

11-18-2014

The Prospector, November 18, 2014

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 100, NO. 11

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

NOVEMBER 18, 2014

NO MORE

El Paso continues to stop domestic violence

“Your life could be in danger if you don’t proceed with prosecution or at the very least attempt to finish the relationship”

— Edgar Zagala,
Associate professor
in criminal justice

ANDRES MARTINEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

BY MARIA ESQUINCA

The Prospector

The numbers of domestic violence cases reported to El Paso’s District Attorney’s office reveal fluctuating figures.

“On average, we get about 5,000 cases a year, it goes up and down,” said District Attorney Jaime Esparza. “We’re not unique, we are not extraordinary, as in too many or in too little. We probably have—unfortunately—the number for our population.”

The number of domestic violence cases referred to the District Attor-

ney’s office ranged from 4,430 in 2009 to 6,076 in 2012. The latest figures reported were 5,843 in 2013.

“Compared to other cities like El Paso, its actually kind of normal. It’s not really higher than other cities, or lower,” said Edgard Zagala, associate professor of criminal justice. “It’s about the average that you’d expect in cities like El Paso.”

A recent report released by the Texas Council on Family Violence showed an increase in the number of women killed in Texas due to domestic violence from 114 in 2012 to 119

in 2013. The same report revealed a decrease in the number of women killed in El Paso, from four in 2012 to two in 2013.

Dallas and Harris counties tied for the largest number of domestic violence murders in the state, with 20 per county.

According to the report, 76 percent of women were killed at home, 58 percent were shot and 22 percent were stabbed.

In order to address the issue of domestic violence more aggressively, in 2006 the El Paso’s District Attorney’s

office began the 24-hour contact program. Within 24 hours of an arrest, a victim of domestic violence is contacted by an investigator and a victim’s advocate, either over the phone or in person.

“We talk to them about their safety, we talk to them about programs in the community that might be of help to them,” Esparza said. “I think that it really has made a difference in our cases, and as a result, we’ve gotten better at it.”

The 24-hour contact program, alongside 99 other various programs

throughout the country, were included in a White House report titled “1 is 2 Many,” featuring President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden as well as other celebrities to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act.

“We’re leaders in the state in attacking and addressing the issue of domestic violence,” Esparza said. “Our 24-hour program has been replicated not just in Texas, but elsewhere in the country, and we’re pretty proud of that.”

see ABUSE on page 4

UTEP has flunked again on sexual health

BY JOSE SOTO

The Prospector

UTEP ranked 122 out of 140 universities in the 2014 Trojan Sexual Health Report Card. The only University of Texas system institution to rank amongst the top 10 was UT Austin.

Trojan Brand Condoms, one of the nations leading condom-making companies, releases their Sexual Health Report Card every year. It ranks 140 universities across the nation, highlighting the sexual health of each campus and ranking them based on accessibility of sexual health resources and information made available to the student body.

The study takes different factors into consideration when ranking colleges, including accessibility to student health centers, hours of operation, website efficiency, number of employees, peer and collegial support groups and access to HIV/STD testing on campus.

UTEP only moved up two slots from last year, when it was ranked 124.

Eileen Aguilar, director of the Wellness Program on campus, said there is obviously a need for sexual health improvement.

“The university is a demographic that reflects the community,” Aguilar said. “Apparently, there is much work to be done.”

The Wellness Program recently received a grant of \$543,951 from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation’s Two Should Know Initiative. It is intended to initiate the Healthy Miner Sex Positive Peer Education Program at UTEP for the next two years.

“It’s focus is to increase self-efficacy amongst our students when it comes to making rational choices regarding their sexuality,” Aguilar said. “We aim to create a positive sexual culture on campus through peer education.”

The program will employ students from UTEP, who will be trained about healthy sexual and relationship-ori-

ented options and they will be responsible for teaching fellow students.

“This is the first grant that is given to the university that is sexually-related,” Aguilar said. “Our program wants to create leaders in positive and healthy sexuality reform.”

The program will also work alongside the Student Health Center, which wasn’t aware of the report card or the rank UTEP received, according to their director, Louise Castro. The Student Health Center could not answer questions asked by The Prospector regarding the Trojan Sexual Health Report Card because they were unaware of such a report.

Bert Sperling, president of Sperling’s Best Places, a consulting firm hired by Trojan Condoms to conduct the research, said the company has been working along with Trojan—who funds the research—for the last nine years to produce the report card.

“We send out the questionnaire to each university/college and look

out for the 10 major factors for scoring, including number of drop-ins at the student health centers, appointments, information made available to students, number of contraceptives offered at the schools, testings and lectures, peer groups, number of sexual assaults that occur on campus and information found on the student health centers website for each college,” he said.

Sperling said that the number of outside guest speakers, events, awareness programs and counseling groups the schools offer can produce extra credit applied when scoring the institutions.

“Our report card is an unbiased, factual survey and is intended to help each school improve the sexual health of their own student body,” Sperling said. “It provides an insight to the level of information that is being provided to the students. This year’s top-ranking school, (Oregon State University), can be a model for all other universities.”

OSU, along with Arizona State, which ranked No. 4 on the list, both publish weekly sexual health columns in their student newspaper.

“That can get the dialogue going,” Sperling said. “It helps with miscommunication and the awkward feeling of talking about sex.”

OSU also has a mobile application that allows students to enter specifications on the nature of the sexual act they are going to engage in and gives information and resources on how to reduce the risk of STDs and practice safer sex.

The UTEP Student Health Center’s website offers information regarding HIV/STDs via the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. It offers HIV and STD testing to students at a discounted rate. No other information regarding sexual health is stated on their website.

Jose Soto may be reached at theprospector.daily.news@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER 18, 2014

Thanksgiving, no thanks

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector



For Thanksgiving, I have a big slice of my mind to offer all of you: put down the fork and raise your awareness. There is nothing to be thankful for on Thanksgiving. There is a reason to be thankful every day of your life—simply for waking up—but Thanksgiving is just a big fallacy. It is a big, fat, round joke.

I might be coming off as a bitter curmudgeon, but I assure you that I am not.

I simply do not believe such a holiday should merit so much attention. First of all, let's start off with the mere nature of the holiday. We are all spoon-fed—no pun intended—this bland tale that omits truth and fact.

The first Thanksgiving actually happened when Juan De Oñate, a colonist working under Spanish rule, came to our very own region and hosted a feast upon reaching the Paso del Norte region.

This happened in 1598, 16 years before the pilgrims would reach Plymouth Rock. I'm not discrediting the European voyage; just stating that the history we are told isn't always accurate. It is pure Americana to prefer the stories of European colonization to the Spanish one. On both occasions, thousands of Native American Indians were murdered, enslaved or suffered from widespread diseases carried by the foreigners. Sounds appetizing, doesn't it?

More so, everyone always brags about how delicious their turkey is at dinner without ever taking into consideration how that turkey landed on the dinner table.

Many are calling for stronger immigration laws and constantly complaining about undocumented immigrants taking jobs. Let's get real here. Who do you think works at the factories your delectable turkey is coming from?

