a spectacular performance of their greatest hits from the early 2000s. RBD was a telenovela about a group of students going through high school and finding their place in life through music, love and friendship. After airing in Mexico in late 2004, their debut album of 2005 was released later along with their iconic song “Soy Rebelde.”

Originally formed by Anahi, Christian Chávez, Alfonso Herrera, Dulce María, Maite Perroni and Christopher Von Uckerman, the group created a platform that lasted for about five years, but then came to an end in 2009. In December of 2022, it was announced the group was returning together one more time for a world tour. Well, almost all of the group would be returning. Unfortunately, fans were faced with the news that Alfonso Herrera would not be returning.

In an interview with El Espectador, it was revealed this was due to other projects he was working on. But nonetheless, he believed the group would carry on a very successful tour. It was a night to remember as the stadium was filled with concert goers dressed from head to toe in red blazers, white shirts and red ties. There were many who wore stars on their foreheads in reference to Anahi’s iconic character in the telenovela, Mia Coluci.

The energy was high and fun, waiting in line to get into the stadium as groups of people were already singing their lungs out to songs being played on the speakers. Everyone was excited and the connection shared between RBD and their fans was visible. Jenny Lozano, a fan since 2004, waited hours outside Sun Bowl stadium just to see the group perform.

“I’m totally excited to be here, I have been so stressed yet so excited and so nervous about going in and seeing them sing the songs I grew up on,” Lozano said. It was clear fans had waited a long time for this. Leticia Castro, a fan since she was 8 years old, shared the excitement of being able to experience this now as an adult.

“I think I’m excited because I get a chance to relive my childhood, which is mainly why we’re all here,” Castro said.

Opening the concert with the iconic song “Trae De Mi,” the stadium could be heard almost a mile away. It was energetic and after every song, concertgoers could not wait to hear which was next. The crowd kept getting louder and louder. With songs like “Salvame,” “Que Fue Del Amor” and “Eres Corazon,” the emotions were high, and it seemed impossible to not shed a tear or two.

They finished their first show with their iconic song “Soy Rebelde,” a song that fans have kept alive even after being released 19 years ago. The concert was more than just a reunion, it was an opportunity for families and friends to reconnect with one another over something as beautiful as one’s childhood.

“I have been so stressed yet so excited, but I’m glad we’re experiencing this together one last time,” Ramirez said.

The energy was high even after the concert ended, which reflected the impact this pop group had on an entire generation even after being gone for almost 15 years. Regardless of how much time passes RBD will always remain an icon to Mexico, El Paso and novelas as whole.

“My older sister, Jennifer, used to take us to all the concerts, including this one, which makes us feel very nostalgic,” Holguin said.

“But I’m glad we’re experiencing this together one last time,” Ramirez said.

RBD huddle as they hear the El Paso crowd sing their songs in the Sun City, Aug. 25 for the first time in 15 years. Photo by Gianluca Cuervas/The Prospector
After 15 years of separation, Mexican pop group Rebelde (RBD), opened their “Soy Rebelde” reunion world tour Aug. 25 at the Sun Bowl stadium. Members Anahi, Christian Chavez, Dulce Maria, Maite Perroni, and Christopher Von Ucherman returned for the world tour and opened with “Tras De Mi” to a stadium filled with fans wearing the iconic ties and red and white uniform from their show. Photos by Gianluca Cuevas/The Prospector

UTEP STUDENTS, ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING ON THE UTEP CAMPUS? THEN JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

WORK @ UTEP JOB FAIR

WED, SEPT. 6 & THURS, SEPT. 7
TOMÁS RIVERA CONFERENCE CENTER
UNION BUILDING EAST

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
This past weekend, UTEP Housing and Residence welcomed students from across the world into its three housing complexes. This includes Miner Village, Miner Canyon and Miner Heights.

One of those students was Sophia Sheppard, an incoming freshman majoring in psychology. Sheppard is a part of UTEP’s beach volleyball team and will spend her first year at UTEP in Miner Village.

Sheppard, who moved from Washington state, notes how UTEP housing differs from other college residential housing. “I’m really excited with the dorms that we’ve got,” Sheppard said. “A lot of my friends at other colleges have only a bathroom in their rooms and they are right next to each other. It’s really nice how we have a whole setup to do our own thing.”

