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The Prospector, June 7, 2016

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

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PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 101, NO. 30

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

JUNE 7, 2016

THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Equality Texas announces Trans Visible Project



ANGEL ULLOA/THE PROSPECTOR

Former UTEP student Adriano Perez speaks about his transition and how Equality Texas is an important support system for the transgender community.

BY CHRISTIAN VAZQUEZ

The Prospector

Equality Texas, an advocacy group for equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Texans, held a press conference on Friday, June 3, in the office of Texas State Senator Jose Rodriguez to announce their partnership with several El Paso leaders such as Rodriguez and County Judge Veronica Escobar.

Equality Texas also announced the TransVisible Project, which aims to introduce transgender Texans to communities in the state.

“(The goal is) to bring more awareness in the community, more education if you will, for the community at large about who is the transgender community,” Rodriguez said. “Who are these people who are our friends, our neighbors, our loved ones, our colleagues, our coworkers? What is it that El Paso needs to do to incorporate them into the fabric of this community?”

The initiative is in response to the Obama administration’s recent clarification of existing guidelines for Title IX, a sex discrimination law for students and employees of educational institutions. A letter was sent out by the Department of Education and Department of Justice to all public schools that receive federal funding describing their official position on gender identity as well as guidelines for schools to follow.

The White House said that this was a response to an increase in questions relating to correct policy for students who identify as a different gender than on their birth certificate.

The event was a stark contrast to Texas Lt. Governor Dan Patrick’s stance, which recently asked Texas schools not to follow the directive. He also asked Attorney General Paxton to investigate Fort Worth Independent School District for setting their own bathroom policies that include guidelines relating to gender identity.

The Ysleta Independent School District told News Channel 9 that they do not recognize transgender identity in relation to restroom facilities. Lou Weaver, the transgender programs coordinator for Equality Texas, said the statement from Ysleta ISD was a failure to protect the rights of transgender students.

“We are seeing bullying from other schools, not just other students, we are seeing bullying from faculty and staff as well,” Weaver said. “Telling a transgender student and telling everyone else they are different and they need to access different accommodations is not okay because we are not providing a safe learning environment for all of our students.”

The Title IX policies regarding gender identity say public education institutions that receive federal funds must relate to a student by the gender they

identify with and not by the gender given on their birth certificate or other records. This applies to athletics, facilities such as bathrooms and locker rooms, classrooms, overnight school trips, as well as making sure there are privacy and disclosure protections from unwarranted inquiries of personal information including their birth name or gender assigned at birth.

Some view the clarification of existing laws as a breach of power by the Obama administration as well as unconstitutional and violation of state and privacy rights.

Texas — along with 10 other states — filed a lawsuit against the Obama Administration to repeal gender identity from Title IX. The lawsuit calls the directive a “massive social experiment.”

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who is currently facing charges for security fraud, is leading the lawsuit and claims the guidelines cannot be changed without first going through Congress.

This is not the first time the DOE and DOJ used the term gender identity relating to Title IX. In 2013, under a resolution agreement, which is the opinion or will of a legislative body, regarding a complaint with the Arcadia school district in California, both departments recognized the district violated a young boy’s educational opportunities because he was transgender.

Human rights and advocacy groups denounced the lawsuit as transphobic and unscientific. In a press release responding to the lawsuit, Mara Keisling, the executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, said “This is a direct attack on hundreds of thousands of transgender students, who are already vulnerable to bullying and harassment, and their loved ones.”

If a school does not adhere to the guidelines, then they are in danger of losing federal funding. However, no consequences will occur while the issue is fought in the courts.

“The administration will not take action to withhold funding while this enforcement process is playing out in the courts,” said White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest in a press briefing on May 12.

Texas and Patrick are prepared to fight President Obama’s mandate even if that means losing federal funding.

“(We) will not be blackmailed by Obama’s 30 pieces of silver,” Patrick said at the 2016 Texas Republican Convention in Dallas. “(The) people of Texas and the Legislature will find a way to find as much of that money as we can if we are forced to.”

Patrick previously said he was willing to risk the \$10 billion in federal aid Texas receives for education.

Adriano Perez, a UTEP alumni, shared some of his experiences while growing up transgender in El Paso at

the Equality Texas press conference. He is also part of the photo project called “Gender Me Not” that shares the stories of transgender individuals in Texas.

Adriano said that his experience going to UTEP was largely positive when it came to his professors and advisors, but he did have trouble when he legally changed his name in 2014. Parts of the UTEP system, such as blackboard and parking tickets, did not recognize the name change even when he graduated in 2016.

“The smallest thing in the world is to listen to somebody,” Perez said about how the students at UTEP can help foster a supportive community. “Listen to their story and listen to where they’re coming from and respect them in the ways that they ask you to be respectful.”

In an email UTEP officials said that “UTEP has had a longstanding policy prohibiting discrimination and sexual harassment based on gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation.”

UTEP’s athletic programs follow the NCAA guidelines, which allow transgender students to participate in the team their gender identifies with as long as they are taking medication as part of their transition.

For more information on Equality Texas, visit equalitytexas.org.

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JUNE 7, 2016

PERSPECTIVES

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The rationale of Trump supporters

BY JAVIER CORTEZ
The Prospector



When you think of a Donald J. Trump supporter it's pretty easy to assume certain things. It's easy to assume that they are prejudiced, maybe even racist. It's easy to assume they are stupid to the point of willful ignorance, all while being middle-aged white males with a horrible sense of fashion.

These assumptions are easy.