You should be thanking Juan right after you thank God for everything he has put on your table. If you haven't seen the documentary "Food, Inc.," please do so before Thanksgiving. Aside from addressing many of the issues regarding the way we produce,

process and consume food, it also casts a long overdue light on companies who employ undocumented immigrants and how they are constantly at risk of deportation.

Speaking of the issues regarding how we consume our food, what most disgusts me about Thanksgiving is the level of gluttony that it entails. I am not one to be diligent about everything I eat, but this has to be the holiday where most people forget about calorie intake and overall health altogether. The portions of the meals are ridiculously abundant. It's also very common for people to eat more food on Thanksgiving than they normally would any other day. I'm all up for people indulging here and there, but eating five times a day is not at all healthy.

I wasn't always this cynical about Thanksgiving, but I was never as ecstatic and enthusiastic as most people are either. It really wasn't until I started noticing how consumer-driven the holiday has become.

Black Friday really does stay true to its name. It's the blackest, darkest day of the year.

We go from being thankful for all the blessings and delicacies we have in our lives to indulging in lavish, extravagant spending. Perhaps some don't spend as much as others, but they still take part in the chaos and disarray that is Black Friday.

In turn, the workers at establishments that people line up to in herds have to deal with leaving their families, the barbaric nature of customers and the mess they leave behind. In recent years, Black Friday has even trickled into Thanksgiving Day with certain stores opening up earlier to beat the competition. I had a friend who was lucky to squeeze in an hour to be with his family before going into work at 7 p.m. in order to be ready for the anticipated mob at 10 p.m. when the store opened.

But that's what everyone says Thanksgiving is about—family. There really isn't anything familial about Thanksgiving. It's all built on lies, deception and consumerism. I don't know about you, but that doesn't seem like the foundation of family to me.

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FROM THE VAULT

THE SUMMER PROSPECTOR

VOL. XXXVII NO. 3 EL PASO, TEXAS FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1970

Chuck Alcala makes investigation

Former UTEP student charges EP Schools with discrimination

Faculty Council on athletics gives reasons on budget rise

Dr. RICHARD BURNS, chairman of the Faculty Council Committee on Athletics, explains that the increase will heavily lead to a limited team performance. (Photo by Richard Bagnall)

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VOL. 100, NO. 11

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The Prospector is published by the Student Publications Editorial Board, 105 Union East, 500 W. University Ave. El Paso, Texas, 79968. The Prospector appears in print once per week on Tuesdays 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.theprospectordaily.com.

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Weather forecast graphic for abc 7 kvia.com. Includes photos of meteorologists Dan Martinez, Krystal Klei, 'Doppler' Dave Speelman, Karla Huelga, and Nichole Gomez. The main text reads 'StormTRACK WEATHER'.

Table with 7 columns: TUES, WED, THUR, FRI, SAT, SUN, MON. Each column contains a weather icon, high/low temperatures, and a chance of rain percentage.

Student artists use talent to feed the hungry

BY RUBY CERINO
The Prospector

The Ceramic Art Student Association is planning to use its talents to give back to the community. CASA students have been collaborating with Hillside Coffee to form a ceramics drive. "We have worked all semester long making some really nice handcrafted ceramics that are functional, durable," said Alejandro Perea, senior studio-art major and event organizer. The proceeds of the drive will benefit the Kelly Memorial Food Pantry. Food pantries in El Paso serve about 10,200 people weekly. "It's more of a crisis now than a cause," Perea said. "By looking at the statistics, they're really incredible and we knew we had to do something. There are many El Paso families who need other El Pasoans to participate in a very human need."

This project is also an opportunity for the students to showcase their work and spread their names. Perea said El Paso doesn't really have a ceramics scene. "We really want to change that and make people realize the quality of local artists and value of supporting local artists," he said. "This will be a great opportunity for the community to be introduced to local artists." The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 6 at Hillside Coffee, located at 4935 N. Mesa St. "This is a chance for students and younger people to learn what it is to be a philanthropist and learn what it is to have an impact on the community using the skills that we've obtained here at UTEP," Perea said.

Ruby Cerino may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.



Senior studio art major Alejandro Perea works on a ceramic sushi disk.

RUBY CERINO / THE PROSPECTOR

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Liberal arts majors smoke the most, according to study

BY LUIS BARRIO
The Prospector

Every year, UTEP hosts the Great American Smokeout, an event that aims to spread awareness and encourage the community to quit smoking. This year, the Smokeout will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 20 on the third floor of Union Building East.

Before UTEP’s no tobacco policy, it seemed like staircase outside the Liberal Arts Building was the designated smoking area on campus. The evidence matched the crime.

According to a 2009 College Student Journal article, about 37.4 percent of communications, languages and cultural studies majors smoke regularly.

Art, design and performing arts majors are made up of about 30.8 percent smokers.

The lowest among college majors who smoke are science, mathematics and engineering at 21 percent.

The next lowest was business majors at 30.2 percent.

Approximately 15.4 percent of UTEP faculty, staff and students cur-

rently smoke, averaging 4.4 cigarettes per day, according to the Tobacco Free UTEP website.

“Looking at it through the perspective of the community as a whole, I don’t mind because second hand smoke does cause harm to others around us, even though they are not the ones harming their lungs.”

- Erick Delgado,
sophomore business major

According to a 2011 National Health Interview Survey by the Centers for Disease Control Prevention, “adults with at least a bachelor’s de-

gree were less likely than adults with less education to be current smokers and more likely to have ever smoked.”

Javier Alvarado is a senior marketing major. He does not smoke.

“For one, it’s my understanding that a lot of businesses give employees better health benefits if they don’t smoke or if they quit smoking,” he said.

Alvarado said that business professionals often work a routine schedule, whereas communication majors work on projects that require more sporadic hours.

“Smoking gives people a high that could make them more outgoing or

energetic and I feel like in communications, you’re constantly talking to people, so you need that energy,” he said.

Erick Delgado, sophomore business major, said he smokes because it helps him relax. He understands that the smoking ban on campus is for a good cause.

“Looking at it through the perspective of the community as a whole, I don’t mind because second-hand smoke does cause harm to others around us, even though they are not the ones harming their lungs,” he said.

The university began a self-governing policy in back in February of 2013 that disallowed the use of tobacco on campus.

Jon Leeah, senior nursing major and former smoker, said he understands why students with majors that aren’t based in science may smoke more.

“Maybe because their majors aren’t based so much in science like anatomy and biology so they don’t realize the harm that smoking can cause,” Leeah said.

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ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Senior metallurgical engineering major Fabian Alvarez smokes a cigarette after leaving campus.

Breast cancer procedure at higher rate in El Paso

BY MARIA ESQUINCA
The Prospector

A recent study by the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center at El Paso revealed that women in the city receive lumpectomies at a higher rate than the national average, but receive mastectomies at lower rates in early-stage breast cancer.

The rate of lumpectomies, the removal of tumorous tissue, was 71.7 percent in El Paso, compared to a national rate of lumpectomies of 60 percent.

