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The Prospector, February 2, 2016

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

..... THE
PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 101, NO. 17

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

FEBRUARY 2, 2016

Campus Carry Task Force reveals gun-free zones



MICHAELA ROMÁN / THE PROSPECTOR

BY JAVIER CORTEZ AND
MICHAELA ROMÁN

The Prospector

The UTEP Campus Concealed Carry Task Force released a report on Monday, Feb. 1 that presents the actions UTEP will take to implement Senate Bill 11.

Vice President of Student Affairs Gary Edens, Chief of UTEP Police Department Cliff Walsh and Mark Cox, faculty senate president and associate professor in biology addressed the media about what the report entails.

“One of our biggest concerns here at UTEP is that our students, faculty and staff don’t experience a different campus,” Edens said. “We’ve done everything we can to make sure that happens.”

The Texas Legislature approved Senate Bill 11, better known as Campus Carry Bill, eight months ago on May 31, 2015, which allows persons with a concealed handgun license to carry concealed handguns on public campuses.

The law will take effect on Aug. 1 and students, professors and UTEP faculty are waiting for the final step: a university-wide policy on campus carry.

Edens said the report is just now being released so the committee could do their due diligence and gather information from the community and see how open carry in Texas has gone since it was implemented on Jan. 1.

“We wanted to see if there’s been any problems and to my knowledge it’s gone pretty smoothly,” Edens said. “Over a series of months, we took all recommendations to the committee and became very knowledgeable about the law on campus carry and learned a lot from schools in states like Colorado and Utah.”

The committee spoke to individuals at schools such as the University of Colorado Boulder to see how they

have implemented laws such as this one. They said the report similarly aligns with those, but is original to the UTEP campus.

One such consideration is that Miner Village will be the only residence housing that will allow guns on its premises.

“Miner Village has single bedrooms with shared apartments, but students have their own doors and closets that lock,” Edens said. “Students that do not want to have a roommate with a concealed carry license and a gun in their room will be accommodated to.”

Miner Canyon and Miner Heights have shared living spaces without individual rooms, so the

concealed carry law does not apply in these dorms.

On Feb. 10, the UT Board of Regents will meet to review all the proposed campus carry plans by their institutions, including UTEP. After the Board of Regents convenes, UTEP will begin implementing their plans. Lastly, UTEP will install physical changes to the campus, to include the posting of signs around campus by the start of July.

see GUNS on page 3

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FEBRUARY 2, 2016

Barbie got back

BY AMANDA GUILLEN
The Prospector



A closet full of Barbie dolls in their sealed boxes, hair intact, shoes still strapped on and all of her accessories still included—I never played with my dolls because of the fear of ruining their perfect image.

I would go over to my cousins' houses and see their dolls with shoes missing, hair chopped off and sometimes their plastic limbs missing.

This is something that I couldn't erase from my brain. The perfection of Barbie was something that I felt couldn't and shouldn't be altered, so I made sure that my dolls were protected from any harm.

Sacrificing play time with dolls to preserve their image was something that, now as an adult, I regret, but at the time I felt like this was the most important thing to do.

On Jan. 28, Mattel unveiled a new line of Barbie dolls that are a representation of all shapes, sizes and colors.

This was something that surprised me, but had me saying it was about time.

As I reminisce on my childhood, I realize the fragility of a young girl's mind. At seven years old, I viewed my Barbie dolls as perfect and gave up play time for the dolls' beauty.

At the time I didn't realize that the dolls in the boxes were seen as the ideal standards of beauty. They were thin, light skinned, had long blonde hair, blue eyes and a full face of make-up. I just saw them as what Barbie was supposed to look like.

Not until I began seeing the dolls with hair and skin like mine did I realize that there was a real difference.

Although the doll's hair and skin color changed, the model stayed the same. The long hair, make-up and physique remained.

It wasn't until then that I knew that this was what was considered beautiful. Along with what I saw on television, my dolls were the exact model of what was considered perfect at the time.

Around age 11, I urged my mom to let me wear make-up and when she refused, I still found myself wanting to change my look to conform to society's idea of beauty.

I began to straighten my naturally curly hair, wear tight clothing and would sneak mascara and lip gloss to school.

I remember waking up extra early and stressing out if my hair wasn't

done. This became something that overshadowed the importance of school, and for me consumed much of what I truly cared about once I hit high school.

I feel like if I had seen images of girls and women who looked like me or like the women around me, I would feel more comfortable in my own skin.

Body image and beauty is something that many women struggle with and sadly is something that we will wrestle with for the rest of our lives.

If we as a society take advantage of reaching out to girls and boys at a young age we can use the impressionability of their minds for good instead of poisoning them with images of unrealistic "perfection."

Making sure that they see themselves in the movies they watch, in the music they hear and the toys they play with can make a difference in their lives and a difference in society.

There will be no such thing as a standard model of perfection and what is beautiful will be in the eyes of the beholder.

I applaud Mattel for finally thinking about the future of the children rather than the aesthetic of their product.

I can't wait to see what the future holds, and I am hopeful that with each generation a more accepting and open-minded group of individuals will take over the airwaves and run the nation.

I hope that when the time comes, my children will not have to worry about the way their hair looks or hide makeup from me or look at women and judge them based on their outer appearance.

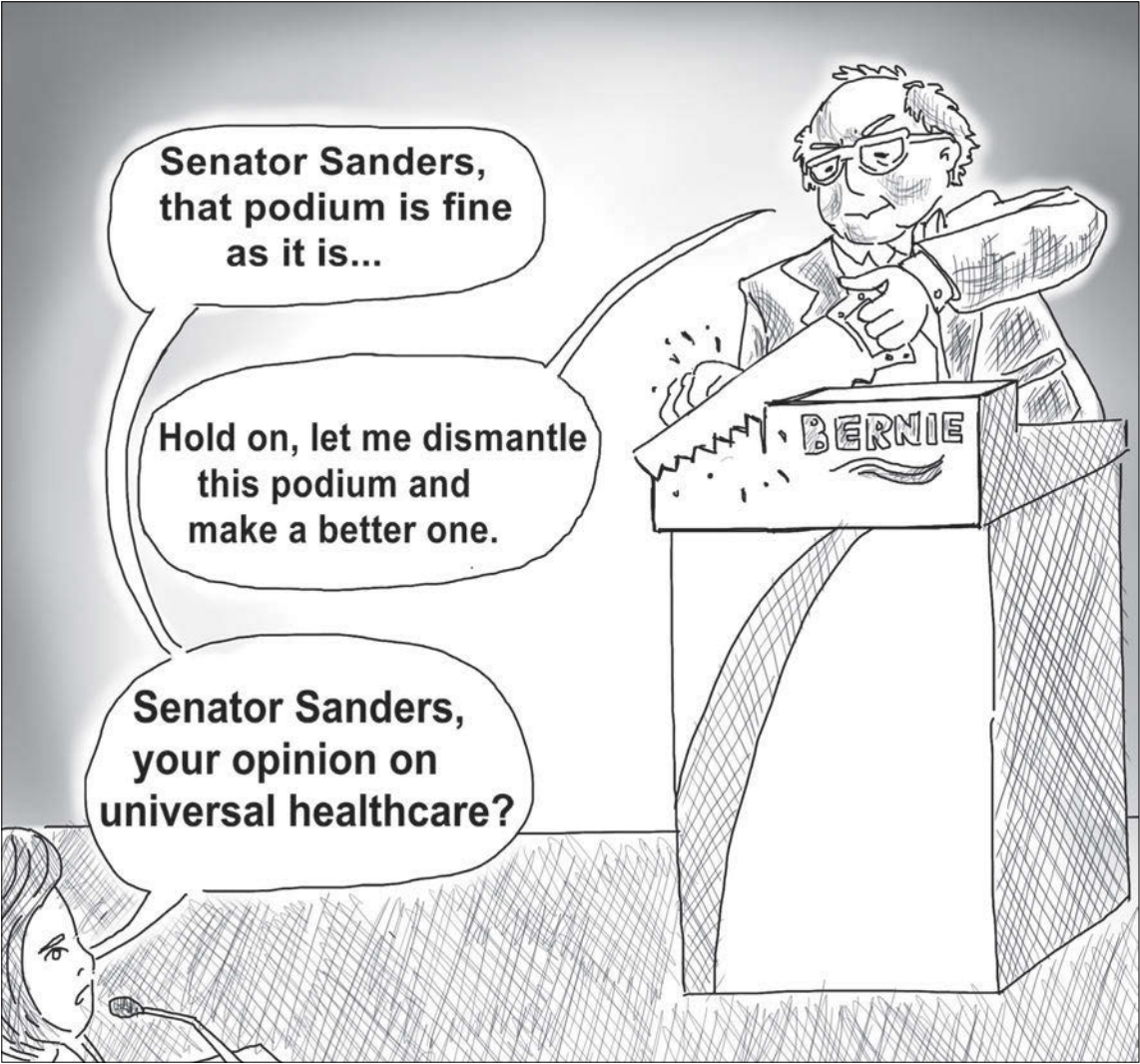
The evolution of the Barbie brand is victory for everyone, and although many may look at it as just a doll, this is a cultural icon that just took a stand for the everyday woman.

