The estimated effects a wall would have on the border

By Christian Vasquez

Donald Trump campaigned on putting up a "big beautiful wall" between the border of Mexico and the United States. On Jan. 25, President Trump started the process to begin construction with an executive order called "Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvement."

The act calls for the "immediate construction of a physical wall on the southern border" and is an expansion of the Secure Fence Act signed by former President Bush in 2006. The act also increases the number and operational capacities of detention facilities to "detain individuals apprehended on suspicion of violating federal or state law, including federal immigration law" and gets rid of the "catch and release" practice, where until an individual goes to immigration court they are not held in detainment facilities.

Sanctuary Cities

Trump also signed another executive order the same day called "Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States," which threatens so-called "sanctuary cities" by withholding federal funding if they do not comply with Immigration Customs Enforcement’s request of identifying and detaining all individuals who are undocumented. However, the vagueness of the term "sanctuary city" makes it difficult to tell which cities and towns will be affected by this order, and cities who are called sanctuary cities state that the local police force is not a federal agency and do not want to enforce federal law.

El Paso is considered a sanctuary city by some anti-immigration advocates because the El Paso Police Department does not specifically focus on finding undocumented individuals. However, El Paso does not consider itself to be one because it generally does honor requests to hold and detain certain undocumented immigrants.

In Texas, Governor Greg Abbott has said that he will oust any elected official who "promotes" so-called sanctuary city policies. He has also said he will cut funding for those cities.

"Many of those grants, a lot of people don't know this, especially in El Paso, $5.8 million that Gov. Abbott is threatening to take affecting children who are victims of child sex trafficking, women against violence, training programs for sheriff deputies and juvenile justice programs for kids," said Texas state Rep. Cesar Blanco at a recent legislative forum.

Cost of the wall

What the wall will look like or how much it will cost is not yet clear. President Trump's executive order is a step toward construction, but does not outline what form the wall will take. It defines the wall as "a contiguous, physical wall or other similarly secure, contiguous, and impassable physical barrier," but that can take as many forms as already exist in the more than 600 miles of walls, fences and posts that line the southern border.

"What the government hasn't told us is how much it's actually going to cost, so the estimates are between 10 and 40 billion dollars," said Josiah Heyman, director for UTEP’s Center of Inter-American and Border Studies.

While the cost may not be clear, the effectiveness of a large barrier to "maintain complete operational control of the southern border" is well documented.

"It's generally recognized by enforcement people inside the government, who have been quoted inside the newspapers many times, and those of us who are external experts on homeland security, that the fence slows people down, but it doesn't prevent them from crossing," Heyman said. "It's a big expensive multibillion dollar political symbol, not really an enforcement measure."

John Kelly, the newly appointed secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, said "a physical barrier in and see WALL on page 4."
Texas veterans in college can’t win for losing

BY JASON GREEN

The U.S. Supreme Court’s decision on Jan. 9 not to hear the case of a Georgia man who moved to Texas after his discharge from the army, then sued for inclusion in the state’s Hazlewood Act of 1923, has left Texas veterans in college to wonder how they can continue to have access to the education they seek.

The piece of legislation waives tuition at public state universities for honorably discharged military veterans—or their children—who enlisted in the military while living in Texas.

The fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had already ruled that it was acceptable only for Texas veterans to be included in receiving an education at Texas institutions tuition free. Personally, I can say that this was a relief. As a Texas veteran, I am counting on the Hazlewood Act to pay for my son’s higher education when the time comes, since my education is already paid for through the G.I. Bill and my Hazlewood Act money remains untouched.

Had the case been heard by the Supreme Court and the lower court’s ruling been overturned, the cost to the state of Texas for the Hazlewood Act—an estimated $380 million by 2019—could have balloononed even higher. Luckily, the Supreme Court decided that in this case it was acceptable for Texas to have something of its own.

Unfortunately, Texas Republicans decided not to leave this victory well enough alone. A bill introduced by Texas Senator Brian Birdwell, R-Grandbury, which did not pass last session would have drastically changed the Hazlewood Act to exclude more eligible people. This upcoming session, Republicans plan to attempt to change the Hazlewood Act in one way or another—to save Texas as much money as possible.

On the “Grand Old Party’s” website, the first page referencing veterans states, “we must honor those who served in the armed services to defend our freedom. The Republican Party is committed to providing our veterans the care and dignity they deserve.” It seems that Texas Republicans may not have read this portion of the GOP’s website.

Then again, if the president himself cannot be expected to read the veterans portion of the site, how can the members of the Texas House.

Just below the above statement is another statement that reads, “The Republican Party seeks to end the backlog in the Department of Veteran Affairs. Our veterans have earned our respect, and they shouldn’t have to wait in line for months or years just to see a doctor.”

How much does President Trump care about this portion of the GOP’s pledge to help veterans? Veterans who have waited for months on end to be seen at the VA hospital? Veterans who have committed suicide while waiting to be seen in the backlogged mental health clinics at the VA hospital? Veterans who have died from various diseases and sicknesses due to lack of treatment while waiting on the VA backlog?

Well, President Trump helped them by signing an executive order on his third day in office, which placed a freeze on the VA hiring any new employees to fill any of the 45,000 vacancies in the hospital system. Then again, as with everything so far during the Trump transition and flurry of executive orders, this order is also very confusing and may or may not be a complete hiring freeze.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs requested clarification—perhaps due to a lack of communication within the bureaucracy—and was told that some jobs were still eligible for hiring.

