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#STARCANDSTOMPS
Stomping the flag becomes a debate about patriotism

BY JUAN RAYGOZA
The Prospector

This past May, a new social media trend known as the " Erlie Sheppard challenge" has emerged on campus, challenging veterans and students to fly their flag proudly. The challenge began on Twitter, where users are encouraged to post pictures of themselves holding the flag, followed by the hashtag #StompTheFlag.

Erlie Sheppard, a prominent African-American civil rights activist, was assassinated in 1968 in64. Sheppard's legacy continues to inspire students to stand up for their beliefs and to challenge the status quo.

Sheppard was a 1960 graduate of Texas Western College, now known as the University of Texas at El Paso. He was a leader in the civil rights movement, working to desegregate schools and to protect the rights of African-Americans.

The challenge has sparked a heated debate on campus, with some students supporting the hashtag and others opposing it.

"It's a matter of pride and respect," said one student. "We should fly the flag with pride and dignity." Another student countered, "It's a symbol of oppression and pain. We should not fly the flag at all.

The debate has also raised questions about the role of social media in shaping public opinion and the impact of online activism on social issues.

"Social media has become a powerful tool for changing public opinion," said a professor of political science. "But it's important to remember that online activism is just one part of a larger conversation. We need to engage in meaningful dialogue with one another to find solutions to these complex issues.

The #StompTheFlag challenge has sparked a national conversation about patriotism and social justice, and will continue to be a topic of discussion for years to come.

Historic halls to be demolished to make way for new research facility

BY JUAN RAYGOZA
The Prospector

The Esquivel and Barry Halls, located on the west side of the Union and across from the Student Union, will be demolished to make way for new research facilities. The two halls are currently home to the School of Business and the School of Engineering.

"These buildings are no longer serving the needs of our students and faculty," said Dean of the School of Business. "We need to invest in new facilities that will support our research and teaching missions.

The demolition of Esquivel and Barry Halls is part of a larger initiative to modernize our campus and to attract new students and faculty.

"We are committed to providing our students with the best possible facilities," said University President. "This project is an important step in that direction.

The demolition is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2015 and is expected to take approximately two years. The new research facilities will be ready for occupancy in 2017.
$310 million gone to waste

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector

Texas Governor Greg Abbott recently said there are 20,000 "dangerous" drug-related gang members in the Hidalgo County area earlier this month. He said this after he signed a bill that will allocate $310 million to help secure the border with advanced technology and training.

Do you know where Houston is, Governor Abbott?
The Texas-Mexico border has always been a touchy subject with politicians, law enforcement and the community. You're either on one side or another.

I, for one, don't agree with the $310 million going toward securing our borders. Abbott has always been very vocal about border security, stating that he will do this and that to ensure no illegal immigration or drug trafficking occurs, but that is all dream talk in other words, in your dreams, Abbott.

That amount of money could be used for other logistical and substantial needs education, road construction, the list goes on and on. Border security? Has that not been discussed before?

The reality is that the border is its own entity. It harbors its own dilemmas and situations, and it's kind of like an island in the middle of our town. Yes, El Paso is a border city, but the border itself has its own existence.

Allocating millions toward border security is not going to fix anything. It hasn't before and it doesn't seem like it ever will. Abbott's and the legislature's contribution is one of the largest monetary investments in Texas history. Will it do any good? We will see, but it doesn't seem like it will.

Three hundred and ten million dollars will be spent to enforce border patrolling. This includes southbound checkpoints that will look out for guns and cash transits.

Has that not been happening already? What were we patrolling for before? Yes, southbound regulation is a new aspect to the game, but does it require millions to do so? We already know what goes down into Mexico. This state has a lot of money to invest into re-figuring that out.

Security here on the border is an on-going situation. Should it rely on that much money? Should it not be a continuous cash flow? State funding is proven to fail in halting the illegal transit of drugs, weapons, money, and people. There is obviously more of an undetermined issue here than security.

Not only will House Bill 11 “improve” border security, it will also fund a facility that is more an underlining issue here than security. It will do this and that to ensure no illegal immigration or drug trafficking occurs, but that is all dream talk in other words, in your dreams, Abbott.

