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THE PROSPECTOR

El Paso reaches 'breaking point' as migrants flood downtown

PHOTO BY ANNABELLA MIRELES
PAGE 3



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Assayer of Student Opinion

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

theprospectordaily.com

OPINION PAGE 2

Are they with us? A quick dive into the new alien claims

NEWS PAGE 3

El Paso reaches 'breaking point' as migrants flood downtown area

ARTS & CULTURE PAGE 7

El Paso Space Festival launches into orbit

SPORTS PAGE 11

Paving a path to gridiron greatness in Dimel Era

Little section BIG news

WRITERS' STRIKE NOW AT A HALT

The picket signs are being put down as major film and television studios along with the Writers Guild of America (WGA) have reached a tentative agreement this past Sunday, Sept. 24. After long days of meetings and negotiations, representatives have reached a turning point that will bring an end to a nearly five-month strike. With a three-year contract, negotiations are still being met for SAG-AFTRA members to end their actors strike that occurred in mid-July.

WALMART SHOOTER \$5 MILLION IN DEBT

After being convicted to 90 consecutive life sentences for the Walmart shooting that occurred in 2019, Patrick Crusius has agreed to pay over five million dollars to families of the victims. U.S. District Judge David Guaderama stated that Crusius will be paying over five million with hopes to pay the families in restitution. The shooting had been the deadliest mass shooting since 2006 linked to a hate crime.

SENATOR REFUSES TO LEAVE OFFICE

New Jersey Democratic senator Bob Mendez has insisted on his stay, after being indicted on corruption charges after \$480,000 were found in the back of his car. Mendez and his wife were accused of using his power in the Senate to benefit the government in Egypt. Mendez denied the allegations, claiming the money taken out was for personal use.

FACULTY PRESENTED WITH AWARD

Two faculty members have been selected to receive McDonald's Hispanos Triunfadores Award for their professional achievement and service to the community. Both Eva Moya, Ph.D., and Ivonne Santiago Ph.D., were celebrated at the 22nd annual awards. Moya dedicated her career to advancing health and social justice while Santiago mentioned her appreciation to engineering.

Opinion

Itzel Anahi Giron, editor-in-chief

Are they with us? A quick dive into the new alien claims from Peru

BY R. VENUS URQUIZA
The Prospector



Within the last decade, humanity has become more comfortable with the idea of not being alone in this universe. Instead of questioning whether extra-terrestrial life exists or not, we have started to question when the human race will actually come face to face with extra-terrestrial life.

Mexico might have found an answer, and it seems like they have been here with us all along. Or have they?

Mexico held a congressional hearing in which two “non-human corpses” were presented by journalist and “ufologist” Jaime Maussan Sept. 12 in Mexico City. The two small mummified corpses were allegedly found in Cusco, Peru in 2019. In this same hearing a video of 11 unidentified flying objects, or UFOs from the Mexican Air Force were shown, alongside photos of other UFO sightings around the country.

During the hearing, Maussan presented evidence proving these corpses contained non-human DNA; at least one-third of their DNA was unknown. The evidence presented was formed by multiple body scans and X-rays of these artifacts. The scans confirm the corpse’s

ILLUSTRATION BY FATIMA ALVARADO

anatomy didn’t correspond with human evolution, therefore making them non-human anomalies.

“I think it’s skeptical because they look like we think aliens should look like, I think aliens look nothing like we have imagined them now,” said Victoria Perez, a student who had heard about the news.

Regardless of the evidence presented, many question whether those corpses are real or not. Maussan’s credibility came to a downfall after being linked to debunked alien findings back in 2015, in which he claimed to find alien corpses but later on were discovered to be the remains of children.

Aside from skepticism, there are also people

who believe this is the real thing.

Cassandra Lopez, a firm believer in these artifacts being real, talks about why she believes in them.

“Me and my dad were talking about it, and it just doesn’t make sense why people don’t really believe this, I mean why would they lie to us

about this? If it wasn’t real why show them through the government,” Lopez said.

While the public continues to debate how legitimate these claims are, scientists in the field find themselves questioning whether this is real or not. Many do not trust Maussan’s claims since his debunked findings. Science communicator, video creator and entrepreneur Hank Green recently discussed the credibility of these findings through a TikTok video. “They look like they are molded by hand with clay to me,” Green said.

He continues to question Maussan’s motivation to fake these findings and warns the public to be aware of his previously debunked findings. Whether these findings are real or not is still a question to be answered.

Is it still too early to determine the legitimacy of these aliens?

Officials say we must wait until this evidence is reviewed by a trustworthy third party to come to a safe conclusion.

Until then we will continue to ask ourselves, who can we trust, and will we ever come face to face with the non-human race known as aliens?

R. Venus Urquiza is a contributor at The Prospector and can be reached at rsurquiza@miners.utep.edu



Do you think the Aliens discovered were real?



Itzel A. Giron
Editor-in-Chief

“I swear aliens are green so, no I don’t believe these.”



Emmanuel Rivas
Sports Editor

“I don’t buy it, they look fake.”



Erik Acosta
Web and Copy Editor

“They feel a little too real. I’m conflicted.”



Avery Escamilla
Multimedia Editor

“Yeah. Controversial. But yeah.”



Annabella Mireles
Photography Editor

“The man who discovered them lied before. He is lying again.”



Fatima Alvarado
Design Editor

“I don’t think the aliens discovered were real but I do think aliens are real.”



Marco Hinojosa
Audience and Engagement Editor

“No, they look a little too out of this world.”



Meagan Garcia
Arts & Culture Editor

“I believe in aliens just not this one.”