Sheppard was accompanied by her family who helped her move in and managed to describe her mixed emotions on move-in day. “I’m not nervous anymore,” Sheppard said. “It is obviously very hard to leave your family, but I’m pretty independent.”

Sophia’s mother, Shauna Sheppard, shared some bittersweet words as she dropped off her daughter to college. “Well, it’s hard,” Shauna said. “I mean, I’m super excited. It’s such a great opportunity for her to be independent and have this time in her life. She’s my first to go to college, so that’s been a challenge. But yeah, I just couldn’t be happier or excited.”

Another incoming freshman moving in was Luke Watts. Watts is a freshman beach volleyball player, Sophia Sheppard (pictured in the blue UTEP shirt) poses for a photo with her family before moving into Miner Village. Photo by Joel Molina/The Prospector

“El Paso is just a cool place,” Watts said. “It’s way different. (I am) just getting started and getting in the groove of everything.”

A big attraction to Miner Village is its proximity to campus and both local and chain restaurants. Watts pointed out that most things are simply within walking distance. “It’s sweet,” Watts said. “Walking to everything. We get food options right here and all that good stuff.”

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

Freshman beach volleyball player, Sophia Sheppard (pictured in the blue UTEP shirt) poses for a photo with her family before moving into Miner Village. Photo by Joel Molina/The Prospector
The fall semester is a time for Miners, new and old, to prepare themselves for another back-to-school season. While some are dreading Blackboard notifications, others are happy to go back to class, some students are also thrilled about all the events that come with the new fall semester.

From Kali Uchis performing at the Don Haskins Center to Minerpalooza returning with Battle of the Bands, there is plenty for Miners to be excited about.

‘Miner Welcome’ lasts for the next two weeks and there are plenty of events for all students to get involved in. ‘Miner Welcome’ includes socials, involvement fairs, and other campus get-togethers like Texas Western Gold Rush.

Taking place across all of campus, these events give students the chance to meet and socialize with fellow miners.

Another upcoming event that has been around for almost 30 years is Minerpalooza, which will make its annual appearance this fall semester, Minerpalooza returning with Battle of the Bands.

Bands, there is plenty for Miners to be excited about.

Kali Uchis will perform her latest album “Red Moon in Venus” at the Don Haskins Oct. 3

“Music. It’s my life. I’ve been making music for years. I’m excited for Kali Uchis to come to El Paso, her music is so soulful and passionate,” said Marie Apodaca, a local bank teller and fan of Kali Uchis. “I consider her one of the most incredibly talented and of course beautiful women in today’s music.”

Joining Kali Uchis in their Sun City endeavors is a band who got their start in El Paso, Cigarettes After Sex.

Formed in 2008 by Greg Gonzalez, the band’s popularity skyrocketed after nearly a decade of their existence. They are set to return to the city, performing at the Don Haskins Center, Oct. 11.

“I’m really excited to go, their singers’ hometown is (from) El Paso and they haven’t visited for years, so it’s exciting they’re coming,” said Sarah Lujan, a UTEP alumni and fan of Cigarettes After Sex. “Their music has ties to years of memories for me, but overall I enjoy how melodic and relaxing the music is.”

No one sounds like them in music culture at the moment and I’m glad they’re getting the recognition they deserve on social media.”

This year’s fall semester appears to be stacked with events, from on-campus celebrations to concerts by renowned artists. A new semester is on its way, and Miners can look forward to fun and fabulous events to celebrate the new semester.

Tickets for all musical events can be found on Ticketmaster or through UTEP’s Ticketing Center. Any information for on campus events can be found on Minetracker.

Elisha Nunez is a staff reporter and can be reached at egnunez2@miners.utep.edu

The Office of Student Fellowships and Awards supports UTEP students who are applying for nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships to fund graduate school and overseas experiential learning (research, teaching assistantships, etc.).

