

7-17-2013

The Prospector, July 17, 2013

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PICK-NICS

News P. 4



FARMER'S MARKET

Entertainment P. 5



EP PLAYHOUSE

Entertainment P. 6



QUIDDITCH

Sports P. 8



BICYCLES FOR RENT

UTEP collaborates with the city of El Paso to implement a bike-share program

ALEJANDRO ALBA / The Prospector

Sathya Amarasekara, graduate statistics student, travels on his bike around campus to escape the heat and long distances between classes and work.

BY S. DAVID RAMIREZ

The Prospector

The El Paso bike-share program has moved forward with funding and planning approval from the City Council. More than \$2 million will be used to install bike-rental kiosks at various locations between downtown El Paso and UTEP.

"It is a good idea to have this option for a campus where people are either dependent on private vehicles or the bus for (transportation) around the city," said Larry Morgan, sophomore history major. "It sounds like a healthy alternative that might allow more UTEP people to get around parts of town without worrying about gas money, bus timetables or a long walk."

Mike Medina, interim executive director of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization, said the project is being funded by a veritable cocktail of sources.

The city of El Paso will contribute \$100,000 and UTEP will pitch in \$24,000. An additional \$276,000 will come from Texas Commission for Environmental Quality grants. The final \$1.5 million of the funding will be from state and federal air quality and traffic abatement sources

distributed by the Texas Department of Transportation.

UTEP's share of the funding will be sourced from the Green Fund, which all students pay into as part of their tuition.

"We're trying to introduce another option to travel around El Paso," Medina said. "We're hoping people will leave their vehicles to commute to work and specifically UTEP"

The bike-share is a city pilot program, and if successful, additional locations may be added around the city.

Most bike shares operate as a series of automated kiosks or stations that dispense bicycles for use in downtown or pedestrian areas. A bike can be checked out at any location and returned to any other station that is part of the system. Users can pay per use or have a membership.

Specific deployment plans for the rental stations have not been finalized, Medina said.

"We're doing it a little more uniquely than most areas," said Raymond Telles, executive director of the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority. "Within the next month, we'll have the engineering team on board and have the first stakeholder meeting."

Stakeholders, including UTEP and the city of El Paso, will provide input on possible locations and help develop goals for the program.

The bikes selected will be based on the New York and Minneapolis models. They will most likely be heavy-duty bikes with automatic transmissions.

According to Medina, each bicycle will have an embedded GPS chip to track the usage.

In many cities, an unreturned bicycle is grounds for a fee of \$1,000 to \$2,000. The GPS is typically not used to recover stolen or unreturned equipment.

Potential bike-share locations include the Sun Metro downtown transfer center, the Paso Del Norte bridge, a location near the ballpark and several on the UTEP campus.

"I think it is a fantastic idea that brings El Paso that much closer to getting up to speed with other large cities and campuses across the country," said Shannon Faircloth, senior English and American literature major. "We have perfect weather and conditions to really promote a healthier, more active lifestyle."

UTEP could have several bicycle docking stations as part of the first phase of development. The stations

"It sounds like a healthy alternative that might allow more UTEP people to get around parts of town without worrying about gas money..."

- Larry Morgan, sophomore history major

will be placed with consideration to city and campus public transportation, as well as commuter paths.

"We have done some early studies that are in the campus master plan," said Greg McNicol, UTEP associate vice president for Business Affairs and Facility Management. "What we're looking at is the Glory Road transit center. From there you can choose to walk across the street and catch the Miner Metro or bike into campus."

see BIKE on page 4

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It's like WalMart, but better

BY LORAIN WATTERS

The Prospector



With the increased arts in the El Paso community, a new player has been added into the mix. Originally an artists' market, the Museum of Cultural Affairs Department has combined it with a farmers market and, introduced the new Downtown Artist and Farmers Market on June 8.

Every Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., families can enter the market at the Union Plaza for free. Local food trucks, such as El Paso's Wurst and Teaze, open their windows to serve the community a local taste while they browse art and locally grown fresh foods.

It may seem a little overwhelming at first as the small tents are lined next to each other on sidewalks and their products and merchandise fill every inch of space. Yet, it makes for a unique experience; similar to a flea market, the artist and farmers market has vendors and artists that are friendly but respect your space and offer enough of their product to give customers a variety.

Personally, I enjoyed the market and how communal it felt to be there. Despite the sweltering sun beating down my back, it was amazing to see the vendors take pride in their behemoth-sized vegetables or the artists offer attendees to wear their hand-crafted jewelry.

