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The Prospector, June 21, 2016

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BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ
The Prospector

Memorial Day, May 30, started off what the American Automobile Association calls the “100 deadliest days for teens,” which refers to the fact that approximately 1,022 teens will die during this time period.

During these upcoming 100 days 59 percent of the accidents teens will be involved in will be caused by distracting behavior six seconds before the crash. General cell phone use accounted for 12 percent of crashes and interacting with a passenger made up 15 percent.

“Every day during the summer driving season, an average of 10 people die as a result of injuries from a crash involving a teen driver” said Jurek Grabowski, research director for the AAA Foundation in a article released by the AAA regarding the study.

The study that discovered this trend combined data from a previous study that ultimately included 2,229 crashes with teen drivers spanning from August 2007 to April 2015.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, 76 teen drivers

died due to alcohol-related accidents in 2015 in Texas. Of course, these types of accidents are not limited to teen drivers. In the same year, 192 drivers between the ages of 21-24 died as a result of alcohol in Texas.

These statistics, scary as they may be, do not tell the entire story. With headlines normally focused on fatal accidents, it is easy to forget that most car crashes do not result in a fatality.

The Texas Department of Transportation reports that in 2015 only 57 out of the 18,521 crashes in El Paso County ended with one or more fatalities. There were 62 fatalities in total due to car accidents and 2,537 injuries ranging from minor cuts and bruises to debilitating injuries.

The dangers of distracted or drunk driving are not limited to physical injuries either. In Texas, driving while talking on a cell phone can result in a fine anywhere from \$200 to \$500. Driving under the influence (DUI) and Driving while intoxicated (DWI) can have more extreme consequences.

In Texas you can get a DUI if you are under 21 and have any amount of alcohol in your system while driving. The punishment can include a fine of

up to \$500, a 60 day license suspension, 20-40 hours of community service and mandatory alcohol awareness classes. If you are caught with a .08 level of alcohol in your blood or higher the punishment increases to up to \$2,000 dollar fine, three-180 days in jail, and 90 days to a year license suspension. Each time you are caught the consequences are raised.

Getting a DWI means that you are 21 or older with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher or if you are under 21 and have a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher, or are on another illegal drug. For a first-time offender the fine can be up to \$2,000, two-180 days in jail, the loss of one’s license up to a year, and an annual fee of \$1-2,000 for three years to keep your license. Similarity to a DUI, each sequential arrest increases the fine and punishment.

A junior mechanical engineering student who wished to remain anonymous talked about the experience of getting caught driving while drunk.

“I wasn’t driving sloppy or speeding, the reason I was pulled over was because the taillight was out from the back of the car,” the student said.

“When he pulled me over he told me that violation and as soon as I put the window down he smelled the alcohol.”

The officer decided to let him off easy and he received a DUI citation, which enabled him to hire a lawyer to attempt to remove the citation from his record. The officer could have just as easily arrested him or made him take a breathalyzer test, which could have led to much harsher consequences.

“It was not worth it. It was a regular weekend—it wasn’t even worth going out or anything,” the student said. “I just imagined my parents like if they were going to find out, how disappointed they would be and also school, how it would effect me and my career as well. Everything was flashing before my eyes.”

When it comes to the effects and consequences of a DUI or DWI, they can be serious and far-reaching for a student.

“A DUI/DWI not only impacts a student, but also his/her family and loved ones,” said Catie McCorry-Andalis, associate vice president and dean of students in an email. “Par-

ticularly when it comes to finances, mandated court appearances, community service and/or in-patient or out-patient care if appropriate.”

Another UTEP student, a junior business administration major who also wished to remain anonymous, explained the impacts after he was arrested for a DWI. This person was drinking while underage, but because of a blood alcohol concentration of .15, the charge was raised from a DUI to a DWI.

“A buddy of mine came in from out of town. We went out drinking to the Black Market, nothing was open. I thought I was fine, honestly, I thought it was ok to drive,” The student said. “So what had happened was I looked at my phone, and I was trying to change a song and when I did that I swerved in the next lane a little bit, but I caught myself and I went back in. Not even 20 seconds later lights come on and I was pulled over.”

A failed sobriety test resulted in the student being promptly arrested. This person spent the next four months trying to get the DWI removed from their record and taking mandatory

see DWI on page 3

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JUNE 21, 2016

LSPI- torture and treasure

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector



If I could describe the Law School Preparatory Institute in three words, it would be knowledge in madness.

In no way, shape or form am I fully committing to law school or wanting to immerse myself into the field of law by doing this course. My passion still lies with journalism, but by doing this rigorous course, my goal was to explore my options.

Three weeks into my experience as an LSPI student, and I have been on a roller coaster that has consisted of my mind twisting and turning with swaying opinions and discovering new ways of thinking.