In Memorian

Window Shopper

ILLUSTRATION BY JACOBO DE LA ROSA / THE PROSPECTOR

Bye Joe Soto may be reached at theprospectordaily@utep.edu

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Sweeping border security bill raises concerns

BY VALERIE HERRERA
The Prospector

Earlier this month, Texas Governor Greg Abbott approved a $310 million border security measure that will increase intelligence and operation efforts on the Texas-Mexico border.

House Bill 11 is the final piece of the massive $400 million effort aimed at securing the Texas-Mexico perimeter from human smuggling and cross-border traffic related crime. This bill also gives law enforcement the authority to set up unmarked checkpoints within 250 yards of the border that require DPS officers to screen for guns and illegal aliens handed to Mexico.

Dr. Josiah Heyman, professor of anthropology and director of the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies, said crime rates in the border region are at an all-time low and that the border security measure is moving the needed resources away from other parts of the state where crime rates are higher, such as in Odessa.

“The bill is trying to fix last year’s problems, while higher crime rates in the rest of Texas are not getting these deployments,” Heyman said.

In a press conference held earlier this month when he signed the bill, Abbott said there are more than 26,000 dangerous gang members associated with cross-border traffic-related crime in the Houston area and that the measure would allow the deployment of the National Guard on the Texas-Mexico border.

“Of the issues exist in the first place because we have a failed federal government that has refused to address the issues to tackle these problems,” Abbott said at the press conference. “These are national, federal-based issues that we demand the United States federal government address and solve.” Texas is doing what can be done by passing this border security plan.”

By creating a permanent presence of state troops along the Rio Grande border region, the plan would impose tougher penalties for human smuggling crimes, and expedite the hiring of up to 250 Texas Department of Public Safety officers with a specific emphasis on hiring military veterans who have been honorably discharged over the next two years.

“The U.S. side of the border is very, very safe because the crime literally stops at the bridge.”

-Drs. Josiah Heyman, Director Center for Inter-American and Border Studies

In addition, funding for the bill would include the development of a permanent $10 million international intelligence center which will be located in Hidalgo County on the border of South Texas to analyze the data.

Heyman said the measure could be problematic since it is shown that existing deployment of 1700 on the border has resulted in a increase in traffic tickets and those areas as well as deportations.

“Previous 1700 attempts have not been very efficient and it concerns me that a simple traffic stops can have a drastic outcome on our community,” Heyman said.

Among border cities, El Paso has managed to maintain a consistent rank of being one of the safest cities in the country with the lowest crime rate among larger cities.

Just last year, El Paso was ranked the number one safest city in America for the fourth year in a row, according to study completed by the CQ Press, which bases its calculations from crime rates reported for U.S. cities with populations of over 50,000 residents.

In fact, the independent research firm has consistently ranked the city of El Paso among the top three safest cities in the country since 1997.

“Many multi-disciplinary studies majoring in criminal justice and public policy feel the bill will help solve crime in some ways, but it is at the peril of us,” Heyman said.

“We already have border patrolled and police to take care of that. I don’t know why we need to spend money on more law enforcement, especially since border areas like El Paso are the safest in the country,” Heyman said.

Serrano also feels the bill was passed to stop illegal immigration in Texas and the United States primarily rather than for its purpose of reducing crime.

Heyman said the border is already being depicted as a dangerous region to reside in and the measure only adds to that stigma, which can damage the ability to attract tourists and maintain economic growth.

“If you see the news, you will hear that the border region is dangerous and it may be true, but on the Mexican side of the border,” Heyman said. “The US side of the border is very, very safe because the crime literally stops at the bridge.”

Opponents of increased border security spending demanded that DPS officers produce statistics to prove that the massive border surge was working. Since overnight optics to the border region and maintain the quality of public safety were dropped from the final draft when it went to the Senate, the department is only required to collect and release data on apprehensions and drug seizures performed by all law enforcement agencies participating in the surge including local and federal police.

According to reports collected from the Department of Public Safety, less than 10 percent of all arrests involved in smuggling crimes were made by DPS officers, while the remaining arrests were made by local law enforcement and customers and border protection agents.

Dr. Heyman said HB 11 is giving Texas its own version of a border patrol and feels the money should have been considered in other areas that could have benefited Texas and students in better ways.

“This is a lot of money that could have been used for other things such as health services and education to help improve quality of universities and help reduce the tuition costs for students,” Heyman said.

Verify sources may be reached at the prospectortx.com.
Would you step on the American flag as part of a demonstration?