Point being, the GOP has a website with a lot of promises to veterans, none of which seem to be of any importance to the actual members of the GOP.

So now I must wonder if I need to save for my kids college. If a promise that was made to me and my fellow veterans years ago can be yanked out from under us by a group of Republicans, who would rather save money in this area than, I don’t know, maybe “tax credits for billion-dollar corporations, sales tax exemptions on gun sales, tax breaks for yacht buyers and billions on border security.”

Those were not my words, they are from state Representative Cesar Blanco, D-El Paso, who is also a veteran. In an article recently for the Texas Tribune, the UTEP alumna wrote that money could be taken from plenty of other places and that during the “last legislative session veterans were caught off guard by efforts to scale-back Hazlewood”

He stated that this session they would not be. He and his Democratic counterparts are ready to fight, and so should Texas veterans—for their own sake and the sake of their children’s education.

While we’re at it—we might as well be ready to fight against that other guy, who has no idea about this portion of the GOP’s commitment to veterans either.

By Jason Green on Twitter @greenevansj

You will pay me back for the wall

Tajada, That’s funny. I don’t even pay my own people.

–ALONZO MARTINEZ / THE PROSPERATOR

It’s true, Melaninhh

But no one looks like us

–JASON GREEN / THE PROSPERATOR

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Submit a letter to the editor!
Letters will be edited for clarity and brevity. Letters over 250 words will not be considered. Please include full name, street address and telephone number and email address, plus major, classification and/or title if applicable.
Address and phone number will be used for verification only.
Write to 105 E. Union, e-mail theprospector1@gmail.com, call 747-7477 or fax to 747-8031.

The Prospector is published by the Student Media and Publications Board, 105 Union East, 500 W. University Ave. El Paso, Texas, 79916.
The Prospector appears in print once per week on Tuesday during the fall, spring and summer semesters. The newspaper is not printed during holidays and when classes are not in session. The Prospector does provide news online at www.the prosperortoday.com.

The Prospector is provided to students through student fees. First copy is free. Any additional copies, if available, must be purchased for $1 through the Department of Student Media and Publications. The Prospector is not responsible for claims made by advertisers. Additional policy information may be obtained by calling The Prospector at 915-747-5161. Opinions expressed in The Prospector are not necessarily those of the university.
Border opens up to reunite families

By Michaela Román

While President Trump signed an executive order to move forward on building the wall, the Rio Grande at the U.S./Mexico border was open for hundreds of families reunited Saturday, Jan. 28. This is the third annual #HugsNotWalls event, hosted by the Border Network for Human Rights.

Undocumented immigrants living in El Paso and around the U.S. were able to see family members who could not afford visas. Some families had not seen each other for more than 20 years.

Fernando Garcia, executive director for BNHR described the event as a time of humanity and love.

"It's important to say it's also an act of protest because we need to bring attention to those families that have been in detention, deported and separated from their family members," Garcia said.

El Paso County Judge Veronica Escobar described this past presidential election as a heartbreaking era for our country.

"What I want everyone to understand, those people who are not from the border is that there is not one single man in the White House and no political party that can change the facts and the truth about the border," Escobar said.

Follow Michaela Román on Twitter @michaaaela_
Asylum seekers are actually including the number counted as an arrest, which distorts are asylum seekers, they are still 39,528 arrests.

Although some immigrants are seeking asylum, they are still running away from law enforcement activities of immigration, but toward it. Asylum seekers, the majority of those wishing to immigration, but toward it. Asylum seekers, they are not the simple reason that they are not arriving at the border. The wall will also have a significant effect when it comes to immigration, it gets the most attention. The second execu- tion order President Trump signed that day will actually have a broader and larger impact.

As of now, there are immigration cases that have a backlog of over 400 days. That is because the immigra- tion court does not have enough re- sources to get through the amount of asylum seekers and other immigra- tion cases.

Asylum seekers are seeking refuge from gang violence, sexual assault and poverty and have been on the rise since the 1990s.

Trump's executive order at- tempts to curb this difficulty by increasing the total amount of border patrol officers and immi- gration and customs enforcement agents by 15,000.

This increase will be one of the largest since the early 2000s, when his former President Bush made the Customs and Border Protection agency the largest federal enforce- ment agency in the country.

The move by Bush also had the unintended consequence of in- creasing the number of abuses by immigration agents and by customs and border protection officers at the ports of entry. According to an investigative report by Politico, be- tween 2005 and 2012 there was an arrest each day for misconduct by border patrol agents.

James Tomsheck, former chief of internal affairs with Customs and Border protection, told the Center for Investigative Reporting that corrup- tion "was an undetected problem and more coercive criminal organiza- tions into the business of human smuggling. When building a bigger, longer wall does is simply reward the people who can bypass it more.

This has been known for a number of years now (that) the majority of people arriving at the border are not Mexicans—they’re Central Ameri- cans,” Heyman said. “They’re arriv- ing for asylum. They’re not arriving simply as unauthorized workers, and they’re literally not blocked by this enforcement mechanism. It’s not like they’re not prevented from coming into the wall, because what they do is walk up to law enforcement officers and surrender.”

**“It’s a big expensive multibillion dollar political symbol, not really an enforcement measure.”**

Josiah Heyman Center for Interamerican and Border Studie

The total number of undocu- mented immigrants from Mexico has been in steady decline since 2007, according to the Pew Re- search Center. While the number of asylum seekers from Central America seeking refuge from gang violence, sexual assault and poverty have been on the rise since the 1990s.