Your average Trump supporter might meet most of those criteria, but upon deeper examination they do have a much wider range of nuanced opinions than one would think. I discovered this when I covered the "Make America Great Again" rally in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on Wednesday, May 25.

Before I go on, I would first like to preface this by saying that I personally agree with very little of what Trump supporters say, and I do not condone any of the racist, misogynistic and homophobic rhetoric that some spout, and my takeaways from the Trump supporters are still, in many ways, generalizations.

I spoke to roughly 15 Trump supporters, a nice sample size, but nowhere near the millions of Americans that have backed the Donald.

Without further ado, here is my understanding of Trump supporters' rationale.

Every election cycle, politicians—Democrats and Republicans alike—try to sell fear: fear of economic instability, fear of global terrorism, fear of wide spread immigration. Some of these talking points are rooted in reality and some are completely fabricated. Nevertheless, every politician is trying to sell it, whether it be in a pint-sized glass or a gallon jug.

In Trump's case, fear is selling well. There is not a single point he misses — from fixing trade issues with the Chinese in East Asia, to making our military the robust power it once was.

Just think about his slogan: "Make America Great Again!"

It's ambitious, definitely audacious and thought provoking, albeit tremendously unoriginal, but I'll touch on that later. With his slogan alone, he makes the basis of his argument without even opening his mouth. During his hour-long speech in Albuquerque, he kept saying "we don't have a country" or "we won't have a country" if A, B or C happens.

"If Hillary gets into the White House, we will not have a country."

"If we are not vigilant with Syrian refugees, we will not have a country."

"We don't have a country!"

It was sporadic, but he kept referring back to it. As incoherent and poorly structured as his speech was, as with many of his speeches, Trump gives his

core constituents something Cruz, Rubio and Kasich could not — salvation. He has promoted himself as a savior, a hero and a martyr for a cause.

So there is the set up; he frames the U.S. as systemically problematic, then sells himself as the man to fix it.

The real reason why Trump "Trumps" everyone else (pun intended) is through his use of language — it's simple, to the point and very reductive. Nothing is complex. Coupled with a lack of political correctness and nonlinear oration, the foundation of the most polarizing presidential campaign in U.S. history is spawned. He says things that no other politician says, often times coming off as racist to many of his detractors. More importantly, because it's off the cuff and wildly inappropriate, it comes off as genuine.

Yes, genuine, a trait that is very much lacking in politicians today. And in Trump's newly molded Republican base, genuineness is more important than a magnanimous personality or practical policy.

Hillary Clinton has experience and qualifications out the wazoo, but she is maligned because she does not come off as honest. She seems like a façade, a political gimmick, an obvious front — in part because she is a woman.

Sanders, on the other hand, is very similar to Trump. He seems anti-establishment and thrives because of his simplistic logic. Bernie says things such as:

"The richer are getting richer and the poorer are getting poorer...let's get rid of trickle down and supply-side economics."

"College debt is through the roof...let's lower tuition."

"People cannot live off of the current minimum wage...let's raise minimum wage."

