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# The Prospector, February 3, 2015

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# THE PROSPECTOR

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

FEBRUARY 3, 2015

## El Paso drops in ranking

MARIA ESQUINCA

The Prospector

El Paso was ranked this year as No. 53 out of 200 best performing cities by the Milken Institute, a nonprofit organization that publishes research on economics. This is an 18-point drop from the previous year.

Austin, Texas, came in at No. 2, and was one out of seven from Texas that made the top 20 list.

The report said that the ranking comes from stable employment, expanding salaries and thriving businesses. It also provides a tool for understanding consumer markets and business opportunities.

Some of the criteria used to rank the cities were job growth, wage growth and high-tech gross domestic product concentration, among others.

One the criteria El Paso scored high in was job growth from 2007-2011.

"El Paso ranked very favorably in terms of other metropolitan cities in the U.S. because there was still a lot of non-residential construction activity going here," said Thomas Fullerton, professor of economics at UTEP.

However, El Paso ranked low in all areas concerning high-tech GDP. Fullerton said because of El Paso's location, it has not been able to attract high-tech companies.

"It's worthwhile to note that El Paso is not located closely to any of the high-tech geographic clusters in the U.S.," Fullerton said. "The closest one of those is more than 500 miles away."

Fullerton said another reason El Paso has not been able to attract high-tech industries is because the city has a large uneducated workforce.

"On that basis, it would be surprising if there were a lot of high-tech activity here in this region," Fullerton said.

Data from the U.S. Census shows that 12.1 percent of the population 25 years or older has a bachelor's degree, while 22.5 percent has a high school diploma—lower than the state and national average.

"What we have to do as a community is we've got to be able to retain the talent here in El Paso," said Cari Westin, managing director of economic development for El Paso. "Offering the amenities in the community that's going to keep graduates here is important."

Adrian Aguilar, senior electrical engineering major, said after he graduates he's going to have to leave El Paso because there aren't any jobs offered for his degree.

"There's nothing here," Aguilar said. "It's very typical. Usually a lot of people that graduate have the tendency to leave."

Westin said some of the efforts by the city to add more amenities include the baseball park and downtown revitalization.

"All these quality-of-life things are very appealing to a talented workforce," Westin said.

Despite the drawbacks, a recent set of 10 company openings and expansions, equating to a total of 3,000 jobs, could favorably affect El Paso's ranking next year.

"We've seen the best year this past year in El Paso, in terms of our economic growth relative to job creation," Westin said.

see ECONOMY on page 3



## "American Sniper," movie success or propaganda?

BY MARIA ESQUINCA

The Prospector



After watching the popular film "American Sniper," some people took to Twitter to discuss their eloquent in-depth views about the film.

RealDeal wrote, "Nice to see a movie where the Arabs are portrayed for who they really are—vermin scum intent on destroying us."

Reese Filcon wrote, "American Sniper' made me appreciate soldiers 100 X more and hate Muslims 1,000,000 X more."

An infuriated Dez Harmon wrote, "American Sniper' makes me want to go shoot some fucking Arabs."

Quoting Edward L. Bernays, father of public relations, is very fitting when talking about "American Sniper."

He wrote, "the conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organized habits and opinions of the masses is an important element in democratic society... We are governed, our minds are molded, our tastes formed, our ideas suggested."

I would say Edward Bernays hits it right on the spot (pun intended) when describing the effects of propaganda.

Propaganda is defined in the dictionary as information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used

to promote or publicize a particular political cause or point of view.

Now, I want to focus on two parts of the definition—biased or misleading nature and particular cause or point of view.

What interest would Clint Eastwood have in producing a biased and misleading movie to prove a particular point of view?

It's no secret that Clint Eastwood is also a proud Republican, and was one of the main speakers in the 2012 Republican National Convention, (if some of you have forgotten about this, this is the same convention where he proceeded to ask questions to a chair representing President Obama.)

"American Sniper," is about Chris Kyle, the most lethal American sniper in history with 160 kills.

It follows his life from his childhood to the moment he is forced with the decision to kill a young boy, holding a grenade in his hand, and his mother.

The movie then follows in flashbacks, to a young Kyle being told by his father that the world consists of three types of people—sheep, sheep dogs and wolves.

Sheep are the innocent naïve people, wolves are the violent that prey on the weak, and the sheep dogs are the protectors, the shinning personification of justice.

Kyle has been a wolf his entire life. The movie is built with that narrow premise of right and wrong.

Protecting his country and its citizens is Kyle's way of being a wolf. Throughout the movie he clings

to that belief, while other soldiers, including his own brother, have doubts in their sense of "good" and "bad." Kyle adheres to his role as a wolf unquestioningly.

As Kyle goes into war, the narrow view of good and bad are applied to Iraqis, they are the "scum" Kyle has

“It's a movie that's going to leave viewers with a false perception of what happened.”

- Zach Beuchamp,  
Vox writer

fought against his whole life.

However, this movie is problematic because of how it portrays the Iraq war, only through Kyle's eyes, through his righteous notion of correctness.

That's where it's misleading.

When Eastwood decides to narrow the portrayal of the war through Kyle's point of view and omits the

facts surrounding the war, it misleads the audience and promotes a particular point of view. Mainly that the war was a righteous response to evil.

As Zach Beuchamp explains in a Vox video, "the implication that the viewer gets is that the invasion of Iraq was a logical response to 9/11."

But, as President George H. W. Bush later explained, the Iraq war was due to, "we thought he (Saddam Hussein) had weapons of mass destruction, turns out he didn't."

The war in Afghanistan was the response to 9/11, not the Iraq war, but when watching this movie, you wouldn't know this.

Beuchamp elaborates, "it's a movie that's going to leave viewers with a false perception of what happened."

A glowing Associated Press review of the movie also wrote, "American Sniper' may be a much-needed tribute to the sacrifice of American soldiers, but it's lacking context. Few Iraqis here are seen as anything but the enemy."

In presenting such a narrow view of the war, Eastwood effectively portrays a very biased work with a particular point of view. That is propaganda.

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



FEBRUARY 3, 2015

# A cautionary tale

BY BEN WOOLRIDGE  
The Prospector



As an older student attending UTEP, I thought university life would be less of a challenge, because of my years of real-world experience. So far, this has not been the case.

