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The Prospector, March 1, 2016

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SPRING BREAK ISSUE

ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

WWW.THEPROSPECTORDAILY.COM

VOL. 101, NO. 21

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

MARCH 1, 2016

TRAVEL WITH CAUTION



DESIGN BY JACOBO DE LA ROSA / THE PROSPECTOR

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MARCH 1, 2016

PERSPECTIVES

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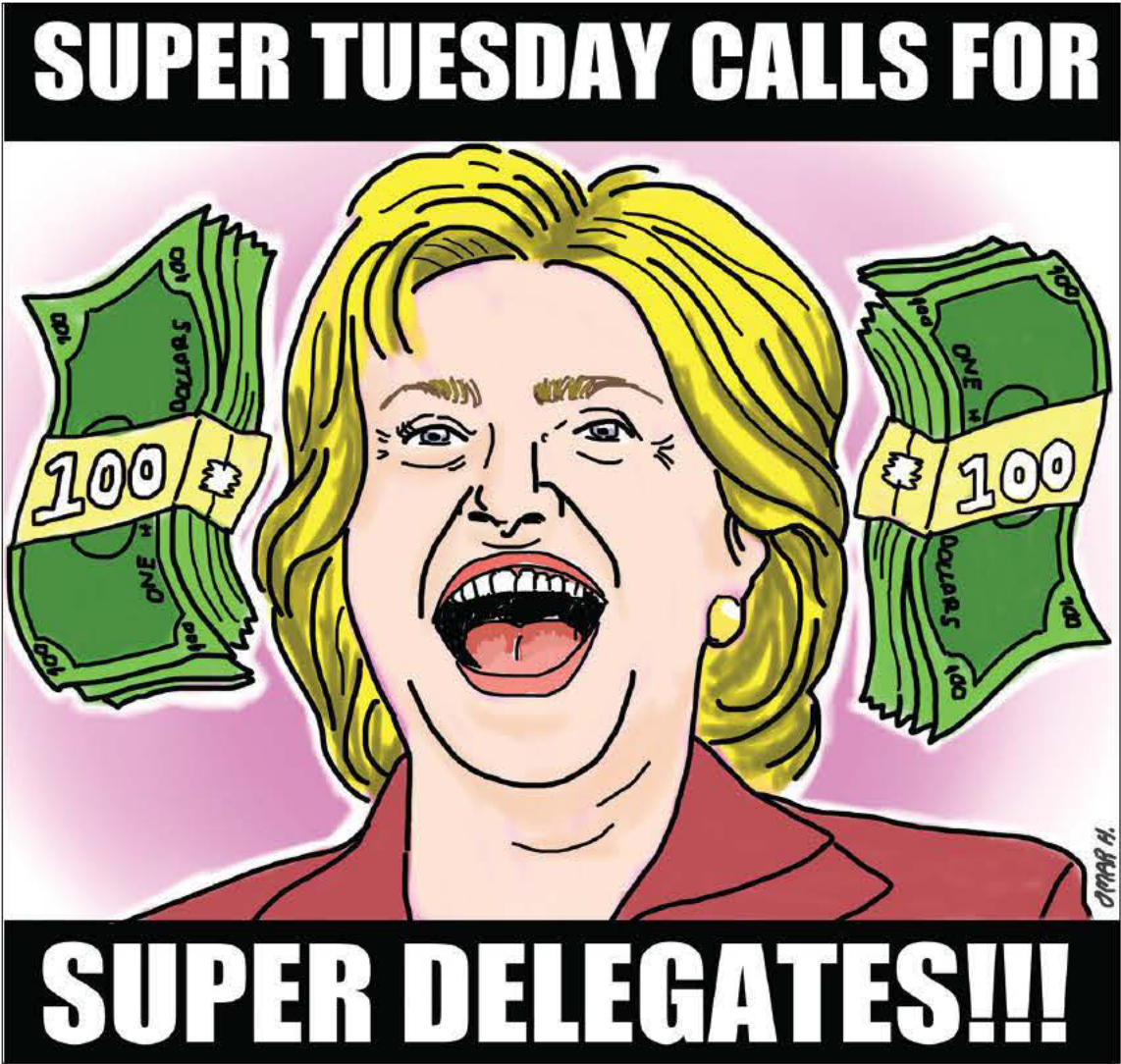
Tinder can help you find the one

BY MIKE VAZQUEZ
The Prospector

Four weeks after my dating app experiment, all but “Tinder” have proven useless. Finding respectable women on “Grindr,” I soon discovered, was a futile endeavor. It does take time to match with someone, but even after that moment when you realize a stranger finds you attractive, getting a first date is an entirely different challenge. As a male on the app, all my efforts go into not sounding like a creep. From the initial greeting to the final exchange of numbers, each message goes through an editing process to ensure that I do not sound like I’m out for the hunt. Fortunately for me, my written word is better than my spoken, but I salute the honest men who have gone down in flames because of a misplaced smiley face. I have not lost hope for “Tinder,” however, because its concept cuts to realities of dating so much that those who hold themselves to a higher moral standard are scared to even download the app. These are the same people who believe in love at first sight, but are against making instantaneous decisions on potential mates’ best picture. “Tinder” realizes that we, as humans in the 21st century, are shallow; we do base our initial attractions on looks. There’s no way I can approach a girl whom I’ve never met before and honestly tell her I came over to say hello because I dig her personality. Anyone who tries to tell you that is really saying “The reptilian part of my brain is telling me I want to have sex with you.” “Tinder’s” users are well aware of this, and something interesting happens. With the whole “is he attracted to me” question out of the way, matched users can stop the façade of trying to impress the

other person and get right down to getting to know them. In other words, I would argue that people who meet on “Tinder” (and use it right, that is, to emotionally connect with someone) have a better chance at a healthy relationship than do the lovebirds who miraculously met at the bar. You can say our grandparents had it easy when it came to dating, but if we took a bird’s eye view on their scope of potential mates, we can probably map out their eventual meeting based on the people they knew. So in that sense, yes, they had it easier. However, the world of online dating has made it possible to meet your actual soul mate. Simply by going to a different city introduces you to an entirely new pool of potential mates that could direct you to the one, not the one who just so happened to go to the same high school. Try mapping that relationship web out. I will admit that plenty of people use “Tinder” for casual sex, and I’m not discrediting that, but I am showing the possibility to revolutionize the world of dating if we all gave it an honest shot. That means, boys, to put it away and ask the girl about her favorite band or what she thinks about death. Girls, stop assuming every guy wants to stick it to you and ask the guy about his favorite dessert or what he thinks about when he’s alone. We’ve got the opportunity to meet our soulmates, friends, we’ve just got to stop thinking it’s all about getting naked.

Mike Vazquez may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.



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A stylized illustration of a fetus in profile, facing right, superimposed on a large, dark, textured circular shape with numerous spikes radiating outwards, resembling a virus or a protective barrier.

Co-director of infectious disease and immunology of the Border Biomedical research center, Dr. Douglas M. Watts advises students to take precautionary steps while traveling to Mexico.

During the coming spring break, many college students will flock to some of Mexico's best vacation spots for a week of fun and relaxation, but with the continual spread of the Zika virus, vacationers heading to Mexico have been warned to take precautions during their time of fun and relaxation.

In November of last year, the

I would not advise them
not to visit Mexico,
but if they do, take
precautions

- Dr. Douglas M. Watts,
Co-director of Infectious
disease and immunology of
Border Biomedical Research
Center at UTEP

first transmission of the Zika virus was reported in Mexico. The Zika virus is a disease that is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito, this species is found in tropical and sub-tropical regions, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Symptoms of contracting the virus may result in fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis (red eyes). For pregnant women, the virus can be even more harmful; babies

of mothers who had the Zika virus have suffered severe birth defects. The most common defect reported is microcephaly, which is a condition where a baby's head is underdeveloped and smaller than the average newborn's head size.

Even more recently it was discovered that the virus could be spread through sexual contact, any man with the virus can spread it to their sexual partners during unprotected sex.

Although the virus has spread throughout all of Central America and more than half of South America, Dr. Douglas M. Watts, codirector of infectious disease and immunology of the Border Biomedical Research Center at UTEP, believes that the fear of the Zika virus spreading has been more prevalent than the actual virus.

"There is always a tendency for public health officials to overembellish," Watts said. "Especially new diseases, due in part to inform and enhance awareness in the community and to encourage the public to comply with public health instructions to avoid acquiring the disease."

One of the more embellished health scares by mainstream media in recent years was the Ebola scare of 2014. Popular TV networks such as CNN, Fox News and MSNBC all contributed to the mass hysteria and overstating of the disease, despite only four cases of being reported that year.

Nevertheless, understated or overstated, students should take precautionary steps while traveling to Mexico.

"I would not advise them not to visit Mexico, but if they do, take precautions," Watts said. "If one

visits an endemic area, then it is very important to take precautions, including staying indoors, and if you go outside, use repellent and dress as much as possible to cover the body."

Watts also said that staying near the beach on hotter days could result in less risk as mosquitoes prefer to inhabit cool, shady and high humidity areas with vegetation.