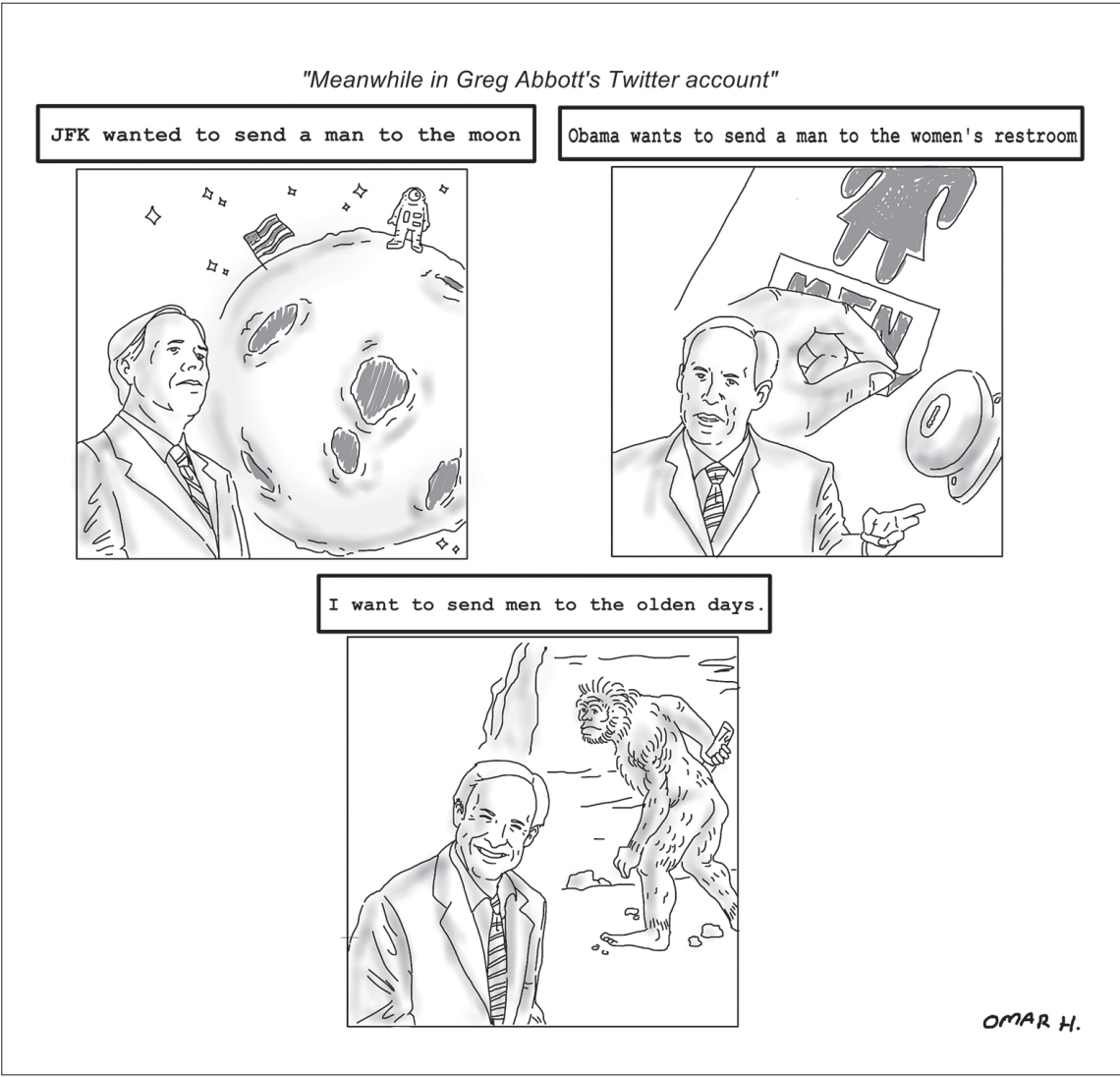
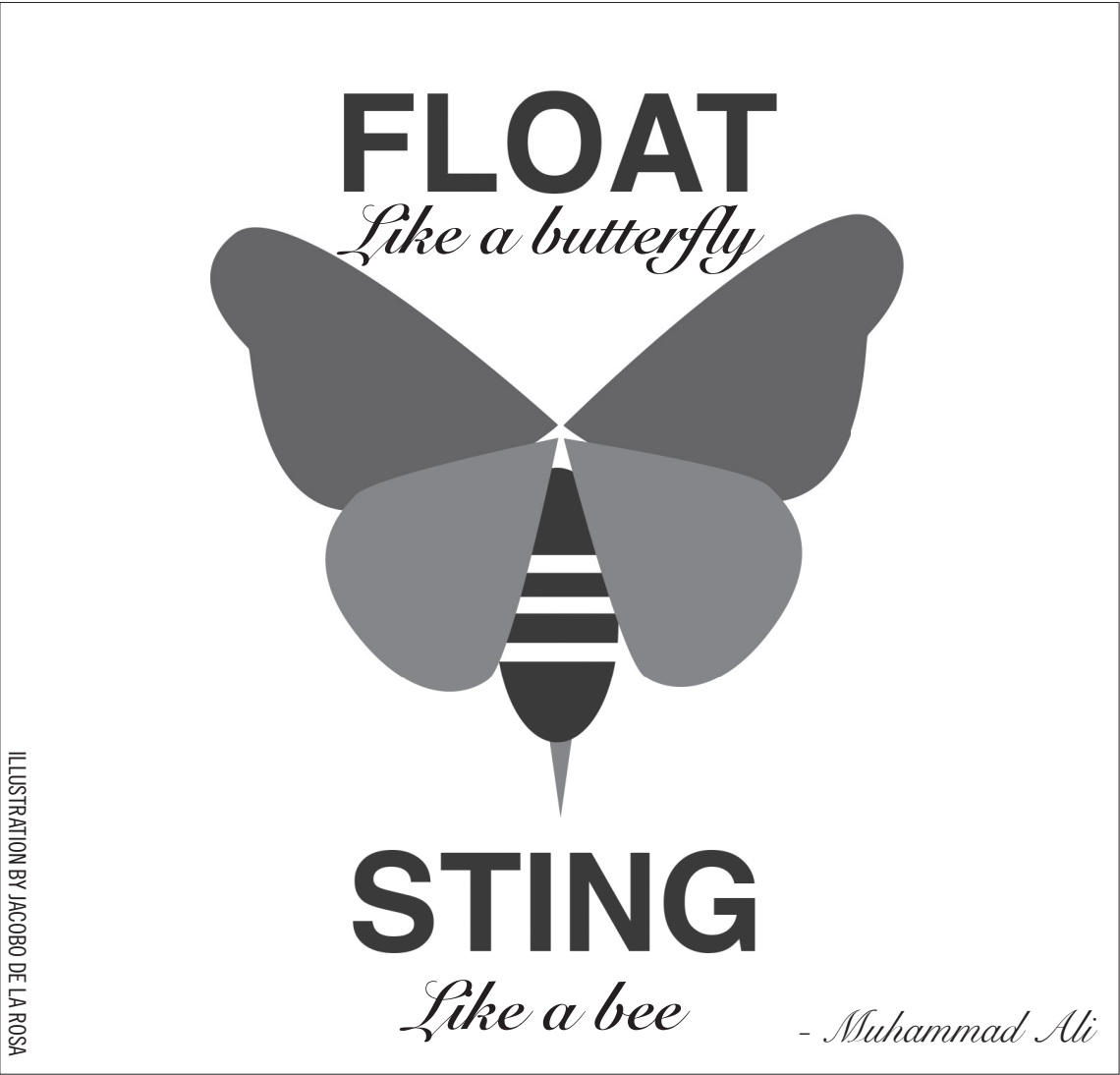
Above all, Sanders makes it easy to support him because he simplifies the issues. When things are too high, lower them, when things are too low, raise them. His policy plans are not esoteric by any means.

With Trump nothing is esoteric. Yes, he proposes some things, like his plan to get Mexico to pay for a wall, but his policy points are beside the point. It's all about being genuine, and here is where I generalize.

When I talked to the Trump supporters in Albuquerque and asked them why Trump was the man for them, they never brought up policy. It was about his political disaffection and brutally honest rhetoric.