President Trump’s wall will in- stead force those who are not seek- ing asylum to take more drastic measures across more desolate re- gions and by paying more money to coyotes, who smuggle people across the border.

“Now you have this much more vul- nerable and more desperate people who don’t have the same connections,” Hey- man said. “They have (an) increasing entry of scarier and more sophisticated and more coercive criminal organiza- tions into the business of human smuggling. When building a bigger, longer wall does is simply reward the people who can bypass it more.”

Left behind Left to the whims of the changing executive are those who have been separated from their families for years, even decades. The Correa family has been sepa- rated by the US/Mexico border for more than 10 years. Getting the right paperwork is ofter a matter of time, often decades, as well as a matter of money. Hugo Cor- rea has not been able to change his status since crossing the border, and has since remained separated from his family.

“We got together and he came over here, and I’ve been trying to get pa- perwork for him, but it’s very dif- ficult,” said Claudia Correa, Hugo’s wife.

The Correa family was briefly re- united due to the #HugsNotWalls event on Saturday, Jan. 28, where families who live on opposite sides of the wall could meet for three minutes without fear of deportation. Mariela Ramos had only seen her Dad once when she was 7 years old, about 25 years ago.

“I’m really excited, I’m so pleased that they did this event. I mean he’s really sick and it was important for him going to see him again,” Ramos said.

It was third time #HugsNotWalls was able to cross barriers and bring families together, but thousands are not as lucky as the Correa family or Mariela Ramos.
Do you do your own taxes, if not who does?

ALONZO MARTINEZ, CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ, ANDREW RIOS, NINA TITOVETS / THE PROSPECTOR

AIDE ESCANUELA
Junior geological science major
“Yes I do my own taxes through the Turbo Taxes app, it makes it easy and simple.”

DANIEL SEYFFERT
Senior computer science major
“No, I have never done my taxes before.”

CRYSTAL CORRAL
Junior graphic design major
“I don’t do my own taxes; we do them as a family.”

ERNesto SANTILLAN
Junior digital media production major
“I have an uncle that does taxes, so he gets my taxes done for me.”

GeORGINA MARTINEZ
Sophomore social work major
“I work in Juárez. Over there I pay my taxes every two months so I don’t have to pay it once a year, and I do my taxes here too.”

Coalition helps low-income families do their taxes for free

BY GREGIA SANCHEZ
The Prospector

For the third consecutive year, UTEP will offer free tax assistance through the Coalition for Family Economic Progress, GECU, IRS, EPISD and the El Paso Collaborative among others partnered with UTEP to prepare basic tax returns for families with a combined annual household income of up to $54,000.

CFEP works as an alternative for the community to help prepare taxes up until the April 18 deadline. CFEP will be open to UTEP students Saturdays from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Roquillas Hall located in Miner Canyon. The service will only be provided to those who are filing married, jointly, as head of household or single. According to Carmen Gonzalez, the program manager for Outreach and Student Access at UTEP, CFEP does not serve married couples filing separately because both parties need to be present.

They all go to a process of not only the person that enters the information, but there is a quality reviewer that goes through the application as well, and after everything is good to go, then the system actually goes to another diagnostic to make sure that everything is correct,” Gonzalez said. “Then it is submitted electronically and then, within a certain period of time, the system will actually come back and let you know that it has been accepted.”

Gonzalez said in the case of a mistake, the IRS can send it back to the site coordinator to fix. CFEP functions depending on the registered volunteers on behalf of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. Gonzalez first started reaching out to find volunteers at UTEP last year.

“We thought it would be really great if we could host it here at UTEP, if we could find the place, so that we could serve our UTEP community and the surrounding community,” Gonzalez said. “We are preparing for this upcoming season and hoping to partner to collaborate with the same entities or the same different departments.”

Carlos Rodriguez, a master’s student in business administration, has been volunteering with VITA for four years. He will run a site for the upcoming tax service at UTEP.

“I started in my sophomore year here at UTEP and I have just been doing it.”

see TAXES on page 6
It feels rewarding to help other people out. A lot of times you get people who don’t really know much about their taxes so they end up going just anywhere,” Rodriguez said. “They get refunds of maybe $800 and they end up paying like $300 to other people that offer them to prepare their taxes.”

Rodriguez said he has gained a lot of experience from VITA such as learning how to deal with people and how to handle all the tax information.

“When you do take accounting, you take tax law, business law, things like that. So the first time that I was actually volunteering, I was actually taking a tax law course. So it went hand in hand,” Rodriguez said. “I’ve gotten as an education, and it always feels great to be able to give back by helping others go in the right direction.”

“I have marketed myself to just let people know that I help with taxes and that I can do your taxes. To gain more experience, I would not only benefit me, but benefit others that I’m helping too,” Graell said.

“There’s nothing we can do when donators choose the students want to support,” Dodd said. Dodd said she would like to provide students with more scholarships even with the increase in budget she has seen since she first started working at UTEP.

“Tuition was already going to increase significantly that year so I didn’t want to add to that,” Dodd said. “I was going to wait for another year or two, when hopefully it wasn’t going to go up too much so I could add a little more.”

Dodd said she will try again during the next budget cycle, which will be analyzed by the UT system and UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

“I know students have to deal with increasing tuition all the time so I would hate to do that. But maybe a very minimal fee just to get enough to start a foundation endowment, which usually takes a minimum of $25,000, but that only funds one student,” Dodd said.

Scholarmine plans to make scholarships more accessible

Scholarmine plans to make scholarships more accessible

BY KYLE DELGADO

Students can find new scholarship opportunities through ScholarMine, an online portal created by the Office of Scholarships at UTEP.