UTEP sophomore Elizabeth Vencio will be traveling to Cancun with a group of friends on the week of spring break, and despite her lack of knowledge on the virus or the preventive steps, she believes she will be fine.

"I have heard of the name of the virus, but not of what it is specifically, how it transmits or what its carrier is," Vicencio said. "It doesn't give me second thoughts. Maybe if I knew more about the virus it might, but for now, no."

Another UTEP sophomore who is traveling to Cancun, Alejandro Urueta, said as long as he doesn't run into any mosquitos he will be fine.

"I know that you should wear mosquito repellent," Urueta said. "I will be in Cancun for seven days with my friends. I plan on relaxing

and having a good time. I hope I don't run into any mosquitoes. I think that we'll be alright. I'm not too worried."

Luckily for spring breakers heading to Mexico, all of the confirmed cases of the Zika virus have come from rural areas and not tourist destinations. Currently, six of the 32 states in Mexico have confirmed cases of the virus. The states include Chiapas, Jalisco, Nuevo Leon, Queretaro, Tabasco and Tamaulipas.

For other skeptics traveling to Mexico for vacation, Dr. Alberto Diaz Quinonez, deputy general director of the Mexican Institute for Diagnostic and Epidemiology, said in an early February at a Mexico Ministry of Health meeting that travelers are okay to visit.

"While the Zika virus is inevitable in Mexico, given its vast size, climate and trade in the region, the number of cases remains very low," Diaz Quiñonez said. "Given these facts, there is no threat to tourists visiting Mexico."

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



ALCOHOL AWARENESS WEEK



TUESDAY, MARCH 1

- **TXDOT COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT FLIGHT PRESS CONFERENCE**
10:00 AM UNIVERSITY AVENUE, OUTSIDE UTEP UNION
- **TXDOT INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES**
11:00 AM UNIVERSITY AVENUE, OUTSIDE UTEP UNION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

- **RAISE THE BAR RESOURCE FAIR**
10:00 AM UTEP UNION PLAZA
- **COLLEGIATE RECOVERY PROGRAMS**
12:00 PM UNION EAST 102E (LANTANA)
Hosted by: Student Recovery Organization & Collegiate Recovery Program
Speaker: Mr. Ben Bass Executive Director of Casa Vida de Salud
- **OPEN DISCUSSION AA WEEKLY MEETING**
12:00 PM UNION EAST, ROOM 102H (RIVERVIEW)
- **DRINKING RESPONSIBLY: TIPS FOR A SAFER SPRING BREAK**
2:00 PM UNION EAST, ROOM 314 (ELKINS)
Hosted by: University Counseling Center

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THURSDAY, MARCH 3

KNOWLEDGE IS KEY – WORKSHOP DAY

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10:00 AM, 11:00 AM & 12:00 PM
UNION EAST 102D (DESERT CANYON)
Hosted by: Healthy Miners Peer Educators/Wellness
- **PUBLIC HEALTH & ALCOHOL AWARENESS**
10:00 AM UNION EAST 102B (ANDESITE)
Hosted by: Hosted by: Latino Alcohol Health Disparities Research Center
- **THE "A GAME" WORKSHOP**
12:00 PM UNION EAST 102B (ANDESITE)
Hosted by: University Counseling Center
- **DO YOU KNOW ABOUT GREEN DOT?**
10:00 AM, 10:30 AM UNION EAST 102C (CACTUS FLOWER)
Hosted by: Green DOT

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

- **#ORANGEFRIDAYS HAS A MESSAGE FOR YOU!**
9:00 AM UTEP UNION PLAZA
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- **AA MINER MIRACLE GROUP WEEKLY MEETING**
5:45 PM UNION EAST 102E (LANTANA)
Hosted by: Student Recovery Organization



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Uber safe alternative for spring break

BY GLORIA HEREDIA
The Prospector

Some students plan to use Uber during the week of spring break festivities since they plan on drinking.

Uber Technologies Inc. is an American multinational online taxi dispatch company that began in California in 2009 and started up in El Paso in June 2014.

According to a report conducted by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, alcohol-related crashes have

decreased in California by 60 accidents per month. However, so far this year in El Paso, 21 individuals have been arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Every day in the United States, an average of 30 people die in car accidents that involve intoxicated drivers. That's one death every 51 minutes. The annual cost of alcohol-related crashes each year totals to more \$59 billion, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



CHRISTOPHER ZACHERL / THE PROSPECTOR

A student demonstrates the dangers of drinking and driving.

Sergeant for the El Paso Police Department, Roberto Gomez, has been in law enforcement for 19 years and said drunk driving has always been a challenge for the department due to how frequent those cases are.

Gomez said that it is important to find alternate means of transportation when drinking.

"I think that anytime a person decides to use an alternative mean of transportation while they've been drinking is a good thing," Gomez said. "Whether it is a taxicab, a designated driver or Uber, anything that prevents a drunk person, or an impaired person from getting behind the wheel is definitely a good thing."

Karen, an El Paso Uber driver, recently started working for the company. She did not want to disclose her last name for security reasons.

Karen said she does encourage students to use Uber, especially after going out and drinking in order to prevent drunk driving.

"El Paso is probably one of the more reasonable in pricing. It is a \$5 flat rate, then they start doing it by mile or by time," Karen said. "I've taken Uber several times, it's way safer and cheaper than getting in trouble."

Some students do not feel comfortable using UBER because they are uncomfortable with getting into a car with someone they don't know.

Junior media advertising major, Anthony Ashley, goes back to some early teachings.

"We teach our kids to not get in cars with strangers, but with Uber we are doing it like every day," Ashley said. "We are basically going against what we are saying, being hypocrites about not getting in cars with strangers, but we get in cars with strangers either way."

Sophomore kinesiology major, Joceline Sanchez, said that de-

Whether it is a taxicab, a designated driver or Uber, anything that prevents a drunk person, or an impaired person from getting behind the wheel is definitely a good thing

- Roberto Gomez, EPPD Sargent

spite a recent incident in Michigan where an Uber driver is on trial for murdering six people, she thinks it is worth getting in the car with a stranger rather than driving drunk.

"Even if that happened, I would still get an Uber because at the moment you don't think about how dangerous it could be. I'd rather take one than driving drunk," Sanchez said.

