

3-21-2017

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

..... THE .....

# PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 102, NO. 23

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

MARCH 21, 2017

## THE ★ ★ ★ NEW ERA OF WRESTLING

see LUCHA LIBRE on page 11



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MARCH 21, 2017

OPINION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477

Fire and Brimstone is not the way to preach

BY AUGIE TOURIS  
The Prospector



In the United States, the First Amendment is a key pillar of our democracy. Freedom of speech, including expressing religion safe from criticism and persecution, is one of our most cherished liberties.

The idea that each individual is entitled to their own thoughts and beliefs separates us from many other countries. This is why it's necessary to respect each other's religious beliefs. Religion is a delicate subject, and one of the two topics should avoid discussing at parties and social gatherings.

The reason for this is because our religious beliefs, whether present or not, have usually been instilled in us or learned from an early age. Opinions should not be forced on others. A collaboration of minds is wonderful, and intelligent discourse over religion between varying minds can be wonderful way to gain an understanding of different viewpoints from one's own. Unfortunately, this is not often the case.

On our campus, a man is present usually around midday, preaching Christianity near Centennial Plaza. He's loud and draws attention to himself from students walking between classes. Standing atop a concrete bench, his voice can be heard from a distance.

I feel that this is not the way to spread religion.

This fire and brimstone approach is obnoxious and pseudo-biblical, highlighting faith and repentance as a necessity to avoid an eternity of torment following death. Christianity is painted in an Old Testament, fearful light, as opposed to the reassuring comfort and life of good works that many Christians and Catholics pride themselves on.

In high school, I went to Canisius High School—a Jesuit school, where its 140 years of tradition were always highlighted.

We were generally traditional, and went to mass in the auditorium during religious times and a prayer was read along with the Pledge of Allegiance every morning. It was a very formal school, with a dress code of a shirt and tie except during the warmer months, an all-male student body and a form of detention labeled JUG—short for “justice under god.”

The crazy thing was, not everyone was a Catholic. Religious tolerance was an unwritten rule, and Canisius held much more stock in fostering responsible young men (men for others, as the slogan went) than personal religious development. The tools were there, and with retreats, missions and the presence of fathers and school alumni as teachers, the doors were open for spirituality.

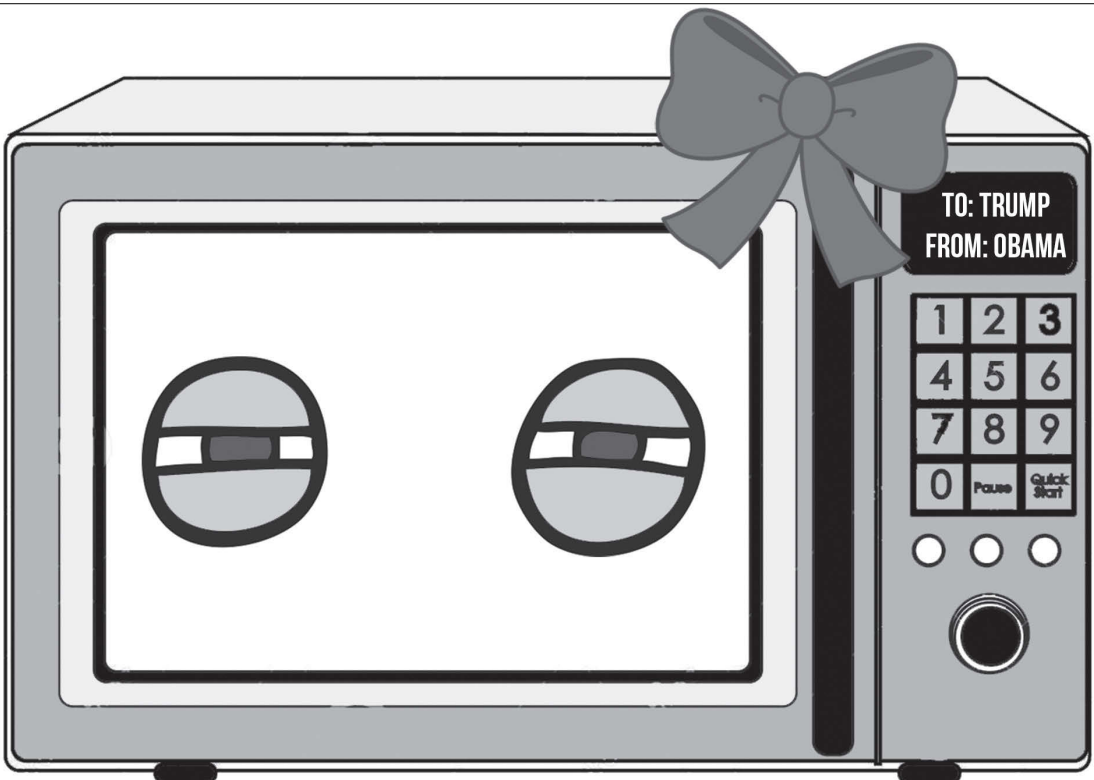
If a student wasn't a Catholic, they weren't shunned or threatened with a lifetime of fiery hell. It was far more important to live a good life and be a good person than to be religiously affiliated. I graduated with atheists, Jews, members of the Islamic faith and others. All were treated with respect for their views and were well respected. Religion was a backdrop for receiving a good education at Canisius, and was never forced or demanded. That's the way it should be.