“We are using ScholarMine to help promote all of the scholarship opportunities that we know about, that we research, not just institutional scholarships but outside external scholarships,” said Elizabeth Dodd, director of Office of Scholarships.

Dodd said this portal was created to decrease the time students take to find a scholarship and to increase the number of students with scholarship money.

“Since I started working here, our funding has grown steadily,” Dodd said. “But what I kept hearing over and over again talking to students when they come to visit us is that they were not aware of the different scholarship opportunities they had.”

Dodd said her department will be contacting UTEP departments and colleges to help facilitate the process of finding a scholarship.

“Sometimes they have scholarships that they know of and they don’t tell us about,” Dodd said. “Hopefully they’ll start using it, and now we can advertise all scholarship information in one central location.”

Some students at UTEP said they have not heard about this new portal.

“No, so this is the first time I’ve heard about it,” said Katrina Unger, freshman in chemical engineering major. “I suppose it’s for that (not enough advertisement); they don’t do as much advertising they do for other things.”

Dodd said the hopes students will use this portal and apply for as many scholarships as possible and to not assume they will not qualify because of their citizenship or GPA.

“Many of the times students don’t even bother to look for scholarships, they think that all scholarships have a certain GPA requirement or a certain citizenship requirement,” Dodd said. “Not all scholarships ask for those things.”

Arturo Schiaffino, a mechanical engineering graduate student, said international students do not receive the same scholarship opportunities compared to US nationals.

“As a Mexican student in UTEP I feel there is not enough economic support for Mexican students,” Schiaffino said. “This could be fixed with more diffusion on the current available scholarships.”

All funding for scholarships at UTEP comes from donations made by alumni, foundations and corporations among other sources. Those donors select the recipients that have to be met and the students eligible to receive the money.

“It’s up to them what type of student they want to support and sometimes it is a US citizen, a certain major or classification, and sometimes it’s open to everyone,” Dodd said. “There’s nothing we can do when donators choose the students they want to support.”

Dodd has considered a possible tuition fee increase, which would go directly to scholarships, she said this would allow UTEP to offer their own scholarships.

When tuition increased in 2016, a possible fee increase from the scholarship office was being considered by Dodd since all the money comes from donors, but she decided to wait.

“Tuition was already going to increase significantly that year so I didn’t want to add to that,” Dodd said. “I was going to wait for another year or two, when hopefully it wasn’t going to go up too much so I could add a little more.”

Dodd said she will try again during the next budget cycle, which will be analyzed by the UT system and UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

“I know students have to deal with increasing tuition all the time so I would hate to do that. But maybe a very minimal fee just to get enough to start a foundation endowment, which usually takes a minimum of $25,000, but that only funds one student,” Dodd said.

Schiaffino thinks adding a fee to tuition would help students who have high economic needs.

“It would also promote a culture of solidarity between all of us,” Schiaffino said.

For more information, contact the scholarship office at 915-747-5478 or via email at scholar@utep.edu.
Carnage returns to El Paso with special guests

By Mike Flores

DJ Carnage is making his way to El Paso for his RARE tour on Feb. 3, starting at 7 p.m. at the El Paso County Coliseum. Diamante Anthony Blackmon, known as Carnage onstage, is from Guatemala City and fell in love with deep house in high school, when his mom and stepdad gave him music software to toy around with. Blackmon’s first move was to produce on the software and share it with his followers on his MySpace page.

After experimenting with putting his music on MySpace, Blackmon’s work slowly started getting noticed. Blackmon eventually dropped out during his 10th-grade year in high school to pursue his career in the music industry, after the hip-hop duo, The Catacacts, took interest in one of his beats on social media.

Quickly chasing his dreams, Blackmon traveled to Los Angeles in hopes of taking his next leap in the art of deep house.

However, his visions did not go as planned. Blackmon had no other choice but to move back in with his family, who did not support his decision to quit school in the first place, and he planned to start hitting the books again.

But this didn’t mean that Blackmon ever gave up. He remixed ASAP Rocky’s “Big Spender” and that’s when Blackmon became known as Carnage. Carnage was put on the map after the Trinidadian-rapper, Theophilus London, released the remix on his Rose Island Vol. 1 mixtape.

Now Carnage has produced his first studio album, “Papi Gordo,” and has claimed a spot on DJMags first studio album, “Papi Gordo,” and has claimed a spot on DJMags

Top 100 DJs for three-straight years. Carnage is responsible for two top 100 singles: “I Like Tuh” and “November Skies.”

The 26-year-old DJ is known for his ability to combine electronic beats, house music and trap beats along with hip-hop trends in his work. Carnage has performed live in prestigious events such as Tomorrowland, Ultra Music Festival and Neon Desert.

El Paso loves their EDM music, and DJ Carnage does not disappoint. Other EDM DJs such as Tiësto, Hardwell, Headhunterz and Borgore have combined their music with Carnage. Rappers like ASAP Ferg, Migos, Young Thug, G-Eazy, Lil Uzi Vert and others have made their music with Carnage working his skills on the turntable.

For the special guest appearance in Carnage’s RARE show on Friday, the up-and-coming hip-hop artist Lil Yachty has confirmed his talents will be present on center stage.

The two have collaborated to produce “Maze in 97.” But that is not the only contribution Yachty could bring to the Sun City, his hits “One Night,” “Minnesota” and “Broccoli” will likely be played for the audience in the fan dance. Lil Yachty let his fans know how excited he is to perform for his first time in El Paso via Instagram. The rapper posted a picture of the lineup and captioned, “I can’t wait to party with you El Paso.”