ON THE COVER

As migrants pour into downtown El Paso, a mother and her daughter sit on a nearby bench on El Paso Street with their belongings. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector



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THE PROSPECTOR

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El Paso reaches breaking point as migrants flood downtown

Many migrants from Venezuela, Colombia, Guatemala and other Latin American countries are left to fend for themselves and take shelter in places such as San Jacinto Plaza in downtown El Paso. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**

BY ITZEL A. GIRON
The Prospector



Downtown El Paso and San Jacinto Plaza which is most notable for its warm and welcoming environment, has turned into a disheartening place as visitors greet the eyes of hopeless migrants waiting for the foreseeable future. Today and for an unknown amount of days ahead, people visiting see migrant families, shoeless children, teenagers in search of food and cigarettes, or pregnant mothers holding their bellies while wearing torn shirts.

El Paso has become the topic of the migrant crisis once again as Migrants have begun to pour into downtown El Paso. From groups of people sleeping on the ground on San Jacinto Plaza, to others creating new lives on benches near the port of entry, while some and walk around trying to find work. Coming from countries like Venezuela, Colombia and Guatemala, many share variations of the same story, fleeing their home countries due to gang violence, drug cartels, persecution and detrimental problems.

Almost every migrant interviewed by The Prospector says these journeys are never easy as many travel months on end and months just to arrive at any port of entry, whether that be here in El Paso or

in Eagle Pass, with no idea of what the future holds. For 32-year-old-migrant Ender, who comes from Venezuela, the means of transportation to get here was riding the infamous 'La Bestia' or 'The Beast' in English.

'La Bestia,' the freight train starting in Chiapas; a southern Mexican state that borders Guatemala, is where many choose to decide their fate. Most migrants making a run for it in the darkness of the night and illegally jumping onto the train like Ender, they risk their lives and the lives of their families all for a better life. A well-known characteristic of 'La Bestia' is the lack of passenger cars, meaning migrants are forced to sit atop cargo putting them at risk of falling over, many times, to their deaths.

"Me monté en el tren y había un accidente y tuvimos que bajarnos del tren," Ender said. "Vi varios delincuentes que buscaron de montarse en el tren. No vi personas que se cayeron, pero sí es duro."

Many migrants like Ender arrive in Ciudad Juárez after hitching a ride on 'La Bestia' which is not an easy feat but is a necessary one to leave the troubles of their homes. Ender speaks on the dangers of riding 'La Bestia' and although he encountered no deaths, he knows why many struggle to survive.

"En Venezuela perdí mi hogar a

manos de la delincuencia y no tenía apoyo en la familia de mi esposa ni de mi familia. Y decidí buscar como quien dice, un mejor futuro para mis hijos," Ender said.

Arriving in the borderland with six kids and a wife, Ender says he is looking for work to provide for his family.

"No quisiera depender de cosas así, sino o sea, con un permiso que yo pueda estar trabajar un bien sin tener problemas de nada. Sería una buena ayuda," Ender said.

Ender hopes the U.S. can help him get a work visa or find work in general as many other migrants come with the hopes of finding work and a better life. Whether it's alone or with family many try to find work quickly to send funds back to their home countries.

"Vengo sola, estoy sola y bueno aquí buscando un mejor futuro. Todavía estoy en espera porque como me ves, todavía estoy por aquí en la calle," 25-year-old migrant Maria said.

Arriving in El Paso alone, Maria; a migrant from Colombia finds herself at a crossroads trying to find her way to Orlando, Fla. where she says a friend is waiting for her with a job. A job which she hopes will help provide so she can send money back to her family.


see **MIGRANTS** on page 4



Migrants take COVID tests at San Jacinto Plaza Sep. 22. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**




One of the migrants from Venezuela at San Jacinto Plaza who is seeking asylum. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**



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El Paso BORTAC K9 brings justice

BY MEAGAN GARCIA
The Prospector



Those outside of El Paso might know the border city for its scorching temperatures and ongoing migrant crisis, but now many can think of El Paso for its phenomenal Border Patrol Tactical and K9 unit because of its most recent heroic effort. Many kudos were given to the El Paso Bortac Unit when they were called into Chester County Prison to assist in capturing an escaped inmate. Chester County lies in a rural area about 30 miles west of Philadelphia. While the institution contains multiple criminal offenders, one recent addition to its population is 34-year-old Danelo Cavalcante, a convicted murderer.

In April 2021, Cavalcante was arrested in Virginia after killing his former girlfriend. Officials also discovered he was wanted for murder in his home country of Brazil.

Cavalcante went viral on social media after footage was released of him escaping the prison by crab walking up a wall and slipping through razor wire to reach the roof. Officials say this was a technique used for an attempted escape by another inmate.

Officials say his escape brought on a two-week manhunt that

began Aug. 31, that included him travelling through thick bushes, eating watermelon for survival, and even being seen on a home camera, leading law enforcement officials to catch on to his trail. The U.S. Border Patrol says in situations like these, BORTAC units provide support all over the country.

"The men and women of U.S. Customs and Border Protection provide integral law enforcement support to local authorities, protecting and serving local communities around the country alongside our partners," the statement said.

Despite Cavalcante's efforts, the El Paso Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC) and their K-9 assist, Yoda, were able to apprehend him.

Former border patrol chief in El Paso and Tuscon, AZ, Victor Manjarrez, mentions how she had the element of surprise and how her role is routine in these units.

"When you're looking at a high-risk, barricaded, suspects or a potentially violent suspect," Manjarrez said. "You have a canine handler to subdue the subject on the stomach, on the ground."

Thanks to the El Paso Bortac Unit and Yoda the K9, Cavalcante will be serving his life sentence at State Correctional Institution Phoenix.

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

"Discover" credits within Accredited Program at UTEP

BY KATY RUIZ
The Prospector



Between the rising cost of goods, finding a job and being a college student, there are plenty of reasons to be on a path of discovery at UTEP. While there are many options at UTEP to help students with economic mobility, the university has decided to continue its partnership with Discover Financial Services.