A fair point can be made to say that anyone who supports Trump is moronic because they support a feeling not a plan. But it's not moronic to vote on a feeling, it's a genuine action. Furthermore, it's highly contradictory of people on the left to criticize people on the right who are seduced by Trump.

see TRUMP on page 3



THE PROSPECTOR

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UTEP professor wins Texas Inventor of the Year award



scientists are not trained for property protection, commercialization or business; we are trained as scientists, and so often times the idea of patenting something or the idea of starting a company or things like that are just scary for us," Cox said.

Awards like this give strong validation to UTEP's progress and research.

- Mark Cox, Ph.D., associate professor

Marc Cox, Ph.D., associate professor at UTEP's Department of Biological Sciences, holds his 2016 Texas Inventor of the Year awards.

BY GRECIA SANCHEZ
The Prospector

The Intellectual Property Committee of the State Bar of Texas awarded the 2016 Texas Inventor of the Year to Marc Cox, Ph.D., associate professor at the University of Texas at El Paso's Department of Biological Sciences.

According to Cox, one of the problems seen with these specific types of cancer is because of its progressive forms. The cancer may learn from current treatments and evolve to more aggressive forms that can no longer be treated with the same kind of therapies.

ing, a process critical to these cancers' growth. The drugs target a protein that disrupts the process. He based the logic and strategy on the treatment of other diseases such as diabetes and stress.

Southern University, Clark Atlanta University and the University of Colorado. Cox gives credit to the Office of technology Commercialization and its director Melissa Silberstein for the award.

"UTEP has made great progress in supporting research. I am not the only one around here doing great research and patenting, I just happened to get the award," Cox said.

TRUMP from page 2
If any of you millennials out there think Sanders could get legislation passed on taxing stock market speculation or eradicating college tuition all together, you need to take a hard look at who's in Congress and how government works.

ward someone who evokes a sense of trustworthiness. This brings me back to the "Make America Great Again" slogan. Again, it's ambitious, audacious, thought provoking and most importantly tremendously unoriginal.

gies from the past. And that is the fatal flaw of Trump's supporters and in some ways of Sanders' supporters. Putting stock in a politician who seduces you with hope never works in your favor.

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JUNE 7, 2016

OUR VIEW

PHOTO EDITOR
ANGEL ULLOA, 747-7477


Presidential candidates hold rallies near borderland





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JAVIER CORTEZ, MICHAELA ROMÁN, ANGEL ULLOA-/ THE PROSPECTOR

1. Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders speaks at a rally on May 21 at Vado Elementary School in Vado, New Mexico. 2. Bernie Sanders greets a young supporter in Vado, New Mexico. 3. A Donald Trump protestor holds a sign outside of a rally in Albuquerque, New Mexico. 4. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump campaigns on May 24 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. 5. Anti-Trump protestors are escorted out of the Trump Rally.

JUNE 7, 2016

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
JULIA HETTIGER, 747-7477

Street art in the heart of Paris



ERIC VASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Street art in Paris is on the rise thanks to the inspiration of artists such as Banksy who have made defacing public property into a trend.

BY ERIC VASQUEZ
The Prospector

Editor’s Note: Eric Vasquez is a Prospector reporter currently studying abroad throughout Europe. This is the first entry of his travel blog.

Paris is well known for being the home for works of art that stand titanic in human history: Da Vinci’s “Mona Lisa,” Van Goh’s “Portrait of the Artist Himself” and Monet’s “Water Lily Pond.” But outside these picturesque museums, an entirely different art form has been taking place over the last decade that is demanding as much an audience as these historic museums.

Street artists such as Banksy have made the defacing of public property cool. So much so that a well-done piece of street art could not

only be left alone on the building it is defacing, but honored, the owners brandishing it like a really cool scar. Paris is now rampant with street artists striving to let their art be known, from designs on stop signs to meticulous mosaics depicting the Hulk.

After a few walks around the city, you will begin to recognize the handiwork of certain artists. After a few marked stop signs or sparkling mosaics you recognize them to be by the same hand, which pulls this art form away from peers in a distinct way: the creators of these pieces remain completely unknown.

Sure, you can recognize the mosaics or fat cat on the side of the wall, but their creation leaves us nothing about their creator, no farther than the fact that they were at that location at some point in the past. Com-

pare this to the ubiquitous names we associate with the great paintings or sculptures. After all, did I really need to say the “Mona Lisa” belonged to Da Vinci?

Photographing a street artist’s work is a task that can be undertaken at any point in the day. Finding the artist himself, however, proved to be more difficult. When walking the streets of Paris at the time these artists work (and normal people sleep), I found one artist in the process of spray painting a fat cat on a ledge. Approaching him and asking him for an interview, he quickly declined and continued his work. After asking him for a picture, he finished his drawing and jogged away.

Why bother staying up at night and risk a police chase, or at least a ticket, to leave your design if your

name would not be attached to it? Why wear a monkey mask as Banksy does and continue to leave pieces all over the city to gain nothing from it, all the while T-shirt shops mass produce your images? Paris is plagued with small pieces of art, all of them orphaned by their creators, who are no doubt as in want of money as the rest of us, every one of them living in a city where art is commoditized by tickets and gold frames. The goal for street artists, however, seems to have a different motive.

One of the more stranger pieces of street art seen in Paris is not a curling alligator on the side of a building or mosaic of the Hulk, it is a simple white sticker pasted on the side of fuse boxes and on bathroom stall doors. In black lettering stands

a simple statement, “J’existe,” the French translation for “I exist.”