What is an external fellowship?
Nationally competitive funding opportunities that are:
• Based on academic merit as opposed to financial need
• Open to students from a variety of majors
• Eligibility, application materials, and deadlines vary depending on the award
• Involve a substantial amount of time commitment and careful planning

What do these awards provide?
Depends on the award, includes but is not limited to:
• Funding for overseas experiential learning: research, intensive language study, teaching assistantships, etc., both during undergrad and beyond
• Funding for graduate school either domestically or abroad

Why should I apply?
The application process is a form of professional development in and of itself:
• Become a more confident writer
• Sharpen interviewing skills
• Think critically about future goals

Is my first or second year too early to start thinking about these opportunities?
Absolutely not! Most applications are due junior or senior year, but joining our Undergraduate Fellows Program as a first-year student or sophomore will help you prepare.

Stay connected! Log in to view upcoming information sessions.
WELCOMING MINERS WITH TEXAS WESTERN GOLD RUSH

Photos by Gianluca Cuevas and Joel Molina/The Prospector
Paulina Deras/The Prospector

Led better and Mötley Crüe performed at the Sun Bowl stadium Aug. 18 for their world tour which ended in El Paso. Photo courtesy Paulina Deras/The Prospector

TOP PHOTO: Def Leppard performs at the Sun Bowl stadium after their 2000 performance and the cancellation of their 1988 show due to death threats.

LEFT PHOTO: Alice Cooper, Def Leppard and Mötley Crüe would come to El Paso as their final stop in their world tour. Fans scurried to Tickermaster Dec. 16, 2022, with some ticket prices as shockingly low as $19.

Stores such as Hot Topic re-stocked their merchandise months in advance in preparation for fans to deck out in black eye paint, leather and merch repping their favorite band for their performance at the Sun Bowl Aug. 18.

The iconic ‘80s performers brought all types of crowds flooding into the stadium.

“I saw people of all ages there,” said UTEP student Paola Attaguile. “I was shocked because bigger groups like that don’t really come to El Paso. I wanted to go because ever since I was a little girl, my dad would put the radio to 92.3 because they play all of the classic rock music. I got emotional at the concert because I was hearing the music that my dad passed down to me.”

“I was shocked because bigger groups don’t come to El Paso. I wanted to go because ever since I was a little girl, my dad would put the radio to 92.3 because they play all of the classic rock music. I got emotional at the concert because I was hearing the music that my dad passed down to me.”

Ibarra mentions how she felt the crowd wasn’t as vibrant as they did Mötley Crüe or even Alice Cooper. There just weren’t as many people singing along.

“I usually go to three to four concerts a month,” Deras said. “The crowd was very welcoming and everyone, including the bands, had such great energy; I feel like a lot of people don’t really realize the potential that El Paso has. Not only that but hearing Nikki Sixt talking about how he grew up here was nice and I feel like that inspires people here so they can believe they can do whatever they want.”

While the concert brought back good memories from the ‘80s, it also brought back some sour ones. In 1983, Def Leppard’s lead singer Joe Elliot referred to El Pasoans as “greasy Mexicans” during their show in Arizona.

Due to this comment, several radio stations in El Paso including KLAQ refused to play the band’s songs. Although Elliot later apologized during a call for KLAQ and donated $10,000 to a Hispanic Charity in Los Angeles, the group cancelled their 1988 concert in El Paso due to death threats. They later returned to play in 2000 which was their last concert in El Paso before Aug. 18.

“I was taken aback by it,” said UTEP student Jocelyn Ibarra. “I had heard about it before I bought my tickets for the concert. I do enjoy their music, but I could tell that the crowd wasn’t vibing with them like they did Mötley Crüe or even Alice Cooper. There just weren’t as many people singing along.”

Ibarra mentions how she felt the bands really appreciated El Paso.

“I feel like they made El Paso feel even more special,” Ibarra said. “During Mötley Crüe’s set, they said that they loved stopping in El Paso and that it’s one of their favorite places to stop. They even said that they wanted to end their tour with El Paso because they wanted to save the best for last.”

With the stadium filled with fans to watch these icons perform in the Sun City, it has become clear that El Paso became centerstage to celebrate the songs that were driving the ‘80s.

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With the stadium filled with fans to watch these icons perform in the Sun City, it has become clear that El Paso became centerstage to celebrate the songs that were driving anthems of our lives.
Sports
Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela, editor

Soccer remains winless under new coach

The UTEP Miners’ soccer team battled it out against Arizona State University (ASU) in a tense match ending in a 2-0 loss for UTEP. Attendance and spirits were high, with a packed audience in the stands. Excitement and curiosity surrounded the field as new hire, Gibbs Keaton, took over as head coach of the team.