The program gives an introductory law school-like setting, while also providing students with preparation if they wish to take the LSAT. That is the main goal since day one of the program—to get a higher score on the LSAT.

Through the ungodly amount of studying and homework, there is so much knowledge obtained during the four weeks of the class. Although a 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. class sounds horrendous, the professors are unlike any I have had before. They engage all my classmates in discussion, encourage participation and help everyone understand the grueling concepts. Through lessons and examples, they show time and time again their level of intellect and ability to teach.

One of the most beneficial traits that the classes have taught me is thinking on the spot. Almost every day, a professor will enter the classroom and drill a person with random questions. While some might think this sounds

like torture, this technique is, as the professors describe it, an exact representation of how law school works. It makes all my classmates and I strive to be prepared for class because at any time, someone could be called upon.

The program also continues to amaze me with the success that its graduates have had. They each experience a significant increase in their LSAT score from the start. Everyone also gets help from the professors, teaching assistants and coordinators to apply to different colleges. One in every three students who graduate from the LSPI program have gone to a top 15 school, which gives me so much hope as a potential candidate for law school.

Not only does LSPI help you get into law school, the classes that are taken throughout give you a leg up on law school as well.

Law school does not teach aspirants how to practice in a courtroom setting. It does not prepare you to deal with clients. What it does do is teach you how to analyze a problem and how to think like a lawyer. The application of the different analytical thought processes is brought to life throughout the LSPI.

Although I may or may not take the next step and go to law school, I believe the LSPI program is extremely valuable to anyone thinking about going to law school. It maximizes student's efforts and challenges them everyday.

Adrian Broaddus may be reached at theprospector@dailynews@gmail.com



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Weather forecast for the week of June 21, 2016. Includes photos of the weather team: Dan Martinez, Krystal Klei, Doppler Dave Speelman, Nichole Gomez, and Iris Lopez. The forecast shows temperatures ranging from a high of 95 to 104 and a low of 70 to 78, with conditions from Sunny to Partly Cloudy and a 0% to 20% chance of rain.

UTEP LSPI makes the lawyers of the future



The Law School Preparation Institute at UTEP is a summer program offered to students seeking a law education.

BY RENE DELGADILLO
The Prospector

Coffee and all-nighters are a huge part of the lifestyle of some of the students who are enrolled in the summer Law School Preparation Institute at UTEP. LSPI is offered to students seeking a law education during the summer. The program was initiated in 1998 to serve the goals of students in the border community who wanted to seek further education to have a law career. It spans approximately four weeks and is known for its intensity and rigorous workload. Paulina Escobar, a UTEP graduate who attended LSPI, said her experience at the program was helpful, but difficult at the same time. "I was happily dying. In the sense that it is very intense and interesting. That first week of LSPI I did not sleep," said Escobar, a UTEP graduate who will be attending law school at the University of Iowa. "I wasn't too

sure if I wanted to go into law school, but once I got into this I enjoyed it and it has been very rewarding." The program is only offered during the summer semesters as a way of preparing students for the LSAT exam offered during the fall. LSPI assistant director Brent McCune, said this is a way in which his students will only focus their study time on what the exam will require. "Our goal is to position students in the best way to achieve success in law school," McCune said. The program is not all about studying and books. Students get hands-on experience by working with different groups that handle certain types of cases. LSPI and the Court Appointed Special Advocates for children (CASA of El Paso) allow LSPI students at UTEP to participate in a service-learning course where the students serve vulnerable children in need. The students look at whole cases and make recommendations to the

court in the best interests of the children involved in each case. "We advocate in court for the best interest of children who have been removed from home due to abuse or neglect," said Lisa Soto, associate clinical professor. "The students and I work on teams on all of the cases that we are assigned, and really the students do the work on the cases too. They are in court, they sit at the attorney table, they are the only non-attorneys who sit and present with attorneys." Encouraging More Positive Opportunities with Empathy and Respect, known as EMPOWER, is a deferred prosecution program for first-time offenders with serious mental illness issues. Escobar says that the goal of the program is to take youth out of the juvenile system to connect them with services that will rehabilitate them. Escobar said LSPI students learn a lot while playing an important role in this program. Students serve as mod-