Religion can offer a sense of comfort, strength and humanity to participants. Yes, it has its fair share of downsides, global disagreements, misunderstandings and intolerances resulting in mass death and wars are some downsides. That being said, everyone is free to worship as they wish. Religion should never be forced upon anyone. Religion is a belief that stems from deep within the psyche of an individual, and can be tied to the truest form of an identity. Therefore, it should be found on one's own, not obnoxiously yelled from a concrete bench, a poor man's soapbox of intolerance.

Follow Augie Touris on Twitter @atouris85

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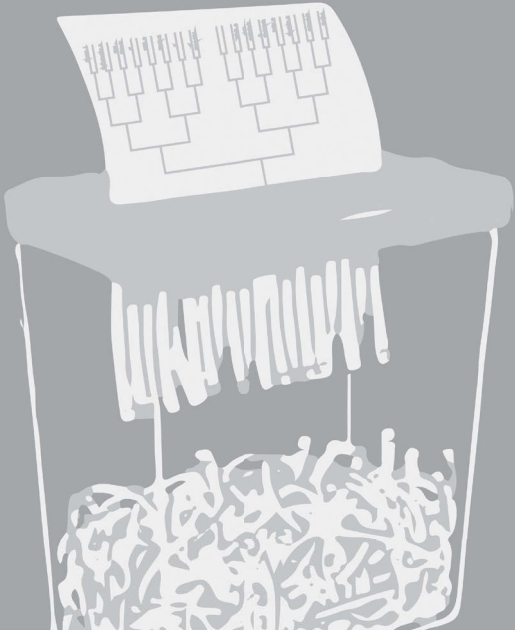
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MICHAELA ROMÁN / THE PROSPECTOR

NCAA Tournament brackets after this weekend



ADRIAN BROADDUS / THE PROSPECTOR

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What do you use to stay awake throughout the day?

NINA TITOVETS, CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR



**VIVIAN VILLANUEVA**  
Senior kinesiology major  
"I definitely need some kind of energy drink, I have trouble staying awake in the evening so I drink a lot of coffee."



**JACOB BAILON**  
Senior psychology major  
"No I don't need anything to stay awake. I like to drink coffee, but it's not a necessity."



**NATALIA MENDOZA**  
Junior nursing major  
"I like coffee because it has positive effects on your health and it doesn't make me feel bad."



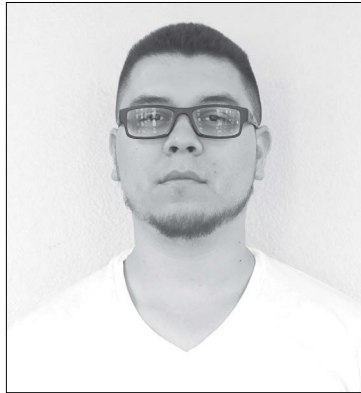
**HUMBERTO LUCERO**  
Senior criminal justice major  
"What I do to get through the day is drink a lot of water."



**ASAR KORDBACHEH**  
Graduate student, biological sciences  
"I use a cup of coffee to get through the day."



**PAULETTE RAMIREZ**  
Junior chemistry major  
"I like to buy tea from Starbucks because I don't like caffeine and I like the freshness of it."