UTEP student studying psychology, David Chavez expresses his enthusiasm for this upcoming season of Miner soccer.

“It’s the first tailgate of the season and I’m looking forward to watching the game,” Chavez said. “Hopefully, we get a winning season out here.”

Miners goalie Tiona Taylor held a strong first half and made a career high of eight saves. There were two shots at the goal from the Miners. The first from forward Mina Rodriguez at the 3rd minute at once after the restart. The second from forward/midfielder Leslie Gutierrez at the 75th minute. The Miners made two corner kicks, defending two corner kicks along with four shots in the opening three minutes of the game.

This moment was reflected throughout the rest of the game as the team was tested heavily on their defense. Throughout the second half, ASU began to take over the Miners’ half of the field. In the 53rd minute, ASU’s Natasha Vose scored the first goal off a rebound from her fellow teammate. The second and final goal to cap off the game was scored by ASU’s Gabi Rennie in the 84th minute. Though the Miners offense shined, particularly in the 40th minute and in the 53rd minute. The Miners were once again on a hot streak, maintaining strong conditioning up field.

However, during a seven-minute span of time past the 53rd minute, two shots were tallied by the Miners. Rodriguez looked for an equalizer, with forward Nicole Morales shooting a shot just wide. As the match started to end, Taylor kept the Miners going with two more blocks before ASU found its insurance goal. Although the game was lost, the spirits within the crowd were high, excited to see more of the team’s potential as the season continues this fall.

Keaton spoke to the Miner Athletic Club, describing the challenging aspects of the match and the commitment the team showed.

“I was proud of our team today. It just wasn’t a good first half, it was us making sure we created some chances to go to goal in addition to super solid defending,” Keaton said. All statistics and quotes provided by UTEP Athletics.

Football falters on the road at Jax State

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS
The Prospector

The much anticipated 2023-2024 football season is under way for the UTEP Miners (0-1, C-USA 0-1). Unfortunately, the team started on the wrong foot.

The Miners were favored traveling to the Jacksonville State Gamecocks (1-0, C-USA 1-0). Several familiar faces were back on the field for the Miners like junior wide receiver Kelly Akhavan, junior running back Dilon Hawkins and most notably senior quarterback Gavin Hardison.

During a press conference leading up to the game, sixth-year head coach Dana Dimel expressed his expectations for his unit coming into the season.

“We’ve got some goals that we want to accomplish (in 2023),” Dimel said. “There’s a lot for us to work toward. We want to have the opportunity to do that by taking it one game at a time. That’s the big thing for us. We’ve got to play our kind of football.”

Jax State ended its season 9-2 last season with a top-40 offense. When asked about the daunting opponent, Dimel expressed his praise for the squad.

“[Jax State] did a great job,” Dimel said. “They’re very, very athletic. Their offensive personnel is really good. Defensively, they have their whole starting defensive line coming back and three of their four starting secondary is returning. So, they’ll definitely be a big test for us.”

First quarter

The Miners started out strong with the defense forcing a Gamecocks punt early in the first quarter. This stop allowed the UTEP offense to drive up into Jax State territory after not huddling for the entirety of the drive.

Dimel and the offense were faced with their first major decision on a fourth and three on Jax State’s 47-yardline. The Miners continued their aggressive play calling as Hardison and the offense starred the field, only to lose six yards on a sack by Gamecocks defenders.

This allowed the Gamecocks to march down the Miners’ 23-yardline to score off a field goal on a fourth and seven.

Neither team scored as the first quarter came to an end with Jax State on top 3 to 0.

Second quarter

Carrying possession from the first quarter, Jax State would drive down 80 yards to score off a four-yard rushing touchdown. After a successful point after attempt, the Miners trailed the Gamecocks 10-0 with 13:26 left in the half.

UTEP would receive the ball at its own 25-yardline following a touchdown. The Miners would continue to utilize the hurry up offense all the way up to Jax State’s 26-yardline. Once again, UTEP was faced with a decision on a fourth and five call, but this time the Miners decided to play it safe and go for the three-point play. Unfortunately, long snapper Justin Duff missed the 43-yard field goal leaving the score unchanged.