Opening up the night with GTA, Boombox Cartel, SuperDuperKyle, Junkie Kid and Skellism will be a treat the coliseum has stirred up for El Passians.

Tickets range anywhere from $20 to $45 at Ticketmaster or at the box office at the Coliseum.

It’s not the DJs first time in the border city. Carnage tweeted on Jan. 17, in anticipation of the concert, “Rare El Paso is about to be such a life changing experiment… I’m so excited.”

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @MikeTheReal

DJ Carnage will be at the El Paso County Coliseum Feb. 3, at 7 p.m.
El Paso-born playwright returns home

BY ANDREW RIOS

On Feb. 2, students will be able to join nationally known playwright Octavio Solis in a rare opportunity to discuss his works in a Q&A session followed by a reading of his hit play “Lydia” at the UTEP Fox Fine Arts Building first floor studio theater at 6:30 p.m.

Solis is recognized by many in the theater and Latino community for many of his contributions such as winning national awards like the National Latino Playwriting Award and Henry Award for Outstanding New Play, and through his most successful play “Lydia,” which has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Solis has had his performances shown at A-list theaters across the nation. Some of those plays include “Lydia,” “Santos & Santos” and “Man of the Flesh.”

Born in El Paso in 1958, Solis’ passion for theater was sparked at 14 years old when he joined the theater at 6:30 p.m. He pursued his dream and earned a Masters of Fine Arts at Trinity University in Dallas. Solis began as an actor and writer, but when casting directors became more interested in his writing than in his acting, he became a playwright.

In Dallas, Solis began to feel he was hitting a glass ceiling, and considered moving to Chicago or New York, where there are larger theater communities, but ultimately he wanted “to go to a place with more of a Mexican-American experience” and decided to settle in San Francisco.

Growing up on the Borderland and having been born to immigrant parents left a large impression on Solis. His plays are often based on his own experiences in El Paso and his background in the Mexican-American culture. Solis describes growing up in El Paso as being able to see the first and third-world from his backyard. The playwright writes these stories not because of his Latino heritage, but rather because they are the stories of where he was born, and Solis believes the border region is filled with untold stories. Underneath the surface of the Mexican-American culture, his plays consist of the same universal themes of love and loss.

The UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance will be performing Solis’ most critically acclaimed play this spring—“Lydia.” The play is about the Flores family, who migrated from Mexico to the United States, similar to Solis’ upbringing. The play focuses on the Flores’ disabled teen-aged daughter and their undocumented maid Lydia.

The play explores the struggle of being an immigrant on the Texas-Mexico border in addition to the abilities and challenges facing them and their daughter and their perseverance of the American Dream despite their situation. Lydia also explores the themes of family, sex and homophobia. The mood can be described as funny, but incredibly dark and disturbing at the same time.

Solis will be at UTEP Feb. 2-3 to discuss his work. Both events will be at UTEP’s Fox Fine Arts Building first floor studio theater at 6:30 p.m. Solis has asked that there is limited seating available.

Centennial Museum exhibit celebrates Isleta Pueblo history

BY LESLIE SARIÑANA

The Centennial Museum unveiled an exhibit showcasing the history of the Isleta Pueblo tribe called “Time Exposures: Picturing a History of Isleta Pueblo in the 19th Century.” A portion of the exhibit is dedicated to the local Tigua Tribe from the Yeleta/Isleta cultures.

Th e exhibition was organized by the National Museum of the American Indian. It explores the struggle of the Isleta Pueblo in the 19th century—to commemorate the museum’s 80th anniversary. The exhibition was organized by the Pueblo of Isleta tribe in New Mexico.

The exhibit included photographs of the people and drawings that depicted the beginnings of the tribe and their way of living. The Isleta and Yelta tribes are sister tribes, and the photographs captured a timeline of their cultures and how they have evolved after separating.

UTEP sophomore, a double major in psychology and theater, Stephanie Paz, said this exhibit makes her proud to be a Tigua. She said this exhibit is rewarding and it is important because it marks as one of the first steps to raise awareness about the Ysleta/Isleta cultures. She has grown up on the Socorro reservation her whole life and has been an active member of the Tigua community.

Business & Liberal Arts Career Fair

Thursday, February 2, 2017

Engineering & Science Career EXPO

Friday, February 3, 2017

9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Union Bldg. East, 3rd Floor

Network with employers and learn about internship and full-time job opportunities all in one location, UTEP campus!

For more info visit utep.edu/careers

THE PROSPECTOR JANUARY 31, 2017

BY ANDREW RIOS / THE PROSPECTOR

BY LESLIE SARIÑANA

To have something at UTEP, where 24,000 students can go see, is super rewarding for us...

“”

- Stephanie Paz, sophomore double major in psychology and theater

“We have our cultural center down in Ysleta, but not a lot of people visit it. We don’t have a lot of tourists go and see the cultural center and our museum there,” said Paz. “To have something at UTEP, where 24,000 students can go see, is super rewarding for us because we’ve been here for so long and it wasn’t until recently through casino culture that people learned about Tigua Indians, and not necessarily our culture or the history behind them.”

Paz also said that UTEP does not do a good job of including Native Americans. She said that most Native Americans decide to go to school outside of El Paso because UTEP does not offer any scholarships or programs that highlight Native Americans. Many Tiguas decide to attend the University of New Mexico because they offer programs that celebrate their culture and exclusive scholarships for Native Americans. She said that slowly changes for Native Americans are being made at UTEP. This is exciting is a start.