I am surrounded by younger students, who remind me on a daily basis of my misspent youth and missed opportunities at landing a lucrative successful career that will now be more difficult to obtain.

When I first attended college, there was no Internet (cue screams). Research papers were actually typed on a device called a typewriter and all resource materials were housed in the college library that could be retrieved through the use of card catalogs (more screams).

Buying textbooks was relatively inexpensive and most books could be sold back to the bookstore for a little less than their original cost.

Financial aid came by way of Pell grants that were more than enough to cover tuition, text books and living expenses on the condition of maintaining a 2.5 grade point average and without the added burden of paying it back.

It may have been campus life at EPCC, but it was a free education that I failed to take advantage of.

My social life, which meant getting drunk and hitting on college girls (with no success) had consumed me, and I soon found myself on academic probation followed by my eventual suspension.

I quit college after convincing myself that I was young enough to take

some time off to figure out what I really wanted to do with my life.

The years quickly passed and times have changed.

Nowadays, I sit in classes where instructors are younger than me and often refer to me as sir.

There are moments when I feel like the Pony Express, trying to keep up in a world of emails and generation text.

While students hook up, I remember being absorbed with other people's properties and searching for a pay phone to call the number on my pager.

The concept of a laptop computer and cell phone still amazes me, although I cannot be considered tech savvy by any stretch of the imagination. I believe Blackboard was invented by Jerry Jones because most of the time I don't understand it.

I do not possess the wealth or good looks of George Clooney, Denzel Washington or Danny Glover to turn the heads of young attractive female students. All I receive are charitable smiles, coupled with offers of chewing gum, breath mints and escorts when crossing the street (not really).

Reality has taught me that I have to try harder to compete with students who are younger, smarter and more technologically advanced than I am. The odds are definitely against me once I graduate and start searching for a high-paying job to pay off my school loan debt.

Yet, I am thankful that I have the opportunity to do so and I appreciate every day I am in class, instead of pretending that I will somehow get rich punching a clock—living someone else's dream.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to pursue my own dream.

Ben Woolridge may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.



"Senator McCain being the devil's advocate"

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ECONOMY from page 1

Some of the companies that will expand their workforce include Tenet Healthcare, ADP, Charles Schwab and Schneider Electric, among others.


Pamela Morales, communication director for the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, said El Paso might have ranked higher if the report had considered trade.

"They're not talking about all the great things we know about El Paso," Morales said. "Total trade for El Paso last year was more than \$60 billion."

Both Fullerton and Westin said much progress lies ahead regarding El Paso's economic future.

"The report is an interesting snapshot of where things were in the last year," Fullerton said. "It's important to recognize however, that it is a snapshot. What's really critical is what happens in El Paso over the long run."

Maria Esquinca may be reached at the [prospector@dailynews@gmail.com](mailto:prospector@dailynews@gmail.com).



El Paso ranks as No. 53 out of 200 best performing cities by the Milken Institute, a nonprofit organization that publishes research on economics.

MICHAELA ROMAN/THE PROSPECTOR

INBRIEF

UNION RESTAURANT ADDITION

In August 2015 UTEP will add a cafeteria style restaurant to the Union building. Contractors will begin renovations to the Union's second floor late April. Sodexo will pay for the site renovations and operate the new restaurant. The company will be conducting food preference surveys on campus in March.

BILINGUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

UTEP will be hosting and organizing the 22nd annual Bilingual Educators Emphasizing Multicultural Settings Conference starting at 6 p.m. Feb. 5, at the Region 19 Education Service Center 6611 Boeing. Participants will learn about the latest technology and best practices for teaching dual-language education. Students, parents, educators and administrators from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and the Dominican Republic are all set to attend.

UTEP ROBOTICS COMPETITION

On Feb. 7, in UTEP's Memorial Gym the College of Engineering will host its annual Robotics Competition. The FIRST Lego League and Jr. FLL Championship will begin at 8 a.m. and run until 6 p.m. Elementary and middle school students will participate in this years competitions. This years theme will be World Class.

MINORITY BUSINESS AGENCY

The El Paso Minority Enterprise Development Week luncheon will take place at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 13, at the Airport Wyndham Hotel. The award are from the El Paso Minority Business Development Agency Business Center operated by the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

TXDOT

Beginning Feb. 2, through Feb. 13, the Texas Department of Transportation will close the left lanes along Interstate 10 in both directions from Schuster Avenue exits to the Porfirio Diaz overpass from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. These closures are needed to install the center barrier and rebuild the shoulder lanes.

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# Marijuana penalties to be evaluated, possible decriminilization for users

BY KIMBERLY VALLE  
The Prospector

The Texas Legislature began Jan. 20, and changes to marijuana penalties are already being looked at after Rep. Joe Moody, D-TX., filed House Bill 507 that will decriminalize marijuana.

Ellic Sahualla, chief of staff and general counsel for the office of Representative Moody, said students are getting denied financial aid help, and are spending thousands of dollars on lawyers and court fees for small marijuana cases.

Former UTEP student, Aaron Calderon, said he is currently having a hard time obtaining a stable job due to his misdemeanor charge. He was denied financial aid, which has restricted him from furthering his education at the university.

“This issue has me thinking of moving to a state where my charge isn’t looked at in such a harsh manner,” Calderon said. “So, I’ll be making a decision by the summer in either staying or moving to Colorado and joining a university there.”

Texas’ current system of marijuana penalties spends \$734 million per year on 70,000 marijuana arrests and prosecutions, mostly involving small amounts among young people in the state.

“There are a lot of international students in El Paso, and those who have been convicted have faced additional penalties, which denies them to re-enter the country after being deported back to their home country,” Sahualla said.

A final drug conviction is an action that can never be sealed or removed

from a person’s record. Consequences can include denial or loss of financial aid for school, denial of naturalization—citizenship in the U.S.—housing, employment and an automatic driver’s license suspension.

“Currently, there are not civil penalties at the state level, only in the city, but the bill will create a civil penalty for marijuana,” Sahualla said.

