

6-27-2012

The Prospector, June 27, 2012

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Living An Independence Day celebration without fireworks



JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector

PINK RIVERA

The Prospector

For a second year in a row, El Paso County will have to celebrate the Fourth of July without fireworks.

On June 13, Governor Rick Perry approved El Paso County Judge Veronica Escobar's request to declare the county a drought disaster area, which resulted in the banning of all fireworks.

"I'm as big a fan as anyone else of fireworks," Escobar said. "But we are in a severe drought, we've been put under water restrictions and we have limited resources. In fact, the only resources we do have are all volunteers."

Fireworks are banned within the city limits of El Paso and now the county's incorporated towns and cities including Anthony, Clint, Horizon City and Vinton, have banned fireworks as well.

At the County Commissioner meeting held earlier this month, many of the people who spoke out against the ban were vendors who relied on the sales to support their families or raise money for their schools.

"I agree with the decision to ban fireworks," said Maria Garcia, senior chemistry major. "Not being able to pop fireworks isn't going to affect the way I celebrate. It's not fair for people to oppose the ban just because of money, that's wrong. They know how dry El Paso is, it's a desert, they shouldn't rely on selling fireworks for an income."

Alamo Fireworks President Michael Gurdly said the decision to ban fireworks will not hurt sales.

"It's definitely a bummer," Gurdly said. "I don't think it's any drier this year than previous years and I don't agree that fireworks are the cause of the danger but that's the decision that's been made."

Gurdly said that although the ban stands in El Paso County, his business shouldn't suffer because of his locations in Socorro and New Mexico.

see FIREWORKS on page 3

Students divided on upcoming Mexican elections

PINK RIVERA

The Prospector

In just a few days Mexican citizens will decide who will lead their country for the next six years.

The candidates include Enrique Peña Nieto (PRI-PVEM), Josefina Vázquez Mota (PAN), Andrés Manuel López Obrador (PRD-PT- Mov-

imiento Ciudadano) and Gabriel Quadri de la Torre (PANAL).

Many students are now divided on who they support, but believe that whoever is elected could impact the United States more than most people realize.

"Mexico and the United States are closely linked on a lot of things," said Nallely Suarez, social work graduate student. "We should really be

more engaged in this election and maybe even have participated in the campaigns. I think a lot of things like immigration, the use and sale of drugs and the culture itself is going to change depending who wins."

Angel Sanchez, a junior mathematics major, has been following the election closely and said he is leaning more toward López Obrador.

"He seems to be the most honest out of all of them," Sanchez said. "He is from another party that has never won Mexico's presidency so this could be a big change. I think he's been more productive and with him the relationship between Mexico and the United States will improve."

see ELECTIONS on page 4

Stadium

El Paso City Council approves Downtown ballpark for Triple-A team

BY DANIEL ORNELAS

The Prospector

On June 26, El Paso City Council voted to approve plans for a \$50 million baseball stadium that would be built Downtown where City Hall is currently located.

The vote was passed in a 6-2 decision with city representatives Eddie Holguin and Carl Robinson voting against it. The stadium would open by the 2014 baseball season.

City representative Steve Ortega commented on the impact the decision will have on not only El Paso, but Ciudad Juárez. Ortega said it would likely bring an approximate \$420 million over the next 25 years, not including increased residential and retail opportunities as a result of it.

"I'm very excited as I think today is a transformational day for El Paso and Ciudad Juárez," Ortega said. "The reality is, we are the largest city in the country without affiliated baseball. If we want to attract and retain the best human capital we need 21st century quality amenities and professional sports is part of that equation."

UTEP students expressed opposing views on the approval of the project.

"It would be really great to kind of bring in some revenue, create jobs, I think it's great and I'm a baseball fan," said Victoria Estrada, psychology graduate student. "Hardly anyone goes to see the Diablos play and with this being a Triple-A team, I think



JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector

El Paso City Council approved the development of a \$50 million baseball stadium to be built Downtown at the current City Hall site by 2014 on June 26.

see TRIPLE-A on page 8

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Reaction

Letter from President Natalicio to City Council
from story on page 1

1914
2014

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

June 22, 2012

The Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of El Paso
2 Civic Center Plaza
El Paso, Texas 79901


Dear Mayor and Council:

As we approach the celebration of our Centennial, The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) is proud of its longstanding partnership with the City of El Paso. We were especially proud when recently, our entire community came together – led by the City of El Paso – in support of high quality, professionally staged events in the Sun Bowl Stadium on the UTEP campus. It is this spirit of cooperation that is successfully moving our region forward.


As most of you know, baseball has always been my favorite sport. I grew up with the St. Louis Cardinals and once dreamed of being a Redbird. So, as a big fan, I write today to express my enthusiastic support for the proposal to build a Triple-A baseball stadium in downtown El Paso. The City of El Paso appears to have an unprecedented opportunity to develop a state-of-the-art stadium and surrounding entertainment venues that will be attractive to Triple-A baseball, which offers the highest level of baseball quality, only one short step from the Big Leagues.