erators who preside over formal courtroom status reviews and compliance monitors to help families to achieve their treatment plan requirements. "I studied psychology, but it's one thing to read about it and another to work with someone who actually has mental illness issues like ADHD," Escobar said. "You can see that they just need a little of guidance. A lot of these families were not aware of what it meant to have a child with mental health issues so they didn't know how to handle them, but we were able to help them." The LSPI program has received awards from the El Paso Juvenile Justice Center and from the Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project, as well as earned respect from bigger legal markets. William Weaver, director of the program, and seven students are presently in Dallas. McCune said the Dallas legal community is interested in UTEP's program and decided to take students from UTEP to Dallas as a way of giving the students a real-life experience. "They are getting a taste of what the Dallas legal market is like," McCune said. "They are having visits at law firms, taking legal talks and seminars, to seating on courts, to having meet and greets, and dinner and lunches with members of the Dallas legal community." McCune said his students will be acquiring knowledge that will allow them to serve under-represented communities. He hopes UTEP students can serve the needs of these people. "Whether we like them or not, we need attorneys. And it's nice when the attorneys can relate to their clients," McCune said. "You can go to law school; you can really do this. And then you can give back to your community." In the end, students taking the LSPI program said this program does more than teach about being a lawyer. "The professors choose the students to enhance the program and they see something in you that perhaps you never saw in yourself," said Hala Abdeljaber, political science major, said. "This program will make you a better person." Rene Delgadillo may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

DWI from page 1

classes. A monthly check in for six months to confirm sobriety and approximately \$2,000 were some of the consequences. "Honestly you feel like a huge loser and you feel like a huge disappointment to everyone in your life," the student said. "You're locked in a cell with people you don't feel like you should be associating yourself with." Paying fines and risking future employment are great practical deterrents to drinking and driving, but they are self-serving reasons to not drink and drive. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 20 percent of all deaths of children under the age of 14 were due to alcohol-related crashes. The individual might put their future at risk in choosing to drive drunk, but they are simultaneously putting the

future of others around them at a greater risk. "One of the biggest things that scares me is what if I black out and I drive home and I kill someone? That's 20 years of my life gone right there," the business administration major said. "That's someone else's life that I took away because I was selfish and went out drinking and I didn't think about driving." The availability of mobile apps has made it easier to avoid drinking and driving. Uber and AndaleRide are two apps available for both iPhones and Androids that provide transportation services to anyone with a smartphone. It's also easy to call a friend or a parent to come pick you up, and one that can save you or someone else sharing the road with you.

If you are having problems with alcohol use, UTEP provides different programs to encourage recovery. "The University Counseling Center offers support for those struggling with alcohol abuse as well as those who have friends and family members affected by alcohol use, which includes the facilitation of Alcohol Anonymous meetings, workshops and materials such as "Avoiding Relapse," McCorry Andalis said. The counseling center is located at 202 Union West and may be reached at 915-747-5302. Christian Vasquez may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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Is buzzed driving drunk driving?

MICHAELA ROMÁN, ANGEL ULLOA, GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR



JASMINE FLORES
Sophomore art major
"I think buzzed driving is drunk driving because if you're buzzed you will maybe cross over a lane or two and hit another car."



JESUS SOTELO
Junior geology major
"Well it's pretty much the same thing if you are drunk or drugged you're not in conditions to be behind the wheel, you might hurt someone else of yourself."



DIANA DURAN
Senior biological sciences major
"I don't drink but yeah I think so. If you're not in your right state of mind then that's drunk driving I think even if it's not just beer maybe like illegal drugs and stuff I think that counts too."



EDUARDO AGUILAR
Junior criminal justice major
"I believe that it's the same thing since consumption of alcohol is present in both examples and could have the same effect on people, maybe not as strong as being drunk but it can have the same effect."



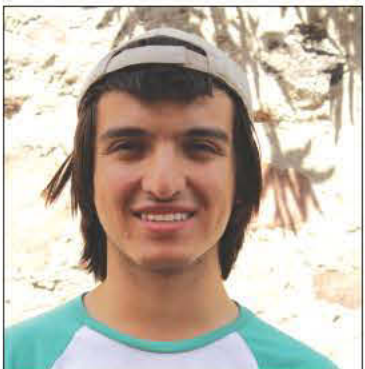
VANESSA CAMPA
Freshman pre-nursing major
"Yes, because either way you're impaired so you're not in all your senses when you're either buzzed or drunk."



GABRIEL KELLY
Senior theatre arts major
"No, buzzed driving is not drunk driving because if it was almost all of my friends would be in jail by now."



GENESIS RODRIGUEZ,
Junior biology major
"Yes I do think buzzed driving is drunk driving because even though you're not completely drunk, your brain signals aren't working as well as if you were sober."



CARLOS GARCIA
Junior neuroscience major
"While you are driving ask yourself, is there alcohol in your system? Do you feel slightly impaired? If yes, then you are drunk driving regardless. There's no grey area."



ITZEL PAYAN
Junior political science major
"Yes, buzzed driving is absolutely drunk driving."



JUAN CORONA
Junior mechanical engineering major
"No but I think that it should be treated the same to prevent future accidents."