DANIELA CONTRERAS
Senior organizational & corporate communication major
"I would never step on the American flag because it is extremely disrespectful to our nation and everything that the flag stands for."

ELIAS SANCEN
Freshman marketing major
"It's not correct because this nation is your home, even when in war you need to respect the flag."

DANIELA ALMERAZ
Junior pre nursing major
"I wouldn't step on the American flag because it represents a lot of faith in that flag and there are other ways you could go about how you feel in a more appropriate manner."

ESTEBAN ESPERO
Junior engineering leadership major
"No because it's disrespectful the flag, also soldiers because they go through so much to protect us."

FERNANDA FIERRO
Freshman business major
"It's wrong because it represents your country, and a lot of people have fought for the flag."

GENEVA NIETO
Junior health promotion major
"I wouldn't because I think there are alternatives to making a statement that does not involve being controversial and disrespectful."

HENRY RAYBUCK
Senior computer information systems major
A person that stomps on this symbol is going up on their right of freedom, being influenced to do wrong to what their past fathers have built from their sweat and blood.

PAULINA SARINANA
Freshman marketing major
"The flag represents the nation and stepping on it is wrong."

PATRICK MCCOY
Freshman computer science major
"Yes, I wouldn't step on the American flag simply because that act shows disrespect towards the country and which it stands for but also to the people who live in the U.S."

SANDRA COBOS
Senior health promotion major
"I think the flag represents our pride in being American and I believe it's immature to step on the flag as part of a demonstration."
Fourth of July celebrated the El Paso way

BY FERNANDA LEON
The Prospector

Objects of different materials, colors and sizes are what the recently opened Julia & Ernestina in Ciudad Juarez offers. The store carries diverse articles that come mostly from different Mexican companies and designers. "Julia & Ernestina is a new concept here in Ciudad Juarez," said Monica Renee Morales Gallo, owner of the store. "It offers you a different way to see things because we collect antiques."

For Morales, the store represents a huge achievement since it took many years for her to open the doors. She believes that being in the border area could result in a disadvantage. "Everyone runs to El Paso to buy things leaving Ciudad Juarez at a disadvantage," Morales said.

Morales said in order for Ciudad Juarez to resurge, money has to be circulating in the city and not outside. The store is named after the owner's grandmothers. According to Morales, her husband's family had the habit of naming their businesses after the women in the family.

What Julia & Ernestina offers are products made by different Mexican artisans, designers and companies that fill the store with unique products. All of the products come from different parts of Mexico. "We have two providers from the United States that provide us with replicas from antiques because we don't sell our antiques," Morales said. "There are big companies from the U.S. that send us vintage things or replicas that we sell."

Among the things that the store offers are many collectible items from Coca-Cola and the Mexican Lottery. "I have met collectors, a lot of collectors, for example, of the Mexican Lottery. The calacas is something that people come and search for all the time, it's something that I love and that I have," Morales said. "I also have a client who is a collector of Coca-Cola items."

Morales's family has a workshop where they fabricate furniture and fixtures that they sell at Julia & Ernestina. "I think the store is fabulous because it is one of a kind," Morales said. "There's nothing similar in the city and it has accessible prices and things that you don't find anywhere else if you want to know a little bit about Mexican traditions," said Karla Fonseca, a recent customer.

The result of the parade means that people in need will benefit.

- Manuel Papadakis, senior criminal justice major

The Prospector

Fernanda Leon can be reached at theprospectordaily@gmail.com

FOURTH OF JULY EVENTS
VIVA! El Paso
8:30 p.m. @ McKelligon Canyon Amphitheatre

Patricio Pups Parade
7 a.m. @ Franklin Mountain State Park

Fourth of July Parade
5 p.m. @ Ardovino's

Dancing in the City
7 p.m. @ Convention Center Plaza

White Sands Sunset Strolls
7 p.m. @ Dunes Drive at White Sands National Monument

Concordia Cemetery Ghost Tour
9 p.m. @ Cordondia Cemetery

Downtown Art & Farmers Market
9 a.m. @ Union Plaza District

Bug Fest
9 a.m. @ The El Paso Zoo

Laughter Yoga Club of El Paso
1 p.m. @ Dorris Van Doren Library Family Room

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Laughter Yoga Club of El Paso
Joe Barron Band gives the country music scene a new beat