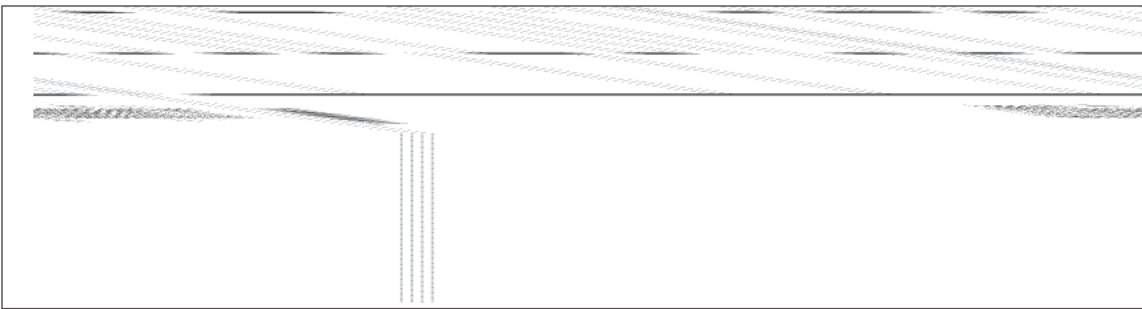
I should also add that all of us at UTEP are enthusiastic proponents of the development of additional quality of life amenities that will benefit the entire region, including UTEP and the students we serve, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with the City of El Paso to achieve a brighter future for all of us who proudly call El Paso home.

Go Miners!

Sincerely,

Diana Natalicio
President

EL PASO, TEXAS
79968-0500
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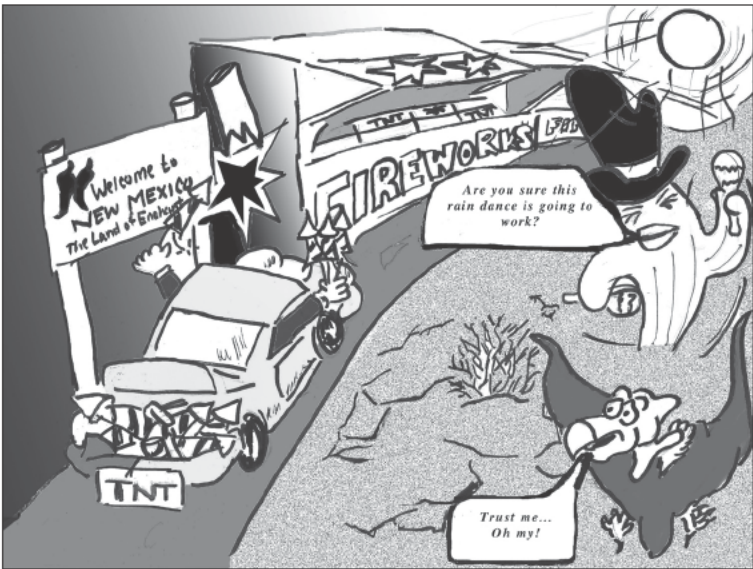
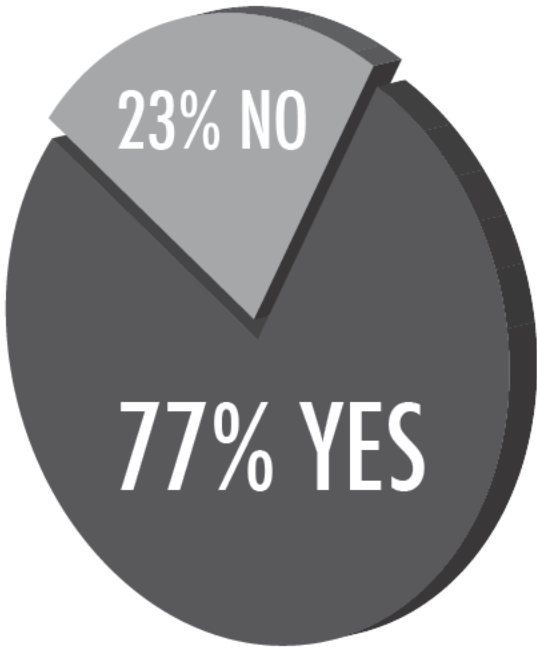


WHAT DO
you think?

This week's poll question:
Do you support the construction of the Downtown baseball stadium?
vote at WWW.UTEPPROSPECTOR.COM

we asked,
you answered

POLL RESULTS
Do you support Obama's new immigration policy?