If passed, the civil penalty system will make possession of a small amount of marijuana, an ounce or less, a civil matter punishable by a fine, but not a criminal conviction, Sahualla said. Two ounces and above will be considered a misdemeanor.

Under this bill, courts could allow some of the fines to be paid off by the offender taking drug education courses or doing community service. Offenders would be brought to court by a citation rather than an arrest, and marijuana would be confiscated just as it is done under the current system.

“Taxpayers save money, law enforcement saves resources, and those who pay the fine save their education, homes, jobs and licenses,” Sahualla said. “Civil penalty systems have been successful improvements in states that have adopted them, such as Massachusetts.”

Sahualla said the bill doesn’t promote marijuana use. Eased criminal penalties for marijuana in other states have led to declines in usage. Police could still make arrests when they need to. It is still considered a DWI when using marijuana while driving.

“The message is still that marijuana isn’t okay in Texas,” Sahualla said.

Alan Torres, sophomore engineering major, was arrested about a year



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

ago for marijuana possession, and is currently on probation. He has paid more than \$3,000 in court, lawyer and probation fees. He said this did not affect his financial aid, but it did affect his concentration with his studies.

“I had to pay fines. I would be extremely worried when this happened. I started getting distracted. I kept thinking to myself ‘oh, I’m not going to get a job, I’m not going to

graduate,” Torres said. “However, I am thankful I am still able to come to school.”

UTEP officials and current criminal justice professors declined to comment on the bill.

Lawmakers will also consider legalizing medical marijuana and the use of recreational marijuana.

Sahualla said he has already heard from other lawmakers who support his bill.

“There is a lot of support on the bill and will be focusing on real serious crimes. We’ve had a significant large amount of support from Republicans,” Sahualla said.

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




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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

# How has El Paso's economy affected you?

RUBY CERINO, ANDRES MARTINEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR



**ADRIANO PEREZ**  
Junior nursing major  
“The El Paso economy has made my family well off, given the low cost of living.”



**ALEJANDRA BARRAZA**  
Freshman criminal justice major  
“I have financial aid problems, I'm ‘too rich’ to get financial aid, and too poor to pay for college.”



**ANDREW HERNANDEZ**  
Freshman mechanical engineering major  
“It hasn't really affected me in a negative matter, because most of my tuition is paid for.”



**CRYSTAL MARQUEZ**  
Freshman nursing major  
“I had to get another job in order to be able to support myself and pay bills.”



**ERANDY BURCIAGA**  
Freshman criminal justice major  
“El Paso's economy affected me because I had to search for a job to be able to help out my family.”



**JAVIER CARILLO**  
Sophomore criminal justice major  
“It has affected me in a bad way because most employers pay minimum wage and it's hard to get a higher paying job, even if you have experience.”



**JESSICA ARMENDARIZ**  
Freshman biology major  
“It's a little bit of a struggle for my family, but it allowed me to receive so much financial aid that I am basically getting paid to go to school.”



**JOSH MOORE**  
Freshman nursing major  
“The economy has been harsh because it's very hard to get a job when you're not bilingual.”



**TANNER MILROY**  
Sophomore philosophy major  
“It gets hard trying to find a job that pays better than minimum wage. You have to negotiate well in order to get more pay.”



**VALERIA QUEZADA**  
Sophomore biology major  
“The El Paso economy has affected me in a possitive way. For example, the gas prices went down leaving me to save some money.”

## Chinese community invites El Paso to celebrate new year



Doctoral student in chemistry Yanyu Wu will participate in Chinese New Year activities.

ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

**BY JESUS LOPEZ**  
The Prospector

The Chinese New Year lands on Feb. 19, and there will be small celebrations at UTEP and in El Paso to celebrate the year of the sheep.

“On Chinese New Year's Eve, there is always a big meal for the family,” said Yanyu Wu, doctoral student in chemistry. “At midnight, just as the clock hits the mark, fireworks consume the sky, everyone can be seen

at their rooftops or out in the street, watching as the night sky is illuminated by lights of all colors. With the fireworks, the god of fortune is invited into the many homes.”

The Chinese New Year is mainly a family celebration, considered as the only time of the year when all members of the family can gather and share a special moment, no matter the distance.

The north and south regions of China have a few differences in cel-

ebrating the new year, but the most important aspects of the festivities and traditions remain the same with all Chinese families.

Kaitlyn Mullins, freshman business major, has heard of the Chinese New Year, but does not know about the traditional celebrations or how they work.

“However, if there was a celebration here at UTEP or in El Paso, I would totally think about going,” she said.

In the U.S., the Chinese New Year is celebrated with many art shows and performances. In Los Angeles, the New Year is a massive celebration that anyone can attend. Popular Chinese singers and actors tend to participate during this carnival-like celebration, which usually takes place in Chinatown. The celebration is also broadcasted around the country on the China Central Television Network. It begins at 8 p.m. and ends before midnight.

“The celebration itself is said to last 15 days, but the preparations comes way before that,” Wu said, “Cleaning the house is a tradition that represents the removing of the old and dirty. This usually happens two days before New Year's Eve. This way, the entire home is ready and fresh to receive the brand new year.”

Lucky Money is also one of the many traditions that have been persevered. Married couples place money on a red envelope, called a “Hong-bao,” and it is given to children and adolescents. Lucky Money is a demonstration of good luck and fortune, intended for young people.

“Last year was the very first year in which I wasn't home to celebrate with the family,” Wu said. “My mom collected the Lucky Money for me, and when I went to visit them during the summer she gave me a bunch of red envelops with money inside.”

The Ai-Hwa Chinese Language School will celebrate the Chinese

New Year on Saturday, Feb. 21 at the UTEP Union Cinema.

Chyi Longpre, coordinator of Ai-Hwa Chinese School, said there will be an activity to commemorate the Chinese culture at 2 p.m. and the program will start at 3 p.m. Admission is free.

Wu said that wherever there are Chinese communities, there would be celebrations. He said that the Chinese are loud and fond of parties during this time, and welcome anyone who wants to attend.

“Phoenix will also have a similar celebration this year,” Wu said, “In El Paso, we do get together at the Chinese church to celebrate the New Year. We have traditional food served and we have, obviously, Chinese music. It's where we get together and celebrate our traditions. Being apart from our country doesn't take away our spirit to celebrate.”