However, due to the lack of advertisement (aside from the billboard along I-10), it was not as full as it could have been. Most people seemed to walk in hesitantly, look around the tents and leave shortly after. Aside from the availability of food and the unique attractions, nothing was making them stay.

Maybe it was the heat that drove them away or the limited shade and benches for people to sit on—regardless, people were still leaving without any organic bags filled with vegetables and organic products.

Perhaps if tables were set up with enough chairs and maybe live music events were set every weekend, it could turn into a market that residents would want to visit every Saturday and stay from beginning to end.

However, I don't understand why people prefer to buy their groceries at WalMart and not there.

WalMart receives the bulk of their food from companies that are located miles away from El Paso, all claiming that they are fresh and locally grown. The vegetables are small and only fresh for the first few days.

The food available for purchase at the artist and farmers market is three times the size of any vegetable found at WalMart—not to mention juicier. Although more expensive than WalMart, the market has produce that is visibly fresh and worth the money. So why not support locally grown food?

There is hidden talent in this city, and this market allows everyone to catch a glimpse of that. I believe this market is like a flower bud within El Paso, slowly blooming into something great that will eventually bring in a lot of curious residents.

Everyone should put their sun hats on and take their families out to the Union Plaza to experience our cultural splendor, along with shopping for their weekly groceries.

It is not just another street market, but one that clearly shows the potential that El Paso has to be a great city, with talented individuals and their clever art designs and powerful green thumbs.

Lorain Watters may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

WHAT DO you think?

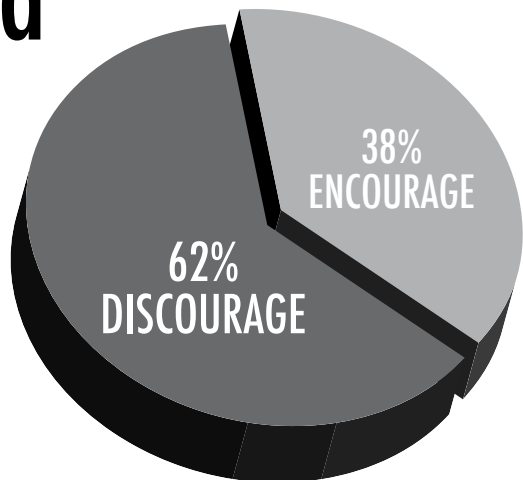
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Would you rent a bicycle once the Bikeshare program is implemented?

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we asked,
you answered

POLL RESULTS

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Event

UTEP's Alumni Association hosts annual Pick-Nics

BY AMANDA GUILLEN
The Prospector

On July 13, the annual UTEP Alumni Pick-Nics took place from coast to coast and internationally. This year, 19 U.S. cities and four international cities took part in the festivities.

"It was very successful, we had about 350 people at Memorial Park and it was a huge picnic, we had zumba and different activities," said Sonia Villa-Olivas, director of alumni programs and services. "We also had the volleyball team out there doing a volleyball clinic."

Other cities such as Chicago, Austin, Miami, New York and Los Angeles, as well as the Kingdom of Bhutan participated in the event.

In collaboration with the Alumni Association at UTEP, alumni from all over the United States and world had the opportunity to coordinate a Pick-Nic.

"We send out a call for hosts and anybody that is in a town outside of El Paso or in a different country can contact us and be a host and we can help them coordinate whatever type of picnic they want to do," said Villa-Olivas. "For instance in New York, they are having pizza in Central Park, so every location takes a different spin just depending on what works in their location."

In addition to helping coordinate out-of-town and international Pick-Nics, the Alumni Association also sends the hosts a picnic basket

that contains napkins, spoons, cups, knives, plates, frisbees, beach balls and other picnic materials personalized with the UTEP logo.

Al Gonzalez, a volunteer for the Alumni Association, said that events such as the UTEP Alumni Pick-Nics are a great way to show Miner pride.

"It has always been my belief that any university is only as strong as its alumni association," Gonzalez said. "It is important to remain a part of the university because the alumni become examples of what the university has produced."

Gonzalez said these events are important to El Paso because they create a tie between the city and the university.

"Be involved, the university has something for just about everyone within the community," Gonzalez said. "You don't necessarily have to have attended UTEP, you can go just to show support for the university, the school is a very important part of the community, and I think that the community should show that support in return," Gonzalez said.

Joshua Allen, junior electrical engineering major, said that the Alumni Pick-Nics display a personal, yet professional outlook on the university.

"The importance of these events is to learn and realize that UTEP is one big family, regardless of who we know and don't know, us Miners stand strong and proud," Allen said. "The event is a really good experience to have when you want to view the

"It has always been my belief that any university is only as strong as its alumni association..."