Both teams would exchange punts until the final drive of the half. The Miners started out with the ball at the UTENF 26-yardline. In a drive that started with only 1:31 left in the half, UTEP managed to close the gap scoring on a one-yard carry from Hankins, leaving the extra point attempt to freshman kicker Buzu Flibano.

The Miners left the first half trailing 10 to 7.

Third quarter

The Miners started the second half with an interception from Hardison at Jax State’s 43-yardline. Fortunately for UTEP, the Miners defense would not allow a score as the Gamecocks were forced into a turnover on downs.

Following an unsuccessful Miners drive, the Jax State would clock-in another touchdown from senior running back Malik Jackson to run the score up 17 to 7.

Neither team would find the endzone as the third quarter came to a close.

Fourth quarter

With UTEP on the ropes, the Miners needed a score to open the final quarter. With that in mind, the UTEP running game placed Hardison in prime position to complete a whopping 34-yard touchdown to Akhavan. This placed the Miners in striking distance with a score of 17 to 14 with 12:19 left to play.

The UTEP defense would allow the offense to potentially win the game with 4:41 on the clock. With Hardison and the rest of the Miners offense driving down the field, UTEP would seal its fate with a game-ending turnover.

On a fourth and one play, Hardison steps up in the pocket looking for senior wide receiver Tyrin Smith. Hardison hesitates before sending the ball to Smith allowing Jax State senior safety Jeremiah Harris to pick the ball off with ease.

The Miners would go on to lose see GAMECOCKS on page 18
The El Paso Chihuahuas have been a hit throughout the summer, particularly during the month of August. Although temperatures are still in the triple digits, that’s not stopping El Pasans from supporting their minor league home team. When it comes to standings, the Chihuahuas are sitting pretty with only three less wins than losses (21-24). The team has grinded to a screeching halt having not won a game since June 14.

The Locos consistently graced the top of the USL Championship rankings, setting a franchise record of undefeated matches and climbed to the top of the Western Conference standings no less than two months ago. Now, having lost five straight games and on the cusp of playoff contention, the El Paso Locomotive seem lost and out-of-sync.

Now the team has grinded to a screeching halt having not won a game since June 14.

The Chihuahuas will close out their regular season in Sugar Land facing the San Antonio FC. “We will come back,” said midfielder Petar Petrovic after returning to victory. “There are real highs and real lows. We need to get a little bit more even before we get killed,” said Clairhart in preparation of the team’s match against Phoenix Rising FC. “It’s frustrating because I have seen this team perform at high levels for a consecutive amount of time.”

Just a few days before the Locos were set to play Hartford Athletics, news broke that Las Vegas FC (Major League Soccer) defender Noah Dollenmayer would be joining El Paso on loan. An loan allows a team to send a player to another team, generally from a smaller league, for a number of reasons in exchange for roster spots or money. Dollenmayer’s loan will keep him in the Sun City for the remainder of the season.

“He is a physically imposing center-back who is good on the ball and wins a large number of aerial duels, so we are happy to welcome Noah (Dollenmayer) to our Locomotive family for the remainder of the season,” said Clairhart on the expectation of the signing.

Dollenmayer would start for the Locomotive against Hartford Athletics this past Saturday and provided much needed help.

In a pivotal game, the Locomotive stepped up to the challenge and shutout Hartford 2-0. Goals from forward Aaron Gomez in the fifty-fifth minute and Petrovic in the sixty-ninth minute would place the Locos in a solid position to win the game, with the Locomotive family for the remainder of the season.

The beginning of the summer presented many promises for the El Paso Locomotive FC (9-10-5). Now the team has grinded to a screeching halt having not won a game since June 14.

The Isotopes took the series from the Chihuahuas in its first game, but Aug. 15 was a different story. Along with the Isotopes setting a new hit record, Aug. 16 was a different story. Along with the Isotopes setting a new hit record, the Isotopes put an end to a four-game win streak that the Chihuahuas carried over from the previous series versus the Sugar Land Space Cowboys. The Chihuahuas came into the series against Albuquerque with two straight series wins, but the Isotopes stopped the short-lived streak Aug. 15.