The exhibit will be on display in all three galleries of the museum’s main floor through June 3
On Monday, Jan. 30, former UTEP women’s basketball star Jenell Nash, her fiancé Terrance Yelder and five others were taken into custody by federal agents.

A federal grand jury recently indicted the five on five counts of conspiracy to commit bank fraud and several counts of false statements.

The indictments state that the defendants conspired from July 31, 2013 to March 22, 2016 to defraud financial institutions across the country out of $257,000, without specifying who on the indictment did what action or received how much money.

According to Nash, this is what made her want to speak out the most.

“The media are making it seem like I just walked into a bank and got $257,000, when it was a car loan and a bike loan that are already paid off,” said Nash. “So, I didn’t do anything wrong other than working at Chubby’s.”

The Chubby’s that Nash is talking about is Chubby’s Bistro Deli, formerly at 2400 N. Oregon St., right outside the UTEP campus. The sandwich shop was a favorite of UTEP students and boosters, as well as the athletic department, who often served Chubby’s sandwiches at functions and to the media prior to athletic events.

Chubby’s Bistro Deli is closed now, and it’s last owners, according to papers filed with the city, were Quy-van Bui, Gerald Marr and Ann Crowe; all names unfamiliar to anyone who has done business with Chubby’s in the past.

That is because the actual owner was the main person named in the grand jury indictment, Michael Annabi. Like the people who appear to have owned Chubby’s during its last year of existence, it appears that perhaps a lot of people around him may not have fully known him.

“Mikey (Annabi) always treated me like a little brother. He always asked me, did I want to go with him and his family on vacation. He always looked out for me when he could, maybe I didn’t have enough money for something I needed, he would give it to me,” said Terrance Yelder, who worked at Chubby’s along with Nash. “But, the only reason we were involved (in the indictment) is because we worked for him.”

Yelder said that he and Nash often felt like family when with Annabi. Nash and Yelder are the only two people named in the indictment who are not actually related to Annabi, according to Yelder.

Nash has not played for the UTEP women’s basketball team this season as a result of an unreported violation of team rules. According to Nash, she was suspended when she began to be uncooperative with the investigation into her and her boyfriend, alleged bank fraud.

“I was a witness up until November, when I got kicked off my team because I didn’t go to a third meeting, with the FBI, so after that I became a suspect,” said Nash. “They wanted me to tell them things about Mikey (Annabi) that I do not know.”

All Nash does know is that she got two loans, one for a car and one for a motorcycle. According to Nash, they have both been paid off. Also according to Nash, Annabi’s name was not on either of the loans.

“No just that I worked there,” was Nash’s response when asked if his name was used on the loan paperwork. “He (Annabi) wasn’t there either.”

UTEP women’s basketball head coach Keith Adams has continued to offer verbal support for Nash, yet it is unable to comment specifically on her situation. She stands by the team’s earlier statement that she was suspended for an unspecified violation of team rules.

“I’m going to say my prayers for things to go well for Jenell. I care about Jenell. That’s probably more than what I’m supposed to say, but I’m just going to say my prayers and wish for the best,” said Adams upon the announcement of the indictment. “I’m not going to get into anything and I really can’t elaborate any more than that.”

Nash is officially off the basketball team at this point. She has already earned her degree in criminal justice and was working on her master’s in leadership studies. Her goal before all of this was to be a police detective. Yelder is worried about that goal now.

“She feels like her life is over as far as being a detective,” said Yelder. “Only thing we can do is keep God first and pray for the best.”

Follow Jason Green on Twitter @greenevansj

JASON GREEN

The UTEP football team will hold a signing day luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 1, where members of the Miner Athletics and administration, coaches, staff, and public media will hear head coach Sean Kugler talk about the players who have committed that day to play for the Miners for the next few years.

The players who will put pen to paper on Wednesday have already given a verbal commitment to Kugler and his staff, but could still back out up until the papers are faxed into the athletic department. This year’s class is not flashy by any stretch of the word, but definitely fills the needs and could surprise—as Kugler’s recruiting classes have been known to do—few years down the road.

Last year’s recruiting class was ranked eighth in Conference USA by Rivals.com, the highest ranking for a Kugler recruiting class during his tenure at UTEP. The results may not have shown in the win column, but there was some impressive play from members of the recruiting class, including running back Quadrac WR and receiver Dawn. Wadley and receiver would have been a kicker this season, but was ruled out due to a season-ending injury. Kavika Johnson entered the transfer portal in mid-2016 and has remained committed to the Miners throughout the 2016 football season.

Another area of great need for the Miners, especially in Kugler’s system, is the absence of Aaron Jones, the fullback position. Darrin Laufasa has graduated and will last the NFL waters as well and leaves a large hole in the UTEP backfield. Only two weeks ago, Forest McKee, a linebacker from Northeast High in Las Cruces enters another year as a Miner.

Quarterback problems continued to plague the Miners last season as Boise State transfer Zach Greenlee began the season under center and lost the job following an injury to Ryan Metz. The same thing happened the previous season when Mack Leftwich season ended due to injury and Metz took over. This season, Metz may just go into spring camp as the presumptive starter, so it will not be for the Miners bringing in yet another quarterback.

Quarterback problems continued to plague the Miners last season as Boise State transfer Zach Greenlee began the season under center and lost the job following an injury to Ryan Metz. The same thing happened the previous season when Mack Leftwich season ended due to injury and Metz took over. This season, Metz may just go into spring camp as the presumptive starter, so it will not be for the Miners bringing in yet another quarterback.

