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By S. David Ramirez

Interest rates for Stafford loans double

Starting this July, more than 40 percent of UTEP students will be hit with a 3.4 percent increase on all future subsidized federal Stafford loans. According to U.S. Department of Education estimates, students participating in the Stafford Loan Program can expect to pay an additional $2,600 on a regular 10-year period loan. This balances out to an additional $24-27 per month for students to pay after graduating.

“We’re still hoping that the legislature, Congress, the president, can come to a resolution,” said Craig Westman, associate vice president for Enrollment Management. “It will impact students coming in the fall.”

Approximately 9,600 UTEP students received Stafford loan support for the academic year of 2012-2013, according to UTEP officials. With positive growth in admissions, it is expected that more students will apply for assistance in the fall.

On campus, some students are concerned because of the increase. “I’m screwed because I have loans,” said Rene Matteo, junior marketing major. “I don’t know what to say. It’s nuts.” Other students have taken the increase in stride. “I’m almost done with school, so it doesn’t really impact me,” said Melissa Martinez, senior psychology major. “It doesn’t seem like that much of an increase.”

The increase will not impact students taking summer coursework because UTEP includes these classes in the previous year’s financial aid package. “UTEP does give a lot of aid out,” Westman said.

He added that students often take Stafford loans to offset transportation, housing and other associated living costs.

UTEP was recently ranked—by a 2012 Washington Monthly survey—as the number one school in the nation for social mobility. Among the criteria were the amounts of aid granted and number of graduates from traditionally underserved communities.

The increase will not impact students taking summer coursework because UTEP includes these classes in the previous year’s financial aid package.

“Stafford assisted students at the University of Texas at El Paso’s estimated total attendance for the academic year of 2012-2013 were 23,000.

Students with family income below $30K/yr | Percentage of Students on Loan Assistance
--- | ---
13,000 | 41%

“They may see less grants and free money coming in and may have to take more loans to offset those needs.”
- Craig Westman, associate vice president for Enrollment Management

see STAFFORD on page 3

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New graphic novel for centennial year

Adam Contreras’ graphic novel has been selected to be released during the centennial celebration. Contreras, who graduated in May with a degree in graphic design, named the novel “Miner Things” and it will be based on UTEP’s 21st century student demographic and their educational experiences.

Miner Things

Miner Things by Adam Contreras

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TEXAS VOTER ID
NEWS P. 5

TANABATAMATSURI
Entertainment P. 5

TECH REVIEW
Entertainment P. 6

RUGBY
Sports P. 7

RUGBY
Sports P. 7

AROMA
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FREE VALET PARKING
2725 N. Mesa, Suite 100 El Paso 915.532.4700 (10% discount for students)

Special to The Prospector
Covering the Ciudad Juárez election

BY ANDRÉS RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

The Ciudad Juárez elections for mayor were held July 7, with Enrique Serrano Escobar of the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), Partido Verde (PVEM) and Nueva Alianza (PANAL) coalition, taking the lead with 52.91 percent of the vote, according to preliminary results from the Instituto Estatal Electoral de Chihuahua.

The campaign, which ran from May 30 to July 3, never quite took off because it never really deviated from being the PRI’s and PAN’s (Partido Acción Nacional) game. The distinction, between the two leading candidates and the rest of the parties, was made clear from the outset. At the debate, in rallies, the PAN and PRI always had the greater numbers and it was the lack of organization of the PRD (Partido de la Revolución Democrática), PMC (Movimiento Ciudadano) and PT (Partido del Trabajo) that prevented them from attracting the voters.

Serrano Escobar of the PRI-PVEM-PANAL coalition and Maria Antonieta Perez Reyes of the right-wing party PAN were the candidates that played social media the best, and the inclusion of online campaign sites with mostly specific platforms helped them get the word out.

Campaigning revolved around improving the police force—offering them a better pay and raising morale for the tainted profession—improving the city’s infrastructure and offering better security. However, the political scientists that I spoke to said that campaigning this time around was superficial, and lacked any sort of real proposals to better the city.

Voter turnout in Juárez was at 35.98 percent according to the IEEC preliminary results, meaning that less than four of every 10 possible voters participated in the election.

While covering the elections for Newspaper Tree, I was disheartened with mostly specific platforms helped them get the word out. The new leaders of these sister cities, El Paso mayor, Oscar Lestarz and Juárez mayor-elected, Serrano Escobar have the opportunity to strengthen the collaboration between the cities and to develop a strategic plan for the border region that should be handled in cooperation with others to tackle border concerns, or that at least offer to promote them at a federal level.