Gloria Heredia may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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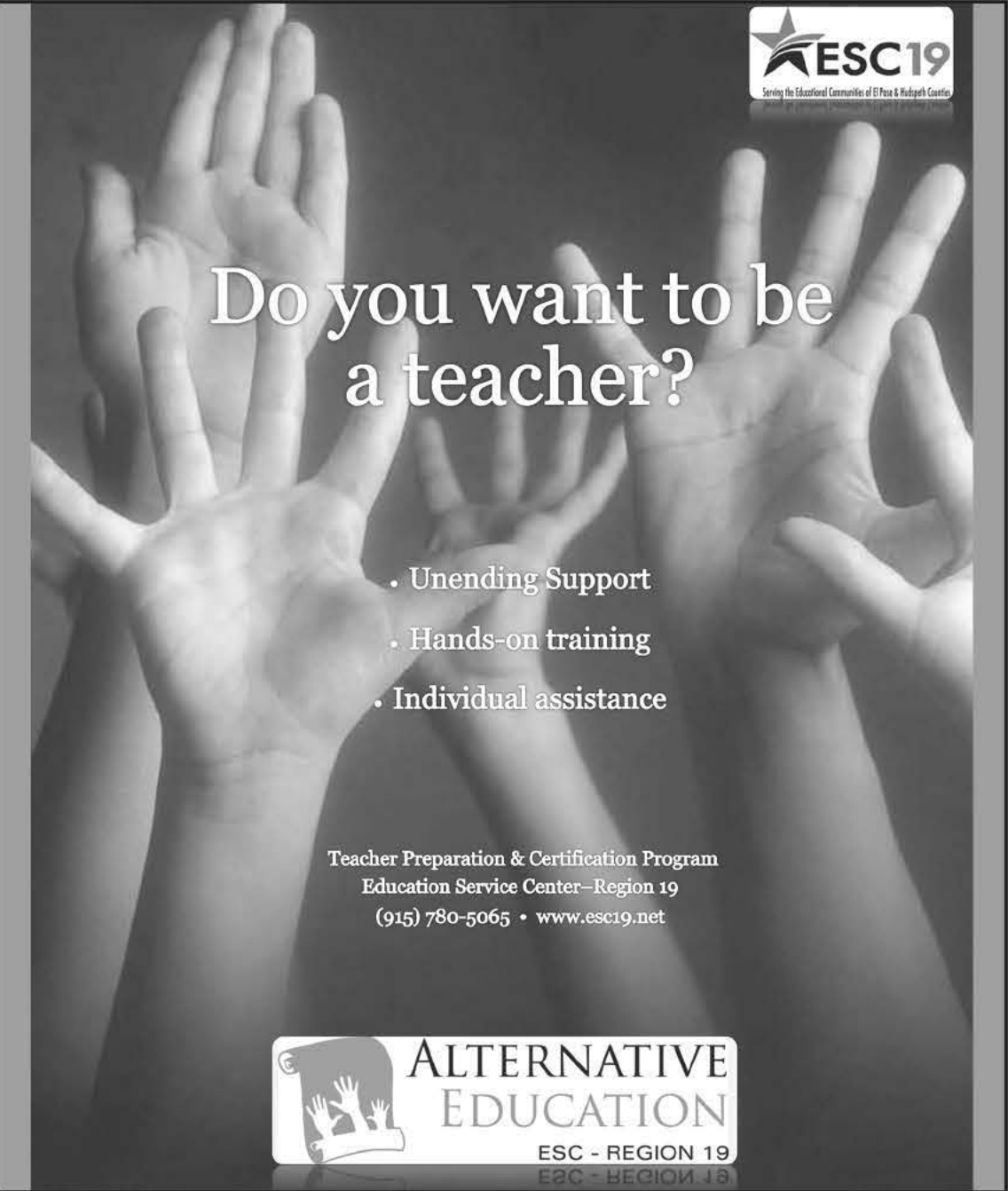
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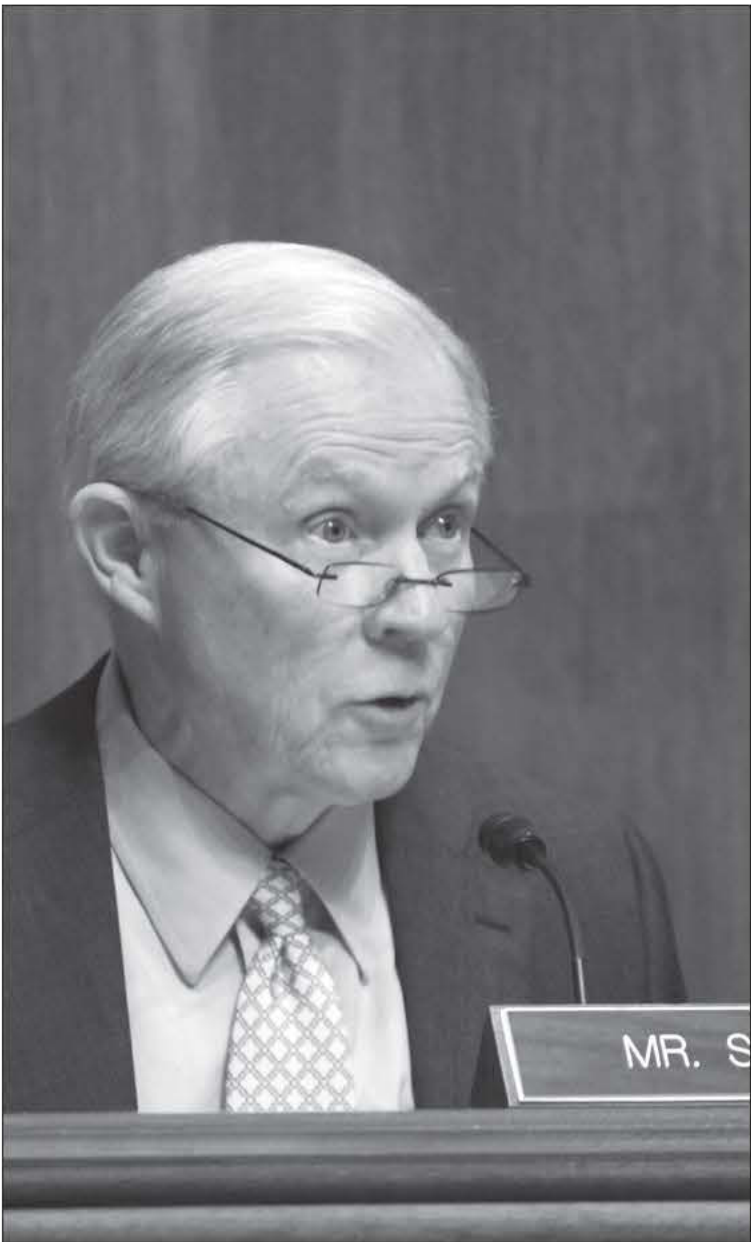
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CHRISTOPHER ZACHERL / THE PROSPECTOR

So far in 2016, 21 individuals have been arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Workers' visa program, benefit or exploitation?



Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., says Thursday that the H-1B visa program for foreign workers is hurting Americans.

BY LUKE TORRANCE
SHFWire

WASHINGTON – In November 2014, the Walt Disney Company reported record \$48.8 billion in sales. It was the fourth straight year of record profits.

The theme parks – Walt Disney Land, Walt Disney World — generated \$2.7 billion in profits, a 20 percent increase. It was a small piece of Disney's enormous pie, but these profits alone will be more than "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" will gross worldwide.

With such an optimistic financial outlook, Leo Perrero was expecting good things when he was called to meeting with Disney executives in late 2014. Perrero had worked in IT at Disney for over a decade, handling the billions of dollars spent by park visitors. His supervisors, Perrero said Thursday before the Senate Judiciary Committee, had earlier given him glowing reviews: "This year Leo was instrumental," "Leo saved the company over \$10,000."

Instead, Perrero was fired. He and more than 100 of his co-workers would be replaced in 90 days by foreign workers, and they were told that they would have to train their replacements or face losing severance pay.

Perrero was one of six witnesses who testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee about the H-1B visa program and how it affects high-skilled workers. It is the second hearing on the visa program held in the past year by the committee.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., questions witnesses Thursday about the economic impact of the H-1B program that has brought

foreign workers to the U.S. to replace American workers. SHFWire photo by Luke Torrance

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., questions witnesses Thursday about the economic impact of the H-1B program that has brought foreign workers to the U.S. to replace American workers. SHFWire photo by Luke Torrance

The Disney employees were replaced by foreign workers brought in through the H-1B program, which allows foreign workers to stay in the United State for three years. Most of these visas are snatched up by outsourcing firms, most based in India. These firms contract with companies like Disney or IBM to provide tech services.

As Perrero spoke to the senators, he often paused and swallowed hard.

"My coworkers and I felt extremely betrayed by Disney," he said, his voice shaking. "They were simply going to cast us aside for their financial benefit."

Perrero almost broke into tears when he recalled having to tell his children he could not buy them pumpkins because he was losing his job. He spent the last few months of 2014 training his replacement, a process he called "disgraceful and demoralizing."

"I have been contacted by numerous American workers at many companies who are currently training their replacements," Professor Ron Hira of Howard University said. The public policy expert said companies abusing the H-1B, such as Disney, New York Life and Toys R Us, were "only the proverbial tip of the iceberg."

Colgate University economics professor Chad Sparber and

online retailer JackThreads CTO Mark O'Neill said that H-1B visas helped bring the world's best talent to the United States.

"The use of foreign workers has directly contributed to the health of my company, and to our ability to offer additional jobs to Americans," O'Neill said.

Sparber claimed that economic data backed up O'Neill's testimony.

"Highly educated immigrants increase American wages, employment and productivity," Sparber said.

But Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said the foreign workers using the H-1B visas are not truly emigrating to the United States. They can only stay for three years if the visa is not renewed, a decision made by the foreigner's employer.

Hira and Salzman argued that the program was bad for foreigners and Americans. Hira said the replacement workers' wages were "\$40,000 lower" annually when they took IT jobs at energy company Southern California Edison.

Additionally, companies do not have to pay for health insurance or retirement benefits. If these foreign workers are fired or quit their jobs, they must leave the country, which makes it very difficult for them to negotiate salary or find other jobs.

The few senators that attended the hearing agreed that the current system was not working. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said that the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013, which he helped write, would fix issues with H-1B.

"If our bill had passed, you wouldn't be in the pickle you're in," Schumer said to Perrero. The

bill was written by Schumer and a bipartisan group of senators known as the "Gang of Eight." The Senate passed the bill, but the House killed it.

Sessions asked Hira and Hal Salzman of Rutgers University if Schumer's bill would have saved Perrero's job. They both said no.

"It would have been much worse for the American workers than the status quo," Hira said.

Perrero described technology as his dream career. After speaking out publicly against Disney,

he claimed that he was blacklisted by other tech companies. He now works for his father-in-law's real estate business.

Reach reporter Luke Torrance at luke.torrance@scripps.com or 202-408-1494. 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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UTEP’s tuition increase proposal approved

BY AMANDA GUILLEN
The Prospector

Cost of tuition and fees will be increasing effective immediately and over the next two years. The University of Texas System Board of Regents approved the increase on Monday, all of the UT Systems academic institutions including UTEP will experience the increase.

Most of the increases result in a two to four percent cost increase for resident undergraduate students. According to a press release from the UT System, all of the proposals include detailed plans on how this new revenue will be spent to serve the students and provide faculty support.

UTEP Vice President of Student Affairs and Chair of the Student-Majority Tuition and Fees Advisory Committee, Gary Edens, said in a statement sent out on Monday,

“We are very appreciative of the Board of Regents approving our tuition and fee increases. The committee engaged in a very consultative and collaborate process with all of our stakeholders for the proposal. All students have concerns about the cost of higher education, but UTEP students understand that their competitiveness upon graduation from UTEP relies on our capacity to provide them educational experiences comparable to those available to their peers in more affluent settings. Even with this modest increase, UTEP will still have the lowest net cost of re-

search universities in Texas and in the nation.”