With the partnership being a year old, students will be able to continue getting more work experience as well as earn money to offset the cost of college.

"To deliver on our mission of access and economic mobility, we need to use every tool at our disposal to reduce college costs and create educational experiences that prepare students for the world of work," said John Wiebe, Ph.D., UTEP Provost and Vice President for academic affairs. "This model allows us to do both at the same time."

UTEP credits the National Non-profit Education at Work (EAW) a nonprofit that helps students gain real-world experiences with major employers.

EAW partnership allows UTEP

students to work on behalf of Discover Financial Services.

"At Discover, it is our mission to help people spend smarter, manage debt better, and save more to achieve a brighter financial future. This partnership builds on that mission by helping students advance their formal education while learning important job skills," said Tracy Hedrick, Discover Financial Services vice president of card operations. "We are excited to invest in these students while they are pursuing careers in their field of study and building brighter financial futures."

Apart from gaining real work experience, students will also develop resume-ready skills, earn a wage, have flexible hourly work, while also receiving up to \$5,250 per year of employer-paid tuition assistance.

This has helped a lot of students cover the cost of college, as well expand their skills in the job market.

"My experience with this job is learning about confidence, control, and patience," Jocelyn Martinez, a student who has experience working under Education at Work, said.

"Discover even helps students with a script at hand. All I have to do is reach out and redirect the customers. I think it's a great opportunity, not only for students but also for those who are interested in the

financial field."

There will be times when students will have to use their problem-solving skills to help customers in need, such as directing them to the correct person to making transactions more manageable.

For newer students or returning students on campus, having this option to work can be beneficial in the long run.

Not only are students focusing on studying, but some financial aspects are covered as well, increasing the chances of success post-graduation.

"This job is great for someone who is very open to people, especially when it comes to answering to clients," UTEP student Andres Galvan said. "I have had this preoccupation of finding a job with a flexible work schedule, I think that by trying to work here on campus, it can help students to not only gain money but also gain experience."

While a lot of these skills can be out of a student's comfort zone, it's a great way to invest in their future.

Students at UTEP can apply for opportunities with Education at Work and Discover Financial Services at educationatwork.org/student-jobs.

Katy Ruiz is a contributor and may be reached at kruiz12@miners.utep.edu

MIGRANTS from page 3

"Estoy esperando para ver si puedo trabajar por aquí para poder conseguir mis pasajes para llegar a mi destino," Maria said. "Una amiga está en Orlando y ella me va a ayudar y a mi. Sé que cuando llegue allá ella me ha ayudado a buscar trabajo y todo eso y de ahí pa adelante y empezar a mandar plata para Colombia."

Many migrants say they don't know where to start with finding a way to their preferred destinations. They also shared that while not knowing how they will get to

where they want to go, not knowing where their next meal will come from is an even bigger adversity, they face every single day.

With the surge of migrants becoming an issue for the Sun City again, El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser said in a press conference that he knows El Paso won't be able to handle more for much longer.

"The city of El Paso only has so many resources and we have come to ... a breaking point right now," Leeser said.

In the same press conference, Mayor Leeser states that more

than 2,000 migrants have entered El Paso. With high levels of strain on Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), the city of El Paso is doing its best in housing these migrants in shelters and motels.

Officials say having such large numbers of migrants roaming the streets and crowding shelters has caused concern about the spread of communicable diseases. Most recently, Sept. 25, Texas officials announced three reported cases of tuberculosis among migrants.

It becomes reason for concern as the Centers for Disease Control

(CDC) is worried another surge of COVID-19 could happen this fall. Sitting on the grass of San Jacinto Plaza, many hopeful migrants with their lives in bags carry COVID-19 tests, testing themselves and others. It may show a moment of security, but with no immediate medical attention dedicated to these migrants, it's unknown what can happen with the spread of infection.

There is no word on what the Biden-Harris administration will do to help border cities like El Paso, however, President Biden did make remarks during the 46th Annual

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's Gala in Washington, D.C.

"We need our colleagues to act – for decades, immigration reform has been bipartisan in this country," President Biden said. "Unfortunately, MAGA Republicans in Congress spent four years gutting the immigration system under my predecessor."

For now, the city of El Paso is offering its resources to those who need them most.

Itzel Giron is the editor-in-chief and may be reached at prospector@utep.edu; [by.itzel.giron](https://www.instagram.com/by.itzel.giron) on Instagram; [@itzel_anahi_16](https://twitter.com/itzel_anahi_16) on Twitter.

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UTEP breaks record for highest freshman enrollment second time in a row

BY ELISHA NUNEZ
The Prospector



The start of the fall semester means many things like festivities, fun and freshmen, which according to UTEP, are plenty this year.

For the second year in a row, UTEP has announced the breaking of its all-time freshman record.

With more first-year students enrolling at UTEP, many offices on campus are preparing new ways to start the school year and are learning how to deal with the influx.

According to a UTEP press release, more than 3,800 students enrolled, which is a four percent increase over last year's fall enrollment.

Overall enrollment has shown to have grown around two percent from last year with more than 24,300 students enrolled at UTEP.

With this rise in first-year students, how does UTEP plan to accommodate them?