For more information about UTEP's celebration of the Chinese New Year, call 915-585-7052.

For more information about the small celebrations in El Paso, visit [www.elpasochinesebaptist.com/](http://www.elpasochinesebaptist.com/), and the celebrations in Phoenix, visit [www.phoenixchineseweek.org/](http://www.phoenixchineseweek.org/).

Jesus Lopez may be reached at [theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com](mailto:theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com).

Jesus Lopez may be reached at [theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com](mailto:theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com).



# Psychology professor researches stereotypes, perceptions in memories



Dr. Stephen L. Crites works in his office with research on stereotypes and judgements.

BY ALONSO MORENO

The Prospector

While you're busy making assumptions or judging the people around you, there are observers nearby who are busy putting the science behind your actions and why you do that.

Dr. Stephen L. Crites, professor and chair of the psychology department, has been working with his ongoing research about attitudes and stereotypes.

He first got involved in research with his interests of likes and dislikes, also known as attitudes. These like-

dislike judgments apply to objects, people and ideas.

"It's about understanding what causes us to like and dislike those things—how do they influence us, our behavior and our judgments?" Crites said.

The research in attitudes, along with interest from his students, is

what led Crites to focus on stereotypes, since both are closely related to knowledge, with stereotypes being memory structures.

"It's not just me, there is undergraduate students and graduate students who work with me, a lot of what I do depends on what my students find interesting," Crites said.

Ciara Kidder, a fourth year doctoral psychology student, said that Crites is an excellent mentor, and that he works closely with his students in order to challenge them.

"Dr. Crites works with his students in order to develop them into independent thinkers and researchers. He challenges us to learn and think for ourselves," Ciara said.

Crites said that stereotypes encompass all the memories that are associated with a group of people, and the

things we associate with them such as clothing or attitude.

"These memories are very important because we activate them when we meet people we know, and they tell us how to act or what to do," Crites said. "When we encounter people that we don't know that creates a problem, because we don't have much knowledge about them. So we activate memory trying to determine what this type of person is like."

Crites said that regardless of the subject, there will always be things associated with it, and stereotypes or memories will always be there as a connection.

In an effort to try and understand stereotypes, Crites and his students have recorded brain activity in relation to knowledge and memories.

"What we do is look to see how quickly your brain activates knowledge about a person," Crites said. "We will show people a picture of a male person, then we will show them words associated with them and record how fast they respond."

The research focuses on positive and negative stereotypes. Crites said he wants to understand the processes for both and determine what sorts of differences exist between both reactions, and how can they be interpreted and applied.

So far, Crites sees this information being applied in different areas such as the medical field and the behavioral field in psychology.

"It's implications for cultural issues, race relations and things like that. It touches many facets of our lives. There are people looking at that (stereotypes)," Crites said. "My research focuses on the reactions—how fast or strong they are—but as we learn more about that, people will look at how we can change them."

Alonso Moreno may be reached at [theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com](mailto:theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com).

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FEBRUARY 3, 2015

# ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR  
KIMBERLY VALLE, 747-7477

## Exciting year ahead for the Rubin Center



FILE PHOTOS

The Rubin Center is open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

BY JULIA HETTIGER

The Prospector

The Gerald and Stanlee Rubin Center for the Visual Arts will be having a series of events to start off the New Year to celebrate their 10th anniversary. The goal is to increase their audience size and engagement to educate students about national and international art.

Kerry Doyle, director of the Rubin Center, said she hopes to double the involvement this year.

"We hope our new membership program helps in increasing our audience and encourages more people to come see great contemporary art and shows," Doyle said.

The membership program will open in March to all students and community members.

"The membership is free and it's an open program, so once it's opened students have the liberty to join whenever," Doyle said.

The membership is intended to provide students with access to galleries, exhibitions, public programs and family days. Members will be able to check out the Rubin Center's projects throughout the year for free.

One of the projects scheduled to take place this year is "The Manifest Destiny Billboard Project," created by Los Angeles Nomadic Division.

The objective of "The Manifest Destiny Billboard Project," is to have artistic billboards along I-10 from Florida all the way to California. This year, the billboards will be put up in El Paso and Las Cruces.

"If you were to drive from Clint to Las Cruces, you'd see 20 different artistic billboards," Doyle said.

Ten of those billboards will be in El Paso and the other half in Las Cruces. They will all feature work by artist Jeremy Shaw.

The project will consist of around 100 billboards in total, going west from Florida to California. Ten art-

ists will create and illustrate chapters of the history of territorial expansion.

The project is co-curated by Zoe Crosher and Shamim M. Momin. Billboards will be put up during spring of this year.

"We had artists from LA and Berlin come down to give the community a presentation and then had a gathering at Rosa's," Doyle said.

The second event is "Citizen Culture: Artists and Architects Shape Policy" exhibit. This event will be handled by the Santa Monica Museum of Art, held by Lucia Sanroman.

The exhibition will feature work by artists who hope to have a real impact on social and political policies. Art will be contributed from artists Suzanne Lacy, Tania Brugera and Teddy Cruz. The event will take place Feb. 5, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

"It's great because there are seven different artists whose goals are to connect issues and help their audience become more politically aware

about issues such as prisons, race and troubled youth," Doyle said. "We have a number of different talks scheduled as well."

The opening reception for the CUADRO project archives will also be on Feb. 5. This exhibition will include photos, videos, documents and ephemera from the project. The CUADRO project was a three-month long project in Downtown El Paso that featured local artists.

"The CUADRO exhibition will take place downstairs on the second floor, and we hope to showcase photos and publications from the project we had Downtown," Doyle said. "We had work from local artists and artists from LA as well, so it was pretty neat."

The first week of May, The Rubin Center will open a gallery featuring work done by UTEP students.

"We usually open up a week at the gallery just for UTEP students. We don't have designated curators yet, but we hope to get one faculty mem-

ber from the graphic design department and another from fine arts," Doyle said.

The Rubin Center is also working to make their space more relaxing and welcoming for its guests.

"I'd love to create a space that is more welcoming and has more than just these benches to sit on, something a little more appealing to students," Doyle said.