As the new leaders of these sister cities, El Paso mayor, Oscar Lestarz and Juárez mayor-elected, Serrano Escobar have the opportunity to strengthen the collaboration between the cities and to develop a strategic plan for the border region that should be handled in cooperation with others to tackle border concerns, or that at least offer to promote them at a federal level.

The strongest platform in bettering El Paso-Juárez relations came from PRD’s, Graciela Espazo Alviarez. Among her proposals was an El Paso-Juárez historical trail that would touch upon both cities’ downtown and increase tourism in the area.

As sister cities, El Paso and Juárez share responsibilities and problems that should be handled in cooperation and I saw little to no proposals that concretely address a joint effort to tackle border concerns, or that at least offer to promote them at a federal level.

The as the new leaders of these sister cities, El Paso mayor, Oscar Lestarz and Juárez mayor-elected, Serrano Escobar have the opportunity to strengthen the collaboration between the cities and to develop a strategic plan for the border region that should be handled in cooperation with others to tackle border concerns, or that at least offer to promote them at a federal level.
New Texas law requires photo ID to vote

By S. David Ramirez

The Prospector

Texas’ restrictive voter ID laws have taken effect after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on a key provision regarding the Voting Rights Act. The Texas Secretary of State will now commit to ensuring that citizens have a form of identification when it comes to voting.

The 2011 Texas Senate Bill 14 created the necessity for voters to show identification when voting. The law was temporarily suspended until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on the case of Shelby County v. Holder on June 25.

“It might help get people to vote,” said Adrian Chavez, senior psychology major. “But it might not. There is a lot to be seen.”

The opinion issued by the court stopped requirements for pre-approval of measures that could potentially harm or disenfranchise groups of voters. The decision reversed section four of the Voting Rights Act, and a day later, the requirement for a Texas Election Identifier Certificate was in place.

“Supporters of this law—mostly Republicans—claim that this will prevent voter fraud and make the election process fair, whereas Democrats believe that voter fraud is non-existent and this is merely an excuse to disenfranchise minority and low-income voters,” said Abha Singh, lecturer in political science. “It is no surprise that it did not take Texas long after the recent Supreme Court ruling to move forward with this law.”

The EIC is a free photo ID available to any Texas resident. To obtain one, a resident must be eligible to vote and at least 17 years and 10 months old. However, any other Department of Public Safety or federally issued photo identification is generally sufficient to vote. The EIC was designed for Texans without a driver’s license or other documentation.

According to the Texas DPS website, an EIC is valid for six years. There is no expiration date for certificiates issued to citizens 70 years of age or older.

“Anything that makes it more difficult to vote is, in my opinion, simply a smoke screen to keep certain groups of persons—mostly minorities and persons of age or older.”

The law that is going into effect in Texas, while more extreme, is not essentially a waiting game, though I would expect longer, slower lines at the polls in the forthcoming elections.”

Todd Curry, assistant professor of political science.

New Texas law requires photo ID to vote

According to UTEP numbers, around 1,000 and reported a family income below $30,000 a year. “They may see less grants and free money coming in and may have to take more loans to offset those needs,” Westman said.

“UTEP’s Financial Aid office and the U.S. Department of Education are preparing to send out a notification of the rate increase before the end of the month.”

Stafford loans were named after Senator Robert T. Stafford with the passage of the 1986 Compact of Free Association.

There are several possibilities that may resolve the increase in loan rates. Legislators are debating the merits of matching the interest rate to everything from treasury bonds to bank-lending rates. However, if no resolution is found, the rates will stay at the current level.

The rate change is automatic. Westman said that FAFSAs, even those completed before the ruling, do not require changes. Every student who is eligible for the Stafford loan will be offered one. Award letters will not change, but new interest rates will simply be tacked on to existing billings.

Students can still consolidate loans after graduation to decrease the number of payments and lock in an interest rate. There are also options to opt-in to income-based repayments.

The current Stafford interest cap of 8.25 percent has not changed.

The U.S. Department of Education has not made any announcements regarding the change.

“Where’s the students?” Westman said. “We’re just waiting to hear what’s going to happen.”

Students interested in specific details regarding the change in policy should contact their state legislator.

Students may contact the UTEP Department of Financial Aid office at 747-5204 or by email at financialaid@utep.edu.
Question of the week

What are your thoughts on voter IDs?

Photos by Veronica Enriquez

ANDREA RAMIREZ
Sophomore psychology major
“I personally don’t have a problem with it, but I’m sure it’s going to discourage people from voting.”