BY JULIA HETTGER
The Prospector

What began as two bands playing together has resulted in one of El Paso’s fastest rising stars. Having shared a stage with musicians such as The Josh Abbott Band and Kenny Rogers, the local band and assayor of country music has taken El Paso by storm. The band began playing gigs in 2011, continuing to make a name for themselves by playing shows at local establishments. The Joe Barron Band is known for their covers of famous country songs as well as their own relatable, upbeat songs. The band is fronted by Joe Barron himself who got the idea to begin playing music while he was in college. “I learned guitar in college when I was 19 or 20 years old,” Barron said. “I was really influenced by George Strait, so I began playing.” The other members of the band include drummer Mikey Ferrington, bassist Nick Balanos and Mark Ramos, who plays electric guitar.

Before The Joe Barron Band got together, Barrons friends were in their own band, but after playing a few songs for them, the group decided to integrate him into their musical endeavor. “I got together with some buddies of mine, and one night I played them a couple of songs, and they started playing with me,” Barron said. “Essentially, it was two bands playing together.” Since then, they’ve merged into one rising country music favorite. “It took five years, but two bands formed into one,” Barron said. “I’ve had several different people playing with me, including my friend who is a bass player, in the beginning he promised to find me musician.”

Barron said he attributes choosing to play country music to the way he was raised. “I grew up listening to George Strait and other country artists,” Barron said. “My family listens to country music, it’s my number one go-to and it is all I listen to in the truck.” Besides listening to country music throughout his childhood, there were other influences on Barron that led him down the path to becoming a country artist. “My mom had horses, so I’ve been around that lifestyle all of my life,” Barron said. Before becoming a musician, Barron worked in an oil field. “I worked there for two years, and it was the hardest work I have ever done,” Barron said. “It makes me really appreciate what I am doing now.”

Barron said being a musician is the best job he could ever have. “The greatest thing about being a musician is I can make a living; there’s no a time to fire schedule and I have a lot of freedom,” Barron said. “I wouldn’t trade it for anything else.”

Even after six years of musicianship, Barron plans to continue playing with the band and furthering his career as a singer.

“I grew up listening to George Strait and other country artists.”

Joe Barron
local country band

“I’m auditioning for The Voice on July 26 in Los Angeles and I am not going up,” Barron said. “And I’m going to keep working hard at it and play as much as possible, and I plan on travelling outside of El Paso more.” You can catch The Joe Barron Band playing at the Cool Canyon Nights concerts at McKelligon Canyon or local bars such as Mark’s Cantina, Rock House and Yambolic. They will be opening for Thompson Square at Freedom Crossing at Fort Bliss on July 5. The band is also working on releasing their first ever music video. For more information about The Joe Barron Band, visit their Facebook page or go to reverbnation.com/joebarronband.

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BY LUIS GONZALEZ  
The Prospector

It is the norm that the dugout of a minor league baseball team is in constant flux. The El Paso Chihuahuas know that all too well, but this season they have also dealt with a change in coaching. After the Chihuahuas’ parent club, the San Diego Padres, fired their long-time manager Bud Black, El Paso’s manager Pat Murphy was called up to take the spot, leaving a void in the dugout. Jamie Quirk arrived in the Sun City last week to fill the void.

“When you’re in the minor leagues and player development you’re always striving to get back to the major leagues,” Quirk said. “Players are trying to get there and believe it or not managers and coaches are on that same path. So I’m excited to get to the Triple-A level.”

Quirk comes to El Paso from San Antonio where he was managing the Missions, the Padres’ Double-A affiliate. His life in baseball spans over 40 years, 18 of which he spent as a player in the Major Leagues.

Quirk was selected by the Kansas City Royals in the first round of the 1975 Draft with who he spent the majority of his career and won the 1985 World Series. When he retired in 1992, Quirk had played catcher for organizations like the St. Louis Cardinals, Chicago White Sox, New York Yankees, Oakland Athletics and Baltimore Orioles.

His experience in the dugout includes coaching positions in Major League baseball clubs and manager at the minor league level. He was a bench coach for the Colorado Rockies and Chicago Cubs, and a bullpen coach for the Houston Astros. Through out his travels, he has some familiarity with El Paso and its place in baseball.

“El Paso’s been a baseball town, a minor league city forever and very well respected,” Quirk said. “I think of baseball when I think of El Paso.”