**GEORGE NUNEZ**  
Graduate student, physical therapy  
"No, I don't generally drink any kind of caffeine."



**GRACE FLORES-ROBLES**  
Sophomore psychology major  
"No I don't drink anything to stay awake, ironically coffee actually puts me to sleep."



**CARLOS RAMIREZ**  
Junior mechanical engineering major  
"I usually drink coffee to wake up and feel warm in the morning."




**MARGOT NORTH**  
Junior criminal justice major  
"Yes, coffee and chocolate are the perfect combination to help me stay awake"

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# Keeping up with the Texas Legislative Session bills



BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ  
The Prospector

The deadline to introduce a bill to the 85th Texas Legislature was on March 10, and with more than 2,700 bills and resolutions currently in the Senate and 5,200 in the House that were filed in time, there is a lot to go through. The session will end on May 29, so there are still 69 days for both the Senate and the House to decide what is going to be passed and what is going to be left behind. Here are some bills worth looking at.

## SB 4

Senate Bill 4, otherwise known as the sanctuary bill, has passed through the Senate and is in the House State Affairs Committee. The sanctuary bill would, in its current form, punish sheriffs, police officers and constables if they did not cooperate with federal immigration agents, with a class-A misdemeanor and the possibility of removal from office. The bill has been introduced at recent legislation sessions in one form or another, but it is only now that it has a higher chance of being passed. But it will not come to the House for a vote in its current form. The chairman of the commit-

tee, State Rep. Bryon Cook, R-Corsicana, has said that he will not rush the bill through the committee. "If you look at this on the big picture (level), all we're really needing to do, all that's really been said is that local jurisdictions need to honor federal detainer requests," Cook said, according to the Texas Tribune. Another change to the bill by the House is that law enforcement will be allowed to ask an individual's immigration status only if they are arrested. This is a much narrower allowance than the Senate version of the bill, where a person can be asked their immigration status during interactions as benign as a traffic stop.

## SB 6

Known as the bathroom bill, Senate Bill 6 was passed through the Senate last Tuesday, March 14, in a 21-10 vote. The vote had one Democrat, Sen. Eddie Lucio, D-Brownsville, who voted in favor of the bill. The bill would prohibit transgender people from using bathrooms in public buildings, such as government buildings and public schools, that match their gender identity and instead require them to use facilities that match their "biological sex." The bill has received widespread condemnation from advocacy groups, the NFL, Texas

Association of Business, as well as celebrities such as Lady Gaga and Jimmy Kimmel. While the bill has passed through the House, it has not yet been assigned to a House committee. It is likely to be assigned to the State Affairs Committee, which was the same committee it was assigned to in the Senate. Both the Speaker of the House, Joe Straus, and Cook are known to be against the bill, which could make it difficult to pass through the House.

## SB 8 & SB 415

Senate Bill 8, which would ban "partial-birth" abortions and restrict fetal tissue donations passed through the Senate on Wednesday, March 15, while Senate Bill 415, which would ban prevent dilation and evacuation abortions by doctors, passed on Monday, March 20. "Partial-birth" abortions is a term generally used by those in opposition to abortions. The medical term, dilation and extraction, means that the pregnant woman's cervix has been dilated and the fetus is partially removed before the abortion is completed. Abortions using this method are usually past the 20-week mark. The authors of SB 8 referenced the debunked Planned Parenthood videos in their statement of intent. The bill also prohibits fetal tissue dona-

tions, and criminalises payment in exchange for fetal tissue. Dilation and evacuation, is a method of removing pieces of fetal tissue inside the womb so as to not damage a woman's cervix in the process of an abortion, this is also usually performed after the 20-week mark in a pregnancy. Sen. Rodríguez, D-El Paso, remarked that dilation and evacuation is agreed upon by doctors as the safest way to perform an abortion after the first trimester. Both bills have to go through a House Committee before being voted on the floor.