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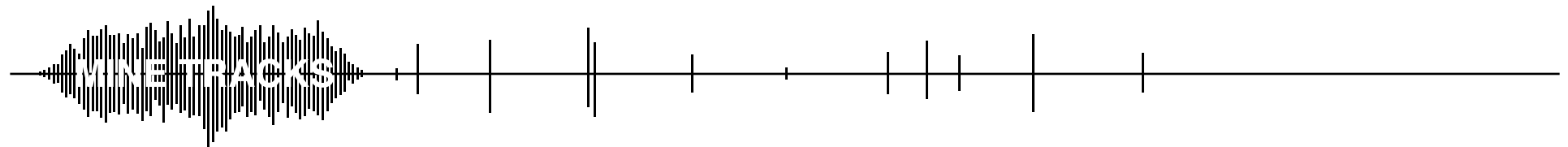
EDITOR
JULIA HETTIGER, 747-7477

OUR VIEW

Street fest returns to downtown El Paso



ANDRES MARTINEZ, MICHAELA ROMÁN, GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR
1. The Goo Goo Dolls perform on the second night of Street Fest. 2. Festival-goers wait for Seether at Street Fest. 3. Dale Stewart of rock band Seether plays bass at Street Fest. 4. Rock band Collective Soul takes the stage. 5. The crowd enjoys fireworks from outside the El Paso Convention Center.



Red Hot Chili Peppers’ new album a ‘dark necessity’

BY JULIA HETTIGER
The Prospector

The newest music from the Red Hot Chili Peppers can be described as a combination of both renewal and survival. In their new album, “The Getaway,” the Chili Peppers seemingly break the mold of their older work to fit in with what is popular on the charts nowadays, combining familiar-sounding lyrics with upbeat, poppy music.

Although the songs unfortunately sound like something you’d frequently hear on the radio, the album is saved by lead singer Anthony Kiedis’ always impressive vocals and the fact that none of their albums have the same vibe, creating room for experimentation.

The first song, taking on the name of the album, is a first glance at this transition. At first, the song sounded like a Spotify commercial, and it was shocking to hear Kiedis start singing. Once past this song, their talent definitely returns.

“Dark Necessities,” sounds a bit like their old stuff, having been remixed a little. The funky vibe and lyrics in this song are what really make it great. Along with background singers, Kiedis sings that “dark necessities are a



part of his design,” a line that sends chills up your spine.

The third song, “We Turn Red,” is probably the biggest example of this new era of music. The beginning of the song, besides Kiedis’ voice, sounds like someone else entirely.

SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

As the song continues, their familiar sound returns, but overall it still has a different feel to it, leaving a weird aftertaste.

After the third song, the album deviates back to some classic-sounding songs. “The Longest Wave,” “Good-

bye Angels” and “Sick Love” all have roots to some of their original work, and it’s refreshing having some good, old Chili Peppers tunes.

“Go Robot,” the seventh song on the album, was definitely one of the more interesting songs on the album. The Red Hot Chili Peppers are probably one of only a few bands who can write a strange song about a robot and be successful in doing so.

“Feasting on Flowers” has a more distinctive sound than any of the songs on the album, while “Detroit” and “This Ticonderoga” remind you this is new and different.

If there is a song that I’d come back to frequently and hit replay over and over again, it would be “Encore.” This song captures the Chili Peppers’ ability to write beautiful, moving songs that bring you to your knees.

The final two songs on the album, “The Hunter” and “Dreams of a Samurai,” were somewhere in the middle of their classic sound and newer songs.

The album was a far stretch from what fans of the Peppers are used to hearing. Although no two albums of theirs sound the same, this one seems to have surpassed sounding familiar at all. While entertaining, it lacks that same feeling that their other albums

use to hook you in the beginning. Going in thinking it’ll be another “Stadium Arcadium” or “By The Way” will surely leave you disappointed, but listening simply to appreciate their new sound will leave you satisfied.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers, with their distinctive and always changing vibe, will always be a classic. You have to go in with an open mind and not compare it too much to their old stuff to truly appreciate their new, inevitable sound.

With mostly every genre of music approaching the upbeat, almost pop-sounding side of things to survive, it was only a matter of time before the classics took that road as well, whether it be for their survival or to appeal to newer audiences. Despite this, the Red Hot Chili Peppers have released another album that is sure to stir some controversy, but ultimately end in success. And if anything, at least listeners can still bask in their new, catchy lyrics and the familiar sound of Kiedis’ voice.

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

‘Finding Dory’ worth seeing



BY ALLISON LIVERMORE
The Prospector

The forgetful, yet unforgettable, blue tang named Dory has been given her own movie years after the release of “Finding Nemo.” Director Adam Stanton brings back the familiar faces of Nemo, Marlin and of course Dory—children (and adults) of all ages can see the journey to find Dory’s family, which was released June 17.

Along with the anticipation of a beloved children’s movie, Disney had also suggested the introduction of a lesbian couple. Similar to any other controversial issue, this speculation features one side opposed to the possibility of a children’s movie featuring the LGBTQ community, while the other side deems it important for this kind of love to be seen.