ARTURO RAMIREZ
Senior geology major
“It discourages me (to vote). What’s the reason for it?”

DANIEL QUIÑONES
Graduate student, education
“I don’t mind it being implemented as long as it’s implemented properly. I would have a problem if it’s from one day to the next.”

GLADYS TELLES
Freshman biochemistry major
“It will be harder for everyone to vote. Without the ID, anyone can vote.”

GRACE CHAVIRA
Sophomore marketing major
“I think for most people, it will be a hassle because it’s going to take much of their time.”

DAVID CARDO
Sophomore history major
“I think it encourages (me to vote) because it will probably give (other) people a chance of voting (that can’t).”

OSCAR GAMA
Freshman engineering major
“It discourages me. I don’t see the problem, but it discourages (me) because now I have to do an extra step to vote.”

LEAH STEED
Senior digital media production major
“I just think that if people want to vote they’re going to find a way to vote, and if they don’t want to vote they’re not going to vote.”

JOSE CORTEZ
Senior digital media production major
“(The ID) wouldn’t be in my priorities. If I already have work and other things to worry about, I wouldn’t go for that (ID). It wouldn’t discourage me to vote, but it would make it harder.”

ANDREA RAMIREZ
Sophomore psychology major

Gladys Telles
Freshman biochemistry major

Grace Chavira
Sophomore marketing major

Oscar Gama
Freshman engineering major

David Cardo
Sophomore history major

Juliet Macias
Senior sociology major

Photos by Veronica Enriquez

Daniel Quiñones
Graduate student, education

Arturo Ramirez
Senior geology major

Andrea Ramirez
Sophomore psychology major

The UTEP Dinner Theatre
2013-2014 30th Anniversary Season of Musicals

In the Heights

Music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda
Conceived by Lin-Manuel Miranda

The Musical

The UTEP Dinner Theatre
2nd Floor Union West Building
UTEP Campus

Ticket Prices:

Dinner Performance (4:00 P.M.)
July 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 2013

Matinee Dinner Performance (1:30 P.M.)
July 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 2013

Matinee No-Dinner Performance (2:30 P.M.)
July 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 2013

Ticket prices:

Dinner Performance:

 Adults $25.00, Seniors $22.00, Students $15.00, Children $10.00

Matinee Dinner Performance:

 Adults $20.00, Seniors $18.00, Students $15.00, Children $10.00

Matinee No-Dinner Performance:

 Adults $15.00, Seniors $13.00, Students $10.00, Children $10.00

Tickets available at the UTEP Ticket Center 747-5151 and at all Ticketmaster outlets.

For more information call 747-5151 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.
From its opening in 2012, the Japanese Crepe House has attracted and delighted citizens of El Paso with its authentic crepes and unique events, such as the celebration of “Tanabata Matsuri,” or the Japanese Star Festival.

“Tanabata Matsuri,” celebrated on July 7, is a festival dedicated to the only day star-crossed lovers are allowed to meet. It originally started in China and it was eventually imported to Japan as well.

Sharon Hsu, representative of the restaurant and the owner’s wife, said that one of the reasons she started to partake in this ancient Japanese celebration is because she wanted her daughters to know more about Japanese culture.

“We started last year with our first ‘Tanabata Matsuri’ and that was a huge success,” Hsu said. “I want my children to be able to carry the heritage of the Japanese culture, so why not here where everybody will enjoy it.”

Hsu also said that she wants the restaurant and the owner’s wife, said that one of the reasons she started to partake in this ancient Japanese celebration is because she wanted her daughters to know more about Japanese culture.

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Several other activities included “watermelon cracking,”—which Hsu described as a Japanese pilата, manga merchandise and cosplay.

The inclusion of various types of activities for different ages is something that customers who have visited Japanese Crepe House support.

Kimberly Garcia, UTEP multimedia journalism graduate student, said she had a good experience when visiting the restaurant for the first time.

“I think involving the public to a Japanese cultural festival is the best way to showcase the culture,” Garcia said. “I think an event that incorporates all these elements (manga and cosplay) is a positive thing for the community.”

Garcia said that by allowing people to try different things and letting them experience something that they might not be familiar with gives them a new opportunity that encompasses food, activities and a new aspect about Japanese culture for them to learn about.

“I would like to see more people attend these events,” Garcia said. “In order for these events to thrive, they need the support of the community. With the backing of the community, who knows how big these events can get.”