The study used data from the Breast Cancer Database in collaboration with the University Medical Center Tumor Registry between January 2005 and October 2013.

Guilio Francia, UTEP assistant professor of biological sciences who is

researching treatment for metastatic breast cancer, said the trend among physicians has been to prefer lumpectomies over mastectomies in the early stages of breast cancer.

According to the Texas Cancer Center, the popularity of lumpectomies rose after a lumpectomy trial that proved the procedure, plus radiation, could achieve survival rates equal to those of a mastectomy for patients in stages one or two of breast cancer.

“One of the major advances in breast cancer over the past two decades is that the majority of women in the U.S. with early stage breast cancer currently receive breast-conserving therapy (lumpectomy) followed by radiation...to mastectomy,” the Texas Tech study said.

Avery Durant, sophomore nursing major, is the daughter of a breast cancer survivor. Her mother chose to have a lumpectomy, plus radiation, over a mastectomy.

“Every case is different. It really goes down to what the person wants because they do run the risk,” Durant said. “They (physicians) do recommend that you get the mastectomy to avoid the chances of it coming back, but you don’t have to. My mom said that if it were to come back she would have a mastectomy.”

However, despite lumpectomies being the preferred standard of care for early stage breast cancer patients, barriers exist for minorities that prevent them from getting the procedure done.

“Socio-economic and ethnic barriers still exist that preclude women pa-

tients from receiving breast-conserving therapy,” the Texas Tech study said.

A separate 2004 study published in the journal of Ethnicity and Disease interviewed 379 breast cancer patients from the San Francisco Bay Area and revealed that breast-conserving surgery was associated with clinical, socio-economic and ethnic factors.

According to the study, a higher proportion of women who underwent breast-conserving surgery had a high school education, health education and higher income, compared to women who received mastectomies.

The study also found that Hispanic women who received mastectomies were more likely to be recent immigrants and to speak a primary language other than English.

Zeiha Nahleh, professor of medicine, biomedical chief and one of the authors of the Texas Tech study, said she believes the results of the study can be attributed to the cultural accommodations they provide to their El Paso patients.

“We make sure that our patients, regardless of race or ethnicity, receive high-quality care,” she said. “This might not be true in other facilities dealing with Hispanic patients. We have Spanish-speaking staff and we take our time explaining treatment planning at a culturally appropriate level when necessary. We are happy to see the results, that our patients are not disadvantaged.”

Maria Esquinca can be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

“Socio-economic and ethnic barriers still exist that preclude women patients from receiving breast-conserving therapy.”

- Texas Tech Sciences Center at El Paso



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SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

Britches to riches

BY AMANDA GUILLEN

The Prospector

Stripping down to their unmentionables for a good cause is what students in Dr. Martina Myers' communication 3354 class are preparing to do on Friday, Nov. 21.

UTEP's first annual Britches to Riches The Undie Run is an idea brought to UTEP by junior political science major Joseph Terebessy.

Terebessy, a transfer student from Arizona State University, took part in a similar run at ASU and decided that an event like that would not only benefit charity but also give UTEP students something fun to do on a Friday night.

"On a Friday night, you can do something good and still have a great time afterwards," Terebessy said. "It doesn't have to involve drinking or anything, but feeling good about yourself and feeling comfortable in your own skin and knowing that you actually helped someone else that night."

This event is being held in association with Students of the Centennial, a program created when students from a UTEP communication class came up with the idea for a student time capsule.

Myers said that her class has gone through all of the steps in order to work with the Student Engagement and Leadership Center and have also been working with various students from Students of the Centennial.

"We pick projects that the classes picked in order to put participation and engagement that they develop for themselves out to others," Myers said. "Either they are going to be successful in making the event happen and bringing people in or its going to be

just another communication class that didn't go as well as we would've liked."

This event is something that Myers hopes will allow her students to gain valuable life experience and teach them lessons an average class would not focus on.

"I think one of the things you have learn is how to risk not necessarily even your reputation, your face or your money or things like that, but rather how and when are you willing to step up and represent something for the incentive," she said. "The motivation or the cause that is good and what goes beyond just another class."

Students looking to take part in this event must donate food, blankets, clothing or pet supplies in order to run. Music and food will be provided for runners.

The run will begin on Hawthorne Street and Rim Road at 7 p.m.

If there are runners who feel uncomfortable running in their underwear they can still participate while wearing clothing, so long as they bring items to donate.

Donations will be distributed to different causes around El Paso and to the Humane Society of El Paso.

Myers said the importance of events like these go far beyond the class itself, but rather teaches her students a valuable lesson in communication.

"I really want my students to take classes with participation and engagement," said Myers. "I don't think you have communication unless you believe in what you're doing."

Amanda Guillen may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

ABUSE from page 1

The District Attorney's office said the biggest obstacle when it comes to domestic violence is prosecuting the cases and getting them moved along in courts.

"Domestic violence is a very unique crime and a very complicated and difficult case to prosecute because of the continuing relationship between the defendant and the victim," Esparza said. "The relationship continues and that's what makes those cases more difficult."

Cesar Campa, communications director for the Center Against Family Violence, said if victims of domestic violence are economically dependent on their abusers, they are less likely to leave the relationship.

"Your life could be in danger if you don't proceed with prosecution or at the very at least attempt to finish the relationship," Zagala said.

A step the District Attorney's office is taking to resolve more domestic violence cases is videotaping the victims at the scene.

According to Esparza, videotaping victims yields powerful evidence that could solve cases before going to trial.

"There's just too many of them, 5,000 cases a year. We'd like to be able to resolve them short of trial," Esparza said.

Maria Esquinca may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

Horrible, like a boss

BY LUIS BARRIO

The Prospector

Experts say people quit people, not jobs. Our duties and obligations in life can be stressful and downright frustrating. The last thing we need is a difficult and unreasonable boss to make our lives that much more hectic.

Our demeanor and attitude outside of our day-to-day job can definitely be attributed to our work environment and those who we work for.

A lot of UTEP students have had pleasant experiences with their employers. Some went as far as saying that they "love" their boss.

Unfortunately, this is not the case for all employees.

Work-related stress can lead to deteriorations in health and a person's well being.

According to betterhealth.vic.gov.au, the physical repercussions of stress from our jobs range from headaches, fatigues, sleeping difficulties and heart palpitations.

Mental effects include depression, discouragement, pessimism and even the feeling of being overwhelmed and unable to cope.

For Derick Moreno, senior mechanical engineering major, he dealt with an unreasonable and at times "awkward" boss. As a barista at Abundant Living Faith Center, Moreno was in charge of making drinks and maintenance of the café and bookstore.

Moreno said there were situations in which his boss made questionable management choices.

"If you didn't do something quite right, he would just kind of hover over you and just stare at the problem and wouldn't actually point it out," he said. "He'd make a situation awkward."

“He said stuff like ‘what is your fucking problem? I’m your boss, you’re like my slave, you should obey me. I don’t give a shit about any of you.”

- Brown, UTEP student

Constant complaints from the staff and the lack of a profit being made under his management led to the termination of said manager.