While Disney has my support in introducing the LGBTQ community, I do think it’s necessary that they do so in a PG-rated film. Even though there are some Disney movies that involve kissing, a great majority of the movies express emotion through facial expressions and appropriate body language.

Ellen DeGeneres, the voice actor for Dory, suggested in an interview

SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

that maybe the husbands of the couple were off getting some treats. Then again, maybe they are family members or friends, or maybe they are in fact lovers.

When seeing the movie, the supposed lesbian duo’s presence was brief, and no exasperated or surprised gasps were heard in the audience. We all live in a world filled with diversity that inspires movies such as “Finding Dory.” If a children’s movie can feature disabilities that exist in the real world, then why can’t there be a couple—not in PDA mode might I add—that represents the LGBTQ community?

Disney furthered their innovation as they taught the audience the importance of accepting disabilities. Even though the majority of us have known Dory for a long time, the movie made it a point to go deeper into the story of the blue tang’s short-term memory loss. As the movie gave a whiplash of long-lost memories regained, those close to Dory realized that her disability allowed her to be the loving and helpful fish that she is.

Not everyone has to accept the gay community or take recognition of disabilities—even if it’s in a movie—but these are not things that have

to been seen as taboo. Movies often resemble real life. To live in a world built on variety—and technology nonetheless—shouldn’t it be important to teach younger generations that diversity is normal?

As colorful plant life and the talking fish roamed the world of “Finding Nemo,” my inner 6-year-old self was brought back while the recent installment was a nostalgic remembrance of my childhood. The storyline picks up where “Finding Nemo” left off and takes its fans through a journey filled with Dory’s childhood, colorful new friends and sticky situations.

When a movie sticks to the original storyline as well as “Finding Dory” does, it was no surprise that a few scenes left me teary eyed and sympathizing for the characters. If there is anything important to take away from the movie, it is the symbolism it represents about the importance of close relationships and how anyone can achieve their biggest dream, no matter how small they are. Throughout the movie, I found myself completely submerged and would definitely go see it again.

“Finding Dory” is fun for all ages and will also give the audience a chance to see the ocean up close—from the little specs of algae in the ocean, the dark blue freckles on Dory’s nose and the million little barnacles that are clamped to oceanic rocks. “Finding Dory” not only offers a trip down memory lane, but also a rewarding experience on the importance of family, the acceptance of friends, and the aid of a seven-tentacled octopus named Hank.

“Finding Dory” is in theaters near you. Check your local cinema for show times and more information.

Allison Livermore may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

Smash Mouth to join Music Under the Stars at Cohen Stadium

BY ANDRIA GRANADO
The Prospector

The American rock band Smash Mouth will perform at Cohen Stadium on June 26 as part of the Music Under the Stars series. The performance will be the fourth of eight shows in the 33rd season of El Paso’s annual free outdoor summer concert series.

This is the first year that the series will be divided between the stadium and its previous sole location at Chamizal National Memorial Park.

According to Erin Ritter, public affairs coordinator for the El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department, the change is due, in part, to the El Paso City Council’s recent investments in Cohen Stadium.

The stadium has undergone thousands of dollars in renovations since its use for baseball games by the former El Paso baseball team, the Diablos, to allow for its continued use as an entertainment venue.

“(It’s an opportunity to) share the community event with other parts of the city, build new audiences and strengthen our relationship with Fort Bliss families,” said Ben Fyffe, assistant director of MCAD.

Ritter said that the series, being somewhat of an El Paso tradition, also requires them to always be looking for ways to “keep it fresh and interesting.”

The ban on outside alcohol at the Chamizal hurt attendance for the concerts, said Ritter, but the addition of touring acts such as Los Lonely Boys in 2014, and Jenni and the Mexicats and Smash Mouth this year have helped their social media following and turnout.

“I used to go a lot with my fraternity, but I stopped going when they stopped serving beer,” said Jesus Placencia, a graduate student in environmental engineering. “The music was good and it was fun, but when they started charging for beer, and you could only have like two drinks at a time, it got kind of crazy.”

A recent show on June 12, which featured Mishael Coss and the Jackpots, had 1,400 attendees, and some people such as Myrna Allen, a summer camp coordinator at UTEP, are still very interested in going.

“I’ve never been to Music Under the Stars, but I really want to this year,” Allen said. “Just to sit back, relax and listen to the music they have and just to hang out with other people.”

Musical groups selected for Music Under the Stars also give free music workshops to under-served youth the day after their performances.

Smash Mouth will be the final show at Cohen Stadium this year.