Through newly added sections in freshman core component courses to accommodate the increase, the university has done more to make room for the growth in students. "In 2021, UTEP developed its



According to a UTEP press release, more than 3,800 students enrolled, which is a four percent increase over last year's fall enrollment. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**

Strategic Enrollment Plan, which included aspirations to grow enrollment," UTEP officials said. "The University experienced 20 years of growth prior to the pandemic and planned to continue growing. It has implemented programs and plans to increase infrastructure to support enrollment growth." There are many factors that this

growth can be attributed to. One factor was UTEP's record-breaking fall enrollment was news that made headlines. The Wall Street Journal ranked UTEP as the top school in Texas for social mobility, Sept. 7. Meaning that of the colleges in Texas, UTEP was found to have helped lower-income students find higher-paying jobs while minimiz-

ing attendance costs. This achievement combined with other factors increased UTEP's fall enrollment. "University officials attribute these enrollment increases to a combination of factors. One long-term effort that has impacted enrollment is a close collaboration with the school districts in the region to increase the percentage

of students who directly enroll in higher education," University officials said.

Every year, UTEP and EPCC come together to meet with key leaders in the districts to review and find ways to guide high school students into their campus, to increase enrollment rates.

"One of the most important among those is the Paydirt Promise, which allows students from families whose adjusted gross income is \$75,000 or less to be eligible to attend UTEP tuition free through a combination of grants and other gift aid," University officials said.

In addition to the lack of tuition increase for the next two school years, UTEP has not only put plans into motion to draw in more students, but they have done it successfully.

UTEP has prepared for the current influx of students, but these new regulations and programs are here to stay for incoming students for years to come.

With another semester of the highest first-year enrollment of all time, UTEP has guaranteed students that their new journey will be one to enjoy.

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

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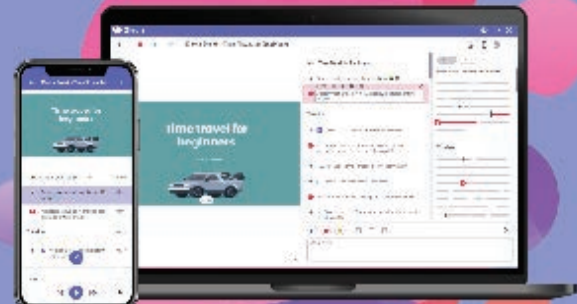
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A look inside UTEP physicists' discoveries

BY SOFIA SIERRA
The Prospector



Computers, magnets, and quantum physics. Some may wonder how these three topics relate.

Until most recently, the three were combined by UTEP physicists who reported the creation of a new magnet that works more efficiently than quantum computing. This accomplishment is allowing for faster progress on quantum computers, which affects every field.

Quantum computing may sound complex to the mind or like a superhero movie, so here is a little history. It is a unique science combining quantum mechanics and computer science.

Proposed in the 1980's by Richard Feynman and Yuri Manin and further promoted by Peter Shor in 1994, quantum computing was aiming to have more advanced computers using quantum mechanics.

The first successful quantum computer was in 1998 with efforts from multiple American physicists. Because of how recent research began on quantum computing, UTEP's discoveries are significant.

Starting in 2019, this complex project was a trial-and-error process for UTEP physicists. Delays from COVID-19 further halted the progress of the research. UTEP



UTEP physicist Dr. Ahmed El-Gendy created a new substance for quantum computing after four years of testing and research. **Photo by Brandon Johnson /The Prospector**

physicists aimed to discover a material that works with quantum computing, but in room temperature.

Unfortunately, traditional quantum computing only works in sub-zero temperatures, making it impossible for daily use even with its efficiency.

Adding that the costs of cooling down the substance are expensive and outweigh the benefit of having a more enhanced computer.

With four years of hard work, the team of researchers consisting of

UTEP professors and students led by Dr. Ahmed El-Gendy successfully created a new substance for quantum computing. He also adds saying a combination of amino ferrocene and graphene proved to be a working magnet, like quantum computing at room temperature.

Dr. El-Gendy talks about how four years of the trial-and-error research discouraged him and his team at first. He says the extreme and exhaustion of the research made many feel doubtful.

"The team in the beginning was saying 'Oh it's impossible, we cannot get it,'" Dr. El-Gendy said. "But I had to [encourage them by saying] 'Okay guys we have to think in a different way.'"

He says intense pressure was commonly felt in the lab because any small mistake could cost the university time and money.

"If you make a single mistake in the census, you will end up having a magnetic nanoparticle which is what we don't want," Dr. El-Gendy

said. "We would like to get magnets without it changing structure of the material."

With factors against them, Dr. El-Gendy's team was able to accomplish their goal, creating a more efficient way of using quantum computing.

The research team used their hard work and dedication to result in groundbreaking discoveries. The newfound momentum of Dr. El-Gendy's research team has now led them to begin working on applications of their new magnet besides quantum computing.

For example, the magnets created by Dr. El-Gendy and his team can enhance other magnets such as those in the motor industry. The magnets are also applicable in the medical field as well. Dr. El-Gendy says his team has begun research towards nanomedicine and treating cancer cells.

A field of science as difficult as quantum computing may intimidate researchers, but the determination of these UTEP physicists has allowed them to make new discoveries, beginning with the spread of knowledge of quantum computing. Inevitably, the research started at UTEP will go on to solve the difficulties of many fields, improving how we work.

Sofia Sierra is a contributor and may be reached at sdsierra2@miners.utep.edu

DREAM BIG AND THEN... DREAM BIGGER!



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.



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Arts & Culture

Meagan Garcia, editor

El Paso Space Festival launching into orbit

BY ERIK ACOSTA
The Prospector



A galactic atmosphere filled with kids dressed in space costumes, aliens and astronaut inflatables filled the room as the fifth annual El Paso Space Festival kicked off Sept. 22.

It was a festive aura bringing people together, where families and kids explored the mysterious realms of space history in El Paso.

Partnering up with Insights Science Discovery to celebrate the 95th anniversary of El Paso International Airport, Marketing and Air Service development manager, Cassandra Davisson, considers the occasion to bring more people to the space industry and inspire the young minds of tomorrow.