Neither team scored during the first five innings, but the Isotopes ultimately prevailed over the Chihuahuas in its first game, but Aug. 16 was a different story. Along with defeating the Isotopes, the Chihuahuas set a new hit record.

Scoring multiple runs in the first six innings, the Chihuahuas had 24 hits, winning the game 20-7. Students looking for an enjoyable way to spend their last Friday of the regular season in Sugar Land facing the Space Cowboys, with their final game taking place Sept. 24.

Street filled with bright lights outside Southwest University Park in downtown El Paso, Texas. Photo by Gianluca Cuevas/The Prospector.
What to expect following the NFL preseason

BY MARCO HINOJOSA
The Prospector

The most wonderful time of the year is back. It is time to bait out the jerseys and enjoy the classic all-American game of football. The 2023 NFL season is deemed to be full of opportunity, high hopes and drive for players on the field.

In the previous season, AFC West was seen as “the talk of the towns.” Compromising itself of endless talent from players like tight end Travis Kelce, wide receiver Davante Adams and quarterback Patrick Mahomes. However, the AFC West is not projected to make as much noise as they once did. It is believed that the AFC North division will claim higher victory this fall.

“The (AFC) North is king this year because every team has a shot to reach the post season,” NFL Columnist Jeffi Chadiha said. “If you want to talk about the favorites to win the division, we’re once again choosing between Baltimore and Cincinnati. The Ravens are eager to prove that quarterback Lamar Jackson can take his game to another level in an offense that is expected to feature a more dynamic passing attack.”

On the other hand, the NFC South failed to have one team finish with a winning record last season. However, the New Orleans Saints recently signed quarterback Derek Carr from the Las Vegas Raiders, who was let go earlier this year. This opens a gateway of possibilities due to Carr’s ability to perform under pressure. Giving the offense more stability than previous seasons. The NFC East poses a threat to many across the league, since the Philadelphia Eagles are one of the top offensive threats this year.

Quarterback Jalen Hurts has the capability to stretch the field which placed him second in MVP voting. The Dallas Cowboys also have great strength due to All-Pro line-backer Micah Parsons while beefing up its secondary in the offseason through the pairing of star corner-back Trevon Diggs and Stephon Gilmore and retaining talent. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers exit left a void of expectancy in the quarterback position for the Green Bay Packers.

As for the rest of NFC North, the Minnesota Vikings are looking to redeem themselves from last year’s playoff loss to the New York Giants. With offensive weapons like wide receiver Justin Jefferson and tight end TJ. Hockenson, the Vikings are looking to make noise in the division.

The last team to make beneficial changes to their roster were the Detroit Lions. Having depth in all position groups, the Lions are looking to make a louder impact in its division.

The league’s first game will be Sept. 7, and will air on NBC where the Kansas City Chiefs will host the Detroit Lions.

New faces emerge alongside veteran volleyball players

BY GIANLUCA GUERRAS
The Prospector

After reaching the semi finals but falling short at the C-USA Finals in 2022 to Rice University, UTEP Volleyball kicked off the start of their 2023 season with a 4-set sweep exhibition game against Grand Canyon University, Aug. 19. The Miners were ranked second in the C-USA preseason poll ranking with Western Kentucky University ranked higher. The season officially started off with the Southeastern Louisiana Tournament. There, the Miners’ first game was versus Wash- ington University, a top 25 school in the country.

Coach Ben Wallis believes the Miners will be at Western Kentucky University in the C-USA final, the Miners won’t be factor for UTEP to have another successful season. “We have a lot of people that can hurt you and that’s the nice part. If people don’t want to hit the ball around us or hit high enough, were going to make you pay, which is pretty exciting.”

Although Miner fans will see familiar faces from last season, they will also be getting six new freshmen this year. Katia Kohler Fr., Setter, Beatrice Genuari Fr., Middle blocker/Opposite, Genavi Oyoyo Fr., Middle blocker, Ava Martin and Fr., Libero/Defensive Specialist Lauren Williams Fr., Outside hitter, Deanna Almaguer Outside/Right- side Hitter, Danika Washington Jr., Middle Blocker, and Trinity Gomez Fr., Setter. Although there are new faces on the team, these six young players are capable of helping the Miners win.

The UTEP volleyball team is primed to comeback after two positive seasons in a newly formed C-USA. Photo courtesy of The Prospector archive.