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the
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vol. 97, no. 47

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The Prospector (USPS 448-020) is published by the Student Publications Board, 105 E. Union, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968. During Fall & Spring semester The Prospector is published twice weekly: Tuesdays and Thursdays, except holidays and when classes are not in session, once a week on Wednesday during the summer session. Subscription rates: \$20 per year; \$4 taken from fees to pay for student copies. Periodicals postage paid at El Paso, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Prospector, 105 E. Union, El Paso, Texas 79968-0622.
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Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny 10% Chance for Rain	Mostly Sunny 10% Chance for Rain	Mostly Sunny 10% Chance for Rain	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny

Health

New Self-Care program to begin at Counseling Center

BY LORAIN WATTERS
The Prospector

The summer season may not always bring a positive frame of mind for some, but UTEP offers several enrichment programs to escape the heat and ease the mind.

From July 2 to Aug. 13, the University Counseling Center will provide a Mindfulness-Based Self-Care program for students in need of reducing stress and enhancing self-esteem.

"Mindfulness is a technique most often used with individuals, but the University Counseling Center is applying it in a group setting," said Cecilia Holguin, licensed clinical social worker for the UCC.

The Mindfulness-Based Self-Care program began last summer with two interns at the UCC who had the experience and knowledge of mindfulness.

According to Holguin, mindfulness allows students to focus on the current moment. With this program, they will be able to be in tune with their mind and body, as well as re-

duce stress, anxiety and improve their sleep.

"This is not therapy," Holguin said. "It is a self-care kind of group, experiencing mindfulness and practicing the exercises being given."

Along with reducing stress and anxiety, the program will also implement breathing exercises, seated and walking meditation and yoga postures.

Students who would like more information can visit sa.utep.edu/counsel/. Registration can be done over the phone at 747-5302, or in person by visiting the Counseling Center, located in room 202, Union Building West.

The Student Recreation Center is also offering yoga classes to registered UTEP students, faculty and staff this summer. These classes will be instructed by Maria Contreras, administrative assistant for the Liberal Arts Center for Instructional Technology, ending on Aug. 2. They will take place every Tuesday and Thursday morning at the Recreation Center. No registration is required for this program.

"The importance of yoga is to attain a healthy mind and body through

awareness and discipline," Contreras said. "It improves fitness, promotes relaxation, helps with flexibility and range of motion."

Like the Mindfulness-Based Self-Care program, these yoga classes will implement breathing exercises, body alignment and forming a mind-body connection. Simultaneously, this program also increases strength, flexibility, energy and body awareness, while reducing stress, anxiety and pain.

"Yoga takes you to a whole different level," said Norma Saavedra, coordinator for fitness at the recreation center. "When you start mediating, you go somewhere else, and this helps with clearing the mind, increasing strength and body awareness."

More information about this program can be found at sa.utep.edu/rsd/ or further questions may be inquired at 747-5103.



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR
Beginning July 2 students can learn yoga to reduce stress and anxiety.

FIREWORKS from page 1

"Many of our vendors raise money for school organizations and others rely on the money to cover their living expenses so it is sad for them," he said.

The city of Socorro, located just outside the El Paso city limits, has decided to allow the sale and use of fireworks- with the exception of aerals.

Residents in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County have been legally allowed to sell and use fireworks since June 20. Many students still refuse to make the trip into Socorro or New Mexico just to pop fireworks.

"I don't understand what the big deal is," said Jose Chavez, sophomore music major. "To say not being able

to play with fireworks ruins the holiday is a little extreme. They made the decision for our safety and I can see their point."

Though fireworks are banned in El Paso County, many professional companies can still put on displays as long as they meet city requirements.

Places like the Chamizal will be hosting a professional fireworks display on the Fourth of July for families to enjoy. Speaking Rock Entertainment Center, the El Paso Diablos, Abundant Living Faith Center, Fort Bliss' Biggs Park and many more offer an alternative for people to still be patriotic.

Pink Rivera may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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Exhibit

Charlie Brown makes a statement at the Centennial

REBECCA GUERRERO

The Prospector

The "good grief" many were used to hearing every day as a child has returned in the form of a museum exhibit that exposes environmental issues.

The Peanuts...Naturally exhibit, set to remain open to the public until Aug. 25, has already attracted larger numbers of visitors for the summer months than the museum usually sees, according to Centennial Museum Curator Scott Cutler.

"The Peanuts exhibit has been very well received. We have had many summer school groups come through as well as a great number of families," Cutler said. "It is such a happy exhibit that everyone seems to leave smiling. We are also providing educator-led activities that include guided tours, activities and discussions about the messages that Charles Schultz is trying to convey through his storytelling with words."

The exhibit, through Charles Schultz comic strips, is what is called a "traveling exhibition" in the world of museums.

According to museum Director William Wood, when museums make exhibits they often tour them to other venues. Cutler learned about the Peanuts gallery and applied to be a host. The museum was allowed to host the exhibit after demonstrating that they operated in a professional manner and employed trained staff and security among other things.

Because the Centennial Museum tries to attract exhibits that relate to the environment and the natural and cultural history of the Chihuahuan Desert, they were eager to host the Peanut gallery.