“The goal for the airport is to bring these industries to El Paso to prevent the brain drain,” Davisson said. “We are working to bring high-paying skilled laborers so our future community members, the children here today, are inspired. They will have a place to work and stay in El Paso, so we are hopefully inspiring minds and keeping them here for the future.”

Demonstrating the rich history of space exploration and beauties of the moon, UTEP professor Jose Hurtado was among the guest speakers and representatives from UTEP sharing hidden gems and space innovation in the Sun City.

“El Paso is in a great place for space, we have a lot of history here,” Hurtado said. “We are right in the middle of different space exports, and a lot is going on at UTEP, so this touches the El Paso community in many ways, and hopefully I can do my small part and be an ambassador for that.”

Nestled near White Sands Missile Range and neighbored by the commercial space industry that infuses the U.S. Southwest, El Paso has a significant history regarding space travel and the festival featured those cosmic achievements and industry.

On the horizon, landmarks like Blue Origin in Vanhorn, Texas, and Virgin Galactic at Spaceport America, are shooting for the stars with their discoveries and the festival highlighted the work they have done. The festival explored artistic aspects of space exploration with booths having NASA representatives and space agencies present.

Apart from highlighting space, the festival had hands-on activities where kids could draw and paint while learning about outer space. They had bouncy houses and an illuminated dance floor where kids danced the night away as adults were able to watch flights depart into the evening sky. Food trucks and Insight representative Rogelio Garcia were there teaching kids about space.

“This event is a great opportunity for kids to learn about space and consider oppor-

tunities in careers related to space, so it is great for them to get exposed to this material,” Garcia said. “This (is) a great way to show the outreach that we have in the community and inform them about the space opportunities in El Paso.”

Throwing paper plane rockets in the air, Rodrigo Valdes, a student from Harmony School of Science, considers the event an opportunity to connect with the community and share the knowledge of rockets with kids.

“You learn new things from the kids as well teach them new things,” Valdes said. “Everyone here likes rockets, space, airplanes, so you get the chance to connect. It’s important for the next generation of students and little kids to be engaged in rockets, space and planes so they can take our spot when we get older.”

Immersing the warehouse with the Star Wars theme song, parents guided their kids through the space activities while being greeted by cosplayers dressed in Star Wars costumes, adding more excitement to the event.

Among the crowded room of parents with children, attendee Milla Molinar favored the event as an opportunity for her daughter and kids to learn about space travel and planes.

“It looks fun for the little kids, I have a little kid who likes airplanes, so we thought this event would be perfect for her,” Molinar said. “I think kids should learn more about space and aviation, I know there is (stigmas) around planes being scary, and with kids getting more exposure to them, it will hopefully bring in a fun atmosphere.”

An alluring experience for guests that features a diverse array of activities and exhibits will have its last event, Saturday, Sept. 30. It will display rocket launches and a stargazing party to end the night, and the local community is encouraged to attend. More information is available at insightselpaso.org.

Erik Acosta is the web and copy editor and may be reached at emacosta@miners.utep.edu

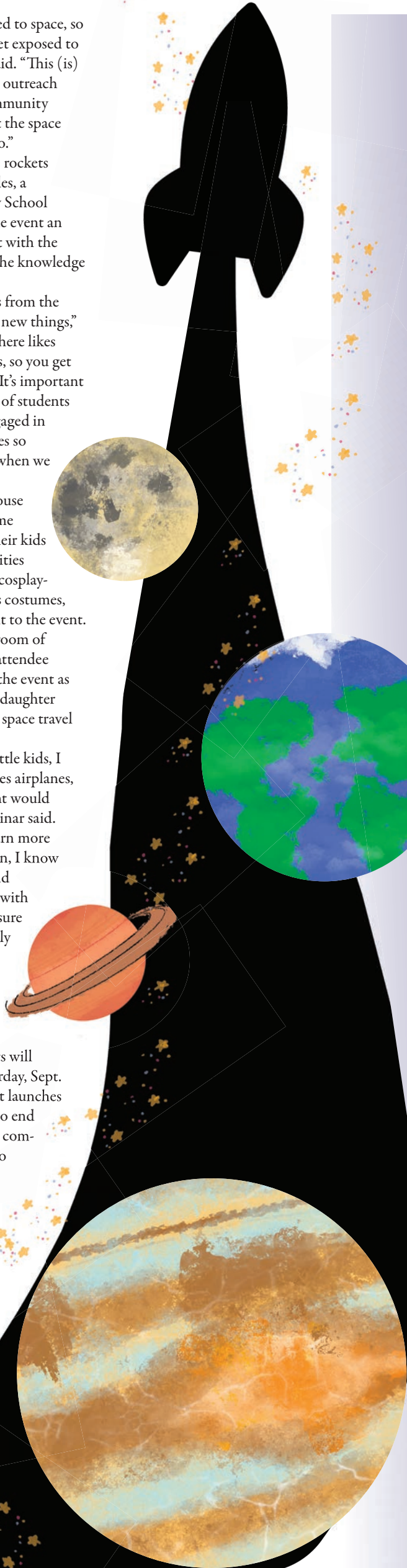


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Art struggles in the battle against AI

BY NICHOLAS MAES
The Prospector



With the popularity of artificial intelligence (AI) increasing, it is difficult to fathom how it has taken over the art world. Completely changing the way creative works are produced, AI is being used in multiple forms of art, including music.

The use of AI in art has become an extremely controversial topic. Art is a channel meant for people to express themselves emotionally and spiritually. When art is developed by AI, this aspect of it is taken away, leaving many to wonder if AI-generated art can be considered “art.”

Image generators are used to create “art,” but in reality, it lacks the personality and lived experience of an artist. Similar to AI-generated writing, the artistry and individualism of the author is lost, decreasing a unique piece of written work to simple words on paper.