- Al Gonzalez, volunteer

generations that have graduated from UTEP. With UTEP's advancement, there are so many stories to tell that you can really learn a lot."

The atmosphere at the local annual UTEP Alumni Pick-Nic was lively and energetic, according to Joe Guillen, a UTEP alumn who took his daughter and made it a family event.

"This was the first year that I attended the Alumni Pick-Nic and I had a great time. The food, music and energy made it enjoyable," Guillen said. "Events like these represent the unity UTEP possesses, and this is why I love the university."

The event was not exclusive to alumni and their families. Many current UTEP students attended as well.

Colleges were represented at the event, such as the College of Business and the College of Nursing. Music was provided by Power 102.1 FM.

The Athletic Department was also present. Teams like the UTEP cheer squad and the UTEP Women's Soccer team attended.

Amanda Guillen may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



FLOR FLORES / The Prospector

UTEP's Alumni Association Pick-Nics took place on July 13 across the nation. With 23 locations participating, Alumni gathered in cities such as New York, Miami and Chicago among others. Locally, alumni gathered at Memorial Park. (Photos above).

UTEP Alumni Pick-Nics locations:

Albuquerque, N.M.	Houston	Philadelphia, Pa.
Anapolis, Md.	Juárez, Chihuahua, Mx.	Phoenix, Ariz.
Washington D.C.	Kingdom of Bhutan	Portland, Ore.
Virginia	Los Angeles, Calif.	San Diego, Calif.
Austin	Miami, Fla.	San Jose, Costa Rica
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Special to The Prospector

Bike stations (similar to the one in the photo) will be set up across town. Some will be implemented at the UTEP campus, as well as bike lanes once centennial construction is completed.

BIKE from page 1

Additional locations could be placed near Miner Heights or other high-traffic parts of campus. “I think it would make commuting a lot easier for the students that live in UTEP and downtown area or that ride the bus,” said Idali Reyes, junior history major. McNicol said that the stations will be moveable. If a kiosk is not frequented or if traffic patterns change,

they can simply be moved to a more suitable location. With the implementation of the bike stations, UTEP will also include bike lanes in the centennial construction plans. Starting in October, construction will begin on Sun Bowl Drive to widen it and include bike lanes. There are also plans, as part of the campus transformation, to create pathways through campus for individuals using bicycles, long-boards

or other human-powered forms of transportation. Currently, bicyclists must dismount in certain places in order to traverse UTEP’s central campus area. Implementation dates are pending. Public meetings about the bike-share program will be announced on the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority’s website at crrma.org. S. David Ramirez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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****Picture of Original Broadway Cast

Community
Solar Decathlon team low on construction funds

Update from article published on June 12, 2013.

BY SABRINA NUÑEZ
The Prospector

UTEP’s entry for the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon is facing some economic issues as more money is needed to complete the solar-powered house. A UTEP team is building a solar-powered house for a competition that will be held in California later this year. “The team is actively seeking additional support for construction and transportation,” said Manny Pacillas, assistant dean for advancement of the College of Engineering. The house will embody the character of the El Paso region and will be constructed using local materials. The project has been in the works since February 2012. The team was given a donation of \$250,000 from El Paso Electric Company, which will help the team get through August. “We’ve received donations of goods and services from a number of community sponsors, however we’re still a bit behind on our current campaign,” said Lourdes Esquivel, communications team leader and junior accounting major. “We currently have just about enough to finish the home.” Pacillas said the team is on track with every other school in the competition. The team is currently trying to increase their funding by having meetings with several donors. “By starting to construct (the house), there’s going to be more information and every time there’s more information, more people become interested in supplying,” Pacillas said. “We’re certainly going to need to (collect all the funds) in order to get the competitive entry in.”

The fundraising team within the group—consisting of two core members—is in charge of donations by identifying and reaching out to possible candidates. “We’re working hard to complete the fundraising goal, but with much of the team preoccupied with the actual construction, our reach is limited,” Esquivel said. Esquivel also said the team is meeting with a variety of local, regional and national sponsors—from the city of El Paso to Lowe’s home improvement stores. “We’re showing them that this is an opportunity to support students and sustainable energy projects, while putting their brand and El Paso on a national stage,” Esquivel said. The project requires an additional estimate of \$300,000. “A huge part of this cost is to properly transport the home, in its entirety, from El Paso to California,” Esquivel said. “We’re also spending on housing and travel for the team members who will compete. It isn’t cheap to rent cranes and forklifts, but it must be done.” The breakdown for the amount of money needed is \$122,000 for building materials and for industrial and commercial construction equipment, \$30,000 for marketing and blueprints and \$147,000 for transportation of the home and team to California. “If the money is not raised, it will prove to be a significant hindrance in UTEP’s participation,” Esquivel said. “We’re hoping it doesn’t come to that.” Those interested in the project may visit solardecathlon.utep.edu. Sabrina Nuñez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



FILE PHOTO / The Prospector

Construction of the solar house requires an estimated \$75,000 for local construction materials.