"At the Centennial we are always on the lookout for new exhibits," Wood said. "We have an emphasis on the environment and on environmental issues so we thought that Peanuts... Naturally would be a great fit for us since it is also focused on environmental issues. The comic strips are funny but they get you thinking. We thought that UTEP students would relate because of the popularity of the Peanuts comics."

Centennial Museum intern Vanessa Juarez, senior multi-media journalism major, was hired to implement the curriculum from the Peanuts... Naturally exhibit and to lead school groups on tours when they visit the museum.

After moving back to El Paso from Washington D.C., where she did an internship with the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, she said she is happy to work for a museum that is fulfilling its mission to exhibit the natural history and culture of the Chihuahuan Desert and the border region.

"I think the gallery looks great," Juarez said. "The exhibition panels are really interesting to read, the cartoons included from Peanuts are funny and the exhibition seems to be holding the interest of children when they come to the gallery. They seem to really love the hands-on components of the

exhibition as well as seeing Snoopy, Charlie Brown, Lucy, Woodstock and Linus on the walls."

The Centennial Museum staff expressed excitement over the continuation of the exhibit through August and anticipates the same level of interest from the community for the duration of the exhibit.

"The Peanuts gang seems to have universal appeal, not only for those that grew up with the daily strips, but even for newer generations that know about Charlie Brown from the seasonal TV shows," Cutler said. "When I found out that the exhibit focused on environmental issues I realized it would be both entertaining and enlightening for everyone."

Rebecca Guerrero may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

"It is such a happy exhibit that everyone seems to leave smiling."

Scott Cutler,

Centennial Museum curator



JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector

ELECTIONS from page 1

According to recent polls, Peña Nieto is leading the electoral preferences with 38.4 percent of the vote intention, followed by López Obrador, with 25.4 percent, Vázquez Mota, with 20.8 percent and Quadri de la Torre with 1.8 percent.

Most of the candidates are confident that the "undecided vote" will help them win the election. According to Consulta Mitofsky, one of the leading poll companies, 13.6 percent of the voters are still undecided.

The campaign officially ends on June 27. The presidential election, congressional elections and gubernatorial elections in Chiapas, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Mexico City, Morelos, Tabasco and Yucatán will take place July 1.

"My family in Mexico said the most important thing in a candidate for them is if he cares about the people and will listen to what they want and need," said April Aguirre, freshman psychology major. "Personally they don't care too much about their education or the mistakes their party may have made in the past. It's about what they can do for Mexico's citizens and if they can really look at the bigger picture instead of just quick-fixes."

Irasema Coronado, political science professor and co-founder of

the 2012 Mexican Presidential Elections Project, was able to work with students who felt strongly about their political opinions throughout the course of the project.

"I can tell you that if we were to ask our students who they support we'd have very strong, diverse opinions," Coronado said. "It has been very interesting and I am very glad that we've been able to promote discussion and debate on the topic."

Aguirre, refused to share who she thought was the best candidate.

"I would rather not say who I think is best," Aguirre said. "I think even though Mota barely won in the primary election for PAN she has a lot to offer and I agreed with a lot of things she said at the debate. On the other hand, Peña Nieto is saying what Mexico needs to hear right now."

A total of 79.4 million people are eligible to vote Sunday, according to the Federal Elections Institute.

The voting places will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and preliminary results will be available after 11 p.m. Sunday. The IFE could release a definitive results by Wednesday.

Once elected, the new president will take office Dec. 1.

"I can't vote, but I hope everyone that is registered does get out there and hopefully make a difference," Aguirre said.

Pink Rivera may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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Musical adaptation returns to UTEP

BY OSCAR GARZA

The Prospector

Greg Taylor, director of the UTEP Dinner Theatre, is not only a fan of "Metropolis," a film about a futuristic society that is separated into two classes, he is also a fan of "Metropolis: The Musical." For the third time in 16 years he's bringing it back to the UTEP Dinner Theatre starting in July.

"I think the music is beautiful, the story is good, it's different from most of what we do," Taylor said.

For people who aren't familiar with "Metropolis," Taylor said it's a transcendent story that might relate to today's struggles like the Occupy movement.

"Metropolis" is the tale of a society separated by classes: the bourgeois and the poor and the story of the inventor of a female robot, Futura, that becomes a symbol of revolution.

"The film is iconic...it's a precursor to everything science-fiction that came along later," Taylor said. "The people who have seen the film probably would be interested, being the fact that it is the same story but told with words and music and dialogue."

Josie Pickett, UTEP dance graduate, is excited about presenting the story to people who haven't seen it. Pickett, who plays the dual role of Maria, a girl connecting both classes, and Futura, is honored to play such an iconic character.

"They are complete opposites of each other. Maria is altruistic while Futura is soulless," Pickett said. "This is a very exciting role to play because of the huge contrast between the two roles. I have watched ("Metropolis") for inspiration. I want to keep the message my character conveys strong while approaching it in my own way."