In even worse instances, some employees have experienced offensive language and yelling from their bosses.

Brown, a junior studying cellular and molecular biochemistry, asked that her full name not be used in this story.

While working at El Taco Tote from March through July of 2013, Brown faced tremendous hardship at her work. Brown has scoliosis, a condition that leaves her spine curved at 15 degrees. Management at El Taco Tote knew about her condition and that it meant she could not do a lot of manual labor.

One month into the job, she was moved from running the register to cleaning the lobby area, where she was responsible for sweeping, mopping, cleaning tables and putting

chairs up on the tables. She worked late into the night.

"Obviously, I was in a lot of pain because of that," Brown said. "I used to take a lot of pills to sleep."

She said she was still willing to work there and put up with the pain, until one day.

"My manager called me into his office, and right after I closed the door he started yelling at me," Brown said. "He was very rude, by the way, asking me what my problem was."

Brown said he used very derogatory language.

"He said stuff like ‘what is your fucking problem? I’m your boss, you’re like my slave, you should obey me. I don’t give a shit about any of you,’” she said.

Brown confronted her boss to ask why she couldn't work the register, considering her condition. She said he replied saying that profit was low and they simply did not need cashiers. Brown said that two days after their confrontation, a new girl was hired as cashier.

"I told them I wasn't feeling good and left," Brown said.

While working at El Taco Tote, Brown noticed changes in her life.

"I started to miss classes; I didn't have enough time to do homework. I missed some exams," Brown said. "My professors knew about my situation so they gave me some extra homework to help my grade."

She has learned from her experience.

"It taught me to put myself before my job," Brown said.

Luis Barrio may be reached at TheProspectorDaily.news@gmail.com.


CONGRATULATIONS

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GOOD LUCK AT NATIONALS !



New reports clash over safety of fracking

BY ROCKY ASUTSA
SHFWire

WASHINGTON – The federal law regulating how oil and gas companies that use hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, to inject fracking fluids into the ground is too lax, an environmental group says in a new report.

The Environmental Integrity Project said in the report released Oct. 22 that, by being silent on chemicals that are more toxic than diesel, the Safe Water Drinking Act provides a loophole that lets companies legally inject chemicals into the ground.

The report details the use of chemicals with higher benzene concentrations than was allowed before the law was amended. It decried the lack of regulation for non-diesel based fracking fluids that had “higher benzene concentrations.”

The Environmental Protection Agency says that benzene consumed in drinking water may over time cause anemia and that it is a carcinogen.

Data in the report were gathered through a voluntary industry-run website, Frac Focus, where companies post information about the content of fracking fluids.

“Some companies are using other drilling fluids, non-diesel fluids, that contain benzene and ethyl benzene in much higher concentrations that you would see in diesel,” Eric Schaffer, Environmental Integrity Project executive director, said in a conference call to mark the release of the report.

Blackbrush O&G, LLC, self-reported that it injected 47,970 gallons of

benzene into a well in Dimmit County, Texas. The fracking fluid – 1.2 million gallons – was made up of butane, naphthalene, ethyl benzene and other liquids, some of which were labeled trade secrets, and contained 4.1 percent benzene.

This is four times the benzene concentration in diesel-based fracking fluids.

Blackbrush Oil and Gas dismissed the report’s conclusions and denied using fracking fluid containing benzene.

“We are fracking with a mixture of crude oil, butane and water with no benzene in it. The report is not correct,” Dorothy McCoppin, Blackbrush, vice president and general counsel, said.

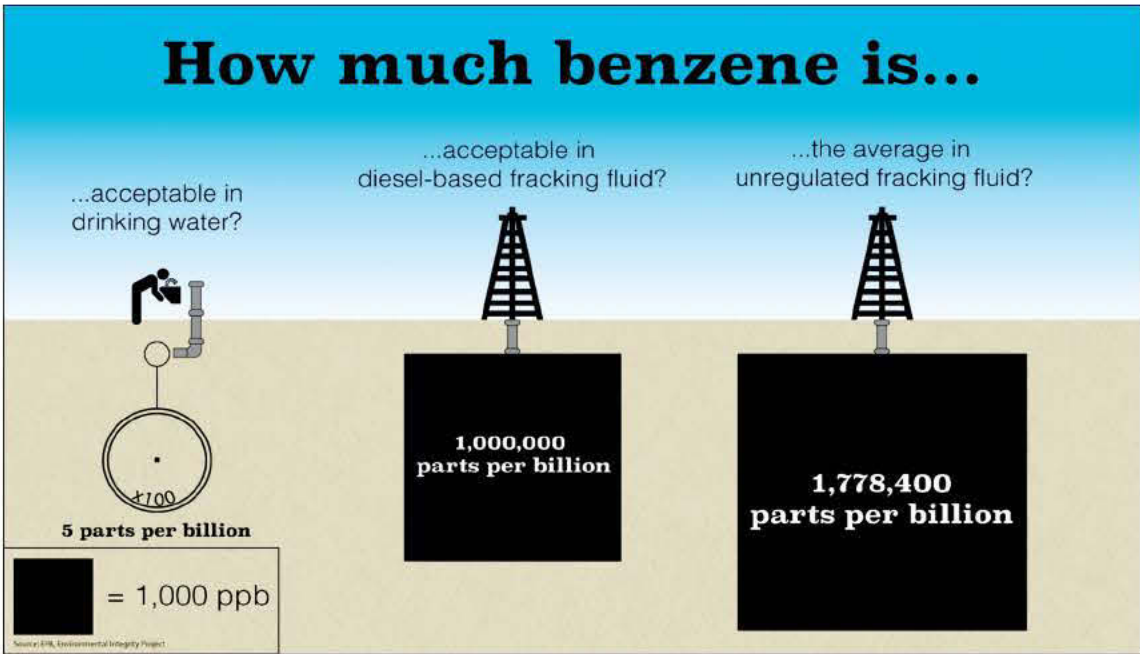
Asked about the specific reference to benzene in document the company posted to FracFocus, McCoppin referred the question to another company representative, who did not respond to several requests for information over a week.

The environmental group’s report does not provide data or evidence of drinking water contamination. It highlights efforts by companies to self-report, noting the weaknesses in the effort and recommends the use of BTEX-free fracking products.

Asked for comment, the EPA replied in an email statement.

“Our authority is limited by many statutory or regulatory exemptions under the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, the petroleum and natural gas exemption under Superfund and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act,” the statement said.

The exemption is in the 2005 Energy Policy Act, which amended the SWDA



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

definition to allow regulation of diesel but not of other fluids or natural gas.

A minority staff report released Oct. 23 by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works dismisses what it terms as “nonsensical” environmental activists’ claims against hydraulic fracturing and describes fracking chemicals as posing “virtually no risks.”

“President Obama, in coordination with far-left environmental activists is waging an all-out assault to shut down domestic production of American oil and natural gas and, in particular, targeting the use of hydraulic fracturing,” the report says.

The committee report claims that states embracing fracking are stronger economically than those opposed to it and that 16 states require or allow companies to disclose chemicals used in fracturing.