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



MICHAELA ROMÁN / THE PROSPECTOR

A white sheet of snow briefly covers Centennial Plaza on Feb. 1,



THE PROSPECTOR

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GUNS from page 1

With UTEP’s plan for campus carry still under discussion, both students and UTEP departments are in limbo until a plan is approved. According to Jorge A. Marquez, licensed psychologist at the University Counseling Center, they cannot comment on the matter or possible services until the official policy is issued.

Even without concealed carry policy being enacted, some students are searching to find reasons why guns are going to be allowed on campus in the first place.

“I’ve always been raised in a non-gun environment,” senior linguistics

major Jacobett Rivera said. “I just can’t really picture why I would need that (a gun). I’ve always been pro-self-defense, which is something women should definitely know, but not in the sense of a concealed weapon.”

Opposition to guns on campus seems to be the prevailing sentiment, as was seen by the resistance displayed by students and professors against concealed carry last semester.

David Smith-Soto, retired communication professor led the opposition with several critical editorial pieces on gun control on Borderzine.com, which garnered national attention.

On Oct. 19, 2015, five UTEP students led an anti-campus carry rally at Leech Groove.

Nevertheless, there are some students who support concealed carry on campus.

“I think it’s a good idea,” said senior nursing major Omar Guzman. “I think it will prevent the killings that have been going around. It can happen (here), but people will be reluctant to pull out their weapons if they know someone else might have a weapon.”

As a response to school shootings, some students are using technology to protect themselves. Guard Llama, is a personal mobile security system in the form of a small back remote that clips onto a key chain, is one example.

In the event of a threat, you would press the button on the remote to activate the Guard Llama application. In a matter of seconds, your personal profile and GPS location is transmitted to Guard Llama’s emergency response center, which is then relayed to local law enforcement.

“Due to the history of shootings at schools and other campuses, I just think that this gives you something to worry about,” Rivera said. “I’m not going to lose sleep over this, but it just makes you think twice about who you antagonize.”

Edens said the campus carry website at sa.utep.edu/campuscarry offers additional information and students,

faculty and staff may voice their concerns in the comment section.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio is aware of the report, but will spend the next several weeks reviewing the report and adding what she thinks is necessary. In three weeks, Natalicio will review the comments.

“In the comment field online, we encourage faculty, staff and students to comment and they will go directly to the president,” Edens said.

Edens also added he does not anticipate any open forums for the public, and encourages the public to use the website.

Javier Cortez and Michaela Román may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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-  HEALTH SCIENCES AND NURSING
BUILDING
-  PHYSICAL SCIENCES BUILDING
-  PSYCHOLOGY BUILDING
-  PHARMACY LABS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NATALICIO TO DEDICATE “THE CLOUD” TO CITY

UTEP President Diana Natalicio will be among speakers to dedicate “The Cloud” statue to the city of El Paso. The speaker event will be held at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 2 at the P-4 parking lot across the street from the Schuster roundabout where the statue is located. Artist Donald Lipski will be in attendance.

GUEST SPEAKER TO DISCUSS RACE ISSUES

Karsonya Wise Whitehead, associate professor of communication at Loyola University, will discuss the connections between the Civil Rights Movement and the current #BlackLivesMatter Movement from 1:30-2:50 p.m. Feb. 4 at UGLC 126. Her speech is part of the lecture series “Race, Authority and Violence in 21st Century America.”

CAREER CONNECTIONS 2016

The Business & Liberal Arts Career Fair will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 4 at the Union Building East, 3rd floor. Students can talk to companies that range from El Paso Electric to the U.S. State Department. The following day—9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 5 at Union Building East, 3rd floor—students can talk to Dell, NASA and more at the Engineering & Science Career EXPO.

Women could be required to register for military draft



TIA RINEHART / SHFWIRE

Director of the Selective Service System Lawrence G. Romo said Friday at the National Press Club that he believes there is a 50-50 chance women will be required to register for the draft.

BY TIA RINEHART
SHFWire

WASHINGTON – Now that women are approved for all military combat roles, the question follows: Will women be required to register with the Selective Service System?

Right now, all U.S. male citizens and immigrants, documented or undocumented, ages 18 to 25, are required by law to register with the SSS. Lawrence Romo, director of the Selective Service System, said Friday at the National Press Club that he thinks there is a 50-50 chance Congress will pass a law requiring women to register as well.

“While the Secretary of Defense recently opened all military combat jobs to qualified women, there has been no change to the Military Selective Service Act, requiring them to register or be subject to a military service draft,” he said.

Romo said the SSS is not a part of the Department of Defense and does not participate in making laws to require women to register.

“The bottom line for the Selective Service System is that we do not create policy, we implement the policy as mandated by our president and Congress,” he said.

“The White House will also be working with Congress to determine if changes are necessary in light of DOD’s decision to open all combat positions to qualified women,” he said.

The first draft in American history was a result of the 1863 Conscription Act during the Civil War. The U.S. has not had a draft since the end of the Vietnam War in 1973. Draftees were selected through a lottery, a drum containing capsules representing every day of the year in it. Whichever capsule was drawn, those men had first priority to serve. Romo said if a draft

were in effect today, the SSS would select men using a similar method.

Today, if a woman tries to register with the SSS online, she is denied access to the form

Romo said in the Vietnam War, only 3 percent of the armed forces were women volunteers. Now, about 15 percent of the armed forces are women. Romo said he believes the increased numbers of women military volunteers is the reason the U.S. does not have a draft today.