Doyle said she is excited to continue bringing contemporary art to El Paso and have more impact on students' lives.

The Rubin Center is open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call the Rubin Center at 747-6151.

Julia Hettiger may be reached at theprospectordaily. ent@gmail.com.



# Homemade brewery coming soon to Downtown El Paso



VALERIE HERRERA / THE PROSPECTOR

Dead Beach Brewery will open this spring at 406 Durango St.

BY VALERIE HERRERA

The Prospector

Dead Beach Brewery will be replacing the former Motel Bar Nightclub, located at 406 Durango St.

The brewery founders and operators are withholding details. The project is the only microbrewery in El Paso.

With craft beers brewed in house, the brewery will be distribute its product locally to bars and restaurants.

Ideas for the project began developing in 2013, when founders first registered the name with the city. After permit and construction requirements were met, the Dead Beach Brewery broke ground at the Union Plaza in 2014.

The brewery will craft an assortment of flavored craft beers and will be available for purchase to local businesses, and to the public.

“You can walk in and purchase beer, but we will not be serving it over the counter,” said Gilbert Guillen, owner and founder of Dead Beach Brewery.

Managing operators Gabriel Montoya and Raymundo Campos

couldn’t give the official date of the grand opening, but they plan to open during the spring of this year.

“We are currently in the construction phase and are trying to complete renovations at a timely manner,” Guillen said. “So if everything goes as planned, we hope to open in the spring.

Guillen said the difference between other brewpubs and his is that they make their own brew.

“It’s the beer made on the spot that attracts the beer lover, so you can expect to purchase a fresh batch of beer every time,” Guillen said.

This is not the first brewery to open in El Paso. It will be the only one in operation once construction is complete.

Esmeralda Elias, senior social work major, said she thinks Dead Beach Brewery will be great for El Paso’s growth by creating jobs and contributing to the economy.

“It will be unique for El Paso to have a brewery like this, it will definitely boost up the economy here,” Elias said.

The beer scene has increased in popularity since new beer laws were implemented in June 2013.

The Texas Tribune said that, Texas breweries have received approvals to open every week. With the passage of Senate Bills 515, 516, 517, 518 and 639 last year, the largest overhaul of

the beer industry changed since the Legislature legalized brewpubs in 1993.

Under new senate bills, brewpubs can distribute their beer using third-party distributors, and are able to sell limited amounts of their own beer directly to retailers.

Before, brewpubs could only sell their product on site.

No decisions have been made as to when the hiring process will begin and no information has been released on distribution agreements.

However, the owners said they will be making further announcements as the brewery gets closer to completion. Guillen said his goal is to sell his beer in restaurants and bars by this year.

Based on feedback through social media, many are excited to see a new brewery develop in El Paso and can’t wait for its doors to open and taste the finished product.

The Dead Beach Brewery’s owner and operators hope it will serve the community and nearby region by providing another draw for beer tourists and facilitating economic growth.

“We are thankful for the support we have received from the community and are excited to embark on this new opportunity,” Guillen said.

Valerie Herrera may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

# Chocolate treats warm up The Fountains at Farah



ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Guest had the chance to have a variety of treats and enjoy live music on Thu. Jan. 29.

BY ALEXANDRA CARDWELL

The Prospector

A large crowd of eager residents waited at the Fountains at Farah to enter the fourth annual chocolate affair on Jan. 29.

Wine tasting was available for people 21 and older, live music by Billy Townes, and of course, plenty of chocolate samples by local chocolate vendors and bakers.

The live events manager for Town Square Media, Veronica Hernandez, said that the event sold out the same night of the event and was a success.

“It was a little colder than usual, but I think that people still had a lot of fun,” Hernandez said.

Despite the low temperatures, many people gathered around heaters while eating cupcakes, truffles, assorted chocolate covered fruits, pretzels and cakes. The weather provided a friendly atmosphere, as strangers became friends under the warm tents of local vendors.

Alex Corby, a performer for Odd Lab said, “the weather may be crazy, but the events are always exciting.”

Performers of Odd Lab danced with LED-lit hula-hoops. Corby,

along with co-worker, Tias Cones, juggled while riding a unicycle as guests waited for their samples.

As soon as attendees entered the Fountain Kiosk check-in at the KISS FM tent located at the back of the pavillon, they were offered a free water bottle.

Attendees were then given a passport that would be signed by each vendor after each sample was given.

An event map was also provided so that guests would be immediately informed about the names of each vendor.

In total, there were 35 different vendors, which included two mobile trucks, one chocolate fountain, 16 chocolate vendors, 11 booths and five other vendors at the chocolate liqueur lounge, which provided wine and chocolate liqueur samples by the Republic Wine Division.

There were many crowds at each vendor, resulting in limited space for walking around. Some people were in the gravel areas because that seemed to be the only space available to walk.

Hernandez said the theme of a chocolate factory would make guests feel like they were walking through

the process of making chocolate, showing the many different kinds of things that people can do with it.

“We wanted a variety, having all sorts of treats this year,” Hernandez said.

Alexandra Cardwell may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.



# Local tattoo artists make their mark through exhibit.



RUBY CERINO / THE PROSPECTOR  
“The Body as a Canvas: History and Influence of Tattoo Art” is located at The Union Gallery, on the second floor of the student union building.

BY JULIA HETTIGER  
The Prospector

“The Body as a Canvas: The History and Influence of Tattoo Art” exhibit is now on display at the Union Gallery, at the second floor of the Union East and will be up until Feb. 20.

The exhibit was donated to UTEP by tattoo artists from Sun City Tattoo and was organized by students from the Office of Student Life. This is the first time the Office of Student Life has curated an event with Sun City Tattoo.

Myker Yrrobali, the tattoo artist in charge of the exhibit, said that sometimes tattoos are overlooked, so he decided to create this exhibit to educate students on the history and art of tattooing.

The exhibit includes a mix of photos, concept art and sketches that can show students different artistic concepts and the process of getting tattoos.

“We at Sun City Tattoo contributed flash art, which are sheets of tattoo designs for clients to either choose from or get ideas and concepts,” Yrrobali said.

The exhibit also contains photos of different tattoos, the process of tattooing and sketches from prior custom pieces. Drawings of tattoos are hung on the walls all around the room and photos are arranged on the pillars in the center of the room.