“

UTEP will still have the lowest net cost of research universities in Texas and in the nation

if spent wisely, improves the quality of our schools.” McRaven said. “However, we remain sensitive to the financial challenges our students and their families face, and we very carefully consider their perspective when we make these recommendations.”

At UTEP, the increase in tuition and fees for in-state students will be about \$163 per semester in 2016 and \$170 in 2017. This is based off of a student taking 15 credit hours per semester.

Out-of-state students will be expected to pay and increase of \$430 in 2016 and \$450 in 2017 per semester. The increase will also affect graduate students—in-state graduate students will pay a \$121 increase in 2016 and \$126 for each semester in 2017; out-of-state graduate students will pay \$282 in 2016 and \$295 for each semester in 2017.

The last time UTEP requested approval for a tuition increase was in 2014, where the UT System Board Regents rejected their proposal along with several other UT System schools.

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

”

- Gary Edens,
Vice President of Student Affairs

The UT Board of Regents first heard proposals from UT academic institutions at a Feb. 10 meeting in Galveston.

UT System Chancellor William H. McRaven told regents that an increase in tuition was necessary for UT schools to compete nationally.

“The fact is most of our tuition and fees are at or well below the national level and the fact is that tuition and fees are the single greatest driver for revenue which,

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Obama, doctors take steps to improve health care



TIA RINEHART / SHFWIRE

President Barack Obama says his Precision Medicine Initiative will create research, technology and policies to produce better medicine at a cheaper cost. Dr. James Hamblin, moderated a panel discussion Thursday at the White House to discuss the president’s initiative.

BY TIA RINEHART
SHFWire

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama is asking for a donation of something other than money: He’s wants the medical records of a million people to improve health care.

It’s part of a program to create medicines and treatments for individual patients. He discussed the program Thursday at the White House. The volunteers would share their medical records to create cheaper, more effective health care.

The Precision Medicine Initiative is a part of Obama’s 2016 budget. A panel consisting of Obama and other precision medicine advocates spoke about the importance of precision medicine. The initiative is a \$215 million investment in research, technology and policies to create a more efficient way of prescribing medicine to treat patients with unique needs.

“This is an extraordinarily exciting time for medicine and biological sciences and a lot of this traces back to the work that was done in mapping out the human genome, which was an enormous endeavor,” Obama said.

Obama said every patient’s needs are different, and the initiative can lead to identifying diseases and individualizing treatments. He said it will reduce costs, provide better care and increase effectiveness of the health-care system.

He said the key is to build the database because records are kept in a way that prevents sharing.

“It’s in a hospital here, a hospital there, a doctor here, a lab there, and so the goal here is if we can pull and create a common database of ultimately a million people that’s diverse ... we can start seeing patterns that we might not have seen before,” he said.

Obama wants universities to collaborate and be more open to sharing their research.

President Barack Obama says his Precision Medicine Initiative will create research, technology and policies to produce better medicine at a cheaper cost. Dr. James Hamblin, moderated a panel discussion Thursday at the White House to discuss the president’s initiative. SHFWire photo by Tia Rinehart

President Barack Obama says his Precision Medicine Initiative will create research, technology and policies to produce better medicine at a cheaper cost. Dr. James Hamblin, moderated a panel discussion Thursday at the White House to discuss the president’s initiative. SHFWire photo by Tia Rinehart

He said he plans to ensure privacy so people are more likely to allow the use of their medical records.

“Because all of us potentially could have electronic medical records that, voluntarily with strong privacy protections we pool together so that researchers, practitioners, scientists can share, we may be able to accelerate the process of discovering cures in ways that we’ve never seen before,” Obama said.

Dr. Marston Linehan, chief of urological surgery at the National Cancer Institute, and his team identified the genes of the common forms of kidney cancer. He said he does not know how he would treat patients without precision medicine.

“It helps us decide what operation to do, whether to do an operation or not, what drug to give but most importantly our real goal is prevention and the president mentioned this,” he said. “Once we understand the genes to the pathway then we hope to be able to prevent those.”

Obama said precision medicine will save money over time because doctors won’t waste time prescribing drugs and treatments that don’t work.

Howard Look created Tidepool, an open-source data platform devoted to help treat type 1 diabetes. He said he became a “geek dad” when his daughter was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2012.

He found an easier way to get data out of the devices his daughter uses every day a to deliver the precise amounts of insulin safely and effectively.

“By liberating the data from the device, we were able to come up with a much better way to deliver therapy and I think it just shows the power of engaged patients and how important it is to liberate the data,” he said.


Asked about precision medicine’s relevance to the opioid epidemic, Obama said a lack of precision medicine could lead to more problems.

“What it does speak to is the fact that, the more we know about how to treat a particular problem, the more effectively we treat that problem – over time, the more efficient and cost effective the health-care system will be,” Obama said.

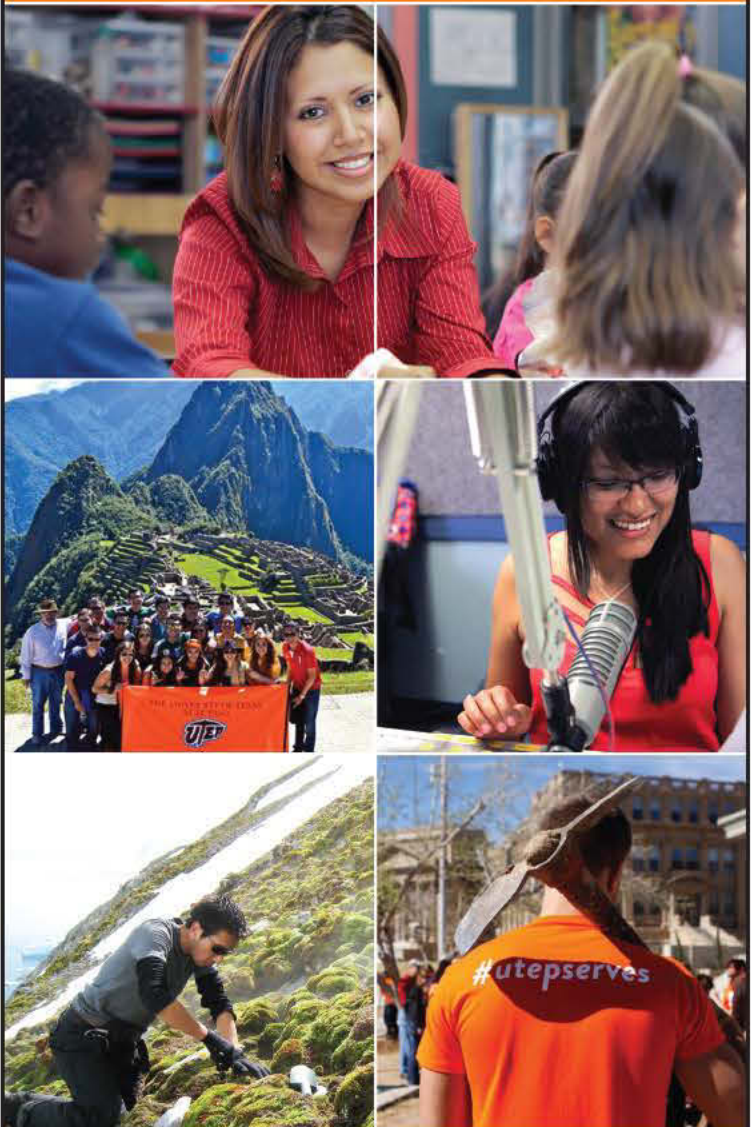
He said precision medicine allows people to take a more active role in their own health.

“If we get this right, if we do precision medicine well and we give that information, that data to consumers, it gives them the ability to stay healthy for long periods of time and that’s hugely promising,” 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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QOTW: What are your plans for spring break?

ANGEL ULLOA / THE PROSPECTOR



AMBER SALAZAR
Freshman civil engineering major
“I’m going to be staying in El Paso for spring break, because of funds.”



GILBERT MARTINEZ
Senior art education major
“I will be home working on school related projects.”



ANABEL DE MATIAS
Sophomore nursing major
“For spring break, I want to go somewhere where there is a beach.”



JOSEPH MACIAS
Junior criminal justice major
“For spring break, I’m going to be volunteering with at risk juveniles at the Boys and Girls Club of El Paso.”



GISELA OLIVO
Freshman mechanical engineering major
“I’m going to stay home, help out at my mother’s business, and volunteer at a nursing home.”



JOSUE NEVAREZ
Senior psychology major
“For spring break I’m staying in El Paso to work.”



LUISA GONZALEZ
Freshman cinematography major
“For spring break, I’m going to be working at my job at Digital Bull Creative.”



LUIS CARLOS PACHECO
Senior economics major
“I’m going to my hometown, Parral, Mexico.”



LUIS HERNANDEZ
Junior business major
“For spring break I’m going to San Diego and Elephant Butte.”