It is a comparable situation in the music industry, as AI tools are being used to generate new music from current artists. However, to a certain extent, music technology has been moving towards AI for the last 15 years, with the introduction of GarageBand by Apple.

Other programs have followed, allowing users to generate beats or instrumentals to record with. One example of this is SongStarter by BandLab, in which the program will generate an instrumental with only lyrics and emojis.

AI has had more controversial moments in music as some are



The usage of artificial intelligence has become controversial due to the ethics surrounding it. **Photo generated through StarryAI**

using it to bring back the vocals of artists who have died. People are using this tool to have long-gone artists “sing” covers by artists, giving listeners the opportunity to imagine the possibilities of artists like Freddie Mercury or Kurt Cobain having lived longer.

“I think that AI art is a new form of art, but it’s not as expressive as actual art,” said Arabella Ramirez, a music major at UTEP.

In a unique twist, AI is being used

in an interesting way, by a popular band, The Beatles. Paul McCartney is bringing back John Lennon’s vocals in new, unreleased music, with the help of AI.

“All of that is kind of scary, but exciting because it’s the future,” McCartney said in an interview with BBC Radio 4.

Peter Jackson used similar AI technology in the Beatles documentary, “Get Back,” and was able to use that same technology for the



In addition to visual art, AI tools are also being used to generate beats or instrumentals to record with. **Photo generated through StarryAI**

Beatles’ upcoming song.

“He was able to extricate John’s voice from a ropey little bit of cassette, where it had John’s voice and a piano,” McCartney said. “He could separate them with AI.”

Although some consider AI as art, the question is where is the line drawn? The difference lies in how AI is being used. AI art can generate great images, but without the human touch, it makes it difficult for some to determine what the

meaning is behind it.

In the case of McCartney and the Beatles, AI is being used not to generate the voice, but to repair the recordings Lennon made before his death in 1980. Although the effects of AI can be enormous, it is hard to imagine a world that is enveloped by AI-generated art.

Nicholas Maes is a staff reporter and may be reached at nemaes@miners.utep.edu

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El Paso steals the spotlight in new movie adaptations

BY ELISHA NUÑEZ
The Prospector



This year has been an exciting one for El Paso, especially when it comes to movies. From superheroes to a superstar wrestlers, cinema holds an exciting place for comics and characters from the Sun City.

Although the movies were not filmed in El Paso, they can still be a beacon to draw more attention to a city that may be forgotten by most.

Popular titles like “Blue Beetle” and features like “Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe,” have ties with El Paso. The first was adapted from a comic series where the main character is a teen from the “915”, while the second takes place in El Paso during the 1980s. Another movie, “Cassandro,” features a character based on a real-life El Pasoan, actually shot some of its scenes in El Paso.

These movies have El Pasoans talking, like Isis Sepulveda, an architecture student in El Paso.

“I think it’s a good thing that more movies and comic books are set in El Paso (because the city) has a lot of cool things,” Sepulveda said. “The other day, our professor was explaining to us that El Paso (has) a lot of buildings that are like the first for things in Texas or even the (country). I think having forms of popular media like movies, books (and) comic books are good for El Paso because (it) has a lot of places nobody knows about.”



The film “Blue Beetle” made its premiere Aug. 18. Photo by Iziah Moreno/The Prospector

Apart from iconic cityscapes, the attention these movies are drawing to El Paso can also play a big part in the careers of writers or directors in the city. Some might not think of El Paso as a destination for the arts, but these movies may be able to change that perspective. Media attention like this can also uplift many artists based in the city and it could allow them to show their work to people across the country.

“El Paso is amazing, but not the most applicable for people in the arts,” said Vianah Vasquez, a junior in communication studies with a minor in creative writing at UTEP. “Most artists, including myself, would likely move to bigger cities with more work opportunities. I see this rise in attention in a positive way. I believe it can open so many doors for other artists. That

said, artists here embrace this city’s culture more than anything and I believe (we) would be pleased to see it properly projected onto movies and used for movie adaptations. This attention may have its downsides but for artists, attention means opportunities that we could all benefit from.”

These movies have already made their debut on the silver screen, opening to audiences all over the U.S. Not only will these films give others a chance to see El Paso but will give audiences a chance to see the culture that exists in the people and the Mexican culture of the border city. From out-of-towners to native El Pasoans, many will be gearing up to see El Chuco represented through action-packed and coming of age stories.

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A melodic fiesta: Artists touring EP

BY ANGELICA GUTIERREZ
The Prospector



El Paso is no stranger to the rhythm and beat of music, and 2023 promises to be a spectacular year for music enthusiasts as a variety of artists from different genres grace the city with their presence.

The Sun City’s music scene is incredibly diverse, offering something for every musical taste.

Recently, the city has witnessed a surge in live performances, showcasing talent from both local artists and international sensations.

“I’m excited to go to Kali Uchis’ concert,” said UTEP student, Idaly Mata. “I’m a big fan and I feel so happy that more artists are coming to perform in El Paso. Now I don’t have to pay for transportation and accommodation if I want to see my favorite singers.”

El Paso has a unique cultural identity that can benefit from exposure to different forms of art and music. Artists touring the city can introduce their own styles and perspectives, contributing to a broader cultural exchange.

By touring in cities like El Paso, artists can encourage the appreciation of arts and creativity outside major metropolitan areas. It can motivate local artists and creatives to pursue their passion and contribute to their communities.

“It’s nice that more artists are interested in performing in El Paso,”

said UTEP student, Adrian Lopez. “The concert I’m most excited about is Cigarettes After Sex. I really like their music, but I hadn’t been able to see them live on stage.”

Touring in diverse settings challenges artists to adapt and evolve their performances based on different audience responses and expectations. It can lead to personal growth and a broader artistic perspective.