Some of the art concepts range from flowers and skulls to religious symbols such as crosses. The photos depict tattoos drawn on several different parts of the body, covering arms, legs, chests and backs.

One wall includes pictures of the earliest people with tattoos and a timeline of the evolution of the tattoo. The timeline depicts tattoos from centuries ago and focuses on their de-

velopment from the mid-1700s until the present.

The timeline also include pictures of some of the first known tattoo artists, which includes Maud Wagner, who is known to be one of the first female tattoo artists in the U.S.

There is a separate wall that includes the definition of what a tattoo means.

A television is placed toward the front of the gallery and it gives a brief video on drawing and receiving tattoos, and delves into the minds of both the artists and the receivers. The television also shows live documentary footage of tattoos being drawn.

Christian Lopez, junior accounting major, said she has been to previous displays at the Union Gallery before, but has yet to see the tattoo exhibit.

“It sounds really interesting,” Lopez said. “I like tattoos so I may check it out soon.”

On the other hand, Sylvia Horta, junior accounting major, said she is not a big fan of tattoos, but she thinks it is normal for tattoos to be prominent at schools and in the work place.

“Personally, I don’t like them, but they’re normal,” Horta said. “Tattoos are art and a way for people to express themselves.”

The Union Gallery is opened Monday through Saturday at 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday at Noon to 5 p.m.

The closing reception for the tattoo exhibit will be on Feb.19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, contact the Office of Student Life at 747-5648 or Sun City Tattoo at 779-7282.

Julia Hettiger may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

## The mystical Cirque du Soleil comes back to El Paso



Cirque Du Soleil will showcase Mar. 18, to Mar. 22, at the Don Haskins Center.

BY JESUS LOPEZ  
The Prospector

The world-famous Cirque du Soleil will perform one of their most prestigious shows on Mar. 18, to Mar. 22, at the Don Haskins Center. A performance full of dreamlike characters that inhabit a magical forest promises to awe the audience. Filled with fantasy and elegance, it’s fit for all ages.

Tannia Rangel, freshman linguistics major, said she attended a Cirque du Soleil performance at El Paso three years ago and was mesmerized.

“It was truly amazing,” Rangel said. “I will never forget all the beautiful

performers and the music and all the lights that seemed to enchant me, it was incredible, it is a show that was truly worth every penny.”

The story revolves around a cast of flamboyantly dressed characters living in a mystical forest. Some say, Cirque du Soleil never fails at leaving an impression within the audience, always performing with a grace that attracts people from all sides of the spectrum.

There will be exotic and mystical music and contortionists will perform during the show.

Cirque du Soleil is all about gymnastics and dance that transmit a

PHOTO COURTESY OF UTEP SPECIAL EVENTS

story to the audience. Colorful characters levitate above the stage by a seemingly effortless grip and people make their entrance by landing on the stage.

Prices range from \$60 to \$380, afternoon and late night performances are both available.

For information on costs and seating visit ticketmaster.com.

Jesus Lopez may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

## UTEP Dinner Theatre hosts auditions for ‘Mary Poppins’ INBRIEF



BY JESUS LOPEZ  
The Prospector

Auditions for the play, “Mary Poppins,” will be held at the UTEP Dinner Theatre Feb. 18, room 207, Union West. Dancers, actors and singers are all welcome to audition.

These private auditions are also open to the general public.

Children, who are ages 6 and older, are also invited to audition for two of the main characters in the play, Jane and Michael Banks

“We are very excited about ‘Mary Poppins.’ The entire play is filled with energetic dancing and singing that will keep the audience thrilled,” said Beverly Kerbs-Ward, program coordinator of UTEP Dinner Theatre. “We hope to find the right actors for all of the characters, including Jane and Michael Banks, the two children

protagonists. Mary Poppins, however, has been pre-casted.”

Those who want to audition must be prepared with a song to sing and sheet music for piano accompaniment. Readings of the script will also be required from the individual during the audition.

The play is scheduled to run for 23 performances during April and May. Additional performances will be scheduled during June, if requested.

Rehearsals for “Mary Poppins,” are scheduled to begin on Mar. 2, at 7 p.m. and will continue during week days at the same time until opening night.

For more information about auditions, rehearsals or the play, call (915) 747-6060.

Jesus Lopez may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.



# New businesses are booming in Far East El Paso

BY VALERIE HERRERA  
The Prospector

As the population continues to push further East from centralized areas of El Paso, local businesses and corporations continue to meet the growing demands of residents.

What was once an area consisting of nothing but dirt, desert plants and wild life, is now the fastest-growing part of the city.

The U.S. Census data shows that El Paso County has more than 800,000 people, more than a 15 percent increase during the past decade. However, most of that growth has been in Far East, Northwest and in Horizon City.

Since 2000, neighborhoods in far East El Paso have increased more than 200,000 in population.

Isaac Hernandez, senior engineering major, has lived in East El Paso since he moved here 17 years ago and said El Paso looks nothing like he remembers it five years ago.

"I remember places past Zaragoza being nothing but desert," Hernandez said. "Now I just see houses and businesses being built everywhere in this side of town, especially in Horizon and Montana."

The growth and expansion of services such as retail stores, restaurants, bars, gyms, grocery stores, salons and even movie theaters are developing rapidly in eastern parts of El Paso.

"I think it's good for our community because it creates more jobs for people and attracts different tenants to El Paso," Hernandez said. "We are now becoming more modernized as in other metropolitan cities."

Businesses that were originally located near UTEP, have now opened new bars and restaurants in Zaragoza such as Cincinnati Bar and Grill and Cabo Joe's.

"Since this area is growing, we keep pretty busy on this side of town," said Eddie Reyes, manager of Cincinnati Bar and Grill. "Given that we are a fully established restaurant and bar, we see a great lunch crowd during the day and experience a better nightlife."

Jacob Gutierrez, manager of Cabo Joe's on Zaragoza located in the same shopping center as Cincinnati Bar and Grill, said they like to make themselves available to all areas of the city since people like to stay closer to home.