It describes concerns about toxic fracking fluids as “scare tactics” and lists the fluids’ contents as being 90 percent water, 9.5 percent sand and 0.5 percent chemical additives. Some of these additives, it says, are sourced from the food industry.

The minority report agrees with environmental groups and the EPA that states should be more active in regulating fracking.

The report criticizes President Barack Obama’s administration’s handling of hydraulic fracturing.

Sen. David Vitter, of Louisiana, the top Republican on the committee praised fracking.

“The Obama Administration has been on a witch hunt to shut down hydraulic fracturing. There’s been such positive progress with natural gas – clearly one of the brightest spots in our otherwise slumping economy – it makes little sense for the Obama Administration to remain opposed to developing our nation’s natural gas and fossil fuels,” Vitter said in a statement.

Rocky Asutsa is an electronic media major at Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya. He is currently participating in the Scripps Howard Foundation Semester in Washington Program. He may be reached at theprospector.daily.news@gmail.com.



Saturday, December 13, 2014 ♦ Don Haskins Center - The University of Texas at El Paso ♦ Centennial Class of 2014

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY TIMES:

9 a.m.
Morning Commencement

-College of Liberal Arts

2 p.m.
Afternoon Commencement

-College of Business Administration
-College of Education
-School of Nursing

7 p.m.
Evening Commencement

-College of Engineering
-College of Science
-College of Health Sciences

*All Ceremonies include graduate degrees corresponding to these Colleges.

THE DAY OF COMMENCEMENT


- In order to experience an enjoyable Commencement ceremony, please arrive at Memorial Gym at least an hour prior to the ceremony. Check-in will begin inside of Auxilliary Gym (room 120) at the following times:
 - For 9 a.m. Ceremony: 8 a.m. (doors open at 7:30 a.m.)
 - For 2 p.m. Ceremony: 1 p.m. (doors open at 12:30 p.m.)
 - For 7 p.m. Ceremony: 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)*Please ensure that you have checked-in and picked up your reader card during these times.
- Arrive early and have your green screen Commencement portrait taken in Memorial Gym prior to the ceremony.
- Please leave all personal items (backpacks, mobile devices, purses, coats, etc.) at home/automobile. These items (along with food, beverages beach balls, balloons, confetti, noise makers, silly string, etc.) will not be allowed in the Don Haskins Center.
- Though your family and friends are an important part of commencement, childcare services will not be provided, and children may not accompany graduates during the commencement ceremony. Please make appropriate plans for the care of your children.
- Wear regalia and comfortable shoes, and out of courtesy for your fellow graduates, please remain for the duration of the ceremony.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE GRADUATES!

For parking recommendations, tips for families and friends and other information:
utep.edu/commencement

Purchase your GRADPACK by visiting or calling the UTEP Bookstore at 915-747-5594 to take advantage of discounted cap, gown and tassel, and alumni products, including a 1-year membership, medallion, t-shirt and coffee mug!

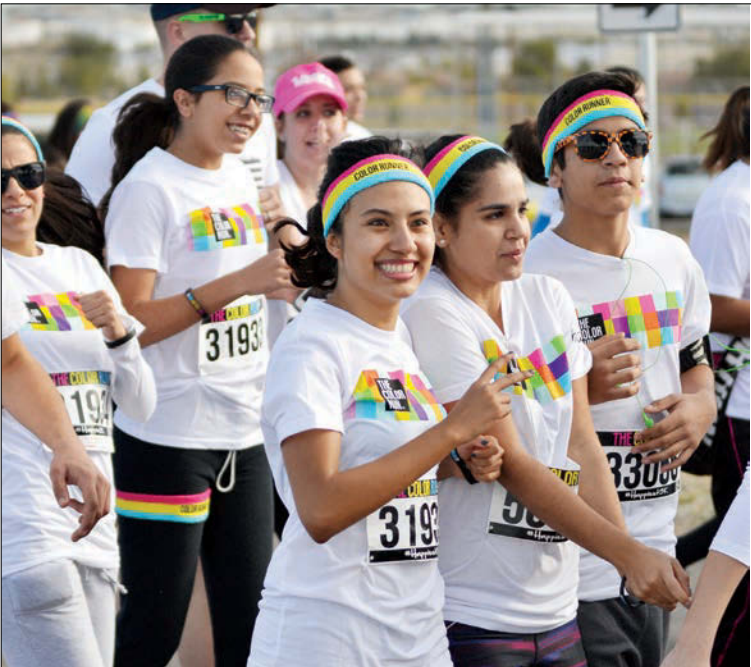
Office of University Relations



NOVEMBER 18, 2014

OUR VIEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MICHAELA ROMÁN 747-7477

Getting fit with a splash of color



The Color Run took place Saturday, Nov. 15 at Ascarate Park located on 6900 Delta Drive. Participants enjoy getting splashed with colored powder after a 5-K run.

RUBY CERINO/ THE PROSPECTOR

NOVEMBER 18, 2014

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
ANDREA ACOSTA, 747-7477

App connects costumers with food truck businesses



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

BY JOSEPH ESPOSITO

The Prospector

As part of a summer internship program, four UTEP students partnered with web design and marketing agency Spectrum Solutions for the development of Food Chasers, a mobile application that aims to connect food truck owners with their customers.

“Food trucks are a new emerging industry that is growing and starting to emerge here in El Paso,” Spectrum Solutions Vice President John Hernandez said. “They’re a great place to eat and El Paso has a wide variety of them. This is just kind of our fun project we’re doing with UTEP to help local business owners in El Paso.”

Food Chasers allows for food truck owners to share information such as schedules, locations and promotions

with those who have downloaded the app. The application is currently free to both customers and food truck owners and is available in the Android and iOS markets.

“I saw that they were making mobile apps and thought working with mobile apps would be good experience, so it seemed like a good option for me,” senior computer science major Christopher Gandarilla said.

Gandarilla was one of the four UTEP students who helped in developing Food Chasers.

The application will notify users when one of their favorite food trucks is nearby. It also features a loyalty rewards system. Linked to their own Food Chasers accounts, app users will receive a personal bar code to be scanned by food truck owners whenever they make a purchase to acquire

Food Coins, which can be exchanged for coupons for those food trucks.

“I find (Food Chasers) useful when I want good food without the struggle of looking or driving all over El Paso,” freshman criminal justice major Rubie Moreno said. “Being free also makes it more appealing for other users.”

To commemorate the application’s launch, Food Chasers will host The Last Hunt of the Food Truck, from Nov. 17 to 21, which will be a scavenger hunt where a riddle will be given each day, with the answer being one of five food trucks. Participants will “favorite” the answer, allowing them to receive a notification saying where the food truck will offer free and discounted items the following day.

“Working on a product that will be used by the public is a good experience,” Gandarilla said. “This process has helped me learn things that are not taught in classes and allowed me to apply the things that I have learned in classes.”

REGENTS' OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS IN ARTS & HUMANITIES



The University of Texas System Board of Regents has developed awards to recognize outstanding students and student groups in the arts & humanities. This year’s awards are for **MUSICAL ARTS** in two categories:

- Solo/Duet Performance and
- Group Performance,

with a cash prize of \$1,500 for Solo/Duet Performance and \$2,500 for Group Performance.