Terry O’Neill, president of the National Organization for Women, said that, although the organization does not believe in a draft, it supports equal treatment for women, meaning they should be required to register.

“We don’t think women should be exempt from the draft any more than they should be exempt from combat roles,” she said.

O’Neill said women have been in harm’s way in combat for years, but they were not considered to be in combat roles because it would require an increase in pay.

“The military finally took action to recognize women should be eligible for combat pay, and they should be eligible for combat-related promotions and we feel that way about the draft as well,” she said. “Of course, women should be treated the same as men.”

Verna Jones, executive director of the American Legion, said the Legion’s official position is that women should be treated the same as men.

The Department of Veterans Affairs says there are 2 million women veterans, which is about 10 percent of all veterans.

Jones said the American Legion is actively working to change issues it believes in for the military and veterans, including registering women with the SSS. With 2.2 million Le-

gion members, she said, anything is possible.

“You know, there’s power in numbers, and so we’re able to talk to Congress, able to talk to DOD, the VA, the White House, and just, you know, let them know what veterans need,” she said.

Jones said she believes women are capable of passing the standards set for combat positions, and there are women fit for these military roles. Last year, two women became the first to graduate from the Army Ranger School, which qualifies them for special forces teams.

“Never underestimate the power of a woman,” Jones said. “There are women who can go pound for pound, mile for mile with their counterparts.”

In a 2010 women veterans survey, the American Legion found most women veterans did not identify themselves as veterans because, technically, have not been in combat roles.

“If you ask a woman if she’s a veteran, oftentimes she’ll say no. If you ask, ‘Have you served in the military?’ then they say yes,” Jones said.

Romo said registering men and immigrants is so important because just 1 percent of the U.S. population makes up the all-volunteer military. If the country needed more troops quickly, it would go to the list, the only backup available.

“We all enjoy the freedoms that United States citizenship or residency guarantees us, yet we rely upon that 1 percent volunteer force to protect our entire society,” he said.

Reach reporter Tia Rinehart at tia.rinehart@scripps.com or 202-408-1490. SHFWire stories are free to any news organization that gives the reporter a byline and credits the SHFWire. Like the Scripps Howard Foundation Wire interns on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram.

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- Purchase a good lock (D or U locks are rigid steel).
- Utilize a cable lock as secondary lock. Cable lock should go through the front wheel, rear wheel, and frame.
- Lock your bicycle at any bicycle rack located on campus.
- Avoid using sign posts or parking meters.
- Always ensure bicycle is secured by pulling on the lock.
- Write down serial numbers, take photos and keep them in a secure place
- Register your bicycle with the University Police Department. Call 747-6640 or 747-6338 for this free service
- Loop a cable around your front wheel for added security.
- Place your U-Lock within your bicycles rear triangle.
- Lock the rear wheel and frame to a secure object.

OTHER THEFT PREVENTION TIPS

- Write down your bicycles serial number.
- Take photos of and note what’s unique about your bicycle.
- Don’t walk away from your unlocked bicycle.

Non-Catholic’s voice their opinion on pope’s visit



ANGEL ULLOA / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP will be closed on Wed. Feb. 17 for the coming of Pope Francis in Ciudad Juárez, and not all students are happy about it.

BY AMANDA GUILLEN
The Prospector

The Pope’s upcoming visit to Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, has brought excitement and anticipation to El Paso. But some students reacted negatively. Members of the University Atheists and Secular Humanists organization, previously known as The Atheists, spoke up for their beliefs and other student’s rights to oppose the closure of campus. Senior computer science major Geoni Griffin said that although he doesn’t care about the visit, he does think the entire thing is over the top. “Personally, I think it is crazy how crazy people get over this one person who they decide to give so much power and supposedly speaking the word of god,” Griffin said. “But if that’s what they say and that’s what they believe, that’s fine. I just wish

they got this excited about scientists coming to town.” Although Pope Francis is not expected to cross over into El Paso, the visit has caused schools, including UTEP, some businesses and city hall to close on Feb. 17. UTEP classes will resume on Feb. 18, leaving students to make up the day on May 6, which is dead day. The Catholic Diocese of El Paso reported that out of a population of 858,546 residents, 686,037 are Catholic. At UTEP, 83.5 percent of students are from El Paso County, which means there is a lot of on-campus support for the papal visit. “They didn’t even shut down everything for the president and the Pope gets so much attention,” Griffin said. Director of Religious Studies and senior lecturer, Ann Horak, said that although some of her students are ex-

cited for the Pope’s visit, some are just excited to have the day off. Horak said that the Pope’s visit is wonderful for the city of Juárez and

“They didn’t even shut down everything for the president and the Pope gets so much attention.”

- Geoni Griffin, Senior computer science major

its citizens, but has heard some dissenting opinions from both Catholic and non-Catholics. “Many people, Catholic and non-Catholic, are concerned about the amount of money the city of El Paso is planning to spend on the Pope’s visit,” Horack said. “The city needs to be very forthright in showing what expenses are necessary for public safety and be very careful not to cross the link into endorsing the religious activities of one faith community.” A member from the University Atheists and Secular Humanists, who for security reasons asked that his name not be published, expressed his opinion about the Pope’s visit. The senior multidisciplinary studies major considers himself agnostic and said that UTEP is infringing on the separation of church and state. “There is a separation between church and state and there is a reason for that,” the student said. “It can

be considered disrespectful, to put it mildly, to the rest of the populous to just be doing something like that (closing campus).” He also said that he does plan on following the Pope’s visit to Juárez out of curiosity about what he has to say. He says that if someone were inspired by what Pope Francis has to say, then all of this would be worth it. “If some little word inspires someone and changes somebody’s life for the better, it’s all worth it. And if it doesn’t bother you, just stay at home and watch TV, do your own thing and just live and let live,” the student said. “Everyone is entitled to their beliefs as long as they are not harming anybody.”

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

How do you feel about campus being closed for the pope?

ANGEL ULLOA/ THE PROSPECTOR



JAMIE HERNANDEZ
Senior communications major
“Demonstrating and emphasizing the importance of a specific religious leader and imposing his or her beliefs by cancelling classes shows that some religions are more celebrated than others. If you extend special privileges to some religions, then do it to all.



SCOTT FRANKLIN
Junior computer information systems major
“I’m glad that we don’t have school on the day that the Pope comes to visit Juárez. It will help to reduce the traffic downtown and it’s a good day to celebrate faith. I am really excited for his visit.”



ADRIAN SALAS
Senior music education major
I was asked to sing for the Pope’s mass in Juárez, so it’s actually beneficial to me, and I think it’s okay because it’s a major event. If you’re a responsible student you’re going to get all your studying done before Dead Day.”



FRANCISCO HIDALGO
Freshman biology major
“I don’t see the point of them closing the school, because it’s not like people are going to go see him.”



ALFONSO TREVIZO
Sophomore English & American literature major
“I think that campus should stay open for the Pope’s visit. By closing campus, the university is giving the message that it involves itself in religious affairs, thus isolating any students that are not Catholic.”