Artists can integrate elements of the local culture into their performances, preserving and celebrating unique traditions, history and diverse stories.

“Big artists are interested in El Paso,” Mata said. “Rebelde performed last month, and it was a big concert. Luis Miguel will come next year and I’m sure many people from outside of El Paso will come as well, which means more tourism for the city.”

Touring in El Paso supports the local economy by generating revenue for venues, hotels, restaurants and businesses. It can provide job opportunities for locals involved in event organization, management and media. Performing in the city contributes to cultural enrichment, economic development and the overall growth of the arts while creating meaningful connections with a broader spectrum of audiences.

Keep an eye on upcoming events to catch your favorite artists live and immerse yourself in the vibrant music culture of Sun City.

Angelica Gutierrez is a contributor and may be reached at agutierrez89@miners.utep.edu

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Greg Gonzalez, lead singer of Cigarettes After Sex which are set to perform Oct. 11 at the Don Haskins Center. Photo courtesy of Unai Arnaz Imaz



Kali Uchis will stop at the Don Haskins center Oct. 3 for her “Red Moon in Venus” tour. Photo courtesy of Peter Ohnacker/Flickr

Sports

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela, editor

Paving a path to gridiron greatness in the Dimel era

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL
The Prospector



Editor's note: This article was written prior to the start of the 2023 football season.

UTEP football coach Dana Dimel is entering his sixth season as head coach and Dimel is ready for the upcoming season. Dimel is also excited to see the players become leaders through the UTEP football program.

At the start of his athletic career Dimel grew up playing golf; he played football in the third grade but quit to focus on the putt. Dimel decided to try out for football in the tenth grade, but decided he was not the best player on the team.

"I couldn't even get through the bags or anything, so then I dedicated myself to being a player and I improved steadily after that," Dimel said.

Coaching was not always in the cards for Dimel either as he signed a contract to play for the Minnesota Vikings after college, but was faced with a career-ending knee injury. Dimel then went to a specialist in Cincinnati for reconstructive surgery, but they were unable to conduct the surgery.

Dimel started out as a strength coach after helping in the weight room at Kansas State University and transitioned into becoming a graduate assistant which led to head coaching.



UTEP football head coach Dana Dimel looks onto the field during the Miners' loss versus the University of Nevada-Las Vegas on Sept. 23 at the Sun Bowl. **Photo by Joel Molina/The Prospector**

"I'm kind of liking this now, but I never really had a plan to do it," Dimel said. "I didn't know what I was going to do, which is what I tried to warn guys against. Have a plan, right? Have something ready, football's not going to last forever."

Dimel's MO (mode of operation) has been turnaround programs, from Kansas State to the University of Houston and now UTEP where he led the Miners to its first bowl game appearance since 2014 in the 2021 season. The key to success be-

gins in practice with the philosophy of having short, crisp practices.

"We're very intense because of that, because the practices aren't long drawn out and mundane, and our players can be very aggressive and active at the practices," Dimel said.

Bringing out the best in a player is all about finding their motivation, Dimel motivates each player on the team in a different way by seeing what is important to them and why they play the game of football.

He says staying motivated can be difficult and he says once he finds their "why," he can start seeing how to help each player.

Dimel encourages each player to show their personality while being aggressive for what they want, and he wants teammates to look after each other.

"There's nobody you know on this planet that doesn't have trouble staying motivated, right? And so, they need support," Dimel said. "My point is everybody needs sup-

port, and so coaches' jobs a lot of times are to take players to places they don't really want to go, but places that are going to make them better. You cannot have success on a team unless you're selfless. So, it's very, very important to be unified, to care about your teammates and to be selfless."

Dimel is excited for the upcoming football season as UTEP continues to mold its team, see them become leaders and have them teach the new players to become better leaders. Dimel said he likes the competitive edge of the team and believes they are the most athletic they have ever been.

"We're young at some spots, but I think we got really good leadership, and we got some big-time players that can help this athleticism with the young guys to show," Dimel said.

For teams facing off against the Miners, Dimel wants them to view the Miners as players who work hard, perform at a high level and do things the way they are supposed to be done.

"I think the thing I'm most proud about our Miners right now is how well these guys carry themselves off the field and how well they're doing in the classroom," Dimel said. "We're setting records each and every year for our team GPA and I want to continue to do that."

Katrina Villarreal is a guest contributor and may be reached at katvillarreal35@gmail.com

Football falls to UNLV Rebels in second home game

BY H. CATCHING MARGINOT
The Prospector



UTEP football (1-4, C-USA 0-1) fell to the University of Nevada-Las Vegas (UNLV) Rebels (3-1) in an engaging game for the Miners second home game.

What started as an engrossing two quarters, ended in defeat for the Miners with the Rebels securing the win with a score of 45-28.

Linebacker Tyrice Knight accumulated 15 more tackles with 13 solo stops.

Running back Torrance Burgess Jr. had a rush career high of 99 yards on 19 carries.

Wide receiver Kelly Akharaiyi had 92 yards on four catches.

Defensive end Praise Amaewhale tied his eight-tackle career best and picked off his first ever career pass.

UTEP Miners Football Head Coach Dana Dimel spoke about his thoughts about the game, and what the Miners can do better entering conference play.

"I really liked the way our guys fought in the third quarter as far as getting that touchdown drive together," Dimel said. "One of our

goals is to win the last four minutes of the second quarter, which gives you momentum, but we obviously didn't do that."

Dimel detailed how many instances involving missed plays and poor defense affected the game.

"The blocked punt was very critical for us early in the game," Dimel said. "You can't give up blocked punts and to me the game was just starting to take flow and we give up the blocked punt; (which) gives (UNLV) a touchdown opportunity."