THE DOWNTOWN MARKET ADDS LOCAL FARMERS

BY LEONARDO MONTAÑEZ

The Prospector

The El Paso Downtown Artist and Farmers Market is helping local farmers promote and sell their organic products every Saturday at the Union Plaza.

Raul Rodriguez, a local farmer said he is glad to have a place to sell the vegetables he grows.

"I think it is great to have a place to sell our own products because, in my opinion, El Paso needs more places for local farmers," Rodriguez said.

According to Rodriguez, his customers usually return.

"I've seen many of my customers come back to me because they feel the big difference there is between organic and local crops from the ones at the grocery stores," Rodriguez said. "Also, all my items are affordable and very healthy and people notice."

Rodriguez said he prefers to sell his crops directly to the public rather than to restaurants.

"People usually prefer to buy all kinds of vegetables instead of a box of ripe tomatoes, that's what restaurants (usually) ask of me," Rodriguez said. "So it works better for me and for the customers."

In his 25 years as a farmer, Rodriguez has grown his own seeds and vegetables.

"I work my own seeds in my greenhouse, ensuring 100 percent that my products are all organic, natural and local," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez is at the El Paso Downtown Artist and Farmer's Market every Saturday and has been there since June 8.

"I normally get about 30 of every item, from tomatoes, cucumbers, scallions, etc. and I end up (selling) out," Rodriguez said.

Saul Otero, sophomore music composition major, said that El Paso is providing more opportunities for people who want to go local.

"I feel that people should really come and see what this market has to offer because it is more than just handmade stuff," Otero said. "I hardly see anything like this in El Paso, but I'm glad we have these kinds of spaces."

According to Otero, the presence of local farmers will increase the at-

"I've seen many of my customers come back to me because they feel the big difference there is between organic and local crops from the ones at the grocery store."

- Raul Rodriguez, local farmer

tendance rate to the artist and farmers market slowly.

"People tend to like more organic and local products over the things they sell at grocery stores or supermarkets," Otero said. "Especially if they are cheap like the ones sold here at the market."

Artists and farmers are normally in conjunction but Otero feels that they go hand-in-hand.

"While I am looking through the different handcrafted items and see how much work the artists put into them, I can also see the work the farmers put behind their crops and how these two ideas get along," Otero said. "In a sense, both are forms of art, but one is to consume and the other is to wear."

Linda Woodman, jewel crafter at the artist and farmers market, said that it is a good thing that the market is growing.

"More people come now," Woodman said. "Those who were initially interested in crops now see the artist's works and sometimes buy them, and vice versa as well."

The El Paso Downtown Artist and Farmer's Market is located at the Union Plaza and opens every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, visit elpasotexas.gov/mcad/downtown_market.asp.

Leonardo Montañez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



The El Paso Downtown Artist and Farmers Market takes place every Saturday at the Union Plaza from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MICHELE TORRES / The Prospector

Review



‘ALLOFMYSONS’OPENS50THSEASON

MICHELE TORRES / The Prospector

The El Paso Playhouse began their season with “All of My Sons,” a tragic story revolving around a lost son, war and death, taking place in three separate eras.

BY LEONARDO MONTAÑEZ

The Prospector

The El Paso Playhouse opened their 50th season with Arthur Miller’s “All of My Sons” July 5, directed by local actor and director, Aaron Hernandez.

“All of My Sons” is the tragic story of Joe Keller, played by Rick Fitzgerald, a businessman who lives comfortably with his wife Kate Keller (Vanessa Keyser) and son Chris Keller (Roger Estrada). Joe’s only concern is for his son Larry, who has been missing in action for a few years after World War II.

The play starts when the Kellers are visited by their lost son’s fiancée and childhood neighbor, Ann (Tammy Partanen). As soon as she gets to the backyard, discussions ensue on a tragic incident that took the lives of 21 soldiers. Assumptions arise about a possible culprit, setting the stage for the play’s climax.

Hernandez debuted as director with “All of My Sons,” and said he wanted to experiment with this play by setting it in three different decades.