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LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH FACILITIES

- CAMPBELL BUILDING
- HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING
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- ROSS MOORE BUILDING

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FEBRUARY 2, 2016

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR

JOSE SOTO, 747-7477

Mine Tracks revisits January's musical highs and a low

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

The month of January came with mostly highs and only a few lows when it comes to the music industry. Throughout the 31 days of the month, The Prospector's Mine Tracks reviewed new albums, a few mixtapes and few album previews. All in all, January was explosive with some great musical projects to kick-start this year. Here were some of the highlights of the last month:

Adrian Broaddus may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

David Bowie
Blackstar

1

The music world lost legend David Bowie on Jan. 10, when the singer passed away from liver cancer. This album was his sending forth hymn. Comprised of seven tracks, this record captivated beauty and darkness. The album rotates from explicit thrashing tunes to some slower, meaningful tracks. A notable hit, "Lazarus," serves as an allusion to Bowie's sudden death — "Look up here, I'm in heaven. Look up here, man, I'm in danger. I've got nothing left to lose," Bowie sings on the track. Even though Bowie is gone, his legacy will live on forever.

Daughter
Not to Disappear

2

Daughter answered everyone's question to the band's whereabouts with "Not to Disappear." It seemed like forever since Daughter's last project, and this album was definitely long awaited. The English indie-folk group revolutionized their sound on this record, using tropical guitars, heavy bass and kick drums throughout the 10-track album. While some tracks are almost a snore, this album finds elegance in such a murky tone. The collection seems like an outcry to internal pains that vocalist Elena Tonra faces.

Migos
YRN 2

3

All the hype that Migos had prior to this mixtape can be summed up into one word: illustrious. Offset rejoined the crew after being imprisoned, and the trio made some literal fire. Why are we all hitting the dab? Because of Migos. Now the group came with a sequel to "YRN," the infamous mixtape that helped Migos gain national attention. While this album does not have any hits, like "Versace" or "Hannah Montana," the 14-track record is as pure as a trap album can be. "Hate It Or Love It" is a soon-to-be trap anthem, where the trio spits about spreading a movement that will live on.

Kanye West
Good Fridays /
SWISH/ Waves

4

The question is not what Kanye has done this month, but rather what hasn't he done. Kanye opened the year with "Facts," an effortless free-style over Drake's "Jumpman" beat. Kanye eluded his album with two singles: "Real Friends" and "No More Parties in L.A." West goes back to his roots on "Real Friends," using a familiar tone from his first big release, "College Dropout." On "No More Parties in L.A.," Kanye teams up with Kendrick Lamar, and they both rant on all the problems with ignorant wealthy people. Yeezy calls out his ex, Amber Rose, by labeling her as a major example of a gold-digger, "I remember Amber told my boy no matter what happens she ain't going back to Philly." With name-changing album titles like "SWISH" to "WAVES," the Wiz Khalifa twitter-war, and Amber Rose calling out Kanye for "liking butt-stuff," listeners are craving new Kanye songs more than ever.

Panic! At the Disco
Death of a Bachelor

5

The band is obviously at an all time low, and "Death of a Bachelor" sounded like a compilation of bad influences from a 2010 punk rock band combined with the old school Panic! At the Disco. The band took a 180 turn from "This Is Gospel," and compiled the album with a bunch of filler material.

DJ. Cole
Forest Hills Drive:
Homecoming

7

After a year since its release, J. Cole's "2014 Forest Hills Drive" is still taking the hip-hop world by storm. HBO teamed up with Cole and produced a documentary about the album release, showcasing the ins-and-outs of putting on a concert, and takes the viewer on tour, which makes you feel you as if are there yourself. From the first episode where high school students visit the rapper, Cole hooks the viewer almost immediately. Then, if his own documentary series was not enough for the Fayetteville-born rapper, Cole released a live album, "Forest Hills Drive: Live from Fayetteville, NC." The album takes a trip throughout his entire album, adds special classic songs and concludes with "Love Yourz," a track in which Cole promotes self-love.

Future
Purple Reign

6

Collaborating with Metro Boomin and DJ Esco, Future comes back with his fifth project in only 10 months. The thunder theme and promethazine-filled mixtape ends up giving the mixtape unique style. "Drippin" and "Wicked" are raw tracks that talk about drugs with upbeat rhythms. However, the idea that Future only glorifies promethazine and cough syrup is a common misconception. Instead, his lyrics vividly describe all the problems he deals with, such as in "Perkys Calling." In the track, Future raps soberly and how mindless he is without drugs.

RUFUS
Bloom

10

The Australian alternative dance group released their second full-length studio album on Jan. 22 as a follow-up to 2013's "Atlas." Although relatively unknown in the U.S.—although they are growing in popularity—the group is greatly popular in their home country. The dance pop group is finding a very polished and mature sound. Their first single off the album, "You Were Right," is a much more mature sounding approach to electronic music than anything you'll currently find on American radio. If you're trying to find your way onto the dance floor without losing much street credit, you surely can make note of RUFUS. They're not your overly saturated EDM superstars. They are very structured electronic gems.

Kevin Gates
Islah

9

Kevin Gates sticks with his signature raw hip-hop, and evolves as an artist with "Islah." Gates combines catchy hooks with experimental lyrics, making this album a bold listen. The drug-induced mixtape highlights some soon-to-be Kevin Gates classics such as "2 Phones" and "The Truth." After all these years, Gates is still able to hit high vocal notes while managing to have distinct bars.

Cozz
Nothing Personal

8

Cozz opened 2016 with his freshman mixtape "Nothing Personal." After storming through 2015 with his first studio album "Cozz and Effect," there was a lot of hype for the Dreamville signee's next project. Cozz did not disappoint with this mixtape. He raps about drug abuse, gang violence and family hardships. The aggressive compilation features many gems, one of the brightest being "Grow." On the track, Cozz reflects on how much he has grown as a man, and how his decision to be a rapper has affected him positively. He vividly recalls his past with lyrics such as "My pops used to leave ten dollars in cash before I went to class everyday. I used to spend five dollars on the weed and 40 ounce with the other half everyday. Starving myself for the hunger of a buzz." He has simply endured a rigorous journey to get where he is now.

Bourbon and Whiskey Fest to hit the casino



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

“The Bourbon and Whiskey Festival” will take place on Feb. 6 at the Sunland Casino Racetrack.

BY JULIA HETTIGER
The Prospector

El Paso has had their share of festivals celebrating the many different beers in existence, but the “Bourbon and Whiskey Festival” will be different. The Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino will be hosting a festival celebrating bourbon and whiskey in the coming weeks.

“We have the ‘Bourbon and Whiskey Festival’ on Feb. 6 and Wine Social on Feb. 13,” said Ethan Linder, director of marketing at the casino. “It is the first time either festival is hap-

pening at the Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino.”

The ‘Bourbon and Whiskey Festival’ will be the second alcohol-themed festival in a series of festivals the casino has recently hosted.

“Our recent ‘Tequila and Margarita Festival’ was at max capacity for most of the event,” Linder said. “We hope to draw a similar crowd for the ‘Whiskey and Bourbon Festival.’”

The event will not only feature a variety of bourbons and whiskeys, but also other features such as live entertainment.

The bands headlining the festival include the Sam Barlow Band, Mag-

num Blue Band and the Joe Barron Band.

Local country singer Joe Barron said it was great to be performing back at the casino.