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Local community news.

Editor’s note: This story was fea-
tured on The Prospector’s website, theprospectordaily.com, during the summer session.

UTEP volleyball is starting off the upcoming season with a new head coach. Gibbs Keeton was hired as head coach in Dec. 2022.

Keeton has played soccer his whole life, while also playing collegiate soccer at Arizona State University. He was a soccer coach for over 15 years, and before coming to UTEP, he served as the assistant head coach at Texas Tech University.

The UTEP Miners won this season opener against the New Mexico State Aggies with a score of 3-1. Keeton said, “Our goal is to grow El Paso’s soccer community. We hope that we can make a difference in the football game.”

UTEP now head back to the Sun Bowl to the team’s home opener on Saturday, Sept. 2.

New soccer coach prepares for new season

BY NICHOLAS MADS
The Prospector

Editor’s note: This story was fea-
tured on The Prospector’s website, theprospectordaily.com, during the summer session.

Our UTEP Softball made a new addition to its coaching staff, Brittney Matta. Current Head Coach T.J. Hubbard made the announce-
ment that he and Matta will be working together, with Matta holding the title of Softball Associ-
ate Head Coach.

Matta, a Northern California na-
tive, has been involved with softball since high school. She started at Arizona State in 2006 and was the only walk-on to make the softball team that year. She attended the NCAA National Championships to be coaching in his hometown and helping the Miners redeem themselves after last season.

“It’s amazing to coach here in a community that gives us so much support from a soccer consideration. The team is made up of some really dedicated young people who just needed to be guided in the right direction and rekindle their passion for soccer which fueled up their desire to face our soccer pursuit as well,” Keeton said.

During the summer season, the min-
ers overall score was 4-11-3 and the seniors overall score was 1-7-2. Keeton is hopeful that the team is going to redeem themselves this season.

“We’re not doing anything special,” Keeton said. “We’ve got a clean slate in all regards and the biggest things we’re focusing on include enhancing our offensive drive, identity and defining our team uni-

Softball to feature new associate head coach

BY ALISON RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

Editor’s note: This story was fea-
tured on The Prospector’s website, theprospectordaily.com, during the summer session.

The UTEP softball team got off to a busy start as the team competed in three out-of-state games between Friday, Aug. 25, and Saturday, Aug. 26.

The first day featured a double header between the Washington Huskies and the Grambling Tigers.

During the first set of the game versus the Huskies, Washington won the first round with a score of 25 points and Grambling lost with a score of 19.

In the second set, the Miners found themselves with 22 points. With a total of 85 points, leaving Washington with a mere 23 points. By the fourth set, the Miners kept up the pace as the team kept the Tigers at bay with a total of 98 accumulated points.

The Miners followed up their win with a strong showing against the Towson University Tigers, winning the game 17 to 14 as the offense played to its potential.

The Miners followed up their win with a strong showing against the Towson University Tigers, winning the game 17 to 14 as the offense played to its potential.

In the second match, the Miners continued their pace and won their second set. Southeastern won set three, leaving the Miners close with a mere 25 points. By the fourth match, the Miners retook their previous position and ended the match in total. In the second set, leaving Washington with a total of 98 accumulated points while Southeastern La lost with a total of 85 points.

“TJ is a great defender and a great athlete,” Matta said. "He’s worked hard and implementing new strategies to get ready for the season."
The University of Texas at El Paso welcomed students to the Doctorate of Pharmacy Program at its White Coat Ceremony on Saturday, August 26. These students will be part of the UTEP School of Pharmacy’s graduating class of 2027.

As a first step, these future pharmacists accepted their white coats as a symbol of professionalism and excellence in pharmacy practice. This ceremony also was an opportunity to remind students of the importance of balancing excellence in their field of study with compassionate patient care.

During the ceremony, students recited the Oath of a Pharmacist and promised to maintain the skills, knowledge and responsibilities needed to devote themselves to a lifetime of serving others.

Thank you to the community supporters, faculty, staff, preceptors, students, and their family members and friends who joined us for this special event.
MINER PALOOZA

SEPT. 15

BE A PART OF UTEP’S BIGGEST AND MOST ANTICIPATED TRADITION

UTEPE.DU/MINERPALOOZA