“Originally, ‘All of My Sons’ three acts take place in 24 hours, but we wanted to change that, each act in different settings,” Hernandez said. “The first act takes places two years after the end of World War II, the second act takes place in the ‘70s, two years after the Vietnam War and (the third act) takes places two years after the Gulf War.”

According to Hernandez, directing “All of My Sons” was an enriching experience. He said he chose to direct this as his first play because of the message.

“I chose this for the same reason that we chose to do it in three different eras, everything that Arthur Miller says in this play, everything he’s arguing about and trying to point out is just as relevant as it was back in the ‘40s as it is now,” he said.

The play combines a professional and persuasive cast with Miller’s great writing.

The actors knew the motivations behind their characters and developed them fluently, making the acting memorable.

The stage design really evoked the feeling of a suburban American backyard and set the tone for the rest of the play with its simplicity: a door, a porch, three chairs, a table and a broken tree.

Each of the three eras were different from each other. The styles of clothing, pop culture and music were differentiated between each time period. However, this is where the play lacked imagination. It was hard to tell which era the actors were in, unless the narrator told the audience beforehand.

Monica Veleta, sophomore graphic design major, laughed, enjoyed and shed a tear during the first showing of “All of My Sons.”

“It is a tragic story that at the same time is really credible, to the point

that such events could happen in any family,” Veleta said. “And the emotions through the play felt realistic.”

Veleta said that her favorite part of the play were the characters and actors for their convincing acting.

“This play really makes you feel how the characters connect to each other through their conversations, which deliver real emotions to the audience,” Veleta said.

Alicia Torres, El Dorado High School student, experienced a theater play for the first time with “All of My Sons.”

“I recently got into theater and this was my first play, but I really didn’t know what to expect yet. I think it was an amazing experience,” Torres said. “I came expecting a great play with a happy ending, but I got a wonderful play with a scarring ending.”

Torres said that she wants to keep coming to the theater’s productions and recommends this play to everyone.

“If someone like me, who is inexperienced with plays, enjoyed the amazing characters and storyline, I think anyone can get something out of it,” she said.

“All My Sons” will be performed Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. until July 27 at the El Paso Playhouse, located at 2501 Montana Ave. Tickets are \$10, \$7 for students, military and seniors.

Leonardo Montañez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Technology

MacBook Air, new update

BY JAIME QUESADA

The Prospector

Apple finally unveiled it’s much anticipated 2013 update to the MacBook Air. Sporting the same look from its inception, Apple has put great detail into performance over visuals. Here is what Apple will tell you: extended battery life, upgraded video card and advanced Wi-Fi that promises faster and steadier connections.

Let’s start with the battery life. Apple’s website boasts that the MacBook Air has 12 hours of battery life, one of the longest-lasting batteries that surpasses ultra books across the board of other brands by at least two hours on most and four hours on others.

Many magazines that reviewed the new computer have timed it at 13 to 14 hours when web surfing regularly. This is impressive, but most laptops and ultra books running Windows 8 also run with touchscreen, which is something Apple has yet to add to its Mac lineup.

This seems like a downgrade, but considering the large multi-touch track pad does the same without leaving streak marks on your screen, it doesn’t seem like a real issue to get into.

So why is this laptop so amazing? The new Intel Chip, Haswell, focuses on energy efficiency, which allows the MacBook Air to do more with essentially less energy. This means that instead of sprinting to do every task, the Air will be taking it in its own pace. This is reflected in the processor’s clock speeds, which have decreased since the last MacBook Air because of this energy efficiency.

This isn’t to be taken misleadingly, the MacBook Air still flies through everyday tasks and more. Once you start working on some heavy-duty tasks such as graphic-intensive video games or editing large, high-quality videos, the machine will most definitely begin to break a sweat.

Of course, this problem can be worked around with well-placed upgrades. From 5 gigabytes to 8 gigabytes of RAM, your computer will be able to handle larger memory-intensive tasks at a time without missing a beat. As far as the processor goes, the Intel chip comes in i5 and i7 with a difference of .4Ghz base speeds. That wouldn’t be worth the extra \$150 but the i7 can turbo charge up to 3.3Ghz as opposed to the i5’s 2.6.

You may be tempted to max out this machine, but if your computer time is divided between surfing the web, watching videos and the occasional games and video editing, maybe you can pocket the extra \$150 to \$300, because you will not notice the upgrade.

Apple is notoriously expensive and this is because its base product standards already begin higher than the standards of less expensive machines.

The MacBook Air has a new 802.11ac Wi-Fi. This Wi-Fi promises a minimum of 1GB per second of throughput information. Current rates of throughput might reach 866 MB per second, which is if you are nearby a Wi-Fi connection and not sharing the feed.