For street artists to leave a design of their own creation is a statement to those who see it that they exist. That despite the observer’s ignorance to another life outside their own, there exists someone else, someone they don’t know, and the proof is in this design. The “J’existe” is the champion of street art, the self-proclamation that someone made and placed that sticker there, and by doing so has affirmed their existence in this world even if their art never sees the inside of the Louvre. Street art, in a word, is taking back art from the tourism and capitalism and giving it back to the artists.

Eric Vasquez may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

UTEP students to teach Kids-N-Co summer camps

BY JULIA HETTIGER
The Prospector

Kids-N-Co is hosting a kinder summer camp for children ages 5 to 7 from June 13 to June 25. The goal of the camp, which will be taught by UTEP students, is to show young children the mechanics of putting on a theatrical performance and to encourage longtime participation in theater productions.

Kids-N-Co is a nonprofit theater dedicated to exposing youth in El Paso to theater life through classes, camps and performances. Stella Gutierrez, board president for Kids-N-Co, said the kinder camp is designed to introduce children to theater.

“The kinder camp is a child’s first experience with theater, not neces-

sarily to watch, but to participate in it, and teachers go about showing the kids how to be comfortable on stage,” Gutierrez said. “They teach them how to play improvisation and theater games, which comes natural to them because they’re 5 to 7 year olds, who do that every day.”

The kinder camp will be taught by Mia Carreon, senior creative writing major, and Rachel Robins, senior music theatre major.

“We’re teaching them the basics; how to stand on stage, how to project your voice,” Robins said. “The games we’ll be teaching them and playing with them reinforce everything they’ve learned.”

The games, including one called Statue Finder, will help the participants learn about spatial awareness

on stage and how to react while performing on stage.

“In this game, there’s one child being the statue finder and all the other kids are statues,” Robins said. “The statues are only allowed to move when the finder’s back is turned, but if the statue finder sees you, you’re out.”

The children will have two-hour classes for two weeks in June, and a second camp will be taught in August. At the end of the two weeks, they put on a production written by Carreon and Robins.

“What we usually do with writing is, since there’s two kinder camps, we’ll each be writing a unique play for each camp, one that is catered to the needs of that particular group,” Carreon said. “Many plays aren’t written for this age group and so we

like to give the kids their own play. It’s also there so we can give each student a fair amount of lines each. No part is bigger or smaller with these kinder plays.”

Before writing the play, Carreon and Robins have to evaluate the group to get a feel for what kind of play they should write. Playing around with what the children are comfortable with and prepared for, they write a story they think they will enjoy performing.

“We have to figure out how many kids we have and what kind of story we want to do,” Carreon said. “We always want them to get a genuine theater experience when they join kinder camp. This is so that way if they start with kinder camp, they can sign up for the older camps and

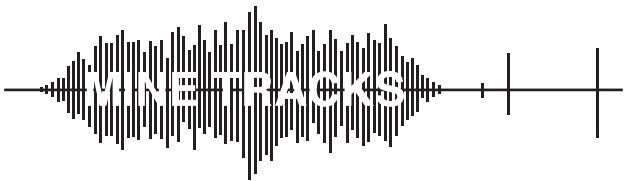
already have a head start on how the theater experience works.”

Their goals as teachers are to help students overcome any fear or stage fright they may have and to give them their first chance to shine on stage. Carreon said she also hopes to see the participants of the kinder camp go on to other camps, perform in other shows and join school theaters later on.

“We just want them to have fun when they come to class, hands down” Carreon said.

For more information about Kids-N-Co, call 351-1455, or visit their website at www.kidsn.co.

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



Bentley is the new ‘Black’

BY JULIA HETTIGER
The Prospector

“Black,” a new album from country singer Dierks Bentley, is a raw, organic project from the seasoned artist that holds nothing back. Stepping away from traditional country-pop, the album uses acoustic music and black-and-white music videos that aid Bentley in singing through personal experiences.

Four of the songs on the album — “I’ll be the Moon,” “What the Hell Did I Say,” “Pick Up” and “Black” — all tie into the same storyline on the album. The music videos depict a couple who have a secret relationship, hiding it primarily from the girl’s boyfriend. The secretive couple mainly goes out at night, explaining why Bentley sings he’ll be the Moon.

The beginning of this four-chapter story tells the audience that the woman in the relationship is content with the situation, but the man wants something more. This feeling is escalated nicely by Bentley sitting in a car, singing in between scenes while it rains outside. In the end, the woman leaves and later on ignores the man’s call, leaving him angry when the screen fades and a bitter “To be continued...” appears.

In the second chapter, the man receives a message from the woman’s boyfriend, but thinks it’s from her. He spends the majority of this video trying to remember what he said,

while Bentley throws down on both vocals and guitar. Meanwhile, the woman and the boyfriend get into a heated argument.

This prompts the third chapter, which has the secret boyfriend going to rescue the woman. The song in chapter three, “Pick Up,” was definitely one of the better ones on the album, being a more relatable song than some of the others.

The final chapter picks up right after it is revealed the woman has murdered her boyfriend. She and her secret lover flee to a hotel. There they agree to get through it together, but the woman ends up leaving in the middle of the night, stealing the truck her secret boyfriend had rescued her in.

The music and beat match the story throughout, picking up during the more blissful moments, and slowing down during the sadder ones. While the music was good, the storyline seemed to be a bit too extreme for the songs themselves.

The rest of the album deviated heavily from these four songs.