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By OSCAR GARCIA
The Prospector

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Film Review

‘World War Z,’ another zombie movie

BY LEONARDO MONTÁNEZ
The Prospector

“World War Z,” the apocalyptic horror/action movie directed by Marc Forster, promised so much and delivered so little with very monotonous and predictable scenes.

“World War Z” starts with the daily life of a U.S. embassy employee, Gerry Lane (Brad Pitt), and his family. He and his wife Emil (Mireille Enos) are enjoying a normal morning when, out of nowhere, a zombie apocalypse erupts and it is up to the protagonist to save his family and, ultimately, the world.

The Lanes are rescued by the U.N. after surviving a whole day in an infected city and are transported to a cargo ship of the same agency where every agent is trying to find a solution to the world’s crisis.

Soon, it is up to Gerry Lane to travel the world in search for a cure to the zombie pandemic, while the family stays in the cargo ship. This is where the movie starts its rise-and-repeat formula. Every time Gerry Lane reaches his destination everything is perfectly fine, then a portion of the storyline is revealed and then zombies attack. That’s how it goes for the rest of the movie.

Almost halfway through the mov-  

RPG maker VX Ace allows gamers to create video games

BY LEONARDO MONTÁNEZ
The Prospector

RPG Maker VX Ace is a program that lets users create video games at their most basic structure, offers enough tools for gamers to start pro-  

There’s no character development whatsoever and minor characters, like Tommy (Fabrizio Zacharee Guido), do not really contribute anything. With or without minor characters, the film could have been the same.

To be fair, “World War Z” did a pretty good job presenting a variable and a classic view of a zombie apocalypse. The zombies in this feature film are not gory monsters that take five to 10 minutes devouring a body. Instead, they act as spreaders of a disease. They attack only once and move on to the next one, which makes for more intense situations. Yet the virus is only spread by the very well-known method of biting, the true essence of zombies.

“World War Z” has some decent action scenes. For example, when the zombies start piling up to climb a huge barrier where survivors were allocated. Showing there’s more to the undead, other than just brain-eating fiends.

“World War Z” felt much like any other action movie out there but with zombies. It really evokes a feeling of the “Resident Evil” movies where horror is not such a big deal with just a jump scare or a scream or here or there. This is not really problematic, but the same time, it felt out of place for a movie that was expected to be a real horror movie. It works for a zombie movie, but if gory scenes and blood is what you’re looking for, this is not the movie.

3 out of 5 picks
A new chapter of UTEP rugby history begins

BY EDWIN DELGADO
The Prospector

After becoming an official club earlier this year, UTEP students are trying to revive Miner rugby and make it as popular as it was in the mid ’70s. “It’s an important milestone for us, but we are hoping we can get the numbers and the finance to eventually compete as an official UTEP rugby team,” said junior mechanical engineering major and club vice president Hector Frias.

The team is currently led by 1978 UTEP graduate, Elbert Arnold. In 1974, Arnold and a group of students began the first official rugby team in UTEP history. After graduating, the same core of players began the El Paso Scorpions, which still exists today.

Arnold is holding practices for the team twice a week and is working to teach them the skills for the challenges coming their way. The season began on June 29, when the UTEP team fell, 24-16, to a collegiate team from Chihuahua, Mexico.

“We know the game and have the talent to do better, I think we are a good team,” Frias said. “What is holding us back is the conditioning. Actually, our tactical level was better, our skills are better, just the conditioning needs to improve and that’s our emphasis right now.”

Rugby dates back to the early-19th century and developed along with soccer and it wasn’t until 1871 that the Rugby Union was formed. Rugby is very popular in the United Kingdom, France, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand—the current world champions. The sport is set to receive more attention as part of the Summer Olympics. The next Rugby World Cup will be played in England in 2015 and Japan in 2019.

“Rugby is where soccer was long ago, but we don’t know yet.”

Any students interested in joining the team may get in touch with coach Delbert Arnold at 915-691-5983 or junior management major and club president Mike Samaniego at 303-281-7670.

Holly Watts appointed head volleyball coach at UTEP

Holly Watts, who served as associate head coach for a Florida State team that averaged 26 wins the last five seasons, has been named UTEP’s new head volleyball coach.

Watts brings 19 years of Division I coaching experience to the Miners, including lengthy stints at Arkansas (1996-2008) and with Florida State (2008-13), where she worked with head coach Chris Poole. Together Poole and Watts have completed in 13, 20-win seasons in 17 years, with 13 NCAA tournament appearances during that span.

“Our goal is to get a body of players that are committed and devoted to it and also get a field that is close to UTEP so people can watch the games,” Arnold said. “We may have to share a field, but we don’t know yet. There is a lot of issues that we have to overcome and hopefully partnerships will be developed.