Although a great feat for Apple, the only drawback is that it works with an 802.11ac Wi-Fi router. This means that if the wireless network you are connecting to isn’t also 802.11ac Wi-Fi, then you’re stuck with the connection of the rest of the world.

While this may be frustrating at first, recent studies by Instat suggest that by 2015, the majority of the world will have converted to the faster 802.11ac Wi-Fi. This has been taken with skepticism by the tech community, but when it does happen, the MacBook Air will be there ready for it. Again, this shouldn’t cause distress.

When buying a laptop or computer, it is meant to last you over five years and with this advanced Wi-Fi compatibility, you are ensuring your purchase will last you well beyond that average expiration date.

The MacBook Air’s display is at 1440 by 900 pixels on a 13” screen, seemingly dismal compared to most competitors. This is because the last MacBook Air was still competing with other brands that are boosting their pixels to resolutions that match the retina display. Does this mean that the screen is bad? Nope, the colors remain vibrant and the quality is still excellent. When you have other options of better displays for the same price, however, the temptation is more than justified.

So, this computer can do everything and nothing seemingly at the same time. That’s confusing, but that statement depends on the user. The Air is marketed at \$100 cheaper than the previous MacBook Air. It is an incredibly portable laptop. It’s meant to be lugged around all day without a problem. The new battery life complements that purpose by allowing you to leave the charger at home and still get all of your work done.

Ultimately, this is a great laptop for students on a budget. Take your notes, do your research, turn in papers, watch a movie anytime, play a video game—it can do all of that.

Can it do more? Yes, but with the money you have to put into it, maybe you should look at more powerful Apple products, including the Retina MacBook Pro, which mimics the weight, but with a stronger processor, graphics card and RAM.

Jaime Quesada may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



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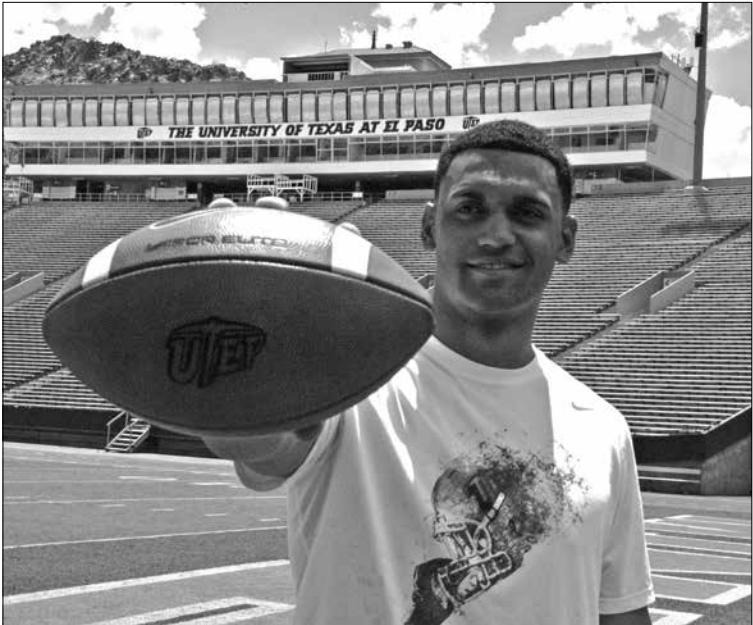
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WEB FIRST

New quarterback is set to compete



EDWIN DELGADO / The Prospector

New UTEP quarterback Jameill Showers was presented to the media July 12 at the SunBowl

BY EDWIN DELGADO
The Prospector

Graduating from Texas A&M after three and a half years, new Miners quarterback, Jameill Showers was officially presented to the media July 12 at the Sun Bowl. Showers committed to UTEP on Feb. 26 stating that he didn't like to be second to none and decided to come to El Paso to try to earn the starting quarterback job over senior Carson Meger and sophomore Blaire Sullivan.

Q: How did you end up at UTEP?
A: I graduated early from (Texas) A&M and I just wanted to play football. Coach (Sean) Kugler recruited me. I got the same vibe when I committed to coach Sherman at Texas A&M because Kugler is a real professional guy, very direct with me. I just felt that with the experience of the staff, it was going to give me the best chance of hopefully getting to the NFL.

Q: How was it competing against Ryan Tannehill and Johnny Manziel?
A: Obviously it didn't work in my favor, both of those guys are great athletes. Johnny is great, Ryan is the starter for the Miami Dolphins right

now, but it didn't make me anything but better and I felt that I came out as a stronger man forward.