The second half of the season will continue at the Chamizal beginning with the Fourth of July spectacular that will feature the El Paso Wind Symphony. The Spanish rock band Volta and cumbia group Discipulos de le Cumbia will perform the following weeks. The series will conclude on July 24 with Mariachi Alegre performing on Noche Ranchera night.

All shows are on Sundays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

For information about Music Under the Stars, visit the MCAD website or call 212-0110.

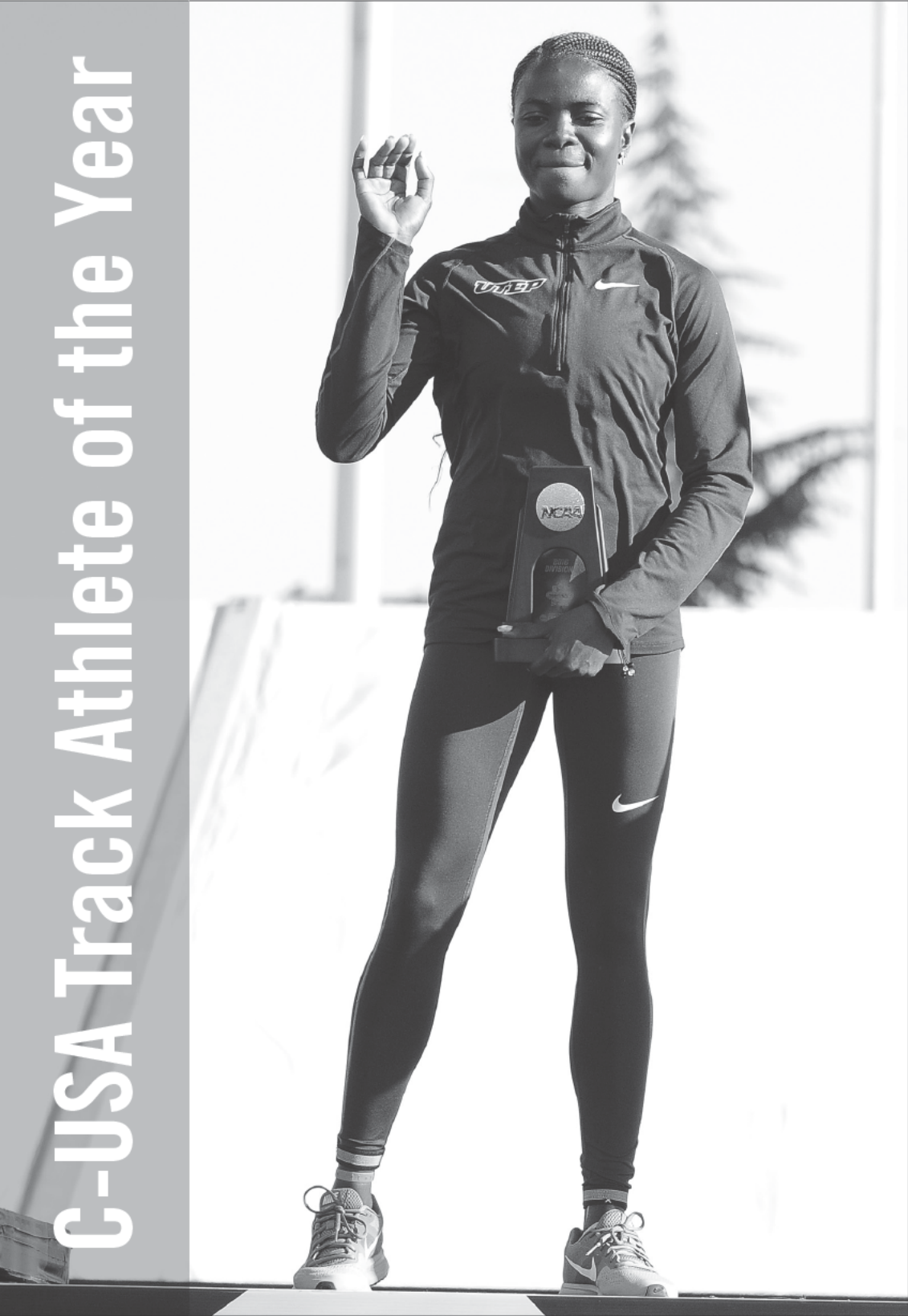
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SPORTS

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ADRIAN BROADDUS, 747-7477

C-USA Track Athlete of the Year



Freshman hurdler Tobi Amusan won every 100-meter hurdle race of the regular track season.

PHOTO COURTESY UTEP ATHLETICS

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

After finishing her first outdoor season in astonishing fashion, freshman hurdler Tobi Amusan was named the 2016 Conference USA Track Athlete of the Year. Amusan was honored with this prestigious award, voted on by C-USA track and field head coaches from around the conference.