Fan Don Smelser speaks about the hope he has for UTEP going forward this season.

"The potential is there, but they are just not clicking and they make too many errors," Smelser said. "At this point in time they have enough talent to compete with anyone they play with, but they need to get their timing down."

UTEP stays in El Paso to play the LA Tech Bulldogs (2-3, C-USA 1-0) Friday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m. at the Sun Bowl.

Statistics from UTEP Athletics.

H. Catching Marginot is a staff reporter and can be reached at homarginot@miner.utep.edu



LEFT: Running back Torrance Burgess Jr. attempts to cut back while carrying the ball against UNLV.



RIGHT: Wide receiver Jeremiah Ballard celebrates a touchdown against UNLV.

Photos by Joel Molina/The Prospector

UTEP

UTEP
MINERS

G. HARDISON | 14/31, 225 YDS, 3 INT
T. BURGESS JR. | 19 CAR, 99 YDS, 1 TD

27

UNLV

UNLV
REBELS

J. MAIAVA | 15/27, 190 YDS, 1 INT
R. WHITE | 2 REC, 62 YDS, 31 AVG

23

Transforming UTEP volleyball through passion

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS
The Prospector



It was not too long ago when UTEP volleyball was a struggling program. From 2000 to 2019, UTEP only saw three seasons (2005, 2012 and 2013) with a winning percentage at or above .500 in conference play. This includes the Miners' time with the Western Athletic Conference and the entrance into Conference USA.

This was until UTEP handed the reigns of the program to current head coach, Ben Wallis.

Wallis was brought on after the firing of Holly Watts. The UTEP volleyball team under Watts did not see a winning season since she was brought on in 2013.

Following the departure of Watts after the 2018 season, UTEP Director of Athletics Jim Senter announced a national search for a new coach would take place.

The search lasted over a month as Senter found his coach in Ben Wallis who, prior to joining UTEP, was an associate head coach for New Mexico State (NMSU).

Senter touted Wallis' recruiting abilities and his familiarity with the West Texas region.

"We had a great applicant pool and (Wallis) emerged as one of the top candidates," Senter said in December 2018. "His name kept coming up as a person who is ready and capable of leading a program. He is known for



Volleyball head coach Ben Wallis is entering his fifth season after leaving his position at New Mexico State. **Photo courtesy UTEP Athletics**

his technical expertise, developing players and recruiting. It's a bonus that he is already in our region and has roots in the Sun City."

In Wallis' inaugural 2019 season, the Miners went 13-15 and 6-8 in conference play. The following season would show more promise as the Miners would win ten games. Something that had not happened since the 2013 season.

The team would break another milestone as the team finished with 24 wins, the most since the 1988 season. That same season, the team would receive its first ever postseason bid. The Miners would reach the semifinals of the National Invitational Volleyball Championship where the team fell.

A program turn-around like this is difficult, especially for smaller programs. Wallis, however, does not dwell on what he did, rather what is in front of the team.

"(The) message this year was that

we needed to live more in the present in everything we do and focus just on what was in front of us that day," said Wallis. "We've re-tooled the roster with a crazy high number of athletic kids, and we've also just recruited people that love sports, working hard, and are willing to do things that are outside of their comfort zone in order to be great here and fit with our 'hard hat culture.'"

Naturally, an impressive turn-around attracts a number of accolades. From nods by national ranking polls to C-USA accolades, UTEP has made an impressive stand since Wallis' arrival.

Wallis chooses to see these awards as a progress meter rather than a destination though.

"They just mean that we're moving in the right direction and that we're giving ourselves a chance to win our conference and be a top 50 or top 100 program in America each and every season," said Wallis.

One of the biggest draws for Wallis during the national search was his recruiting ability. Players from all around the world have decided to come play for UTEP. Getting players in the building is tough and schools pay good money to those who can sell a team to a recruit.

Starting a good recruiting program can be tricky. Good teams have good players because they win, but they win because they have good players. This becomes a "chicken and egg" scenario.

Wallis has a simple way to recruit players though, simply leaning back on UTEP and El Paso as a whole.

"We can sell UTEP to so many different types of players now because of how successful we've been in several areas," said Wallis. "The fact that we have awesome crowds, our city is a melting pot full of culture and great people. We have an academic institution that is very highly thought of and is a Tier 1 research institution allows for us to recruit really anyone we want now."

At NMSU, Wallis grew a great deal of admiration for Head Coach Mike Jordan. Jordan has been at NMSU for over 25 years where he became the most winningest coach in the school's history racking up 544 wins. Some of those wins were alongside Wallis.

"I am still very close with Mike Jordan; head coach at NMSU, as he is my mentor and we've known each other for 20 years," said Wallis.

Jordan expressed his appreciation for Wallis when UTEP hired him back in late 2018.

"UTEP made a great choice," Jordan said. "Ben will do a great job there as he has here. I'm happy for Ben and Leah (Wallis' wife) that they get to stay close to family and he has this opportunity. He's a really good coach and an even better friend, so I'm glad he'll be close by."

The UTEP-New Mexico State rivalry spans across several sports, including volleyball and has been contentious. For Wallis, who has coached on both sides of the rivalry, find enjoyment when facing his alma mater.

"It's a great rivalry for me in many ways," said Wallis. "I went to and coached at NMSU and have a big heart for them except when we're playing each other. My wife played volleyball at NMSU, and we both have degrees from there and helped raise our kids in Las Cruces for 6 years. They're good, we're good, and we've played 4 times and each of those times we've played 5 sets each time with UTEP winning 2 and NMSU winning 2. Needless to say, each time we play it's going to be nasty competitive."

The Miners face Jax State Thursday, Sept. 28, at Memorial Gym to kick off regular season play.

Statistics from UTEP Athletics.

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

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