MARK VILLAREAL
Junior electrical engineering major
“For spring break, I might just stay in El Paso and party with my fraternity brothers.”

UTEP teaches students about sexual health

BY RENE DELGADILLO
The Prospector

UTEP officials worry that students may be misinformed about sexual health and the ways to avoid sexually transmitted diseases.

“We want our students to be safe and make informed decisions about any kind of situations they may be in, especially if it’s related to alcohol,” Eileen Aguilar, university wellness manager, said.

According to statistics from the Texas 2014 HIV Surveillance Report, El Paso was ranked the No. 6 city with the highest cases of HIV infection, AIDS cases and people living with HIV in Texas.

“That, for me, is something very alarming and I believe it is very important that we educate the students,” said Pilar Pacheco, peer educator, in Spanish.

Pacheco also said sexually transmitted diseases and infections may be prevented with the use of condoms and that any sexually active person should be tested for STDs at least every six months, since many people with STDs don’t show symptoms.

The Wellness Program in the College of Health Sciences trains undergraduate students to become peer educators and talk to students about sexual health. This program is known as Healthy Miner Sex

Positive Peer Education. Besides having peer educators at tables with information around campus, the program offers a workshop called Miners in the Bedroom, where they offer condom demonstrations, among other things.

“

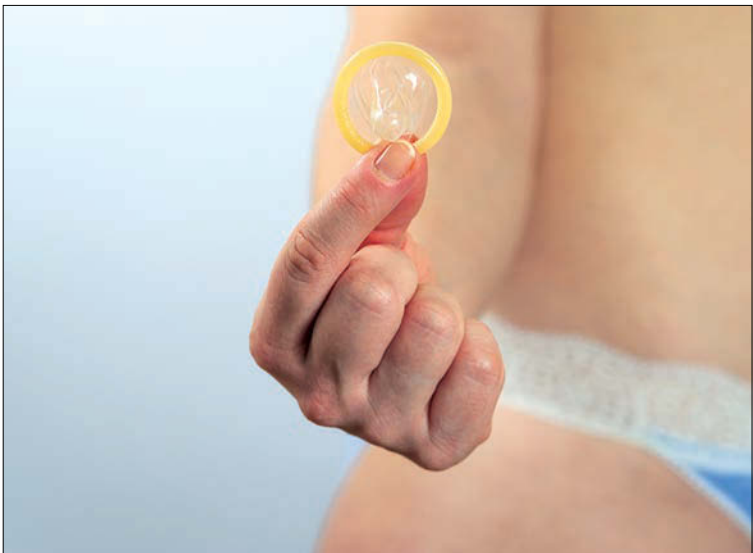
We just want our students to be careful about engaging in risky situations

”

- Alexandra Alba, Healthy Miner Peer Educator

“When we tell them how HIV is transmitted they say, ‘I thought it was passed on just from sitting a public restroom,’ which is completely wrong,” Pacheco said.

The Wellness Department in the College of Health Sciences will host three workshops entitled “Knowl-



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

El Paso was ranked the No. 6 city in Texas with the highest cases of HIV infection, AIDS cases and people living with HIV.

edge is Key—Sex, Alcohol, and You,” during Alcohol Awareness Week. The three workshops will be held on March 3, from 10-11 a.m., 11 a.m.-noon and noon-1 p.m.

“It will be a workshop to try to explain the effects of alcohol during spring break. We just want our students to be careful about engaging in risky situations,” said Alexandra Alba, Healthy Miner peer educator and graduate student. “Alcohol may be a risk factor for you and it can lead you to make not the best decisions.”

Sexual health terminology can be confusing, Alba said, which is why it is important to attend events and workshops. She also said students should not be afraid or embarrassed about going to these events.

“Because sex is an integral part of human nature, the goal is to reduce such high cases and numbers of any sexual disease or infection,” Alba said.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 24,000 women become infertile each year

due to undiagnosed sexually transmissible infections.

“It is really important to get checked,” Alba said. “STIs and STDs don’t have any symptoms and that’s why there is such high numbers of infections, and the probabilities of you passing it along to others become higher. Once you do have an STD or an STI, it increases your risk of contracting HIV or AIDS.”

HIV and AIDS are treatable, but cannot be cured. A person with AIDS has an immune system that is attacked by the disease and may die from other, sometimes common, illnesses such as a cold.

According to the CDC, each year, one in four teens contracts an STD or STI. Nearly 20 million new sexually transmitted infections occur every year in this country, half among young people ages 15-24.

UTEP’s goal is to educate students about sexual health, spread awareness and lower the number of all STD and STI cases.

For further information about sexual health, contact the College of Health Sciences at healthyminer@utep.edu, the UTEP Student Health Center at 747-5624 or visit the CDC website, cdc.gov.

Rene Delgadillo may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

MARCH 1, 2016

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
JOSE SOTO, 747-7477

Alternative ways to spend your spring break



I Painted That! is located at 5200 N. Mesa St. C102, will offer a student discount with valid I.D. during spring break.
BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector

While most students will be traveling to party hotspots such as Las Vegas, Cabo San Lucas or South Padre Island, and some will party here at home, there are those who prefer to take the time off from their studies to relax and enjoy the simpler things in life. Lucky for them, not everything happening during spring break involves alcoholic beverages and blasting music. El Paso offers a variety of scenic places that can be taken in during your vacation. The Wyler Aerial Tramway, located at 1700 McKinley Ave. in Northeast El Paso, is one of those places. Operating since 2001, the tramway uses aerial cable cars—or gondolas—that dangle over a total of 195 acres of the Franklin Mountains to transport its passengers through midair. With its parking area sitting at an elevation of 4,692 feet, passengers already get a great view of El Paso. The gondolas travel on a steel cable that is 2,600 feet long. As the gondolas take their course, a cabin attendant informs passengers of the different cacti and rock formations along the way.

During spring break, the tramway will be celebrating its 15-year anniversary on March 12. Diana Moy, a park ranger with Texas Park and Wildlife, said there is going to be a big party to celebrate the national park's anniversary. "We are having a big celebration at the park with several exhibitors and activities, food trucks and live entertainment," Moy said.

Moy also said visiting the tramway is a perfect thing to do during spring break because it gives "a unique and magnificent view from the top of the mountain."

"This is the only place in El Paso where you get a 360 degree view of the area, including two countries and three states," Moy said. "Also, the

tramway is the only tramway open to the public in the state of Texas."

The tramway does not offer student discounts, but there is a group discount if there are more than 10 passengers.

The El Paso Zoo will be hosting two different events that also coincide with spring break. The African section of the zoo will be unveiling its exhibit of African Red River hogs beginning March 5. The zoo will be home for three of them. According to the zoo's website, the hogs are very social and live in groups called sounders, and their favorite treats are peanuts. Also beginning on March 5, the zoo will host their Meet the Keeper Creature Connections event throughout the spring break week. During this event, participants can meet and speak with zookeepers about how they take care of different animals and discuss how they plan the different diets for each animal. What is special about this event is that they will actually bring out some of the animals for participants to meet. Karla Martinez, director of media inquiries for the zoo, said this event is the perfect opportunity to get "up and close to the animals."

"Many people always want to get a closer look at the animals and even pet them," Martinez said. "This event is the perfect opportunity for that. The keepers discuss the animal's favorite food and different characteristics."

Although the zoo might seem like an unlikely place for college students to visit during a week like spring break, Martinez said the venue is a perfect place to go to while trying to enjoy some time off.

"The zoo is one of those venues that can be fun at any age," Martinez said. "There is a lot of information to take in and that makes it fun. It doesn't matter what age you are. We have plenty of food and snacks to enjoy while you take a stroll. It's even a perfect way to get some exercise in. There is something for everyone here at the zoo."

If you prefer more leisurely types of activities that involve the indoors,

perhaps painting will entice your interests a bit more. **I Painted That!**, located at 5200 N. Mesa St. C102, is an art studio located north of the UTEP campus. The business teaches amateur painting classes for those with little to no experience with painting. Participants are allowed to keep their paintings after finishing the class.

Becky Alvarez, one of the managers of the business, said the art studio is not for serious painting. "We are more of a socially based driven studio," Alvarez said. "There is no experience required. It's just for people to come and learn a bit about painting on canvas while having fun."

Although they do offer children's classes, Alvarez said the business normally draws in an older crowd. "Our sessions are mostly geared toward adults," Alvarez said. "They are allowed to bring their own alcohol if they'd like. It's really just a relaxing and therapeutic experience."

Alvarez said the sessions are typically two hours long. "We get a very different span of individuals," Alvarez said. "There are a lot of 'girls night out' groups and some dates. It's always people who want to have fun, though."

During spring break, **I Painted That!** will be featuring a Texas-themed painting event. Although registration is normally \$30, **I Painted That!** will be giving UTEP students a \$5 discount with a valid student ID from March 7-13.

These are just a few of the events happening during spring break that students can take advantage of. For more events and event information, go to visitelpaso.com.

Jose Soto may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.