The first taste of “Black” the country community had was “Somewhere on a Beach,” which debuted earlier this year. The song, which sounds like a sequel to Bentley’s earlier hit “Drunk on a Plane,” has Bentley singing wistfully about a man who’s on a beach somewhere, meeting other women and having a good time, while his ex is going crazy back

home. The music video was a bit cuter than the vengeful-sounding song, telling the story of an awkward, chubby man who suffers from anxiety meeting a beautiful woman while on vacation and spending the rest of his trip with her—all while Bentley and his buddies cheer him on from a distance.

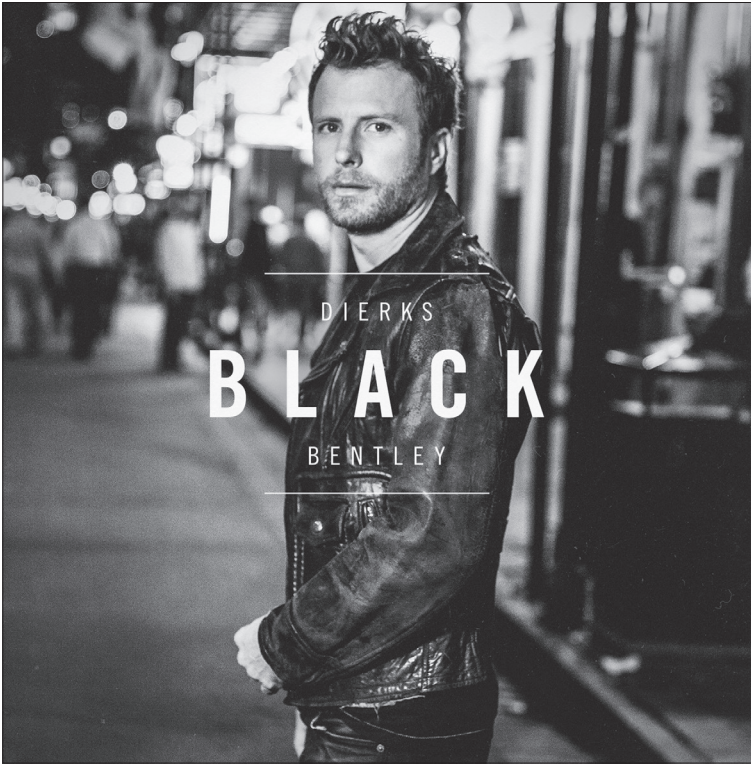
The rest of the songs on the album don’t yet have music videos, but it still didn’t stop Bentley from using his music to empower all of the emotions. While “Freedom” made you want to be young and dumb again, “Why do I feel” made you question why you’d ever want to fall in love. “Roses and a Time Machine” was definitely one of the more unique songs on the album. Drawing from traditional country roots, Bentley describes the inner thoughts of a man who’d give anything to have a redo with his ex-girlfriend.

“All the way to me” while good, sounds a lot like any other dreamy country-pop song, but has lyrics that really hit home.

Just like the title insinuates, “Mardi Gras” sounds like a party. The song, being the only really feel-good song on the album, is successful in getting you to want to dance.

“Light it Up” and “Can’t Be Replaced” top off the album with two ballads of forgotten love and the need for a do over.

The most successful song on the album, however, had to be “It’s Differ-




ent for Girls.” A duet with Elle King, Bentley uses his sultry voice and brave lyrics to talk about something not everyone wants to hear about. The lyrics, including “She don’t text her friends and say ‘I gotta get laid tonight,’” really drives the message of the song that says women suffer more during breakups, making this song almost sound like a song that’d

SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR
been sung before country and pop collided.

Overall, this album was a great advancement for Bentley. While keeping his classic, carefree country voice and adding in a bit more heart, Bentley has released a great album yet again.

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

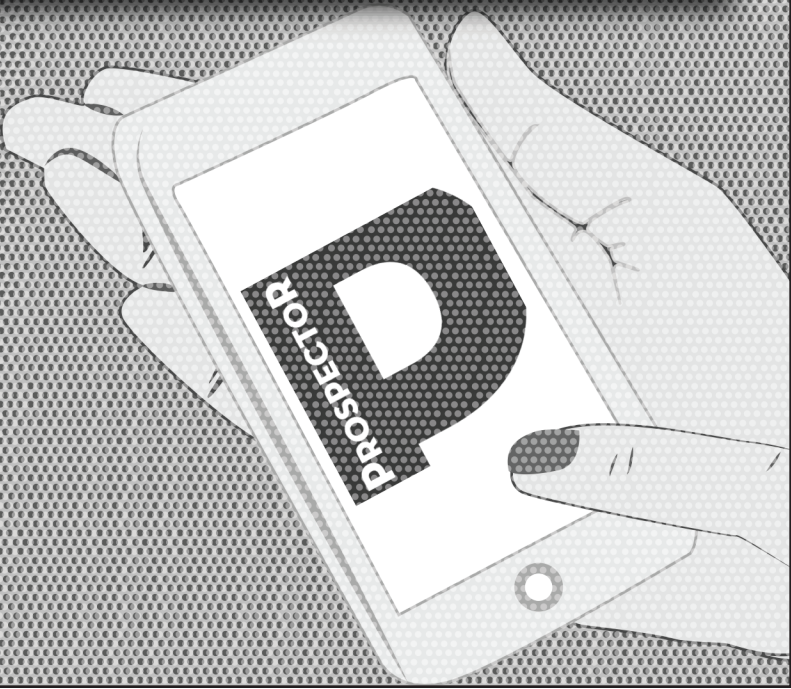
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JUNE 7, 2016