ELIGIBILITY:

The awards are open to undergraduate students studying at a UT institution. For student groups, all members must be enrolled as undergraduate students at the institution and at least 75% of the group must be enrolled full-time taking at least 12 semester credit hours. For individual students and duets, all students must be enrolled full-time.

GENERAL CRITERIA:

Evidence of academic excellence.
Commitment to the arts through participation in university and community activities.

SPECIFIC EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Evaluations of submissions in music will be based on the following elements:

1. Tone production
2. Technique
3. Rhythm
4. Intonation
5. Interpretation
6. Overall quality of performance
7. Diction (for vocalists)

Visit sa.utep.edu/RegentsAward to learn more.

All nomination materials must be submitted to:
Dr. Melissa Colgin-Abeln
301 Fox Fine Arts
(Music Office)
mcolgin@utep.edu
(915) 747-5606

NOMINATION MATERIALS:

- An application form. For duets and groups, a single form should be submitted on behalf of the duet or group.
- A release form for each student to allow UT System to publicly share student’s work. This is required for each student, whether a solo, duet, or group submission.
- A video recording of the solo, duet, or group performance.
 - o No more than two works will be considered. The maximum combined length of the performance(s) should not exceed 10 minutes.
 - o All works requiring accompaniment must be performed with a live accompaniment, as the piece requires.
 - o Performance must be from within the school year that the performance is submitted.



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
The University of Texas at El Paso

“
I find (Food Chasers) useful when I want good food without the struggle of looking or driving all over El Paso.
”
- Rubie Moreno,
freshman criminal justice major

Spectrum Solutions plans to release an app similar to Food Chasers aimed at aiding other small business owners in promoting their products and services. Like Food Chasers, the app will reward customers who visit these businesses. The app is made to serve as a replacement for the common punch-card system used by various businesses.

Sweet Addiction food truck owner Palo Treja said that Facebook has been his main connection to customers for two years, but Facebook has made recent changes to the way information reaches customers and small businesses’ posts get lost in the customers’ news feed.

“The Food Chasers app will allow us to be in direct contact with customers,” Treja said.

While currently only applicable to food trucks in El Paso and Austin, Food Chasers plans to expand to other cities in the near future as well as offering a desktop version in the coming months. Spectrum Solutions plans to release an update to the app that allows for Food Coins to be interchangeable between food trucks, encouraging food truck owners to promote each other. To download the app, create an account or register your own food truck, visit foodchasersapp.com.

Joseph Esposito may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What are your plans for Thanksgiving break?

RUBY CERINO, CRISTINA ESQUIVEL, ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR



ARMANDO SALDAÑA
Freshman general studies major
“For the break I’m going to be with the family, eating, chilling and all that stuff. I don’t totally disagree with having finals after the break because you can have a break, then get back to school and study hard.”



CLAUDIA PEREZ
Freshman pre-engineering major
“I will spend my break hanging out with my friends and family as well as studying for finals.”



JAVIER AGUILERA
Senior biological sciences major
“I will probably be working on research in my laboratory. If not, maybe I’ll try to get an internship somewhere and do that.”



JEHNA PEREZ
Freshman biology major
“I will be spending my break with my family and friends and maybe going to San Antonio.”



MATTHEW DAVALOS
Freshman mathematics major
“I will be with my family for the break eating turkey and watching football. I think having finals after the break will be stressful during the break.”



JESSICA ARMENDARIZ
Freshman biomedical major
“During the break I will be spending time with my family and also friends who are coming from out of town, and of course eating as much turkey as I can.”



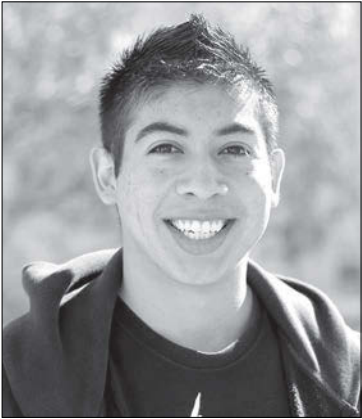
JETSABELE GONZALEZ
Senior English and American literature major
“I am going to be spending time with my family, have dinner, because we haven’t seen each other in a while.”



KYMBERLY DE LEON
Freshman communication major
“For the break, I will be spending time with family in Juárez. I think having finals after the break is a bad thing because a lot of students will be enjoying themselves and they won’t be thinking of studying.”



WENDY NAJERA
Freshman business major
“I will be studying and spending time with my family.”



HECTOR SILVA
Sophomore biochemistry major
“Same thing I do every year, just hanging out with the family and friends and then go Black Friday shopping.”

End-of-the-year gadget releases

BY GIANFRANCO LANGUASCO
The Prospector

Some things are worth waiting for. The year is almost over and all the gadgets that were rumored to be released will soon be on the market, finally. With just a couple of weeks until Black Friday, here are some of the top gadgets we all hope to get.

ASUS GX500

This is not a common gaming laptop. It’s only 0.75 inches thick, weighs 4.85 pounds and has an intelligent dual-fan cooling system, making it the ultimate laptop for gamers on the go. As for the inside, the GX500 has an Intel Core i7 processor with the latest Nvidia GeForce GTX 860M graphics and a 15.6 inch screen that features VisualMaster display technology for better clarity. There is still no price information, but it is rumored to be around \$1,900.

DROP

Cooks can now Stop eyeballing whenever they are trying to measure ingredients while cooking. Go pro, like a real chef, and weigh your ingredients properly. That’s where “Drop” comes in, the smart kitchen scale app can be connected wirelessly to your iPad. Once connected, the app will also help you with cooking, providing recipes and suggestions. The cost is listed in \$99, but you can get a discount if you pre-order it.

PANONO PANORAMIC BALL CAMERA

Get all the angles with this sphere-shaped camera with 36 image sensors located around it. Get panoramic pictures or any crazy idea you can have with this gadget and connect it with your Android or iOS app via Bluetooth or post pictures directly via Wi-Fi. The price is \$599.

JIBO

We have all been expecting the moment when robots help you do the household chores like in the movies. Well, that time has come. Jibo is a small white device with two high-resolution cameras, 360-degree microphones and natural language processing. Unfortunately, it’s not programmed to clean, but it is willing to help you with almost everything else: cooking, taking pictures, reading emails, etc. The price will be \$1,931.

OM ONE

Apparently, levitation is the next step in technology. Either that or it’s just for looking trendy. Om One is being introduced as the world’s first levitating Bluetooth speaker, which helps eliminating the transmission of sound vibrations. Price is \$199, with an additional charge of \$20 for international shipping.

Gianfranco Languasco may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

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Local business expands to downtown

BY KIMBERLY VALLE

The Prospector

The Pizza Joint opened the doors of their second location last week, located in the downtown area on 500 N. Stanton. According to customers, this location is bigger and better than the first location.