ANGEL ULLOA, MICHAELA ROMÁN / THE PROSPECTOR

The El Paso Zoo is located at 4001 E Paisano Dr. and The Wyler Aerial Tramway is located at 1700 McKinley Ave. in Northeast El Paso.

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COMING SOON – THURSDAYS: POETRY SLAM, KARAOKE

Five bars to check out during spring break

BY MIKE VASQUEZ
The Prospector

It's time to start ditching the chocolate stouts for the long island ice teas, and ciders for crisp pilsners, with spring coming in hot and pushing every grain of winter out of the city. For those staying in El Paso, have no fear. We have compiled a list of bars and lounges that will be perfect for the warmer weather. Our list includes places throughout El Paso with an attention to the outdoors, preferably patios or lofts.



Located at 4012 N. Mesa right in Mesa Village, the seaside-themed bar opens up to a cozy patio complete with a koi pond and an extra bar. The draw to this place is the atmosphere, the relaxed ease of knocking back a drink with your friends in the evening and dragging chairs over to tables with strangers who are more than happy to make room for you. A huge perk about Hope and Anchor is that the adjacent restaurant, Sabertooth, will bring your food over if you tell them you'll be next door. Make sure to order their Moscow Mule at least once. Watch out for their Sunday Bloody Sunday special, which is a custom Bloody Mary with a free grilled cheese.



The once-laundromat-now-cantina has turned the almost deserted Franklin Street into a necessary stopping point before, after or despite Chihuahua's games. The dusty, rural feel of the place is amplified with the shipping container architecture, but there is something regal about the wooden tables and copper countertops. They specialize in craft beers and cocktails, and the bartenders are more than happy to walk you through the menu and deciding what you want. The staff constantly experiments with new drinks, so get a word in with one of them for a surprise. Drinks to look out for: Southside, complete with an egg white, and the \$3.50 Guinness.



Not to be confused with 501 Bistro, the equal parts bar, patio and garage on 3019 Montana has the beach-beer-shack-look down to a point. It is a central point between east and west El Paso, which is good for those of you with friends throughout the entire city. Even if 5 Points does not suit your taste, the 5 Points area has its fair share of hole-in-the-wall bars. The selection of drinks are pretty thorough, although nothing special, but the quirkiest thing about 5 Points is that it bakes its bread in house.



Located at 3233 N. Mesa, by campus on the way to the UTEP Student Recreation Center. Ode is El Paso's revival of in-house brewing since Jackson's on the west side closed its doors. As attractive as an in-house brewery can be, patrons come for the food just as much as the beer. Maria Burciaga, junior mechanical engineering major and Ode beer connoisseur, said, "Their Milanese chicken sandwich can have its own religion." Without spoiling your own experience with this sandwich, I'll just say Burciaga may be on to something.



Definitely the more scenic venue on the list, 501 Bar and Bistro is smack in the heart of downtown El Paso at 501 Texas Ave. You will walk through an outdoor area to get to the bar, a clean glaze of historic white tile and iron wrought fences. Evenings are best spent here as the sun sets behind a few buildings and colors the bar in a rosy orange without the glare. The bar has a \$1 Happy Hour from 5- 8:00 p.m.

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Traveling close by for spring break

BY JULIA HETTIGER
The Prospector

For some students, spring break does not mean traveling to South Padre Island or Cancun. Many students who find themselves in a financial bind, or who would rather stay close to home, turn to alternatives around El Paso to spice up their spring break experiences. Luckily, there are plenty of unique getaway places in El Paso and the surrounding area to help students enjoy a few days off.

A makeshift vacation can happen in a local hotel. Hotel Indigo, which recently opened downtown, features a rooftop pool and fancy rooms that can help students take a short break.

El Paso is rich with nature sites to make for the perfect camping trip and a getaway still close to home. With the Franklin Mountains and Hueco Tanks a short drive away, students can feel close to nature by camping out for a few nights under the stars.

Aaron Ibarra, senior pharmacy major, said he likes to spend spring break feeling one with the Earth.

“A good way to spend spring break around El Paso could be by camping in the mountains, connecting with nature and getting to know your friends better,” Ibarra said.

There are also campgrounds a few hours away that could make for a quick getaway, such as in Elephant Butte and other places in New Mexico. Ruidoso, which is only about a two-hour drive away, has many cabins and places to stay for a few days.

The Noisy Water Lodge, a cabin retreat in Ruidoso, has cabins in the town’s downtown area, which are perfect to rent for weekend getaways. Glenda Duncan, the manager at Noisy Water Lodge, said spring break is a good time to visit the town of Ruidoso.

“Spring break is generally a very busy time for us because there is a lot of snow on the ski hill,” Duncan said.



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

Hotel Paisano is a great place for students on a budget to get away to in Marfa, Texas for spring break.

To find out about all of the events happening in Ruidoso during spring break, Duncan said it is best to visit Ruidoso’s Chamber of Commerce website at ruidosonow.com.

Another town not too far from El Paso is Marfa, Texas, which has special events happening throughout spring break. According to Vicki Lynn Barge, general manager of Hotel Paisano, a popular destination in Marfa, spring

break is a popular time for many students looking to travel on a budget.

“Our occupancy usually increases during spring break, and March and April are considered peak season dates, which begin our busy season,” Barge said.

According to Barge, spring break also typically draws in multiple events.

“Many of the venues in town have events coinciding with the greater

crowds that are in town like Ballroom Marfa, who will feature a new exhibit titled ‘After Effect’ on March 11 and Marfa Maid Dairy offers special tours during spring break,” Barge said.

In addition, multiple venues throughout Marfa will have events special to spring break.

“Other galleries and foundations often conduct workshops for younger visitors and locals,

and our local beer garden, Planet Marfa, begins their season with spring break each year,” Barge said.

Other staycation ideas include visiting nearby places like Old Mesilla and Carlsbad, New Mexico. For more information about these places, visit oldmesilla.org and cityofcarlsbadnm.com.

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

CALENDEROFEVENTS

THE REVENANT

As part of the Get Reel Series, the Oscar-winning film will be screened at 7:00 on March 3 through March 5 at the UTEP Union Cinema located on the first floor of the Union Building East.

RIVERDANCE

The Irish dance production will perform at 8:00 p.m. on March 4 at The Plaza Theatre. It will be celebrating its 20th anniversary.

MONSTER JAM

The monster truck show will ride through El Paso at 7:00 p.m. on March 5 at the Sun Bowl. For ticket prices and more information, call 915-747-5234.

MATT LANGE

The DJ/Producer will perform at 9:00 p.m. on March 5 at the Tango Room of The Garden. Tickets are available at Eventbrite.com.

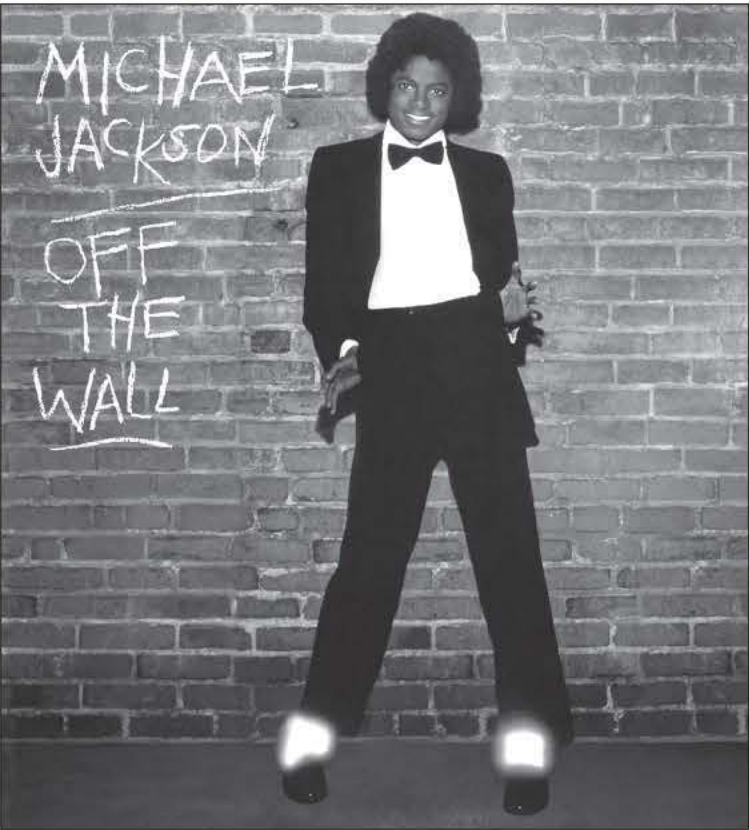
ELECTRIC SOCIAL’S ROCK AND ROLL EXTRAVAVANZA

Acid Pie, Soul Parade, Great Shapes and other bands will perform at 8:00 p.m. on March 5 at the Lowbrow Palace. Tickets are \$5 at the door.