“It’s been a while,” Barron said. “We always have a great time on the stage and the people are always very receptive from start to finish.”

The band, whose music focuses primarily on covers of original country music, will perform songs currently at the top of the charts.

“We are going to give a high-intensity show, with lots of upbeat, rocking stuff—everything from Eric Church to George Strait, and we even throw

in some Nelly and 50 Cent for fun,” Barron said. “We will be playing a few originals, but definitely a lot of country covers of everything from the Top 40 and some older Texas country stuff to everything you can dance to.”

In addition to the live entertainment, The Cigar Dolls, a female entertainment group from South and Latin America, will partake in cigar rolling, which is the process of rolling a bundle of dried and fermented tobacco leaves into cigars. Linder said he believes this will be a good addition to the festival.

“We like the match and hope everyone else does as well,” Linder said.

The event will also feature a mechanical bull riding competition. The winner of the challenge will be awarded a monetary prize of \$1,250.

Christian Perez, junior computer science major and whiskey drinker, said he would be interested in attending the ‘Bourbon and Whiskey Festival’ to experience new and different kinds of whiskey and to mingle with other people who have similar tastes to his.

“I would like to attend one to see and taste all the other types of whiskey there are,” Perez said. “I think it would be a nice way to meet others who have that interest and also bring some more people to come down and enjoy the city.”

As a whiskey drinker, Perez said he enjoys the fact he can come upon different and unique flavors each time he drinks it, and hopes he can experience that if he attends the festival.

“I like whiskey for its different variety of tastes it can provide, but prefer the ones that taste sweet,” Perez said.

The ‘Bourbon and Whiskey Festival’ will take place from noon to 9 p.m.

“Bourbon and whiskey, cigar rollers and a mechanical bull competition, that’s hard to beat,” Linder said.

For more information about the festival, call (575) 874-5200.

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Unknown Mortal Orchestra to play first show at The Lowbrow Palace



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

Unknown Mortal Orchestra will perform at the Lowbrow Palace on Friday, Feb 5.

BY MIKE VASQUEZ
The Prospector

The Lowbrow Palace has recently had an influx of popular artists and bands, making it one of the most sought-out venues for music fans here in El Paso. Unknown Mortal Orchestra, an up-and-coming band in the indie pop scene, is a New Zealand’s psychedelic pop rock band. They will be embarking on a 60-date world tour. They will be performing at 10:00 p.m., Friday, Feb. 5 at the Lowbrow Palace. El Paso will be their seventh tour stop following Los Angeles.

Although it is their first show in the Sun City, their synth rhythms and live core instruments fit in with the current musical movements of El Paso, close to the likes of Tame Impala, Django Django or Broken Bells.

Jason Daw, frontman for El Paso’s Kilo and the Dew and a senior advertising major at UTEP, sees Unknown Mortal Orchestra as fellow riders of the indie-pop genre.

“They set up this really strange aura with their synth that takes you out of your place,” Daw said. “But at the same time, they’ve got guitars and drums that ground it and put it together.”

Unknown Mortal Orchestra is composed of singer, guitarist and songwriter Ruban Nielson, bassist Jake Portrait and drummer Riley Geare. Nielson does not hesitate to explore his guitar, sometimes exchanging his voice with a trippy, distorted guitar solo, but even when Nielson takes to the microphone, bassist Jake Portrait steps out of the walking bass-lines and keeps the string section interest-

ing. As an article in Pitchfork puts it, Unknown Mortal Orchestra’s music is of a “unique immersive and psychedelic quality without relying on the usual array of bong-ripping effects.”

The Feb. 5 show will be the one-year anniversary of the release of their latest album, “Multi-Love” and includes some of their more distinguished lyrical work. The better part of the album is a bitter, cynical view of relationships with lyrics like “checked into my heart and trashed it like a hotel room” in the title track “Multi-Love” or the sense of doom in “Acid Rain,” where you can find the lyrics “you and I are doomed to burn like white people in the sun.” By the third track, however, the music grows some teeth and keeps it bare. “She wants you, and love don’t come into the equation. What she loves is sex in the parked car and the Photo Booth at Cha Cha.”

Christian Yañez, booking specialist for the Lowbrow, said the venue is expecting more than 200 attendees for the Unknown Mortal Orchestra performance. “With this show along with other ones, we’ve already been hosting plenty of up and coming bands,” Yañez said.

Willa McDonald, sophomore pre-pharmacy major, said she is excited to see them live.

“I’ve never seen them live,” McDonald said. “I’ve always imagined them to be better on stage so they can improvise more.”

The doors to the event will open at 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for 21 and older and \$17 for everyone else. Buy your tickets at lowbrowpalace.com.

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‘Rapture, Death the EDM’ aims to refocus crowd to original rave scene



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

“Rapture, Death to EDM,” will take place on Feb. 9 in an undisclosed location.

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector

On any given weekend in El Paso, you can find events and clubs playing electronic dance music. 301 Nightlife, The Garden, Hardpop Bundesbar in Ciudad Juárez and many other local hotspots are few of the names where you can expect to hear the musical genre thumping through their speakers. EDM has become popular locally, but not with every one. One upcoming event is hoping to bring back the culture of the rave scene by offering a different experience to music enthusiasts that perhaps an older crowd might recall.

“Rapture, Death to EDM,” will take place on Feb. 9. True to the original rave scene of the late ‘80s, ‘90s and early 2000s, the event location will be disclosed only by texting a number that will return your text with details about the hosting venue.

Electronic music, with its many sub-genres and acronyms, is now popularized by modern producers and DJ’s including Calvin Harris, Kaskade and Diplo.

This, however, wasn’t always the case. Initially originating in Europe, most notably Germany, in the mid-to-late ‘70s, electronic music was an

underground musical movement. It continued to grow overseas during the ‘80s, helping form such genres like new wave. It wasn’t until the ‘90s that it became popular in the states with the help of DJs such as Praga Khan and Superstar Dj Keoki. Back then people would attend underground rave parties, which were for the most part illegal and held at abandoned warehouses or alternative nightclubs. The movement promoted a carefree, communal sense of belonging amongst ravers, as attendees would come to be known.

It was very similar to the hippie movement. Eventually, the musical genre diversified in sound and attracted an army of listeners, which led to it straying from its original concept. More and more talent began to emerge and the music was more obtainable to the masses.

Now, many music festivals add these talents to their bills in order to bring together their fans. In El Paso, you can find many of these artists at different venues playing for sold-out crowds.

But not everyone in El Paso is particular fond of these popular events. Danny Perez, coordinator of “Rapture, Death to EDM,” is one of them. He and a close friend, who is also his

business partner who grew up in Germany, attended one of these events a few weeks ago and felt the usual energy that was once found at rave parties was gone.

“It was a total disaster,” Perez said. “The high energy was gone.”

Perez and his business partner discussed the event and decided it was time to revive the rave scene in the borderland.

“We want to bring the old-school style to the rave scene,” Perez said. “This first party will host local DJs, but with money raised from these events, we will get the old school names to come back. They have already been contacted and they really love the idea.”

Perez and his friend attended one of the original rave parties at the Lizard Lounge in Dallas back in the early 1990s. They returned to El Paso and helped create the same underground movement here.

“We liked the atmosphere and the people it drew,” Perez said. “All kinds of colorful people were in attendance, and I personally liked the exclusivity that it was by invite only.”