"People don't like to drive far and would rather visit places that are closer to where they live and since more people are moving to the Eastside, it's no question we decided to expand in this area," Gutierrez said.

According to El Paso Department of Economic and International Development, a prime corner in Far East El Paso will be home to a 500,000-square-foot shopping center in the near future. Construction will begin in 2016 at Montana Avenue and Joe Battle Boulevard.

The site plan also shows the largest tenant building will be more than 140,000 square feet. This will include a Sam's Club location along with two other possible stores such as Academy Sports & Outdoors and Burlington Coat Factory.

Valerie Herrera may be reached at theprospector@dailyent@gmail.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CABO JOES FACEBOOK

Three young girls enjoy their alcoholic beverages at the East side Cabo Joe's location.

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FEBRUARY 3, 2015

SPORTS EDITOR  
LUIS GONZALEZ, 747-7477

Miners return home looking to end losing streak

BY LUIS GONZALEZ  
The Prospector

About this time a year ago, the UTEP women's basketball team was in the midst of a seven-game winning streak that had them fighting for the top spot in Conference USA.

The current reality of the Miners is much different from the team that finished as a runner-up of the National Invitation Tournament.

With a 3-6 record in conference, 8-10 overall, UTEP is far from the top of the standings. They return home to host Florida Atlantic and Florida International on Feb. 5, and 7, respectively.

Head coach Keitha Adams' squad has now lost five games in a row after dropping two games on the road this past weekend to the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Middle Tennessee.

In Birmingham, the Miners faced a team situated at the middle of the standings. They had a decent first half, in which the orange and blue shot 44 percent from the field, keeping the game within striking distance.

Going into the break, UTEP trailed by three, 32-29. When the game resumed for the final 20 minutes of play, the Miners could not get a shot to fall.

"We just had some really rough shooting," Adams said. "It got away from us in the second half because we weren't able to score."

With about 12 minutes to go in the game and being down by five, the Miners went cold from the field.

The Blazers went on a 20-4 run in the following 10 minutes that would ultimately put the game away.

No Miner scored in double figures—junior forward Lawna Kennedy and senior guard Stacie Telles led UTEP in scoring with eight points each.

A couple of days later, the Miners were in Tennessee looking to bounce back against the league leader.

Three different players scored in double figures for UTEP, but it was not nearly enough to challenge a Middle Tennessee group that has lost only one game in conference.

The Miners struggled offensively again, shooting just over 30 percent from the field.

UTEP made only two of its first 18 shot attempts and was held without a point for the first six-and-a-half minutes of play. By the time the Miners got on the scoreboard, they were in a double-digit hole that proved too big to overcome.

"Middle Tennessee is a very good basketball team with a good one-two punch," Adams said. "We didn't have enough offense to match their offensive firepower. We closed it out and kept competing."

Sophomore guard Taylor Sparkle recorded a double-double, leading the Miners in scoring with 14 points and rebounding with 10 boards. Freshman forward Daeshianna McCants scored a career-high 13 points.

After the two-game road trip, the Miners return to El Paso looking to break the negative streak and start a positive one that will carry them into the final months of the season.

First up will be the Florida Atlantic Owls on Thursday night. The 10-9, 4-4 in conference Owls, are coming off a 28-point loss to Old Dominion at home this past Saturday.

Like the Miners against Middle Tennessee, FAU struggled at the beginning of the game and were outscored 20-4 in the first 10 minutes of play. The Owls also allowed 55 rebounds, the most this season.

Still, FAU will bring to town the most recent C-USA Freshman of the Week in forward Sasha Ceden. The



JASON GREEN/ THE PROSPECTOR

Freshmen guard Lulu McKinney played a team-high average of 32.5 minutes per game over the last two contests.

6-foot-3 freshman averaged close to 10 points and four rebounds in the past week, including a career-high-tying 15 points against Charlotte on Jan. 29.

FAU is in the top five in scoring offenses in Conference USA, averaging 69.6 points per game. However, they are the second-worst defense, allowing an average of 73.1 points per game to their opponents.

The Owls are also the worst rebounding team in the league, as they are outrebounded by an average of seven rebounds in every game.

This will be the second time the Owls and the Miners have met—FAU won the first meeting a season ago.

Once the Owls leave El Paso, another Florida team will be in town.

The Florida International Golden Panthers will come to the Don Haskins Center on Saturday, Feb. 7, after a stop in San Antonio to face UTSA on Thursday.

FIU has only three wins this year and is still looking for its first win in C-USA. With their last win coming in 2014, the Golden Cougars have lost seven straight and are one of three teams with a worse conference record than UTEP.

The Golden Cougars are among the worst in the league in both offensive and defensive scoring.

They are averaging just over 60 points a game and no one in the conference gives up more than the 74.6 average FIU is allowing opponents. In three of their last four games, the opponent has scored more than 80 points.

UTEP and FIU have played each other twice, with each team winning once.

With nine games remaining in the season, this may be as crucial a home stand as any. With a losing record and five of the last seven games on the road, the result of this weekend's games may decide if the Miners have a chance to still save this season or just start focusing on the next.

"We aren't where we want to be right now," Adams said. "I don't like it, but we have to keep working."

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

UTEP tennis dominates first matchup



Senior Davina Meza made the All-Conference USA third team last season.

FILE PHOTO

BY JAVIER CORTEZ  
The Prospector

After a day and a half of rain, the UTEP women's tennis team finally got their season underway this past Saturday, Jan. 31. The Miners won in dominant fashion against the University of Buffalo, 6-1, at the El Paso Tennis Club.

After months of preparation under new head coach Cristina Moros, the Miners were met with a heavy dose of rain in their season opener against Texas State University. The match started at noon, but was canceled one hour into the singles competition.

"Just getting on the court yesterday really helped us," Moros said. "We started off a little slow in doubles today, but the girls showed some heart to pull out the doubles point. I was really happy with that. One of our goals from doubles to singles is to start really well, and I think we did that on all the courts."

After another failed attempt Saturday morning against Texas State, the Miners' 2015 season finally got underway in the afternoon. UTEP did not disappoint, winning eight out of the nine matches.

The match started with doubles, which turned out to be the most closely contested part of the day. Buffalo's duo of sophomore Margarita

Kotok and junior Dayana Agasieva easily routed the Miners No. 1 doubles team of senior Davina Meza and sophomore Duda Santos, 6-3.