“During the recruiting process, we were told that she is the ‘next Blessing Okagbare,’” head coach Mika Laaksonen said. “When this skinny little girl arrived at UTEP this January, it was kind of difficult to visualize her dominating her competitors the way Blessing did. Now, after her first season here, she has definitely made me a believer.”

Blessing Okagbare was the only athlete from UTEP to win the Conference USA Track Athlete of the Year since the university joined the league in 2006.

When Amusan arrived in January, she quickly made noise on the team and throughout the different meets. During the indoor season, she ran eight different 60-meter hurdle races and progressed in every one.

For the Conference USA Indoor Championships, she caught fire as she stormed to a gold medal. Amusan’s time in the hurdles was good enough for the third-best time in program history (8.23). At the indoor meet, she also placed seventh in long jump (5.84). In total, she contributed 12 points to the women’s side aiding them in repeating C-USA champions.

Amusan was now left to translate the success she enjoyed at indoor meets to the outdoor events.

In the 100-meter hurdles, she won every race of the regular season. During the C-USA Championships, she stole the gold and was named Freshman of the Meet. She also contributed the most points to the team in the outdoor championships, as she took first in the 100-meter hurdles, first in 200-meter dash (23.27) and second place in the long jump (6.06).

Arguably her most significant race this season was at the UTEP Invitational when Amusan clocked her best time of 12.83 seconds to take gold. Her time was good enough to surpass the program’s previous record time of 12.95. At the time it was the fourth-fastest time in the world and the second-fastest time by an athlete under 20 years old.

“Her achievement of running the second-fastest 100-meter hurdle time ever as a junior speaks volumes of Tobi’s abilities as an athlete,” Laaksonen said.

Then, she moved on to Eugene, Oregon, where she battled at the NCAA Championships for the prestigious crown.

Although in the preliminary runs she staggered a bit, Amusan picked herself up big time in the final round and took silver in the event with a time of 12.79.

“It has been a privilege to see how this young lady has opened up her career here at UTEP,” Laaksonen said. “Tobi is not only a great athlete, but an excellent student as well. We couldn’t have really asked for much more from a freshman student-athlete.”

Although the season is over, Amusan is not letting up on her training. She is now prepping for the IAAF World U20 Championships, which will be held in Bydgoszcz, Poland, from July 19-24.

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Crown the king:
LeBron wins his third

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector



When the clock struck zero, LeBron James did something he had never done before after winning a NBA Championship—he broke down in tears.

Everyone said he could not succeed this season at Cleveland, he was on the decline. No one thought the Cavs could come back after being down 3-1, since no team had done so in history.

It was all supposed to go down as LeBron “choking” yet again.

But the 2016 NBA finals proved to be a historic one in LeBron’s favor. He went from relishing the moment with the championship trophy in Miami, to a total and utter breakdown after winning the title for Cleveland.

Because at this moment, he proved everyone wrong.

At this moment, despite everyone claiming he was not a top playoffs player, James defied the odds and did something no one thought he could do. During this moment, after the confetti filled the court, after his team swarmed him, after he was named the finals MVP, LeBron was truly a champion.

There have been 32 NBA teams in the past that have fallen in the finals when trailing 3-1. Cleveland had not seen a championship in any major sport in 53 years.

Steph Curry, the unanimous MVP, and the Golden State Warriors posted the most-wins regular season of all time with 73 wins.

The odds were stacked against LeBron and his championship-thirsty Cavaliers. But, true kings defy all the odds and prosper through the hard times.

That is exactly what the king, LeBron James, did. With 27 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists—and help from Kyrie Irving’s 26 points—the Cavs were able to defeat the Warriors in Oakland, 93-89.

Although he has been criticized for his 3-4 overall finals record, let us look at the stats that help support LeBron’s greatness through this year’s finals.

He led all Finals’ players in five different categories—in points per game (29.7), rebounds per game (11.3), assists per game (8.9), blocks per game (2.3) and steals per game (2.6). Along with those five noteworthy leading categories, James became only the third player in NBA Finals history to put up a triple-double in a game seven.

Before going into anything regarding legacy, prominence or the question of where LeBron will rank amongst the all-time best, basketball appreciators need to let this one sink in.

“In Northeast Ohio, nothing is given. Everything is earned. You work for what you have,” James said in the post-game interview.

Had the Warriors won, talks about the team with the most wins in history would have sparked the idea that head coach Steve Kerr’s Warriors were the greatest team in NBA history. However, since Cleveland stole the series, talk can now begin on the matter of LeBron being the greatest player of all time. And he definitely has a claim.

He challenged the league’s back-to-back MVP, Curry, and shut the spectacular shooter down for the majority of the series. There is no arguing now that LeBron is still the greatest player on the planet due to his playoff performance.