SPORTS

EDITOR

ADRIAN BROADDUS, 747-7477

Miners snag Fresno transfer Zach Greenlee



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRESNO STATE ATHLETICS

Former Fresno State quarterback Zack Greenlee will be added to the Miners’ quarterback mix.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

Ex-Fresno State quarterback Zack Greenlee was presented by the UTEP football program officially on Monday, June 6. Greenlee will join the quarterback core as a graduate transfer with two years of remaining eligibility. Greenlee announced in mid April that he was going to transfer

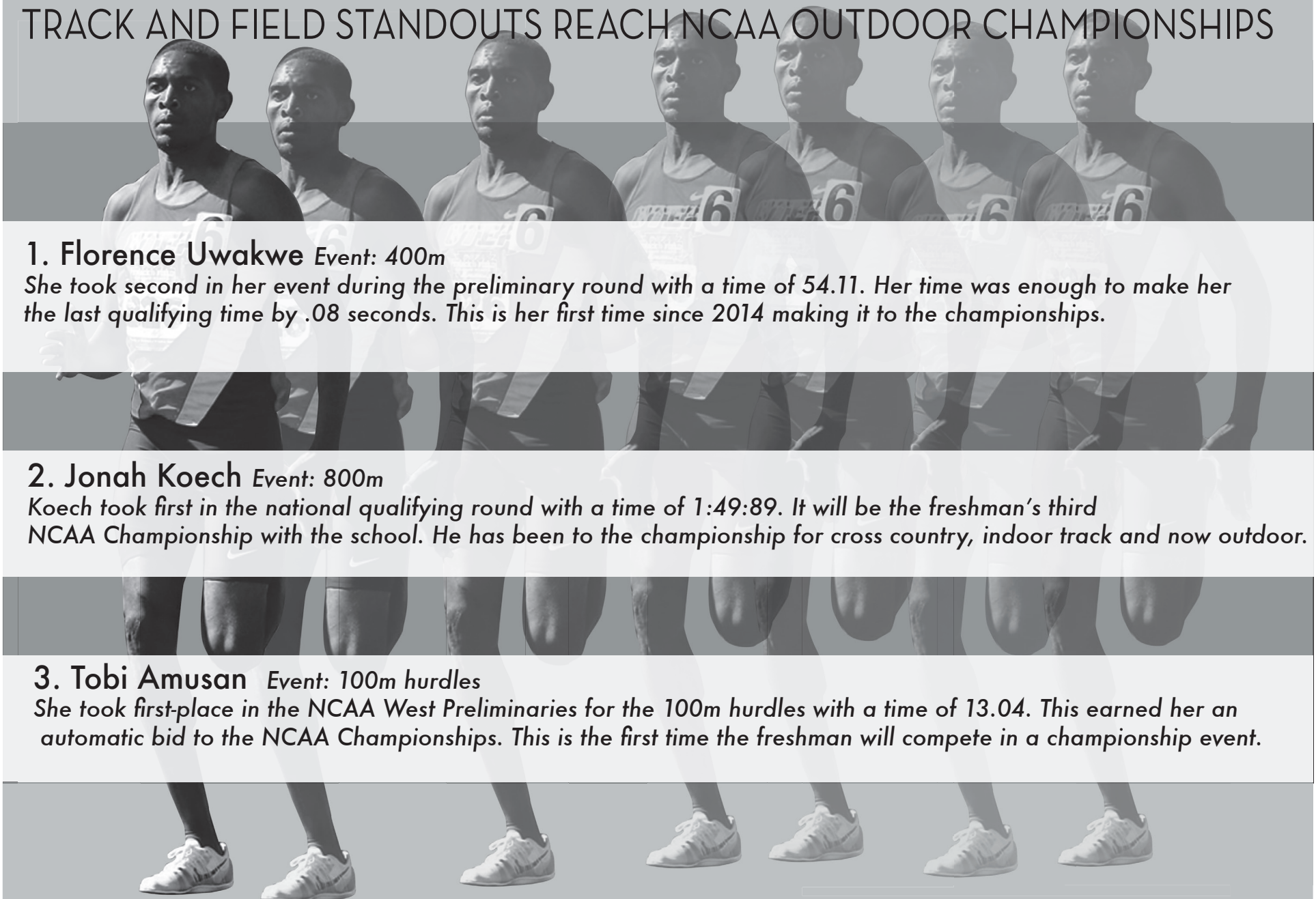
to UTEP. When he tweeted, “Very blessed to say I will be transferring to UTEP at the end of the semester,” along with photos from an apparent visit to the program. “I got to attack this summer and get ready,” Greenlee said. “I took my visit at an odd time so I didn’t meet too many, but I made a few friends with the different receivers — Aaron Jones, my host, and I moved in with Jacquan White.”

Adding much talk to the already storied Miners quarterback chart, Greenlee brings to the table experience and expertise. He played in 10 games for the Bulldogs, five of them as a starter during the 2015 season. Throughout seven games in the 2015 season, the 6-foot-2 gunslinger threw for 886 total yards and 13 touchdowns. Greenlee completed 47 percent of his 156 passing attempts last fall as well.