With the Bulls needing one more win to secure the doubles point, the Miners came through with two narrow wins in No. 2 and No. 3 doubles.

Once the Miners secured the doubles point it was smooth sailing. Within the hour, the Miners had secured their victory with three straight set wins.

The win over Buffalo was more than just a good start to the season, it was the first win for Cristina Moros as a Division I head coach.

"It's always nice to get a win, but also a convincing win as your first win against a respectable team," Moros said. "We've been practicing a lot, we've been talking a lot about these moments, but you can only talk so much you need to experience them. It's a good start."

Senior Davina Meza couldn't be happier to finally get the season underway after a tumultuous 2014 season, where the Miners ran through three different head coaches.

"At the beginning, it was overwhelming, but all the girls respect coach (Moros) and actually believe in her," Meza said. "She pushes us a lot, and all that work we put in the fall and these past weeks paid off today."

The Miners' win over the University of Buffalo is a testament to the hard work that has been put in over the fall and bodes well for the team's future.

"To be honest, I think the team is going to do very well," Meza said. "The fact that we have a new coach and we respect her, she's going to take us far. I won't be here to see, but two years from now she's going to make UTEP tennis (nationally) ranked."

Part of that future of UTEP tennis is already here—her name is Jeanne Daniel. The highly touted four-star recruit is one of the most highly anticipated players the Miners have had in program history.

On Saturday, Daniel did not disappoint with a win in singles and doubles. The Florida native showed off her game in a style that features a strong first serve and a booming two-handed backhand.

After her first match day as a collegiate tennis player, Daniel was happy to relish in the team's success.

"It was really great," Daniel said. "I really love these girls, so it's great to be able to compete with them. I think we had a really nice atmosphere and vibe between all of us, so that positivity helped us get through all of our matches."

Javier Cortez may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.



## A photograph of a baseball player in a dark blue jersey and white pants running on a dirt field. Several other players in similar uniforms are standing in the background near a chain-link fence and a building.

**Senior outfielder Tahla Wade** made 49 starts in 50 games played last season.

## The Prospector

The UTEP softball team will begin their 2015 campaign when they travel to Tempe, Arizona, for the Kajikawa Tournament at Arizona State University.

Last season the team struggled in their first 10 early-season tournament

This season, Echo-Hawk and staff welcome two transfers, seven freshmen and the inclusion of red-shirt freshman utility player Summer Palipti. Coach Echo-Hawk said her team should have no problem making up for the loss of Arcuri.

"Offensively, we've brought in a couple of kids who probably could be just as good, if not better than her, right away," Echo-Hawk said. "It's just a game of recruiting and making sure that you fill the gaps that you lose—I think we've done a good job of doing that."

Last season, Echo-Hawk worked with the previous administration's players and still managed to win more games than any UTEP softball team in the previous four seasons.

With the influx of new players, Echo-Hawk and staff are hopeful that the team will see improvement in several key areas.

In 2014, UTEP finished dead last in the conference, with a team-earned run average of 6.25.

The team brought in a new pitcher, freshman Dani Fincham, and has since seen several pitchers from last year's team improve drastically.

Echo-Hawk said the improvement to the pitching staff across the board has led to some strong competition for incumbent number one starter, junior Danielle Pearson.

"It's funny because you would think that she's our go-to, but at this point, it's a pretty dead-even race," Echo-Hawk said. "We're going to try to do it more of a pitch by committee."

The improvement to the pitching staff is undoubtedly due in part to the hiring of new pitching coach Sara Plourde, who ended her college career at the University of Massachu-

sets ranking eighth All-Time in Division I softball with 1,662 strikeouts.

Plourde also pitched professionally and at the international level. Pearson said Plourde has worked as much on mechanics as she has on the mental aspects of the pitchers' game.

"In the past, we've had some shakiness on the mound—when we'd get behind, we'd get down a little bit," Pearson said. "I think coach Plourde has really helped us with just focusing on our next pitch."

Senior outfielder and All Conference-USA Pre-season Team member Ashley Eldridge has seen mental improvement in the pitchers as well during intra-squad scrimmages.

"They look a lot more mentally strong—which is cool, but we still have a lot to work on as a pitching staff," Eldridge said. "I think it will come around. It's going to take some game experience."

Last season, the Miners finished fourth in C-USA's team batting average. Eldridge finished the season batting .348. Several of the incoming freshmen batted over .400 as seniors in high school.

With hitting not being too big of an issue, Echo-Hawk is busy trying to find the perfect fit on the field.

"I think we're pretty solid in a lot of positions and they've been decided, but there are a couple of positions that are still kind of up for grabs," Echo-Hawk said. "We have a lot of kids that are fighting for those spots."

Who will don the tools of ignorance and take their position behind the plate?, is a question Echo-Hawk is still looking to answer.

Last season, the Miners allowed 97 stolen bases and ranked last in C-

USA in stolen bases allowed percentage with .924. Echo-Hawk knows that her team will need to improve here in order to compete in C-USA.

"We have four great catchers that have good arms," Echo-Hawk said. "That's going to be our determining factor in who starts and who doesn't—who can throw out runners."

The entire Kajikawa Tournament list of UTEP opponents had a combined record of 106-145. UTEP did not face any of the tournament teams last season as a squad. However, junior infielder and transfer from Oregon State, Kiki Pepi, did face Stanford last season.

The Miners are hoping that Pepi can repeat her performance against Pac-12 All-Freshman team pitcher Madi Schreyer. On the last day of the season, Pepi was 4 for 4, with five runs batted in and her first career home run.

Echo-Hawk said she feels very good about their chances this weekend.

"Stanford should be interesting. They've got a new coach so you don't know how good they're going to be. Portland State—obviously I coached there. I know what to expect with them," Echo-Hawk said. "The other ones, we're all kind of in the same boat...I think we can go out and compete—it's just a matter of what team shows up."

After several tournaments away from home, the Miners will be back at Helen of Troy field March 7 to begin a three-game series with C-USA for Middle Tennessee State.

Jason Green may be reached at [theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com](mailto:theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com).

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