Pickett similarly hopes that "Metropolis" will thrill its audience and provide something that is suitably relevant.

"Metropolis" is particularly relevant today. Disparity between classes, dependency on technology and industry is ever increasing," Pickett said. "Metropolis" will definitely have the audience thinking about these things."

Patricia Provencio, music director of the UTEP Dinner Theatre, who has been involved with the play in its three incarnations, said that every

time they repeat a show their mentality is to always do it better than the last.

"For me that is just making sure everything sounds better," Provencio said. "Everything plays better, that I just make it the best sounding version of the musical I can get possible with the cast that we got."

Provencio said audiences can expect a unique and astounding soundtrack.

"It's got a late '70s, '80s vibe. It's got a rock feel, it's pop-rock, I guess is the best way to put it," Provencio said. "It's got a lot of really pretty ballads. It's definitely more modern. It's a good sounding soundtrack."

For the UTEP Dinner Theatre, which commonly does classics like "Guys and Dolls" or "Xanadu," this represents a complete shift in what they do.

"This is a total different animal; this is more in tone to something like 'Phantom of the Opera' or 'Les Misérables,'" Taylor said. "It's an opera, it's all sound, its pop music, the music is very much of that time (the '80s)."

Sixteen years after he first showed "Metropolis," there have been consid-

erable advances in technology and set design, Taylor said. He promises that the look of the set will be even more amazing than the first two.

"It's eye popping, it's one of the best sets we've ever done," Taylor said. "Mike Spence, who does our set designs, outdid himself on the sets and when the curtain opened for the first number, the set always got applause."

John Guevara, senior vocal performance major, who plays one of the workers, was attracted to participating in the project after seeing two of the musical numbers and being astonished by the set-up, but primarily the music. He said this musical is not like the rest.

"I listened to more and more of the music and I was like 'oh this is really cool music,'" Guevara said. "Those who feel musicals are too cheesy and cheery, this is not that; 'Metropolis' is fairly dark and not your average happy-go-lucky musical."

For more information and tickets call 747-6060 or visit ticketmaster.com.

Oscar Garza may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

METROPOLIS

Metropolis was first released as a German silent film, directed by Fritz Lang.

The musical was adapted in 1989 and directed by Jerome Savary in London.

Music

Streetfest celebrates Fourth of July



FILE PHOTO

Streetfest brings music, art and fun to Downtown El Paso, June 29-30.

ANDREA ACOSTA

The Prospector

Fourth of July celebrations start early this year, with the 11th annual Streetfest. The event presented by the El Paso Times, KLAQ and the El Paso Convention and Performing Arts Center returns to Downtown El Paso June 29 and 30.

This year, Streetfest will have four outdoor stages with non-stop music, over 100 vendor booths with food, arts and crafts and a children's carnival area filled with family-oriented activities. Firework displays will also be presented by the Teacher's Federal Credit Union.

"I'm really excited to be taking my little nieces to this year's Streetfest," said junior mechanical engineering major Braulio Monterroza. "Especially since they can enjoy the various children's activities and a night filled with fireworks displays."

This year's music lineup includes over 20 acts that will be featured in four stages throughout downtown, each with a different music genre. There will be the main stage, the variety stage, the Latin music stage and a brand new electronic stage brought by Dish Latino. The Lovelies, Hillside Gamblers, Radio La Chusma, Steady Shakedown and Fixed Idea will be some of the groups playing.

"The addition of the electronic stage is really exciting since I'm a huge fan of Trip Wire," said sophomore studio art major Chris Macias. "I bet this new genre implementation to the Streetfest will attract all kinds of people."

According to KLAQ, over 20,000 people showed up last year, but with bands such as Theory of a Deadman, Filter and Saliva performing Friday night, and Kansas, BOC and Candlebox performing on Saturday night, they are expecting the number of people to double.

With the purchase of a Streetfest ticket, the access and admission to El Paso's Largest Car Show is included. Fans of upcoming movie "The Dark Knight Rises" will have an opportunity to get a close view of the Batmobile and the Bat Pod on June 29 among 200 other show vehicles from across the U.S.

"I'm amazed with this year's Streetfest's variety of activities ranging all types of ages," said Rodolfo Madero, senior mechanical engineering and digital media production major. "Such as kids carnival filled with arts and crafts, an implementation of a new electronic genre stage, an incredible lineup with no specific music genre and the incredible chance to see the famous Batmobile in person. I'm definitely attending."

The Downtown Streetfest concert starts at 6 p.m. and is scheduled to end at around 1 a.m. Tickets are on sale and may be purchased at all area 7-Eleven/Fina and Pik Quik locations in El Paso and Las Cruces. The price for adults is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the gate and kids 12 and under go in for \$5.

For more information about this event or how to enter the Streetfest Car Show visit www.klaq.com/streetfest-2012.