Also, LeBron lifted up a Cavs team that was so misunderstood during the regular season, and molded it into something boundless. He enhanced players such as Kevin Love and Irving, asking for them both to increase their roles on the team. He built C+ players such as Tristan Thompson and JR Smith into key factors of the game. Nonetheless, LeBron made his teammates look good and finally seemed to find chemistry amongst his team.

And there is no way he is stopping now. How monumental would it be to see LeBron make a Finals appearance for an entire decade (2011-2020)?

The odds are, again, stacked in his favor, after all he’d have to make four more consecutive Finals. While some may argue that since he is in the Eastern Conference he has no competition, making six consecutive finals appearances is fabulous in itself. When you factor in injuries, coaching changes and a free agency, James has never used any of those to excuse him from executing in the post season. Although Jordan did win six championships in a row, LeBron’s six consecutive appearances should not be looked at as any less of an accomplishment.

The bottom line is LeBron has nothing more to prove. He has hoisted his well-earned trophy through a peak in the off-season and regained the throne as the best player in the league. He shut all the LeBron haters up and it would not surprise me if he were back in the Finals for the next four years.

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Barnes adds depth to Miner guards



Freshman guard Chris Barnes will be a new addition to the men's basketball team roster.

BY SHERICKA LAWRENCE
The Prospector

The UTEP men's basketball team lost forward Earvin Morris to graduation and leading scorer Lee Moore, who decided to forego his senior year to pursue a professional career. Forward Josh McSwiggan also left the team before clocking any minutes for the Miners.

Now all eyes are watching every move the Miners make this summer because they might prove to be crucial.

Chris Barnes, the new 6-foot-3, 180-pound shooting guard, is excited

about what it means to be a Miner and hoping to contribute in any way possible.

"It really got me to come here because they have a lot of fans—almost every game—whether good game or bad game," Barnes said.

The Long Beach, Calif., native from Compton High School has a wide range of abilities to score. Barnes averaged 51 percent from the field, a total 192 points scored in the 16 games played during his senior year and averaged 3.8 assists, 5.6 rebounds and 3.1 steals per game. Barnes helped his team to a 14-2 record.

In his junior year of high school, Barnes had offers from school such as Weber State, Portland State and Fresno State, Santa Barbara and California State-Northridge. He ultimately decided on El Paso relying on advice from a pretty impressive source.

Both Barnes and NBA standout from the Toronto Raptors, DeMar DeRozan, are products of Compton High School. Before he left California, Barnes talked with DeRozan, who was coached by UTEP head coach Tim Floyd in college.

"(DeRozan told me) Floyd is a good coach," Barnes said. "He will get you where you need to be."

Barnes is very familiar with UTEP's basketball legacy. Although he has not made an official visit, he is already taking summer classes and getting to know the El Paso community.

"It's pretty cool," Barnes said. "It's a lot of love out here. I've been getting a lot of love out here."

Barnes already has a state title under his belt. As a sophomore at Compton High, along with gaining Compton basketball SoCal Prep Legends boys' Athlete of the Week,

the aggressive athlete helped lead his team back from a 33-17 deficit during the championship game, scoring 13 of his 17 points in the second half, which included two 3s in the fourth quarter. That shows an impressive demeanor as a sophomore in such a huge game as the state championship.

He has really enjoyed the summer workouts and playing pick-up games with the team every day.

"The chemistry is real good right now," Barnes said. "It's all jokes inside the locker room and everything, so I'm feeling the good vibes right now."

The explosive guard, who is continuing to grow as an athlete, can separate from his defender with unique finesse, allowing him to explode to the rim or pull up for the jump shot.

Barnes is ranked 90th among those in his position, 131st in regional and 84th in the state of California.

"I just need to work and make sure my 3-point shot is right, that and my conditioning for the college level," Barnes said. "If I get my conditioning where I need it to be, I will be an amazing player to watch. The UTEP fans will see they have an athletic guard that gets up the court."

Barnes is not in a hurry to jump on to the court, and hopes to contribute in any position the team may need.

"It's just all what coach Floyd wants me to do—just whatever he tells me to do, I'm a go out there and do it," Barnes said.

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ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

"Living on campus has helped me a lot in my success as a student athlete. As a foreign student, living on campus has made it more accessible to go from classes to practices with ease. Living alone can sometimes be stressful. Having a roommate makes it easier to become independent. Gustavo is a roommate whom I get along with great, if I ever have a problem I know I can come to him for help"

-Ivan
Freshman Pre-Engineering Major

"The best way to obtain the full college experience is by living on campus and taking advantage of all the resources the University has to offer. I have seen a drastic improvement on my grades and involvement since I decided to live on campus. Ivan has become a very good friend of mine throughout the semester. The best part of having a roommate is being able to live with someone who you can hang out with, without having to leave your apartment when you are feeling lazy."

-Gustavo
Sophomore Pre-Business Major

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