Alex Fernandes from Austin Vandegrift High School is a three-star rated and 24/7 Sports, who had offers from Holy Cross and Princeton as well as receiving interest from Kansas, Kansas State, SMU and Southern Miss. Based on 247 Sport’s rankings, Fernandes would rank as the highest recruit in the class of 2017 for the Miners. The 6-foot-4, 195-pound pro-style quarterback threw for 1,559 yards and 13 touchdowns during the 2016 season. Fernandes committed all the way back in mid-2016 and has remained committed to the Miners throughout the 2016 football season.

Some Miners surprise pop-up on sign- ing day and players who were initially committed to other schools can change their commitment at the last minute. During Kugler’s time at UTEP, the team has avoided being the team being abandoned at the last minute for the most part.

A surprise or two could go a long way toward helping the Miners’ standing in the recruiting class rankings. As it stands, the class is ranked 14th, last in C-USA by 247 Sports, heading into Wednesday’s signing day.
The UTEP club hockey team has been nothing short of remarkable in their second year. Rebounding from a rough 2015-2016 first season, the team has done battle against the likes of Texas A&M, Texas and New Mexico among others.

The Miners started their season with a 5-1 win versus Texas Christian University, notching a second win against TCU and defeating North Texas before dropping their fifth game to Texas A&M. The Miners did not look back after that, rolling to a 22-2 mark by mid-January.

The Miners lost to Northern Arizona, before succeeding in revenge with back-to-back 8-5 and 9-1 victories against said club.

The UTEP team has been led by Jeramy Rezaeepour, sophomore business major, who leads the team in points, with 34 goals and 33 assists. Lukas Znosko, sophomore kinesiology major, leads the team in goals with 37 and has added 28 assists. In goal, Aleksander Lazarski, sophomore biochemistry major, has been consistent, with a goals against average of 2.49.

The Miners are averaging over six goals a game, and have scored goals in all but one game, greatly reducing the strain on Lazarski in the net.

Fresh off an 8-2 win versus Grand Canyon University and sitting at 26-3, the Miners look to close out the season strong before they host the Texas Collegiate Hockey Conference (TCHC) tournament Feb. 9-11. All but one spot in the first-ever championship tournament has been claimed, with UTEP and Dallas Baptist in the no. 1 and no. 2 seeds.

“The support of UTEP and the city of El Paso has been amazing,” coach Tom Herman said, alluding to the sizable crowds that the team has seen at home multiple times this season. “It’s been a great season, but it’s not over yet. We are looking forward to the challenges ahead.”

The Miners will look to ensure their finishes in the top 12 regionally, and they currently sit at no. 10. They will close out the regular season with back-to-back home games versus New Mexico, Feb. 3 and 4.

Facing the Lobos the team will see an opponent that gave them close games in two previous meetings. Meeting back in November in Albuquerque, the Miners won by scores of 3-2 and 6-4. The Lobos have played UTEP closer than any other squad on their schedule.

UNM is 12-4-5, and as hockey goes, overtime games occupy the third column if lost. New Mexico is led in goals by Nate Taglialegami, who has 14 goals and 14 assists. Austin Short and Graeme Chaisson are also major contributors, with 28 and 26 points, respectively.

These last two games should be a great end-of-the-regular season test for the Miners as they prepare themselves for the TCHC tournament.

The Miners will look to ensure their finish in the top 12 regionally, and they currently sit at no. 10. They will close out the regular season with back-to-back home games versus New Mexico, Feb. 3 and 4.

The Miners are averaging over six goals a game, and have scored goals in all but one game, greatly reducing the strain on Lazarski in the net.

Fresh off an 8-2 win versus Grand Canyon University and sitting at 26-3, the Miners look to close out the season strong before they host the Texas Collegiate Hockey Conference (TCHC) tournament Feb. 9-11. All but one spot in the first-ever championship tournament has been claimed, with UTEP and Dallas Baptist in the no. 1 and no. 2 seeds.

“The support of UTEP and the city of El Paso has been amazing,” coach Tom Herman said, alluding to the sizable crowds that the team has seen at home multiple times this season. “It’s been a great season, but it’s not over yet. We are looking forward to the challenges ahead.”

The Miners will look to ensure their finishes in the top 12 regionally, and they currently sit at no. 10. They will close out the regular season with back-to-back home games versus New Mexico, Feb. 3 and 4.

Facing the Lobos the team will see an opponent that gave them close games in two previous meetings. Meeting back in November in Albuquerque, the Miners won by scores of 3-2 and 6-4. The Lobos have played UTEP closer than any other squad on their schedule.

UNM is 12-4-5, and as hockey goes, overtime games occupy the third column if lost. New Mexico is led in goals by Nate Taglialegami, who has 14 goals and 14 assists. Austin Short and Graeme Chaisson are also major contributors, with 28 and 26 points, respectively.

These last two games should be a good end-of-the-regular season test for the Miners as they prepare themselves for the TCHC tournament.

Admission is free for UTEP students with a valid student ID. The Miners play their home games at El Paso County Events Center.

Follow Augie Touris on Twitter @atouris85
Men’s basketball heating up in time for Blazers visit

BY JEREMY CARRANCO

The UTEP men’s basketball team is undefeated (3-0) at home in Conference-USA play and will play their next four games at home. The Miners (6-14, 4-4 C-USA) need to continue the home cooking in hopes of staying within the top half of the conference standings. Currently, UTEP sits in a tie with UTSA for the seventh spot.