Re-release of ‘Off The Wall’ reiterates Jackson’s first historic contribution



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector

Many of us may not be able to recall a time where Michael Jackson was not “off the wall,” but there was a short-lived period in time where the self-

proclaimed King of Pop wasn’t as eccentric or as successful as he was post his “Thriller” album. Jackson is one of the artists who has had the most success posthumously due to the film “This is It,” the Cirque du Soleil’s musical production derived from Jack-

son’s repertoire entitled “One” and from album sales. Jackson’s estate just re-released his “Off the Wall” album on Feb. 26, highlighting the time when Jackson, even with his popularity at the time, wasn’t the reigning King of Pop we all knew him as. Twenty-one-year-old Michael Jackson was already an experienced entertainer and songwriter who was headed to astronomical heights by the time he released his first major solo effort “Off the Wall.” Jackson is better known, at least to the current college demographic, for his tracks from “Thriller,” “Bad” and “Dangerous” albums. Originally released Aug. 10, 1979, the album was aimed at breaking Jackson away from the image and sound he had created for himself with the Jackson 5. The album did just that. Jackson had already released a few albums credited to his name under the Motown label, the label that handled most of the Jackson 5’s releases. Jackson’s contribution to the Jackson 5 is undeniable, but his solo efforts hadn’t created as much hype as expected. “Off The Wall” was the first solo album Jackson released with Epic Records, the label he released both “Thriller” and “Bad” under. Although most would recognize any track off these two historical albums, it was “Off The Wall” that set the stage for not only the unprecedented pop artist that Michael

Jackson would become, but for the sound of black America as well. The re-issue of “Off The Wall” includes a documentary highlighting Jackson’s prolific career—from childhood until the release of this album. “Michael Jackson’s Journey from Motown to ‘Off The Wall’” includes takes with modern pop artists such as The Weeknd and Pharrell Williams paying their tributes to the album. The Weeknd actually credits the album as his inspiration for becoming a singer himself. Throughout the documentary’s acclamation of the album and Jackson montages, it’s quite easy to forget the core intention of the re-release of the album: to reiterate the importance it had on black music and artists. Released as the disco-era was coming to an end, “Off The Wall” was Jackson’s launch toward almost single-handedly making different genres like funk and R&B highly successful and popular, not only throughout the black community but throughout the entire nation. Jackson’s “Off The Wall” comes at a perfect time when the public should be reminded that the journey—both musical and physical—to achieving the mainstream acceptance of African-American influences on pop music has been a long one, filled with struggles and endless efforts. “Don’t Stop ‘til You Get Enough,” “Rock With You,” “Off the Wall,”

“Working Day and Night” and “Girlfriend” are all tracks that attained popularity from Jackson’s album. Fusing funk, disco, R&B with pop music introduced Jackson’s new sound to an accepting white population. Not only did Jackson deliver musically, but also visually, attaching an almost magical and gravity-defying visual affect to the music with his music videos, which were one of the first videos on MTV that featured a black artist. It’s important to note that the re-release of “Off The Wall,” instead of other momentous Jackson albums, along with Spike Lee’s documentary, isn’t only a briefing in black music, but of music altogether. The album set the standard for all pop and rock artists who followed. Although it wasn’t until the artist’s follow up album “Thriller” that Jackson was catapulted into superstardom, “Off The Wall” was Jackson’s declaration of a change in mindset, not only for himself but for the entire music world. Jose Soto may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

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MARCH 1, 2016

SPORTS

EDITOR
ADRIAN BROADDUS, 747-7477

Adams potential coach of the year



CHARLES DESOUSA/ THE PROSPECTOR

Head coach Keitha Adams coached her team to a 16-0 homestead this season.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

Sounds of the Miners’ fight song echoed throughout the Don Haskins Center as 4,000-plus fans sang along. The women’s basketball team just clinched a share of the Conference USA regular season title after defeating Old Dominion, and head coach Keitha Adams strolled over to the score table and snatched up the microphone.

“We got a great thing going here,” shouted Adams, who usually gives a quick speech to the crowd after home games.

After a grueling 50-minute, double overtime victory against Charlotte, which not only made the group perfect at home throughout the season (16-0), but they also became the sole regular season conference champions.

“I’m taking it in right now,” Adams said after the win. “Really proud of our players — Lord above is with us, no doubt it. The kids have worked hard all year to get the conference championship to ourselves.”

Now that the regular season draws to a close, talks about post-season accolades have begun; one specifically

pertains to Adams for Conference USA Head Coach of the Year.

Posting 25 wins and only two losses, the team stands at the top of the conference and hunts for a spot in the top-25 poll, where they continue to get a high number of votes each week. A lot of the team’s success can be credited to Adams. The last time the Miners were ranked was in 2008, when they were nationally acknowledged for the last six weeks of the season. Prior to Adams, no coach in program history had a team reach the national polls.

“She deserves it (Coach of the Year),” senior guard Cameasha Turner said. “I know if you talk to coach Adams about that, she isn’t worried about that right now. She wants to finish out the year.”

The 15-year head coach is currently a two-time C-USA Coach of the Year (2008 and 2012). Adams currently holds the program’s best overall record (271-183), and this year marks her sixth 20-plus game winning season.

Coming off a 2014-15 season that endured many obstacles and posted a disappointing 12-16 overall finish, Adams and her squad felt the need to bounce back this season and get their taste of vengeance. The “pay-

back tour” motto this year has driven the squad to out perform other teams that embarrassed them last year, which they have done successfully with their 16 wins in conference.

“She brings out the best in us and she’s in it,” Turner said. “She was in it before the season started. Last year, with what we went through, she was there. She was tapping on our shoulder telling us ‘keep your head up.’”

During the battle against Charlotte on Saturday, Feb. 27, when all hope seemed lost, senior guard Starr Breedlove said that Adams never gave up hope on the team.

“She (coach Adams) just kept believing us,” Breedlove said. “She kept saying, ‘we got this, we got this—keep your heads up and keep fighting.’”

Breaking continuous records this season, such as best start in program history, adds to the credibility of this team led by Adams. The road ahead will undoubtedly bring challenges, but Adams strives for greatness with her team.

The Miners are seeking their first NCAA Tournament birth since 2012, and their first at-large NCAA Tournament bid since 2008.

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

Men to close out season on senior night



CHARLES DESOUSA/ THE PROSPECTOR

Head coach Tim Floyd and his troops lost two in a row after winning six straight.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

The men’s basketball squad had won six consecutive victories leading up to this past weekend; but after getting rolled over by Old Dominion (74-53) and Charlotte (88-78), the Miners’ win streak was stunted. Now they are back at home this week against UTSA on Saturday, March 5, in their last regular game of the season.

Against the Roadrunners, the seniors from the Miners (17-13, 9-8 C-USA) will be presented in their last game at the Don Haskins Center. Team graduates include Tevin Caldwell, Victor Mbachu, Earvin Morris and Hooper Vint.

In the past games that they won, the Miners have not necessarily had the best defensive pursuit, so they relied on their offense to carry the load for the team. But, during this past week, their inadequacy on defense caught up with them, and also both opposing teams were able to shut down the Miners’ offense.

The Monarchs took command over the boards. They outrebounded the Miners 51-26, and two Monarch players recorded double-doubles. The Monarchs allowed one Miner to score in double figures — Omega Harris with 11 points.

After the discouraging loss, the Miners lost the potential fourth place bye in the conference tournament. Although they still had two games remaining, head coach Tim Floyd deemed the loss to be crucial.

“I’m not sure that we are (still in it),” Floyd said. “I think this one right here might’ve really stung us because of the tiebreaker when we go head up with these guys. I can’t imagine them losing two down the stretch.”

Charlotte, who had barely beaten the worst team in C-USA (UTSA, 114-108 Double OT), also was a tough matchup for the Miners. Led by Braxton Ogbueze’s 24 points, the 49ers capitalized on the Miners’ poor defensive quest.

“The frustrating thing is you game plan hard, you try to prepare, but there’s no need to guard the actions because we’re just getting driven by at every spot,” Floyd said. “I’m really disappointed in the defensive effort.

We have to regroup. We took a step back here.”

Now the squad will wrap up their season against the worst team in the league.

“We’ve got UTSA at home next Saturday, and we’ll hope to come out and play with a more collective good effort from all of our guys defensively,” Floyd said.

Although their record does not speak volumes, UTSA (5-25, 3-14 C-USA) upset the Miners, 71-67, earlier this season. Rebounding, a timeless struggle for UTEP this season is what lost them the game. They lost the boards’ game 43-34, and the Roadrunners scored 11 second-chance points off 12 offensive rebounds.

C-USA Tourney

Although they are currently in sixth place in the league, the Miners will probably drop to the seventh seed in C-USA, unless Charlotte loses one of their remaining two games.

If they are at the seventh seed, the Miners will more than likely have to play the winner of Western Kentucky — UTSA. With the win, the Miners would have to take on the second seed — which is currently up for grabs between Louisiana Tech, Marshall and Middle Tennessee. The winner of this game would advance to the quarterfinals.

In the case that Charlotte loses the sixth seed, the Miners would likely have to face the winner of Florida Atlantic-North Texas, and then go on to face the third-place team.

With any hope of making it to the NCAA Tournament, the Miners have to outright win the conference tournament at this point. Due to their moderately above average record, poor strength of schedule and low level of wins, the Miners are in danger of missing any sort of post-season tournament. In order to potentially reach the NIT or the CBI tournament, the Miners must get some significant wins in the conference tournament.