When Perez and his partner moved back to El Paso, they got together with a club owner who helped them throw parties at local clubs. After gaining

some recognition, they would rent out warehouses and had even bigger events that reached 300 people in a building downtown, Perez said.

“This is the first time in 20 years that I’m doing it again,” he said.

Marcy Angeles, a visual artist, painter and photographer, used to attend many of these raves. Angeles said that the new EDM shows are just a product of pop culture.

“Mainstream electronic has done a good job of putting El Paso on the map but there is way too much of an emphasis on flashy light shows and this EDM thing that is nothing like the electronica we used to know,” Angeles said.

Angeles said what was different in the raves of the past was diversity.

“What appealed to me about the El Paso rave scene was the love for diversity that was at the core of our scene,” Angeles said. “Cliques were an idea that took the backseat. You always knew you’d lose your friends as you’d go off on your own and mingle for at least an hour or two. You’d find a nice spot on a dusty warehouse floor & just get lost in the music.”

“I was very much so aware of what I was a part of,” Angeles said. “I lived the rave lifestyle for years. I never missed a weekly, never missed a party

& made a name for myself for usually being the first on the dance floor. It was very intimate and comfortable, especially our ‘weeklies’ like the ones at Cantina La Tuya. We had a deep sense of community and our peers were more like family than friends. Ravers were modern day hippies. The movement was essentially a peaceful backlash against societal oppression.”

Perez said he believes that EDM, which differs from other electronic music genres like minimal, techno or progressive house, has diminished by incorporating other styles of music like hip-hop and pop.

“My intent, with the help of others, is to reform the music back to what it was. As it is—no offense—but the hipster movement already killed rock ‘n’ roll,” Perez said. “EDM is doing that to the electronica and original rave scene. I have experience with the rave scene, so I’m hoping to revive it, and if we can bring life back to the night scene, that would be an amazing accomplishment and contribution to the nightlife here in El Paso.”

For more information on the event, text 351-2121 the day of.

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CALENDEROFEVENTS

KEVIN GATES

The rapper from Baton Rouge, Louisiana will be performing at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 3 at Tricky Falls. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at the door

WINE AND CHEESE AT THE MUSEUM

The El Paso Museum of History will hold a discussion on how racialized imagery was used to reflect changes and growth in the consumer market. Enjoy music and cheese following the discussion. The event is at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Feb. 4. The event is \$6 for museum and \$10 for non-members. For more information, call 915-212-0320

QUEEN NATION-A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN

The tribute band will be performing the legendary band’s hits at 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 6 at the Speaking Rock Entertainment Center. This event is free.



VALENTINES SUPER LOVE JAM

The Don Haskins Center will host The Intruders, Bloodstone, Blue Magic, GQ, Rose Royce, The Floaters, Heatwave, El Chicano and Malo as part of a super concert on Feb. 5. starting at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices start at \$28.50. For full ticket prices and event information, call 915-747-5234

If you haven't been to Later, Later, you need to go now, now



PHOTO COURTESY MARIA ESQUINCA

Later, Later is located at 109 N. Coldwell Street right behind the Chihuahua's Southwest University Stadium.

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector

It's hard to find a bar in El Paso that is inviting to all walks of life and has such a beautiful view that allows you to enjoy the beauty of the borderland. Or at least it was. Situated in the vintage and historic San Francisco district, Later, Later has almost unnoticeably popped-up out of nowhere

to give the city a much needed classy and invigorating bar experience.

Located at 109 N. Coldwell Street right behind the Chihuahua's Southwest University Stadium, Later, Later is giving bar-goers the experience they might encounter if they were on Rainy Street in Austin. Kiki Cervantes, part owner of Later, Later, said that is exactly what they were going for. Cervantes and Johnny Escalante,

who also owns the bar, are business partners who also own J&K Presents, a local live events company.

"We were looking to further our experience by opening our first bar," Cervantes said. "We were looking for the perfect venue that would be reminiscent of Rainy Street. We wanted to have that vibe."

The Later, Later house is originally from the 1930s. Cervantes and Es-

calante remodeled the house into the gorgeous, chic bar that now occupies the location.

"We wanted to an industrial, yet modern look to the venue," Cervantes said. "It had to have a cozy character, it had to feel like a house."

You will surely feel at home at Later, Later. The couches, communal tables and soft lighting are great aesthetically. If the brick walls fusing into a beautiful pearl white frame and the sliding window doors aren't enough to leave you in awe, the view definitely will. As you stand on Later, Later's wooden patio, you can see the gorgeous view of Downtown El Paso, including the historical Amtrak Station and neighboring party district Union Plaza. Straight ahead is Ciudad Juárez, illuminating the desert night sky.

At the bar, which looks like a bar inside a vintage library, you'll find an array of craft beers on draft, which includes offerings from Deadbeach Brewery, a local brewery down the street from Later, Later. If beers aren't your thing, you can always order your preference in cocktail at their full bar.

Once you've ventured the bar thoroughly, you'll eventually wind up at their side restrooms, where their now-infamous sign reading "later, baby, later" hovers over the women's restroom. Being a guy myself, I haven't seen the inside of the girl's restroom, but the guy's is charming. Their simple white and black décor might seem banal, but it's cozy and welcoming as well.

Later, Later almost emerged from under the radar. The location was under construction for the last eight

months, but they did no self-promotion until the day of their opening.

"We pretty much have been noticed by word of mouth," Cervantes said. "We didn't announce our name until we opened our doors for business."

Speaking of their unusual name, Later, Later is, if you haven't figured it out yet, a way of making fun of local lingo.

"It's a Hispanic thing," Cervantes said. "When I left El Paso, I noticed that we are the only ones that don't mean it when we say 'right now.' We always mean 'later, later.' People in El Paso say that. 'Not right now, but later, later.'"

Their name might be a pun of El Paso's diction, but don't take it too literal and postpone visiting the gorgeous bar. Later, Later is closed on Monday's, but opened Tuesday-Thursday from 5:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. and Friday through Sunday from 3:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m. During the baseball games, Later, Later will be expanding their hours and opening on Monday's.

For more information, visit their official page at drinklaterlater.com.

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FEBRUARY 2, 2016

SPORTS

EDITOR
ADRIAN BROADDUS, 747-7477

Men’s team helps celebrate ‘66 champions



The Miners (3-6 Conference USA) have lost three consecutive games.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

This week, the men’s basketball team begins the second half of their conference schedule as they host Marshall (Thursday, Feb. 4) and Western Kentucky (Saturday, Feb. 6) in the Don Haskins Center. Saturday’s game against Western Kentucky will honor the 50th anniversary of UTEP’s 1966 national championship team.

Throughout this week, events in regards to the 50th anniversary of the 1966 national championship will commence. Legendary head coach Don Haskins was the first coach to start five African-American players in a NCAA championship game. To this day, UTEP remains the only Division I school in Texas to win a men’s basketball NCAA championship.

Beginning on Friday, Feb. 5, CBS Sports Network will hold a panel discussion featuring ex-players Jerry Armstrong, Orsten Artis, Louis Baudoin, Willie Cager, David Lattin, Dick Myers, Togo Railey, Nevil Shed and Willie Worsley.