Q: How do you feel about the camp taking place in Alpine where you were born?
A: I haven't been there since I was 3 years old. I don't know what the town looks like right now and I still got some family there and people to talk to.

Q: What do you think about most fans already seeing you as the starter?
A: People are labeling me as a starter right now, but both Carson (Meger) and Blaire (Sullivan) know a lot more about the offense than I do. They have been around it for a little more than a full semester and my job is to come in and learn as fast as I can and be able to compete after that.

Q: What are your expectations?
A: I want to be the starter, same as Carson and Blaire do. The three of us competing together, it's just going to make us better as a team.

Q: How do you feel about opening the season the day after your birthday against New Mexico?
A: I never really got to have a party, but if we win and it turns into a party, we'll celebrate that way.

Q: How different is College Station compared to El Paso?
A: It's definitely the complete opposite. It is more humid in College Station. It also gets really hot and is a little greener there.

Q: What do you know about the teams in Conference-USA?
A: I know there is a bunch of good athletes and good teams in this con-

ference. We are definitely not shooting for third or fourth in the conference, we want to be number one in the conference and it really depends on us.

Q: Are you excited about playing against Texas A&M in November?
A: Yes. I know we are going to have a friendly trash talk, but I definitely want to beat my old teammates and friends. I think we have the athletes here to compete, it's going to be a fun game and a little weird too.

Q: Can Texas A&M be beaten?
A: I think you need to get up on them early and try not to let them come back. They have an explosive offense and a really good defense, you have to play that game harder than you have ever played before.

Q: What are your thoughts on your new teammates?
A: They are good guys, great athletes. I've seen film and everything on them, I was doing my own little research when I was getting recruited and they are really good. It's bad that they get overlooked just because they went to a smaller school, but they are great competitors.

Q: How are you adapting to the new system?
A: It's going pretty good, Coach Kugler has been quizzing me on plays. He assigns me plays to study and he'll come in the next day and quiz me on them and I'm picking them up pretty quick. He has similar concepts as I had at (Texas) A&M. The only difference is the different names and terminology that is really the hard part.

JAMEILL SHOWERS
Quarterback
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 220 lbs
Texas A&M Graduate
40-yard dash: 4.6 Seconds

Q: What are your best skills?
A: My arm strength and the fact that I am a competitor. If you want to win you really have to compete out there, but you can always get better.

Q: In what areas do you think you need improvement?
A: Probably I need to improve on leadership. I think I'm a good leader but being in a new school is different because some might question whether I can do it or not, and it's my job to prove the expectations right. I also want to become more of a student of the game, know front to back what the defense is going to do and what I need to do with the ball.

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

Men's Basketball

Incoming freshman class ready to rise to the occasion

BY AUDREY WESTCOTT
The Prospector

The season is months away, but the UTEP men's basketball team is already considered one of the best recruiting classes in the country and the best in Conference-USA.

Veteran players such as Julian Washburn and McKenzie Moore are returning along with one of the best recruiting classes in the program's history.

The 2013 recruiting class consists of guards, Josh Brown and Andre Spight, forwards Jake Flaggert and Vince Hunter, center Matt Williams and the crowning jewel, McDonald's All-American and five-star recruit, Isaac Hamilton.

"I did not even realize we were that big until I got here," Brown said. "My father actually is the one who brought it to my attention. I just thought we were five players that were just regular players, but apparently everybody thinks we are the best. So it is exciting and we are here to put in work."

Several experts have labeled these six players as the best recruits in Conference-USA this year.

Bleacherreport.com has the UTEP recruiting class ranked No. 25 in the nation while ESPN.com put the Miners at No. 33.

"Our recruiting class is excellent. I think we have a lot of potential," Flaggert said. "We are adding to an

already strong team. We have Julian (Washburn) who is an around athlete. McKenzie (Moore) goes hard every single time, and the freshmen are great. Vince (Hunter) has crazy hops, Andre (Spight) has great handle, the same with Josh (Brown). They are both are great shooters, so I am really impressed. We should have a great season and I am excited."

Brown, Flaggert, Hunter and Spight were on campus for the first summer session and are back in their hometowns, where they will remain until the fall semester begins. Hamilton is the only player that has not arrived to the city yet.

Hunter said that the praise that the recruiting class has received from the media won't affect the team's performance.

"I do not think it has put more pressure on us," Hunter said. "It has us working harder than what I intended to come in and do, but I feel that we have a great class so we should be able to do more and make it to the NCAA tournament."

While head coach Tim Floyd is being praised for this incoming group of players, Isaac Hamilton has already become a star.