Tip off against the Roadrunners will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 5, in the Don Haskins Center.

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

Women prepare for UTSA

BY CHARLES DESOUSA

The Prospector

After defeating Charlotte 94-91 Feb. 26, and being named Conference USA regular season champions, the Miners will travel to San Antonio to face UTSA in their last game of the regular season.

The squad currently received 14 votes in the Associated Press poll and 24 in the USA Today Coaches Poll.

The Miners stood their ground in a nail-biting (94-91) double-overtime win against a tough UNC-Charlotte. Head coach Keitha Adams and the Miners finished this season with an undefeated (16-0) record at home, which was a great way to celebrate on the last home game of the season.

“Today was an extremely hard-fought game against a very talented Charlotte team. It was two very good teams playing each other,” Adams said. “I’m really proud of our players

for protecting our home court; that’s why I let them cut the nets because they protected the home court the whole year. They earned it and got the championship outright. I’m just really happy for our players.”

Over their last stretch of home games, the Miners had back-to-back intense games. They went head-to-head against Old Dominion and won 70-64. By the Miners sticking to their guns and playing a defensive game, they held Old Dominion’s C-USA leading scorer Jennie Simms to 4-11 from the field and 15 points. Senior Starr Breedlove and Cameasha Turner combined for 34 points, 12 rebounds and eight steals against Old Dominion, but it was the contribution from the bench that was the determining factor in their success. The Miners’ bench combined for 25 points and 14 rebounds.

Although Charlotte out-rebounded the Miners 50-36, it was again the

“Honestly, we aren’t worried about the next game. We play our game, play hard, listen to coach — not really worried about what’s next.”

- Starr Breedlove, senior point guard

Miners’ defense that forced 30 turnovers. The offense’s shooting may see WOMEN on page 14

WOMEN from page 13

Junior Jenzel Nash lead the way with a career-high 31 points, seven rebounds, seven assists and three steals in the win.

This match was like a heavyweight title fight as the Miners went blow-for-blow down the stretch of the fourth quarter. Charlotte seemed convinced that they were going to hand the Miners their first home loss of the season, as they were leading 72-70 with 15 seconds in the fourth quarter. With little time left on the clock, Nash came up with a steal and managed to draw a foul, which led to two big foul shots that sent the game into overtime. With only eight points scored in the first overtime, neither team could pull away with the win, forcing the game into double overtime. The Miners woke up during the second overtime as Nash started off with a 3-pointer, followed by two more bombs from beyond the arc by Lulu McKinney. The back-to-back scoring by the Miners became too much for Charlotte as their defense started to collapse. The Miners managed to walk away with the (94-91) win over Charlotte, making their record 25-2, 16-1 C-USA, and giving them an undefeated (15-0) home record.

The Miners will be going to San Antonio to play UTSA in their last game in the regular season. Despite UTSA having a losing record (9-18, 5-12), they have to prepare for UTSA's Akunna Elonu. She is fourth in rebounds in C-USA.

Adams and the Miners will have their hands full with developing and executing a game plan to keep her off the boards. UTSA's leading scorer Tessa Smith will have the job of playing against the best defense in C-USA. Although the Miners will not have

the home court advantage, one factor they can lean on is having a seven-game winning streak, opposed to UTSA's five-game losing streak.

"Honestly, we aren't worried about the next game," Breedlove said. "We play our game, play hard, listen to coach — not really worried about what's next."

Turner, Breedlove and Nash all combined for 17 steals in the last two games.

The Miners have one more regular season game ahead of them, but Adams and the Miners have their taste buds ready to feast on the opponents standing in the way of the C-USA tournament, which will be held in two weeks. With only one conference loss to Marshall University (79-64), the Miners have a very good chance of bringing home the C-USA Championship trophy. Winning the C-USA Championship is very important to Adams and the Miners because it would put them in a good position to enter the NCAA tournament in March.

Charles Desouza may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.



Check out the video recap from Saturday's game by scanning the QR code above. Video by Juan Carlos Navarrete.

Miners search for seven

BY JUAN CARLOS NAVARRETE

The Prospector

For years, the women's indoor track team always came in second or third in the Conference USA championships, until they got over the hump last year and won their first league title in history. In Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 24-25, the Miners defended their title and managed to win their second C-USA championship in a row.

The Miners tallied 120 points throughout the two days of the meet to fend off a very strong Western Kentucky team with 106. WKU came into this championship as the reigning outdoor champion, and managed to go toe-to-toe with the Miners for much of the championship.

"The coaching staff is very proud of our girls and they had to work really hard for this title," Conference USA Head Coach of the Year Mika Laaksonen said. "I couldn't be more proud of the team."

Sophomore distance runner Lilian Koech repeated her outstanding performances from last year when she was a break-out freshman.

Koech took gold in the mile run, with a time of 4:53.43, fourth in the 800-meter run, with a time of 2:11.68, and fifth in the 3,000-m run, with a time of 9:45.05. Koech was able to bring the Miners a total of 19 points, which boded well with the rest of the team as it moved forward.

The Miners were able to impress in the 60-m hurdles early in the competition. The Miners were able to get the first two places in the race with Tobi Amusan (8.23) and Brittney Trought (8.37), which resulted in 18 points.



MICHAELA ROMAN/THE PROSPECTOR

The track and field team prepares for the NCAA meet beginning March 11.

The freshmen and sophomores were not the only ones who were pulling their weight for the team; Senior Nickevea Wilson won her second career indoor triple jump conference title. Wilson jumped 12.92 meters to get the Miners 10 points.

"Last year was a tough season for me," Wilson said. "I made sure I was on top, so I'm just happy for that. Next week (at nationals) we are just going to go there, execute and give it our everything and see what happens."

Koech shines for men's team

The men's team finished near the end of the pack in eighth place with 39 points. The Miners surely missed their veteran and national champion Anthony Rotich, who graduated last year, and always guaranteed points for the men. Even without Rotich, the Miners found a way to get small wins

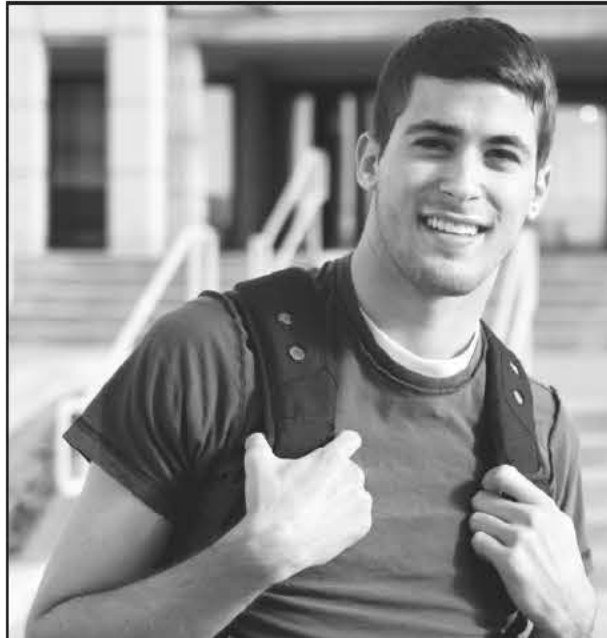
that is promising for this team moving forward.

The championship was a chance for the Miners to showcase their talent in the post — Rotich era; and although they did not reach the podium, not all was lost for this team.

The Miners got a glimpse of the future of this team with freshman Jona Koech, who was named Freshman of the Meet. Koech took home gold in the mile run, with a time of 4:07.34. The fact that Koech could rise to the occasion, win the race and be named Freshman of the Meet bodes well with this Miners' team.

Next, individuals from the team will travel back to Birmingham, Ala. for the NCAA indoor championships from March 11-12.

Juan Carlos Navarrete may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.



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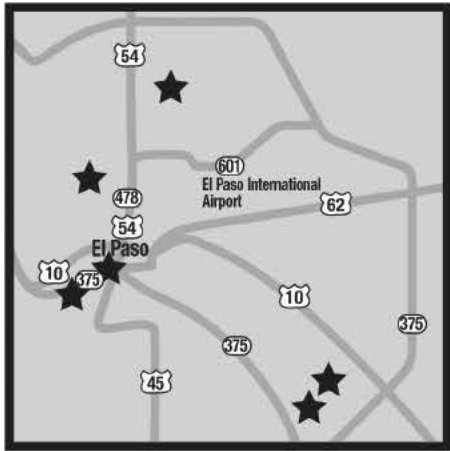
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MARCH 1, 2016

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

Seniors go double overtime in their last home game



CHARLES DESOUZA/ THE PROSPECTOR
1. Head coach Keitha Adams hugs senior Chrisauna Parker after winning the conference regular season title. 2. Cameasha Turner finished the game with 12 points. 3. Senior Rudiane Eduardo cuts down the net in spirit of her last time suiting up at the Don Haskins Center. 4. The girls celebrate after defeating Charlotte 94-91 in double overtime. This is the third time in program history that the Miners have won the regular season title.

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