The nine players will also be honored at the game on Saturday, Feb. 6. Tip off is set for 3 p.m. and everyone who buys a ticket will receive a free 50th anniversary t-shirt at the Don Haskins Center.

Weekend of woes

The struggling Miners (11-11, 3-6 Conference USA) have lost six out of their last seven games. They are winless (0-7) on the road.

Two of those losses on the road came last week, when the Miners lost to Southern Miss (71-58) and Louisiana Tech (78-70), respectively.

During both games, the Miners blew leads that they held at the half. Before the back-to-back losses, they had only lost one game out of 11 when leading at the break.

Despite having a breakout 15-point lead throughout the first half, the Miners were outscored 29-14 in the second half and fell to the Golden Eagles on Thursday, Jan. 25. They only scored eight points in the final nine minutes against Southern Miss.

Against Louisiana Tech, both teams traded off leads throughout the game. The Miners were not disciplined on offense and committed season-high 23 turnovers. The 23 turnovers resulted in 19 points for the Bulldogs. The Bulldogs’ starters all scored 12 or more points in the game.

Although they lost to the Bulldogs, who are fourth in C-USA, head coach

MICHAELA ROMÁN/ THE PROSPECTOR

Tim Floyd saw improvement in his team that has been facing adversity recently. After matching Southern Miss in rebounding (36-36), they beat Louisiana Tech in the battle for boards (38-34) for only the second time this season.

Another plus for the Miners on Sunday’s game was shooting. Prior to Louisiana Tech, the Miners had a difficult time in shooting from the perimeter and from the floor, but in this game they shot 50.9 percent from the field and four players (Terry Winn, Dominic Artis, Omega Harris and Earvin Morris) scored 10 or more points.

“By and large there was some improvement other than the ball handling,” Floyd said after the loss. “We’ll try to go back home and see if we can’t do some things a little better when we get back to El Paso.”

Seeing a remarkable upgrade in play was Dominic Artis. Going into Sunday’s game, Artis averaged 3.5 points in the last four games. Against Louisiana Tech, Artis seemed to wake up and rose to the occasion. He finished with 23 points, 10 rebounds, nine assists and four steals, nearly recording a triple double.

“We got great play from Dominic Artis tonight (against Louisiana Tech), which was really encouraging,” Floyd said. “He played at a high level.”

Scouting the Herd

Marshall (11-11, 7-2 C-USA) will bring a high-scoring offense to the Don Haskins Center on Thursday. They like to run the score high, averaging 82.4 points per game. Four players are averaging 12 or more points per game, including James Kelly (19.9), Ryan Taylor (14.6) Jon Elmore (13.3) and Stevie Browning (12.9). Kelly leads C-USA with 11 double-doubles (17th in the nation),

defensive rebounds (169) and field goals made (178 for 325). Despite losing 81-79 to UAB, Kelly still posted a 30-point game. They are going to challenge UTEP in the post with Kelly and Taylor, who combine for 34.5 points per game.

In order to compete, coach Floyd and the Miners are going to need to establish a strong inside defense against the Herd. Winn and Hooper Vint will be the prime post players, and coach Floyd will probably use a zone-coverage to force the outside shots.

The Miners have struggled in recent games with foul trouble. On Thursday, both Lee Moore and Harris were sidelined due to fouls, and on Sunday, Vint fouled out of the game. If the Miners can keep the Herd away from the inside while still remaining disciplined on fouls, they have a chance at upsetting the fourth-place squad.

A look at the Hilltoppers

They have the same overall record, same league record and extremely similar frustrating season—if the Miners could look into the mirror, the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers would be in the reflection. The Hilltoppers (11-11, 3-6 C-USA) are also coming off a loss on Saturday (Middle Tennessee, 66-64), but they upset C-USA’s top-ranked UAB (69-62) on Thursday, Jan. 28.

Western Kentucky is led by forward Justin Johnson, who leads the team in points per game (16.1), rebounds (168) and blocks (17). This is also a team whose strong side is defense. They average nearly five steals, five blocks and 13 turnovers per game.

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Ten wins marks best start for women’s team

BY JUAN CARLOS NAVARETTE
The Prospector

The UTEP women’s basketball team will take on Marshall on the road in hopes of continuing their undefeated record in conference play after picking up their 10th-straight win.

UTEP (18-1, 9-0 Conference USA) will be playing against a Marshall team that is having a roller coaster season. They are 4-5 in conference play, but they have been victorious in an unorthodox fashion.

Coming off an impressive 86-80 win against fourth-place Louisiana Tech, the Miners are no longer tied for first with Western Kentucky in Conference USA due to their nine-win record. The Miners struggled in the first half to cement the lead, but they used their home court advantage to extend their lead in the second half.

“It was a battle-great game, great win against a team that has been playing really good ball,” head coach Keitha Adams said. “L.A. tech has a fantastic team.”

Adams does not let the wins take over her team’s locker room; after last year’s losses, the Miners know there is still a lot of basketball to be played. Adams and her squad have labeled this year “the payback tour.”

“We are completely focused on who we are playing and what the game plan is,” Adams said. “We are not

thinking about the past and we are not thinking about the future. Even when I get questions asked about two weeks in the past, I always say I don’t know what you’re talking about. I stay locked in and I try to keep our kids locked in.”

The Miners will have to find a way to neutralize Marshall’s senior guard Leah Scott. The 6-foot guard is averaging 15 points per game. She is also leading her team with 117 total rebounds.

Fortunately for the Miners, Marshall’s team does not have an array of offensive weapons that UTEP has proven to have. UTEP has four players that all average 10-or-more points per game, with the leader among them being Cameasha Turner with 15.3.

UTEP also cares about teams who rebound strongly, according to guard Starr Breedlove. The team relies on Chrishauna Parker, who in the last game had 10 rebounds against a board-heavy Louisiana Tech team.

“Finally got somebody out there that we know for sure is going to rebound,” Breedlove said. “Our whole team rebounds, but we know she’s automatically going to.”

The Miners will be on the road for their next two games, against Marshall (Thursday, Feb 4) and against second-place Western Kentucky (Saturday, Feb. 6). If the Miners are able

to get both wins, the Miners not only get better control of Conference USA, but they also may gain enough attention to be in the top 25 of the nation.

For Turner it does not matter who they are playing-the guard is staying focused, and playing one game at a time.

“We got to keep pushing forward, take from this game and get better,” Turner said. “Each game we got to move forward. We can enjoy this game tonight (against Louisiana Tech) and we got to look forward to Marshall. They beat us last year-pay back tour continues.”

As for Adams, Marshall is just another opponent she would like to get revenge on. Adams does not like to talk much about other teams right after a game, but she said enough to let everyone know Marshall is on the payback tour.

“Marshall beat us last year here (at the Don Haskins),” Adams said. “We were 12-16 last year.”

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MICHAELA ROMÁN/ THE PROSPECTOR

Head coach Keitha Adams and her squad are currently ranked 28th in the nation according to the NCAA women’s basketball RPI.

Football seeks prospects for national signing day

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

Offseason recruiting comes to a close with national signing day drawing near. Football head coach Sean Kugler and his staff will present the 2016 signees on Wednesday, Feb. 3, at the Larry K. Durham Center.

This recruitment process will be very important to the team due to the four coaching changes that Kugler made earlier this year.