As only the second Miner in UTEP history to be a McDonald's All American, Hamilton is becoming one of the most adored players to come to UTEP.

"Our recruiting class is excellent, I think we have a lot of potential."

- Jake Flaggert, freshman forward

Averaging 20.7 points, 5.7 rebounds, 4.6 assists, shooting 51 percent from the field, 28 percent from three-point range and 75 percent from the line, Miner fans are anticipating his arrival to the sun city.

The Miners will travel to the Bahamas to play in the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament, which will take place in the last week of November. In addition El Paso will host the 2014 Conference-USA Basketball Championships.

Audrey Westcott may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



AARON MONTES / The Prospector

(Top) Vince Hunter showing off his dunking ability. (Bottom) Andre Spight practicing his shooting at the Foster and Stevens Basketball Center.

simplystated

Leslie on award shortlist

UTEP's wide receiver Jordan Leslie was one of 75 candidates named to the 2013 Biletnikoff Award pre-season watch list, which was announced by the Tallahassee Quarterback Club Foundation, Inc. The award is presented to the nation's top college receiver.

Football Camp is expected to take place Aug. 8-20, with the scrimmage set for Aug. 17 at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas.

Gari to play in U-19 Women's World Championships

Sophomore guard/forward Irene Gari, will represent Spain at the 2013 FIBA under-19 World Championships, which will be played from July 18-28 in Lithuania.

Spain was drawn in Group B of the competition and will face Australia, Argentina and Japan in the city of Klaipeda.

Isaac Hamilton' late arrival

Five-star recruit Isaac Hamilton's arrival to the Sun City has been delayed. He was expected to arrive at UTEP for the second summer session, but on July 11, Hamilton tweeted: "To all UTEP fans, my grandmother is ill and I'm dealing with a death in the family. That's why I haven't made it (to El Paso) yet."

Hamilton along with the rest of the class are in their respective hometowns and will return just before the fall semester begins.

Rugby finishes third in Sevens Tournament

UTEP Rugby participated in the Saguaro's Sevens Tournament on July 13 in Tucson, Ariz. The Miners lost to the Tucson Magpies 21-14, Phoenix Chupacabras 12-5 and Phoenix Old Boys 17-5 and defeated Arizona/MBRFC 12-0, Tucson Old Pueblo 27-5 and Northern Arizona 52-0, to finish with a 3-3 record and ended third overall.

Column

Quidditch at UTEP?

BY LORAIN WATTERS

The Prospector



would feel just as eager about the mere idea of having a quidditch team at UTEP. Unfortunately, there still isn't one.

For those who don't know, quidditch is played in real life across the world by 916 teams. Most teams are a part of a university, while others represent a city or town.

In quidditch, there are seven players for both teams. The pitch that the sport is played on is similar to that of soccer. A volleyball replaces the quaffle, a dodgeball replaces the beater and a person is the snitch, using a tennis ball in a sock wrapped to his waist for other players to catch. At each end of the pitch are three goal posts ranging in size, which allows the players to throw the quaffles through the loops to score points for the team.

Each player has an assigned role. There must be three chasers (responsible for passing the quaffle to score points in the goal posts, worth 10 points each), two beaters (who try and hit the opposing team's players), one keeper (the goalkeeper, similar to a goalie in soccer) and one seeker (responsible for catching the snitch for 30 points before time runs out).

Rumors of a quidditch team being created during the spring and fall semester of 2012 circled around campus,

but nothing went through—whether it was lack of interest or not enough motivation. But fret not fellow Potterheads, because UTEP can still be involved in this international sport.

According to Cesar Hernandez Jr., recreational sports specialist at the Recreational Sports Department, students who are interested in making and recognizing their team as a club on campus must first be in good standing with the university policies.

"Any student organization need(s) to be at least one year under the Student Engagement and Leadership Center," Hernandez said. "We have to make sure they are leaving the student engagement in good standing."

After students submit an application provided by the Recreational Sports Department, it is reviewed and eventually approved or not by the department director.

"Our biggest concern is that sports clubs don't last more than one year. We would like to have them last at least 10 consecutive years and represent our great university," Hernandez said.

Quidditch is a vicious sport, with elements of hockey, soccer and rugby combined. It would be great to see UTEP get a team and represent El Paso at national quidditch games or even the Quidditch World Cup.

Until then, we can only continue to hope for J.K. Rowling's world to come to life in ours.

For more information about quidditch, visit internationalquidditch.org/mission/.

Mischief managed.

Lorain Watters may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



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/MINERPALOOZA

SEPTEMBER 6, 2013