Andrea Acosta may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Event

Tattoo Showdown introduces new scene

ANDREA ACOSTA

The Prospector

The country's largest tattoo and music festival, Texas Tattoo Showdown, comes to El Paso on July 13-15, bringing more than 200 tattoo artists and over 30 bands to the El Paso County Coliseum.

Hosted by the House of Pain Tattoo Studio, the Texas Tattoo Showdown consists of local and famous tattoo artists from around the world such as Amy Nicoletto from the TV show "LA Ink," Joshua Carlton, James Vaughn and Bili Vega among others. Celebrity judges include "Crazy" Philadelphia Eddie and Gill "The Drill" Montie.

George Galindo, owner of the House of Pain and operator of the Texas Tattoo Showdown, said this type of festival has been a success since its initiation three years ago.

"We have grown. This is a show of artists for artists coming from all over the world such as Holland, Japan and Germany among other countries," Galindo said. "It's the reason why it makes us a large and diverse festival."

The event will not only be a floor for tattoo artists, but for bands such

as Authority Zero, Bowling for Soup, Boo Yaa Tribe, Hawthorne Heights, Days of the New and Barb Wire Dolls.

"This will be my first time attending the Texas Tattoo Showdown and experiencing this type of artistic atmosphere," said Antonio Velasquez freshman criminal justice major. "I'm looking forward to the different art that I will get to see."

Visitors will have the chance to enjoy other activities such as human suspension shows, midget wrestling, custom hot-rods and carnival style sideshows. The event will also have a variety of food available as well as a beer garden. Attendees will also have the opportunity to get a tattoo from famous artists that specialize in different artistic techniques such as neo-traditional Japanese art and bio-mechanical art.

"If you have never been to The Showdown hold on tight and get ready for an incredible all age family event weekend," Galindo said.

More than 11,000 people attended last year, but with the number of tattoo artists doubling this year, Galindo is expecting for a larger number to attend.

Tattoo artist, Mario Navarro, said that the best part of the festival is meeting new people and mixing it up.

"It's that one time of year where my friends that live out of town come together and we hang out," Navarro said.

In accordance with Navarro, tattoo artist Andy Tassone, said this tour is a perfect opportunity to network with other aspiring tattoo artists.

"This festival is a great networking tool and a great way to get your work out for people to see and get your name recognized in different parts of the country," Tassone said.

Tickets for the Texas Tattoo Showdown may be purchased at Ticket Master venues. Prices are \$25 for daily passes or \$35 for weekend passes. Children 12 and under enter free. The El Paso County Coliseum will open its gates at noon.

For more information call 880-4955 or visit inklifetour.com.

Andrea Acosta may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



BRANDY POSADA / The Prospector

George Galindo owner of The House of Pain and organizer of the Texas Tattoo Showdown.

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Answers to 06-20-12

BRAIN ZONE

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by Linda Thistle

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Baseball

Diablos avoid sweep, remain in last place in division standings

BY EDWIN DELGADO
The Prospector

The El Paso Diablos were able to prevent the three game series sweep and end a five-game skid, as they pulled a 6-3 win over the Laredo Lemurs on June 24 at Cohen Stadium.

On June 22, in front of 8,000-plus fans the Laredo Lemurs quickly jumped to a three-run lead, but the Diablos fought back and tied it at three before the end of the first inning.

The game was close until the top of the fourth when starting pitcher Juan Peralta threw eight consecutive balls walking two batters.

Lemurs shortstop Jimmy Mojica and the rest of the team took full advantage of Peralta's shaky performance to score five runs and take a 9-3 lead. Despite the improvement in the pitching game, the Diablos fell 13-8 on the first of the three-game series.

"They came out strong and hit the ball pretty well, and we just couldn't keep up with them," Peralta said. "Sometimes the ball doesn't find the grass as much as you want."

In the offensive side the most active player was third baseman Enrique Cruz, who had four hits in five at bats.

"We can't allow this many runs if we want to win games," Cruz said. "We got to be more focused during



JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector

Diablos shortstop Maikol Gonzalez swings at a pitch during the first of a three-game series against the Laredo Lemurs June 22 at Cohen Stadium.

the games and not commit so many mistakes."

On June 23, Edgar Garcia had a tough debut on the Diablos mount and was replaced early in the fourth inning. Despite a great effort from the bullpen who shutout the Lemurs in the final five innings, the offense still struggled and ultimately the Diablos

fell 7-3. It was the seventh loss in eight games for El Paso.

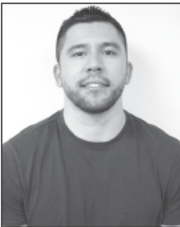
June 24 slated the third and final game of the series. Things quickly tuned in favor of the Diablos after the Lemurs' Mojica injured himself running towards first base and had to leave the game moments after it started.