With news of numerous high school prospects verbally committing to UTEP, it is evident that Kugler has carefully selected this recruitment class and should be praised for the talent he has reached.

More stars, more credibility

First to note from the list of commits are the two three-star recruits that the Miners are obtaining. Two of these recruits made huge impacts at the tailback position during their respective high school seasons.

Antonio Dupree (RB/MLB) – Gilman High School (Baltimore, MD)

The 5-foot-10, 220-pound tailback finds most of his luck from the shotgun formation. At Gilman, Dupree was a workhorse in a spread offense system. He incorporates his apparent speed with power to steam through defenses. Dupree also received offers from Connecticut, Iowa, Ohio State, Wake Forest and West Virginia.

Quardraiz Wadley (RB) – Kennebunk High School (Kennebunk, TX)

After being named the Associated Press Class 4A Player of the Year, there is no question in regards to the talent that Quardraiz Wadley brings to the forefront. Through his senior season, Wadley carried the ball 224 times for 2,511 yards. He has no problem in reaching the end zone, as he scored 46 times during the 2015 season. He verbally committed to UTEP on Jan. 24.

Everything's bigger in Texas

Kugler and his staff picked up key prospects in the state of Texas. These prospects will add to the many gaps that require filling on the team. From 6A through 5A-associated players, the Miners have landed some gems throughout the Lone Star state.

Walter Dawn (RB) – Poteet High School (Mesquite, TX)

Walter Dawn will bring a key attribute of his to UTEP—speed. He posted a stunning 4.4 40-yard dash time, which is almost improbable for his age. Dawn can pick up yards on the ground or through the air. He finished his three-year varsity career at Poteet with 2,230 rushing yards and 1,822 receiving yards, with 41



FILE PHOTO/ THE PROSPECTOR

Head coach Sean Kugler will present the 2016 signing class on Wednesday, Feb. 3 in the Larry K. Durham Center.

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total touchdowns. Along with UTEP, Dawn received offers from Nevada, New Mexico, Texas Southern and West Texas A&M.

Amorano Noel (TE) – Alief Elsik High School (Houston, TX)

The two-time All-District tight end will import good hands and efficient blocking to the Miners. Noel works best in an under-center, balanced offense, which will work with that of UTEP's. The 6-foot-3 tight end got looks from big-name schools such as Texas, Texas Tech, Baylor, Minnesota, Colorado and Indiana.

Kolbi McGary (OLB) – Cedar Hill High School (Cedar Hill, TX)

Standing at 6-foot-1, McGary comes from a high school team that was ranked in the top 25 of the state. As we have seen, the linebacker position has been filled by younger players on the Miners, and McGary might see the field quicker than most. He finished his single season on Cedar Hill with 59 total tackles, averaging almost six tackles per game.

There's no place like home

A significant move that the coaches have made during this offseason was securing the top local recruits. Players such as Aaron Jones, Alvin Jones, Cole Freytag, Warren Redix, Ryan Metz and Derek Elmendorff are all prime examples of local talent that have excelled on the team. Kugler has been a firm believer on keeping talent at home, and did a noteworthy job at obtaining these prospects.

Christian Johnson (DE) – Parkland High School (El Paso, TX)

One of the first to verbally commit to the Miners in the fall was the 6-foot-3, 250-pound defensive end Christian Johnson. He is a four-year varsity starter and is a force to be reckoned with. Throughout his high school career, Johnson posted 180 total tackles and 33.5 sacks. Due to his level of intensity, we might see Johnson take the field as soon as the fall.

Brannon Bullitt (WR) – Chapin High School (El Paso, TX)

Assisting his high school team to an undefeated (8-0) district record, Brannon Bullitt towers at 6-foot-2 over defenders. Since his sophomore year, Bullitt averaged 90 yards or better in receiving per game. During his senior year, Bullitt caught the ball 66 times and scored 22 times.

Robert Deharo (DT) – Montwood High School (El Paso, TX)

Seeking to join Johnson on the defensive front is Robert Deharo. Also like Johnson, Deharo is a bulky addition – he stands at 6-foot-4, 255 pounds. Deharo is known for swarming to the quarterback, and he is no stranger to offensive linemen because he was once one himself.

Mark Torrez (QB) – Eastwood High School (El Paso, TX)

Mark Torrez brings to the table a trait like those of Miner quarterbacks Kavika Johnson and Ryan Metz: he is a dual threat. In high school, Torrez was notorious for stunting defenses with his ability to pass, while still being able to efficiently tuck the ball in and run. Torrez ranked second in all of Texas 6A football for passing yards (3,837), second in total yards (4,883) and ranked in the top 50 for rushing yards. Torrez might see playing time in other positions as well due to his athleticism.

Richie Rodriguez (WR/S/PR) – Eastwood High School (El Paso, TX)

Committing alongside his high school teammate Mark Torrez, Richie Rodriguez carries a big dose of athleticism to the collegiate level. On the offensive side, Rodriguez ranked first in Texas 6A for receiving yards (1,709), sixth for scoring (140 points) and seventh for touchdowns (23). Through his three years on varsity, he totaled with 3,750 receiving yards and 1,105 rushing yards. On the defensive side, he totaled 24 tackles and 16 pass deflections during his senior season. In addition, Rodriguez might be called to arms at the returner position for the Miners.

Eric Foster (WR) – Americas High School (El Paso, TX)

Eric Foster made a transition from receiver to quarterback in between his junior and senior season. After filling the demanding role, Foster will return to the wideout position when he plays at the collegiate level. For an athlete who can throw for 1,379 yards, rush for 1,083 yards and record 677 yards during his varsity career, Foster is almost limitless on the offensive playbook.

West region fever

The remainder of the top picks that the Miners are obtaining this offseason come from the West. From California to Washington, Kugler and his recruitment staff made sure to snatch some key defenders and add a stellar center.

Justin Rogers (CB) – Los Angeles Senior High School (Los Angeles, CA)

Serving as a multi-talented player, Justin Rogers verbally committed to join the Miners on Jan. 18. Rogers will contribute a good defensive eye to the Miners with his two years of varsity experience. He totaled with 69 total tackles and poses a risk to quarterbacks. He recorded three interceptions and broke up 10 passes during the 2015 season.

Jared Goldwire (DE) – Kentwood High School (Kent, WA)

Joining the ranks of the Miners' defensive front is the massive, 6-foot-7, 280-pound tackle Jared Goldwire. For such a large player, Goldwire can move quickly. He specializes in getting after the quarterback on the outside. Goldwire received looks from Notre Dame, Oregon, Oregon State, Purdue, Washington and Washington State.

Tanner Stallings – Hutchinson Community College (Sterling, KS)

Weighing in at a whopping 300 pounds, Tanner Stallings will make UTEP his new home for his remaining years of college eligibility. The standout center signed his letter of intent to join the Miners on Dec. 12. Stallings went from high school to play football at the junior college level at Hutchinson Community College.

Tiano Tialavea – O'Dea High School (Seattle, WA)

Despite missing his first six games of his senior season due to a broken foot, Tiano Tialavea was a sought-after recruit by many as a top-tier defensive player. Tialavea was being scouted by Boise State, Oregon, Utah, Washington, UNLV and Kentucky. During his junior season, he recorded an impressive 25 total sacks. In only four games, Tialavea played both offensive and defensive tackle for O'Dea High School.

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