Melissa Maese, owner of both Pizza Joint locations and a UTEP alumni, said that she wanted to be part of the change in the city due to El Paso's recent downtown renovations.

"I started looking. I've had my eye on this place for over a year," Maese said. "Just coming downtown—we have the stadium now, the new artist housing that's coming down, the new hotels—I just wanted to be here for when it all happens, I wanted to do it before anyone else did."

After being inspired by the big space and long windows, Maese contacted the landowner and began talking business.

"I would say 'Oh my God, that would be so perfect for what we do.'"

It's like getting right on the freeway," Maese said.

Maese first started her business with her partner Janet after being laid off from her previous job. Maese's dream was to sell pizza by the slice, and have that college town feeling, where students can go and enjoy their slice with a beer.

"I was just trying to plan for the future pretty much. I wasn't sure if I was going to stay on Mesa Street or just have another option," Maese said.

Hillary Dudley, junior sociology major and new employee at The Pizza Joint, said she enjoys the downtown location.

"Downtown is a little different because there is a lot more space, so you're not working on top of each other, a lot more room for activities," Dudley said. "I'm so happy and grateful to be apart of this company."

The Pizza Joint is known for their fresh ingredients, creative recipes and huge slices of pizza along with their baked wings and fresh salads. Their new location downtown will feature



ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

The second The Pizza Joint opens its second location at the corner of 500 N. Stanton and Franklin Ave.

longer hours of operation, a stage for local bands, performers and paintings from El Paso.

"We really try to feature as much of El Paso as we can," Maese said.

Chalkboards surround the location, where people are able to write and draw on the walls. The Pizza Joint also includes fountain drinks and draft beers. Discounts for students and military are still available. For late nights, they will feature a Dutch Door, where slices of pizza will be sold through a window when the location is closed.

Since they opened their doors at the new location, Maese said she has been receiving positive feedback from El Pasoans.

Customers have been pleased in how the new location turned out.

"This place is perfect for El Paso's downtown," Johnny Villalobos, sophomore history major, said. "Their customer service is great, everyone is so friendly and the pizza is delicious."

"On opening day, we opened at 11 a.m. and we had a line out the door," Maese said. "We got amazing feedback. This weekend has been crazy busy—better than I expected. A lot of regulars are coming by and they're still blown away. They love it."

Maese said the next step in her business is managing both locations' hours and employees. She will do this by taking one step at a time in handling everything in both businesses.

"I can't tell you how many hand shakes and hugs I got this weekend," Maese said. "When people walk in for the first time, they're blown away, 'Oh my gosh, it still feels like Pizza Joint,' it is really neat."

The Pizza Joint's hours of operations are Monday-Tuesday from 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday from 11 a.m.-12 a.m., Friday-Saturday from 11 a.m.-3 a.m. and Sunday from 2 p.m.-9 p.m.

For more information, call 533-4066 or visit the-pizza-joint.com.

Kimberly Valle may be reached at theprospectordaily. ent@gmail.com.

Whole Foods arrives in El Paso



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

BY KIMBERLY VALLE

The Prospector

Whole Foods Market announced 12 new locations, and one of them is making its way to El Paso and will open in late 2016.

The announcement was made a week ago and according to Heather Larrabee, Whole Foods regional marketing coordinator, the El Paso location will be on the southeast corner of Pitt and Mesa Streets on the Westside.

"El Paso is really an awesome place for us, because not only do you have folks living in El Paso, but you have Las Cruces and Juárez right across the border," Larrabee said. "So there's a ton of people that we are hoping will like the food and the things that we have to offer."

Whole Foods Market is a healthy grocery food store known for their fresh and organic produce, locally sourced products including meat and seafood, which are cut fresh in each store location by butchers and fishmongers. Bulk products such as

nuts, cereals and grains are available in addition to a coffee bar, bakery and a prepared food section with sandwiches, burritos, pizzas, rotisserie chickens, soup and salad bars and chef-made deli fare to go.

Representatives say there will also be alternative diet options, like gluten-free and vegetarian foods.

"We have really strict quality standards for any food that we sell in our store, so that comes down to ingredients," Larrabee said. "We don't allow anything that has high-fructose corn syrup or artificial color and preservation, hydroxylated fats, strict standard of animal welfare. We are really responsible to the environment."

Like every Whole Foods store, El Paso's will be different. Larrabee, along with other partners, went around the city to get a sense of what El Paso is all about. Larrabee also said that the location's architecture will be a surprise. She said that there will be some UTEP spirit and different food cultures for people to explore,

including Greek, Mediterranean and Korean.

"We know family is of huge importance in El Paso, very kid-friendly family," Larrabee said. "You will definitely see some venues that we don't have elsewhere based on the culture and food tradition."

Many seem to be excited about Whole Foods coming to El Paso. Diana Vasquez, junior multimedia journalism major, said she looks forward to shopping there.

"We don't have something like this in El Paso, so it will benefit the residents here," Vasquez said.

Diana Leon, junior multimedia journalism major, who stays consistent with her diet and work out routines, said she is thrilled about Whole Foods.

"I often struggle on finding all organic groceries for my meal preps, but I am happy El Paso is finally stepping up healthy wise," Leon said.

Kimberly Valle may be reached at theprospectordaily. ent@gmail.com.

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SPORTS EDITOR JAVIER CORTEZ, 747-7477

Miners seek revenge in Battle of I-10

BY LUIS GONZALEZ
The Prospector

UTEP does not have many true rivalries, but the one it has with the school up the road in Las Cruces over basketball is as real as it gets. The UTEP men's basketball team hosts the New Mexico State Aggies at the Don Haskins Center on Saturday night, Nov. 22 in their second game of the 2014-15 season. This will be the first of two meetings between the schools this season the second taking place at the Pan-American Center in Las Cruces in December.

The Miners come into the game after handling Washington State University in its regular season opener on Friday in front of over 10,000 fans. The Cougars were the first of two Pac-12 teams UTEP is scheduled to face in its challenging out-of-conference schedule.

The Miners struggled offensively, but the defense that has become a staple of the program since head coach Tim Floyd took over, propelled them to their first win of the season. Led by sophomore forward Vince Hunter, who had 14 points and a career-high 16 rebounds, UTEP overwhelmed the visiting Cougars on defense and on the glass. UTEP forced 22 turnovers and held the Cougars to just 35 percent shooting, while winning the rebounding battle, 46-37.

Hunter's performance earned him his first first C-USA Player of the Week award of the season.

"We defended pretty well," Floyd said. "I thought we were as good as we've been since I've been here in terms of going to the offensive board."

After a formidable challenge of Washington State, the Miners' schedule only gets tougher. New Mexico State is the favorite to win the Western Athletic Conference and to make a second consecutive trip to the NCAA tournament. Coached by Marvin Menzies, the Aggies began their season on the road against another NCAA tournament team. Wichita State, the no. 11 team in the nation was never threatened by Menzies' team and prevailed over the Aggies 71-54.