In the bottom of the first, outfielder Nelson Telson got the offense started when he hit a single RBI to open the score. In the second inning shortstop Maikol Gonzalez helped the cause with another single RBI, giving the Diablos a three-run lead.

see **DIABLOS** on page 8

Column
"King James" is ring-less no more

BY DANIEL ORNELAS
The Prospector



Whatever puns, praise or criticism NBA superstar LeBron James gets will now have to be accompanied by the words NBA champion.

As James said after receiving the NBA Finals and the Finals MVP trophy, "It's about damn time."

The three-time league MVP is no longer the ring-less King James after winning his first championship and leading the Miami Heat to their second title against the Oklahoma City Thunder June 21. It took nine seasons for the 27-year old to finally be crowned a champion.

James' run in the 2012 playoffs elevated his status as the premiere player in all of basketball, becoming the only player to ever average 30 points, nine rebounds and five assists per game in two separate postseasons (2009, 2012).

The consensus is that Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player of all time and will likely be considered that in my lifetime.

The comparisons of James to Jordan are inevitable and at times unfair, but

see **JAMES** on page 8

Basketball

QA

Parade All-American headlines 2012 recruiting class for the Miners

BY EDWIN DELGADO
The Prospector

After a successful performance at Pearl High School in Pearl, Miss. freshman guard/forward Twymond Howard was ranked as one of the top 100 prospects from the class of 2012 by ESPN and also named to the Parade All-American team.

Howard was also being recruited by schools such as Baylor, Mississippi State, Oklahoma State, Ole Miss and Tennessee, but he felt El Paso was his home away from home and committed with the Miners.

Q: Why did you choose UTEP?

A: Basically, when I first came in my official (visit), I just felt like I was home. The way (head) coach (Tim) Floyd and his staff came to me they worked hard and they showed me they really want me to play here. They got to speak with my family a lot and connected with my mom really well.

Q: Are you excited to play for UTEP?

A: I'm really excited you know, I'm surrounded by a great group of guys and coach Floyd is great.

Q: How many other schools recruited you?

A: It was a lot of schools, a lot of SEC (South Eastern Conference) schools and even some from the Big Ten, but what really got me was how they called

constantly and how they connected with my family really well.

Q: What were your impressions of coach Floyd?

A: I'm really excited, I've heard he is a great coach. So I'm just waiting to see what happens.

Q: What's your biggest strength and weakness?

A: I think my best ability is my driving ability, in the open floor I just drive and it's hard to stop me and my weakness would be to improve on my range.

Q: What's your impression of the other freshmen players?

A: (Center) Matt (Willms), he's real tall, he is a seven footer, so I think he is going to help us a lot, and (forward) Chris (Washburn) he is a big wild body, and (forward) Dustin (Watts) can shoot really well. I think we'll do well.

Q: So far, what has been your impression of your teammates?

A: They are fun to be around, we always hang out, and we are really getting to know each other.

Q: UTEP is facing tough opposition like Arizona, UNLV, and Oral Roberts, how do you feel about the schedule?

A: I think it's going to make the wins even sweeter, we need the gym and work hard to be able to beat them.

Q: Sophomore guard Julian Washburn said that the team needs to get in shape to be ready to play those teams, do you agree with him?

A: Definitely, we need to get in shape, get our bodies right and focus on being ready for those games.

Q: What are the expectations for this team for the upcoming season?

A: I expect a lot, I want to win just like everyone else, so we need to work hard and hopefully we can get enough Ws.

Edwin Delgado may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

🎧

TWYMOND HOWARD

Parade All-American

Freshman guard/forward

Height-6'6"

Weight-210 lbs

Jersey number-33

🎧



AARON MONTES / The Prospector

Parade All-American freshman guard/forward Twymond Howard worked out for media at the Foster-Stevens Basketball Complex June 21.



JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector

Diablos outfielder Nelson Teilon slides to second base during the 13-8 loss to the Laredo Lemurs June 22 at Cohen Stadium.

DIABLOS from page 7

However, at the top of the third inning Anthony Scelfo hit a double RBI, and both third baseman Javier Brito and first baseman John Allen, also cooperated with single RBIs to tie the game.

In the bottom of the fifth, Teilon was very close to hitting a home run, but the ball sailed left of the post for a foul ball.

Diablos manager Tim Johnson, argued with the umpires challenging the call until he finally got tossed out of the game. At the bottom of the fifth, the Diablos scored two more runs, one of them after right fielder Leonardo Giammanco couldn't deliver a good throw to the pitcher, allowing Jonathan Cisneros to score.

Starting pitcher Scott Hodsdon left the game in the sixth, after only allowing three runs and seven hits.

Relievers Ronny Morla, Kyle Creemers and Marcel Prado were able to close the remaining three innings without allowing a single hit, securing the 6-3 win in front of 3,000 plus fans. Hodsdon got his second win of the season while Prado garnered his third save.

The Diablos, now 8-27, began consecutive three-game road series against the Sioux Falls Pheasants on June 26 and will end on June 28 to be followed by the Sioux City Explorers June 29 through July 1.