As a manager he has been a part of the Padres’ organization for the last couple of years, starting at the One-A level, getting promoted to double-A and then Triple-A. His involvement with the organization will help the transition because of the familiarity he already has with the Chihuahuas roster.

“(I’m) very familiar (with the roster) because I was in major league camp and I think 95-98 percent were in major league camp” Quirk said.

“Tough everyone of them at one point, somehow, know them very well, familiar with all of them, so that part of it is very easy.”

Some Chihuahuas have already experienced being managed by Quirk outside of spring training. Pitchers Zach Segeria and Jay Jackson played in San Antonio while Quirk was managing the Missions.

Jackson was in San Antonio earlier this year before being called up to El Paso.

“It’s a player’s manager but, he wants you to get after it,” Jackson said. “It’s a double-edged sword. You’ve got the good parts about him, but then if you mess up, he’s right there to get in if you need to—if you need him too.”

Even though the main goal is getting guys ready to play at the top level, but winning will always be important.

“I think both are very important (winning and player development),” Quirk said. “Developing a player is absolutely critical, that’s what the number one goal is, but if there is 1 goal, it’s teaching them how to win else.”

In their short history, the Chihuahuas have had their share of both winning and losing. In their first season they finished with a .500 record and this year, after a great start, El Paso is back to .500 territory.

In his first home stand Quirk went 5-1 as the Chihuahuas hosted the Salt Lake Bees. After a day off, El Paso will host Albuquerque at Southwest University Park for a three-game series from June 23-24.

Coming up on the halfway point of the season, with first place in the division and a spot in the playoffs still within reach, Quirk is focused on both goal one and goal 1A.

“I’ve been fortunate to be in a lot of good teams over my career and I cross winning,” Quirk said.

Links featured may be visited at the preceding sportsprospector.com page.
Jallycia Pearson, more than a hometown hero

BY JUAN CARLOS NAVARRETE

When asked about Jallycia Pearson, the first thing that comes to UTEP fans’ minds is hometown and crowd favorite—but there is much more to her than that. The senior heptathlon athlete is a conference champion, has competed at nationals and leaves UTEP with a lot to be proud of.

Born in El Paso, N.C., Pearson attended high school in El Paso, where she started out with track and field. As a freshman at Coronado High School, her main focus had been playing basketball, but she expanded to track after listening to advice.

"My dad said I should try it after basketball season," Pearson said. During her time as a Thunderbird, Pearson excelled. Among her many accomplishments, Pearson led her team to a 1-5 District Championship in 2011. She did so by winning gold medals individually in the 100-meter hurdles, 300 hurdles, long jump and the triple jump. Her great performances that year would take her all the way to state competition.

Thanks to her success at Coronado, she was recruited to UTEP. Her versatility and experience with various events helped throughout her career as a Miner, especially in running the Heptathlon.

"I learned a lot," Pearson said. "It helped with self-confidence and taught me a lot.

Pearson has progressively improved with time and training. She began her career with middle to last finishes in conference, but quickly improved to excel at conference championships and earned the chance to compete at the national level.

After a 10th-place finish at the Outdoor Conference USA Championships in the heptathlon her freshman year, Pearson improved to fourth as a sophomore and finally landed on the podium with a bronze medal as a junior.

Her finest hour in the orange and blue came as a senior. She is part of a group of historic Miner athletes. She was part of the team that won the Conference USA Indoor Conference Championship. She helped the team by winning the pentathlon title for that meet.

During the outdoor season, despite an injury, Pearson was named on All American in the heptathlon.

At the Outdoor Conference Championships, she led the heptathlon throughout until the last event. She ended in second place, but had a personal best throughout the competition. Her performance landed her a spot at the NCAA Championships.

Pearson has earned top-10 achievements in the triple jump, both for indoor and outdoor track competitions. She has finished as high as 15th nationally in the heptathlon, and this last season she ended her career in the top 15 for the heptathlon.

"Being a student athlete was not easy," Pearson said. "It helped me live with my time management and my priorities—like should I go out or do my homework and all that."

Pearson is working on a kinesiology major with a minor in biology. She may apply to a physical therapy program, but she is also an athlete who could compete after college if she wanted to remain healthy enough.

Pearson can look back at her career at UTEP with pride. She is an All-American with top-10 finishes nation wide, her set two school records and was an important piece of what may be considered one of UTEP’s best women’s teams.

The Miners will surely miss her on the track.