The club has reached agreements to have home-and-home matches against New Mexico, New Mexico State, New Mexico Tech, Texas Tech and the fourth squad of the National runners up the Artemis Wildcatters.

Any students interested in joining the team may get in touch with coach Delbert Arnold at 915-691-5979 or junior management major and club president Mike Samaniego at 303-281-7670.

The U.S. should bid for 2026 World Cup

BY EDWIN DELGADO
The Prospector

After FIFA selected Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup ahead of the United States in December 2010, American soccer fans were quick to demand more exposure for the sport in the U.S. and FIFA rewarded them.

What many people don’t realize is that a huge opportunity will come for the United States in 2026. FIFA rules in bidding for the tournament will make all European and Asian nations ineligible to bid in 2026.

Colombia and Venezuela are the best options from South America. Colombia hosted a very successful Under-20 World Cup in 2011, while Venezuela vastly improved its infrastructure when it hosted the Copa America in 2007.

Within CONCACAF, Canada and Mexico have already expressed interest in bidding for the tournament.

New Zealand is the only nation in Oceania capable of even intending to bid, but they still have a long way to go, as most of the stadiums will need major renovations.

In Africa lies the biggest threat a possible joint bid between Morocco and Algeria. Both nations have started to invest in stadiums. In the past 18 months, Morocco completed stadiums in Marrakesh, Agadir and Tangier that comply with FIFA requirements. In two years it is expected that four more stadiums in Algeria will be finished in Douzara, Temara, Assaha and Oran.

It is still too early to tell if Morocco and Algeria will try to join forces, since they could potentially do it on their own. FIFA tends to move away from hosting tournaments in places that are similar to recent previous tournaments. With Qatar hosting the World Cup in 2022, several members of the executive committee would think twice before voting for another Arab country with very high temperatures during the summer.

Despite having the odds on their side, the U.S. needs to be careful and avoid making the same mistakes as last time. Chicago, the third-largest city in the country, was not included in the final list because Soldier Field had the smallest capacity than all the other stadiums being considered, while cities with little or no soccer connections like Baltimore, Indianapolis and Nashville were included.

The FDA Evaluation Report on the United States’ 2022 bid, made it clear that a lot was accomplished in the U.S., but more needs to be done for the next bid. One of the main issues that the report talks about is that the evaluation group didn’t fully understand the hosting concept of the country and lacked an explanation on how the U.S. was going to use the World Cup to further increase the soccer footprint in this country.
Diablos strike early to win, even series with Air Hogs

Ellisia Shafer
The Prospector

On July 7, the El Paso Diablos recovered in game two of the four-game series against the Grand Prairie AirHogs, this was after a 11-3 loss in game one.

In the first game, the AirHogs dominated. After a slow start, the AirHogs scored four runs in the fifth inning to take a commanding 5-0 route to a 11-3 win on July 6.

"Yesterday’s loss is in the past (now)," said Diablos right fielder Bryan Joynt. "Going into this game we just wanted to go out, play hard and take it one inning at a time."

For game two, the Diablos began the first inning well under pitcher Kevin Cooper, who allowed only one run and forced, the Airhogs to make two errors early.

The Airhogs scored once in the first by a hit from infielder Juan Richard- son that brought Brandon Pinckney across home plate, but the Diablos still dominated offensively.

Both catcher Jonathan Cisneros and center fielder Oscar Mesa were able to get into scoring position in the bottom of the first. Cisneros then scored off of a hit from shortstop Maikol Gonzalez that tied the game 1-1 heading into the second inning.

Kevin Cooper, who allowed only one run and continued to dominate defensively, allowed only one run, continued to lead going into the sixth inning.

The sixth inning remained the Diablos game. Continuing to lead, the Diablos held the AirHogs defensively with a double play to put an end to the AirHogs threat and get the Diablos at bat.

With the Diablos still leading 4-2 in the sixth, infielder Devin Thaut was scoring position, and with an RBI triple by outfielder Jose Garcia, Thaut scored, bringing the lead to 5-2 after six innings.

The Diablos held the 5-1 lead until the ninth inning, when the AirHogs were able to score once more, but wasn’t enough and the Diablos held on to win the game 5-2.

Diablos shortstop, Maikol Gonzalez driving the ball toward the left outfield to open the score.

Diablos hold the 5-1 lead until the ninth inning, when the AirHogs threatened. The Diablos scored four runs in the fifth inning to take a commanding 5-0 route to a 11-3 win on July 6.

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