NMSU comes to town after sweeping the series with the Miners a year ago, and they will be led by the reigning WAC Player of the Year and this year's WAC Preseason Player of the Year senior guard Daniel Mullings. He is accompanied by fellow seniors Tshilidzi Nephawe, center, and D.K. Eldridge, guard, who were chosen for the pre-season first and second teams, respectively.

"They are a terrific, terrific team," Floyd said. "Same basic group that took San Diego State to overtime in the NCAA tournament."

Mullings will likely be the focus of UTEP's defense the way Washington State's DaVonte Lacy, a member of the Pac-12 All-Star team. Senior guard Julian Washburn was on Lacy for long stretches of the game and will likely do the same with Mullings. Lacy was limited to just two shots in the first half. Throughout his career at UTEP, Washburn has distinguished himself as one of the best defenders in all of college basketball and understands the value of quality team defense.

"It's a great sign that we're playing great defense early. In order to



ANDRES RODRIGUEZ THE PROSPECTOR

New Mexico State leads the overall series 101-100 over the Miners.

be a great team ,you have to defend," Washburn said.

The ability to rely on defense early in the season can be crucial as the team finds its rhythm offensively. Although struggling from the field, shooting just 35 percent, the Miners were still able to win by a double-digit margin because of defense. The problems on the offensive side is not something that worries Washburn too much.

"We have a lot of great scorers on this team, the shots are going to start falling eventually," Washburn said.

This weekend's matchup promises to be as close and exciting as the rivalry's history. NMSU holds a one-game lead over the Miners, leading the series 101-100. There is no rivalry in UTEP athletics quite like this one and the recent Aggie success combined with the high Miner expectations make this game as intriguing as

ever. Like in every true sport rivalry there will be more at stake than just a win for each team's record when they step on to the court.

"We really need a win," said senior center Cedric Lang. "As a team, we are really looking forward to this game. Hopefully we can get a bunch of people in the stands and get a win."

Luis Gonzalez may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

A Golden year for a Golden Miner



MICHAELA ROMAN/ THE PROSPECTOR

Junior running back Autrey Golden is UTEP's all-time leader in kick return touchdowns with six.

BY JUAN CARLOS NAVARRETE
The Prospector

For a player who is listed as running back for the UTEP Miners' football team, Autrey Golden is much more

than that. Golden is more than a versatile running back, and given his ability to run and catch, he is the football team's version of a five-tool player; he is the team's Swiss army knife.

Coming from the small city with a population of no more than 6,000 people in Willis, Texas, Golden started at Willis High School for three years. Despite being an All-District first-team selection his junior and senior seasons,

Golden was only offered two Division-I scholarships. UTEP was one of those offers and he took it.

At Willis High School, Golden's coaches saw what the UTEP coaches see today—his ability to play multiple positions. It was not until he played at UTEP that he started returning kicks, which is where Golden is at his best.

"I have to thank an old coach that recruited me here, coach Banks," Golden said. "He gave me the opportunity. He came to my home and told me stuff that I was capable of if I went here (UTEP). I got here and he put me in a position to be successful, returning kick offs."

The opportunity did not end with a different coaching staff after Mike Price left—as a matter a fact they increased. Coach Kugler speaks highly of Golden. Kugler's staff has also been one of the reasons for Golden's success on the playing field.

"He's always been talented, but now he's starting to have a role in our offense, special teams," Kugler said. "He's got a great attitude, he comes to work every day. I enjoy coaching him and he's very well respected by his teammates. He's become a weapon for us."

Through his success, Golden has stayed humble, grounded and team oriented. When asked about his legacy and his record for kick returns, he is adamant about it being a team effort.

If you just work hard, the blessings will come. I just focus on trying to take this team to a bowl game and winning football games.

- Autrey Golden,
UTEP football running back

"If you just work hard, the blessings will come," Golden said. "I just focus on trying to take this team to a bowl game and winning football games."

As for life outside of football, the opportunities to play for the NFL are slim to none for most players in the college ranks, even with his school records. His legacy at the school, however, will always remain—even if someone breaks his record. Golden does not seem to focus on that as much as he does on the team around him.

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Men's club soccer ready for another crack at Nationals

BY JAVIER CORTEZ
The Prospector

For the second consecutive season, the UTEP men's club soccer team is going to the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) National Championships. Starting on Nov. 20, the team will travel to Memphis, Tennessee, in hopes of winning their first national championship since 1989.

The club team has been a successful recreational sports program for the last 25 years, with many of the team's past and present players being former collegiate soccer players, who now play the game for the love of it.

Despite the team's history and past success, many students today do not even know that UTEP has a club soccer team, let alone the fact that they are playing in the NIRSA National Championships for back-to-back seasons.

"We won last year (regionals), and with our passion we did it again this year," said team captain Raul Irigoyen, a senior civil engineering major. "It's a pleasure for us to represent our school on a national level."

As of now, this year's team stands at 6-3-1 on the season, with their only loss coming against Arizona State early in the season. Despite the solid record, the Miners finished third place in their region behind Northern Arizona and regional champion Arizona State.

In the regional final, they found themselves up against Arizona State—the only team that beat them all season long and quite frankly em-

barrassed them. During the game, the Arizona State players were taunting the players and showing no sportsmanship whatsoever, according to head coach Carlos Becerra.

Nevertheless, they came through with a 1-0 win over the Sun Devils and a spot in the national championships. With the 5-0 loss still fresh in the team's memory, the win was nothing short of great.

"The loss to them this season at their place was embarrassing to say the least," Becerra said "It was a learning experience for myself and the guys. But it felt good to comeback and beat them because they we're laughing and making fun of us."

Team-leading goal scorer Ivan Ortega, junior business major, came through with the game's only goal, and with that goal, made history. The win over Arizona State was the first time the club team has ever won their region in back-to-back years.

"I think we're in a really good place right now," Ortega said. "We qualified for nationals last year and doing that again has given a boost to our morale."

Last year, the national championships, hosted in Tempe, Arizona, were cancelled after the group stage because of a flooding at the soccer complex. This year, the stage is set in Memphis, where the team has their hands full with two-time regional champions Ohio State and the University of Virginia.

"Our expectation is to win the whole thing," Ortega said. "I think for now our focus is on the group stage, which I think we will have a big part in, to win the group. From there it will just be whoever wants it more."

In total, the NIRSA National Championships consist of 24 teams from six regions. The 24 teams are split into eight groups of three, and the top two teams from each group advance to the knockout stage of the tournament. For the Miners to advance will be a tall task, but coach Becerra believes his team is ready for the moment.

"I expect them to do well," Becerra said. "I think the style of soccer that we're playing is different from most of the teams we're going to encounter over there. It is going to be a little faster and physical, but I think we're prepared for that and we're really good at adjusting throughout the game to exploit the opponents' weaknesses."



ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP club soccer team will play their first game in Memphis against the University of Virginia on Nov. 20.

The Miners' biggest advantage over this year's competition in Memphis is experience. Most of the players on the team are from last year, and many of

them have a clear memory of what it is like to compete on a national level. "I think the experience from them being there last year is big," Ortega said. "Already being there once will

make it more and more comfortable for us to perform even better."

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- Ivan Ortega,
junior buisness major

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