"The key was keeping them off the board early, Scotty Hodsdon did a phenomenal job, and the bullpen was able to step up today," Creemers said. "Hopefully we can keep it going and get as many wins as possible."

Edwin Delgado may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

TRIPLE-A from page 1

more people would show up. It would be new and shiny, I think people just like that kind of stuff."

After hearing that UTEP President Diana Natalicio issued a letter to Mayor John Cook and City Council encouraging the project, Estrada was pleased to know the university was supporting the cause.

"It goes to show that Natalicio is really pushing community support and it's something positive, there's not too much negative associated with it," Estrada said. "I don't mind at all that UTEP is backing the creation of jobs and possibly more of a tourist attraction for El Paso."

For Theodore Zounis, senior electrical engineering major, the idea of tearing down City Hall didn't sit well with him.

"I don't like how they're tearing down City Hall to build a baseball stadium, because it's one of the landmarks in Downtown," Zounis said. "It doesn't make any sense to me for a Triple-A team, maybe if it was an MLB (Major League Baseball) team,

it would be nice. I don't think it's worth the cost or the team."

According to Ortega, both City Council members and a group of private investors, including local businessmen Woody Hunt and Paul Foster, picked City Hall's current site as the location for the stadium to be built. The ballpark is estimated to hold 7,000-9,000 seats.

"We wanted it to be Downtown, the ownership group wanted it there," Ortega said. "The reality is that if it wasn't on the City Hall site we were probably going to have to deal with a handful of private property owners. We didn't want to go through condemnation or extended negotiations. This was the most expedient site for the ballpark."

The development of the new stadium will affect the use of Cohen Stadium, currently occupied by the Double-A El Paso Diablos. The stadium located on the Northeast side of town by the Patriot Freeway has been open since 1990.

According to Ortega, the minor league team is set to be affiliated with the MLB's San Diego Padres.

"The reality is, we are the largest city in the country without affiliated baseball. If we want to attract and retain the best human capital we need 21st century quality amenities and professional sports is part of that equation."

- Steve Ortega,
city representative.

"Cohen stadium is property of the city of El Paso, so I don't expect for baseball to be played there after the 2016 season," Ortega said. "We're going to have to decide what we want to do with Cohen, either sell it, keep it, lease it, etc."

Daniel Ornelas may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector

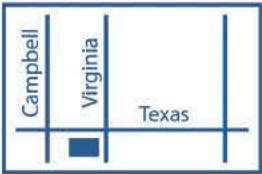
Cohen Stadium, where the El Paso Diablos play, has been open since 1990. Now that City Council approved a new stadium at Downtown, the future of Cohen is uncertain.

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JAMES from page 7

that comes with the territory of being the most hyped up prospect in modern history.

James proclaimed himself "King James" before ever playing a single game in the NBA. The Ohio native was drafted out of Akron's St.Vincent-St.Mary High School at the age of 18 by his home-state team Cleveland Cavaliers in 2003.

High hopes and aspirations of bringing the city its first major sports championship since 1964 came with his "King James" persona.

Seven seasons in Cleveland passed and neither James nor Cleveland had a championship.

Then came the "decision" in the summer of 2010 when he decided to take his talents to South Beach. In that moment James became the most vilified athlete, perhaps in the history of sports.

I have been a James fan since his days in Cleveland and by no means do I consider myself a fan of the Miami Heat, I'm simply appreciating the game of the greatest talent to ever play in the NBA.

Don't confuse greatest talent with greatest player, I too agree that Jordan is the greatest of all time.

Because James idolized Jordan growing up, and even wore the same number 23 in high school and during his seven season in Cleveland, the comparison is obvious, but James' game personifies that of other greats more so than that of Jordan's.

His passing ability at times resembles the skill of Earvin "Magic" John-

son and his consistent play as an all around player who scores, defends, rebounds and facilitates resembles that of Oscar Robertson, the only player to ever average a triple double for an entire season.

For as great as Kobe Bryant has been gathering five championships over the last 12 years with the Los Angeles Lakers and Tim Duncan leading the San Antonio Spurs (my favorite team) to four titles in the last 15 years, I have not seen a player as dominant on both ends of the court since Jordan, like James.

The question for me was never if, but when James wins an NBA title. Now that he has his first championship, the question for his fans and critics alike is now—what next?

James said he wants to be one of the all-time greats and in order for him to be remembered as that and validate his status as the best player in the NBA, he has to win multiple championships.

Former greats like Jordan, "Magic" Johnson, Larry Bird had a rival or a driving force to their play. After watching James go head-to-head against the 23-year old Kevin Durant, it now seems both players will be each other's driving force to become great and compete for championships.

I get a feeling that we will be watching plenty of Thunder and Heat in the NBA Finals for years to come.

The words, NBA-champion LeBron James finally has a nice ring to it.

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