Conference-USA will only be taking the top 12 of the total 14 C-USA teams into their tournament this season. The Miners are coming off their first road win of the season this past Saturday night with a blowout against Marshall, 91-68, in Huntington, WV. There is no question this was UTEP’s biggest win of the season as they entered the night as 14-point underdogs. UTEP shot an impressive 58 percent from the floor as four Miners scored in double-digits, with center Matt Willms and guard Dominic Artis combining for 49 points, 11 rebounds and four assists.

UTEP has now won four of their last five games since losing 12 straight. Head coach Tim Floyd called this five-game stretch, after the UTSA win on Jan. 21, “challenging,” with high praise for league frontrunners Middle Tennessee and UAB, who live with the physical Blazers, who live with the physical Blazers, who live with the physical Blazers.

Second place UAB (14-8, 7-2 C-USA) is first with a visit Thursday night with a blowout against Mar- shall, 91-68, in Huntington, WV. There is no question this was UTEP’s biggest win of the season as they entered the night as 14-point underdogs. UTEP shot an impressive 58 percent from the floor as four Miners scored in double-digits, with center Matt Willms and guard Dominic Artis combining for 49 points, 11 rebounds and four assists.

UTEP has now won four of their last five games since losing 12 straight. Head coach Tim Floyd called this five-game stretch, after the UTSA win on Jan. 21, “challenging,” with high praise for league frontrunners Middle Tennessee and UAB, who live with the physical Blazers, who live with the physical Blazers.

Second place UAB (14-8, 7-2 C-USA) is first with a visit Thursday night with a blowout against Marshall.

UTEP has now won four of their last five games since losing 12 straight. Head coach Tim Floyd called this five-game stretch, after the UTSA win on Jan. 21, “challenging,” with high praise for league frontrunners Middle Tennessee and UAB, who live with the physical Blazers, who live with the physical Blazers.

Second place UAB (14-8, 7-2 C-USA) is first with a visit Thursday night with a blowout against Marshall.

The Miners can’t let the Blazers have their way easily from the outside either. UAB has been hot from behind the arc in their last three games, shooting an overall 55 percent. Young freshman guard Nate Darling was surprising in the Blazers’ win against Southern Mississippi. Dar-ling came off the bench to lead all UAB scorers with 20 of the total 43 bench points for the Blazers, nailing seven of 10 shot attempts and six of nine from behind the arc.

During halftime of the UAB game, UTEP will honor Jeep Jackson, one of the Miners’ all-time greatest icons from the 1980s. Jackson passed away suddenly at the age of 23 after playing in a benefit basketball game for the Miners on May 15, 1987.

Following UAB, UTEP will welcome first-place Middle Tennessee Saturday, Feb. 4, to the Don Haskins Center. Tip offs this week will be different than the normal 7 p.m. UAB will be set for a special 8 p.m. tip off, and Middle Tennessee at an earlier 6 p.m. tip off.

The UTEP men’s basketball team is currently in the top 12 in Conference-USA and in a tournament spot. The Miners are coming off their first road win of the season this past Saturday night with a blowout against Marshall, 91-68, in Huntington, WV. There is no question this was UTEP’s biggest win of the season as they entered the night as 14-point underdogs. UTEP shot an impressive 58 percent from the floor as four Miners scored in double-digits, with center Matt Willms and guard Dominic Artis combining for 49 points, 11 rebounds and four assists.

UTEP has now won four of their last five games since losing 12 straight. Head coach Tim Floyd called this five-game stretch, after the UTSA win on Jan. 21, “challenging,” with high praise for league frontrunners Middle Tennessee and UAB, who live with the physical Blazers, who live with the physical Blazers.

Second place UAB (14-8, 7-2 C-USA) is first with a visit Thursday night, Feb. 2 at the Don Haskins Center. The Blazers are a hot team as well of which the Miners will be playing in Tennessee, UAB and Louisiana Tech, all for league frontrunners Middle Tennessee. The Miners are coming off their first road win of the season this past Saturday night with a blowout against Marshall, 91-68, in Huntington, WV. There is no question this was UTEP’s biggest win of the season as they entered the night as 14-point underdogs. UTEP shot an impressive 58 percent from the floor as four Miners scored in double-digits, with center Matt Willms and guard Dominic Artis combining for 49 points, 11 rebounds and four assists.

UTEP has now won four of their last five games since losing 12 straight. Head coach Tim Floyd called this five-game stretch, after the UTSA win on Jan. 21, “challenging,” with high praise for league frontrunners Middle Tennessee and UAB, who live with the physical Blazers, who live with the physical Blazers.

Second place UAB (14-8, 7-2 C-USA) is first with a visit Thursday night, Feb. 2 at the Don Haskins Center. The Blazers are a hot team as well.
Get your tax refund for free*
Details at freetaxeselpaso.org.

Get help filing your taxes for free with Volunteer Income Tax Assistance! VITA’s trained volunteers are ready to help you.

Visit us at our UTEP location! We have many trained volunteers ready to help you get your taxes filed.

Boquilla Hall at UTEP
3490 Sun Bowl Drive
El Paso, Texas 79902
February 11 & 25: 12:30–3:30 p.m.
March 4 & 25: 12:30–3:30 p.m.
April 1 & 8: 12:30–3:30 p.m.

To find out what to bring, visit freetaxeselpaso.org or dial 211.

Service is first come, first served — so don’t delay!

*For qualifying households.