“After this past season, I talked to my parents and we felt it was the best decision (to transfer),” he said. “I’ve had some of the best times at Fresno, but we felt it was time to move on. (The) Offensive coordinator was fired and a coaching change led to the decision.” Greenlee, who was a former Elite 11, top-150 and four-star ESPN prospect out of high school, has only known California football his whole life. He came out of Stockton, Calif., and with his two years of collegiate eligibility, he can play as soon as the fall. “Taking the visit—I talked to some of the coaches before the visit and getting out here; after meeting some of the guys and the feeling of meeting the coaches helped with my decision,” Greenlee said. “I committed on my visit and I’ve been excited to get here ever since.” What is impressive about Greenlee is his ability to stay poised in the pocket, and also dance outside the pocket if necessary. He brings speed and versatility to the forefront. After the spring football game, Kugler reopened the starting quarterback battle since there was not a quarterback who showed a distinct separation. During the spring game, quarterbacks Kavika Johnson and Ryan Metz combined for 85 yards and both finished with a completion percentage under 50 percent. Leftwich, who played in seven games last season, has already been

ruled out for the 2016 season due to a shoulder injury. This means that Greenlee can still win the starting quarterback position. “At the college football level, there’s competition everywhere,” Greenlee said. “I’ve been in a (QB) battle the last couple of years and I’m ready to step into another one. I’ve got to attack it this summer, watch a lot of film, be focused, put in extra work and get ready for camp. Coming in, I’m obviously the new guy, I’ve got to get established, but I’m not an incoming freshman. I have experience, I just have to work hard.” Along with Greenlee, Metz and Johnson, the Miners will have two more individuals at the quarterback position this fall—JUCO transfer Tevin Muse and Eastwood high school pickup Mark Torres. Muse has two years of eligibility and a redshirt available, while Torres will be a true freshman in the fall if the Miners decide not to red-shirt him. “I got to talk to coach (Brent) Pease and seeing how passionate he is, I think it is great and the program is heading in the right direction,” Greenlee said. The Miners’ football camp will start Aug. 4. Adrian Broaddus may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

TRACK AND FIELD STANDOUTS REACH NCAA OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS



- 1. Florence Uwakwe** *Event: 400m*
She took second in her event during the preliminary round with a time of 54.11. Her time was enough to make her the last qualifying time by .08 seconds. This is her first time since 2014 making it to the championships.
- 2. Jonah Koech** *Event: 800m*
Koech took first in the national qualifying round with a time of 1:49:89. It will be the freshman’s third NCAA Championship with the school. He has been to the championship for cross country, indoor track and now outdoor.
- 3. Tobi Amusan** *Event: 100m hurdles*
She took first-place in the NCAA West Preliminaries for the 100m hurdles with a time of 13.04. This earned her an automatic bid to the NCAA Championships. This is the first time the freshman will compete in a championship event.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UTEP ATHLETICS/ GRAPHIC BY JACOBO DE LA ROSA, THE PROSPECTOR

Chihuahuas win seventh straight

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

From what was once a roller-coaster start to now being a defining force; the El Paso Chihuahuas have been riding high on the mound throughout the past month. They have won seven games in a row, significantly improved their pitching staff and rest atop the standings of the Southern division of the Pacific Coast League.

“It’s a nightly thing for us and I’ll keep saying it,” said Rod Barajas, club manager. “It seems like a new hero every night for us. That’s a sign of a good ball club—one through nine—so we’re going to keep this thing going.”

The Chihuahuas (34-22) are tied for the best record in Triple-A baseball, and lead the Las Vegas 51s by four games in the division.

“I think we really are getting our stride as a team and it’s been showing in the past month,” said third baseman Carlos Asuaje. “We won 20 games and we are going to build off that. It’s tremendous for me personally and as a team.”

Last week, the Chihuahuas swept the Sacramento River Cats at home. Despite the three wins against the San Francisco Giants affiliate, each game featured a unique and thrilling way of doing it. During the last game, on Friday, June 3, the Chihuahuas were down by as much as four scores going into the bottom of the seventh inning, when they



ANGEL ULLOA / THE PROSPECTOR

Chihuahuas third baseman Ryan Schimpf was named Pacific Coast League Player of the Week on Monday, June 6.

steamed five unanswered runs to defeat the River Cats 7-6.

“We find ways to win games,” Barajas said. “These guys are a broken record—they find ways to come back and make things exciting if we don’t win.”

The sweep against the River Cats was only the second time the club has swept a team this season. The previous sweep came in April against the New Orleans Zephyrs.

“It obviously feels good to sweep,” Barajas said. “If you sweep somebody in this league, it’s four games. When you’re playing baseball, you have to take all the wins you can get. We’re finding ways to do things. Hopefully we can keep this ball rolling. We got a good road trip last time, now this road trip—trying to keep this momentum and steer it in the right direction.”

Now on the road against the Fresno Grizzlies–Houston Astros

affiliate—the Chihuahuas are on track for back-to-back sweeps. This season they have won three games against the Grizzlies and have dominated them on the hitting board.

The squad set a club-high on Sunday, June 5, with 23 hits in their 10-6 victory. They had at least one hit in eight out of nine innings throughout the game, as Alex Dickerson flirted with the cycle—hitting a single, double, triple and

home run in a single game. Dickerson recorded a triple and two intentional walks, leaving him a home run shy of the cycle.

Barajas has been instilling a common trait to his offense all season: consistency. According to Asuaje, that is what he and the rest of the batters are striving for.

“Personally, consistency means having a quality at bat every time I go up,” Asuaje said. “Whether it be a walk, getting on base or hopefully help my team with a hit.”

While offensively the squad contains depth, the pitching staff has done a 180-degree turn since the start of the season. The pitching has improved substantially and, according to Barajas, their work ethic at practice is the key to rendering positive results in the game.

“They have been dominating as a pitching staff,” Barajas said. “It’s been fun to see the turnaround that these guys have had and these guys go after it 100 percent. When guys put in that much effort, it’s going to translate in the game.”

After the road trip, the Chihuahuas will return to Southwest University Park to face the River Cats from June 9-12.

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

ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

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