## HB 81

El Paso's State Representative Joe Moody's House Bill 81 will decriminalize marijuana possession of one ounce or less to a civil penalty that does not exceed \$250, and would have also ensured that people who could not afford the penalty would receive no more than 10 hours of community service. Currently the bill is still in the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence, where Rep. Moody is the chairman. According to the fiscal note released by the Legislative Budget Board, court revenue loss is

\$1,553,558 each fiscal year, however there will be a revenue gain of \$2,195,245 each fiscal year through civil penalties. The Office of Court Administration reported that HB 81 would result in 56,086 new cases handled by justice courts as civil cases as opposed to criminal cases in county-level courts. They reported that revenue loss to counties would be \$1,925,061 annually. However, they expect a positive overall fiscal impact for counties due to "a reduction in the costs of court-appointed counsel." Follow Christian Vasquez on Twitter @chrismvasq

# Continuing the Revolution





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FILE PHOTOS/ THE PROSPECTOR

(Right) Demonstrators stand outside Gov. Greg Abbott's visit to El Paso at a dinner. (Left) Demonstrators picket outside the Trost Firehouse at a city council-hosted meeting in November for residents of Union Plaza.

BY RENE DELGADILLO  
The Prospector

A group of activists are trying to build a relationship between citizens and organizations that promote a dialogue and awareness about social issues and events happening in El Paso through Facebook. Continuing the Revolution is a Facebook group where citizens and organizations can post information about protests, rallies, meetings and community service events. The organizations that are part of the Continuing the Revolution coalition are focused on different social justice issues such as on LG-BTQ rights, immigrant rights, abortion access, separation of church and state, homeless outreach and sustainable living.

Junior sociology major Nicholas Vasquez said he has attended all the meetings hosted by Continuing the Revolution because he was motivated by the current problems affecting the residents of the Durangito area, where residents are fighting the city to keep their homes. The neighborhood is located where the city wants to build a \$180-million multipurpose arena. "This group is an information hub and whatever information you're looking for, you can find it here," Vasquez said. "I would highly recommend the meetings to those citizens who are trying to help out our community. El Paso will benefit from these citizens because they'll come together and work toward a better future."

Eric Stoltz, who is one of the founders of the group, said the goal of the page is to build bridges between citizens and organizations, and that groups like Continuing the Revolution are important because they inform those in El Paso who are not always aware of the social inequalities and problems around them. "We want to make sure people have the knowledge that there are organizations working toward a better future so they can volunteer and help. We're trying to work together and build a bridge with each other," Stoltz said. "We also want to create a stronger alliance of organizations, and making sure they are working together in solidarity instead of working on opposite ends." see REVOLUTION on page 6



# UTEP !Hackathon to reward creative software ideas



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

BY EDDIE VELAZQUEZ  
The Prospector

With a focus on creativity, resourcefulness and problem-solving skills, the UTEP chapters of Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and ACM-W (Women in Computing) are hosting the first UTEP !Hackathon from March 31 until April 2 in the Classroom Building E-Lead, rooms C101 and C102.

“The Hackathon is a respectful competition among students and people who want to create and develop something cool for either fun or to solve a problem faced by society,” said Cristian Ayub, junior computer science major and president of the local ACM chapter.

Students will create teams of up to seven members and work on different programming projects during the 48-hour span to compete for a chance to be among the top three.

“The projects will be evaluated by some professors from the engineering department,” Ayub said. “They will decide which three projects are the most creative in order to win a place among the winners.”

The prize pool will be divided among the teams that excel and

impress the judges. The top project will receive \$500, second place will receive \$250 and third place will take home \$100.

Ayub expects to see both software and hardware project ideas being incorporated into the competition.

“We expect to see many students building Android and iOS applications, dynamic websites, Java, programs using GUI (Graphical User Interface),” Ayub said.

In terms of hardware, possibilities are not only limited to simple robots.

“We’ll hopefully get to see something more complex, like a robot capable of doing a specific hard task such as reading something and pass such reading to a computer,” Ayub said.

Different tech supplies will be provided for all contestants and judges, ranging from an internet connection and the necessary software and hardware.

“If you are planning to create an app you will need your computer,” Ayub said. “We highly recommend you to carry your backpack and fill it with anything you think may help you to innovate and surprise us.”

As a first-year event, the Hackathon will help guide students with any interest in the areas of computer

science or engineering by providing different networking opportunities.

“The benefits will be the opportunity to network with other students and professors from our school,” Ayub said. “It will show people that UTEP is doing great events for its students to get to know what they really want and to know what computer science is combined with other majors.”

The networking opportunities presented by the event extends beyond school resources.

“It can guide students in their future path by giving professional workshops and bringing special guests to them such as ExxonMobil employees,” Ayub said.

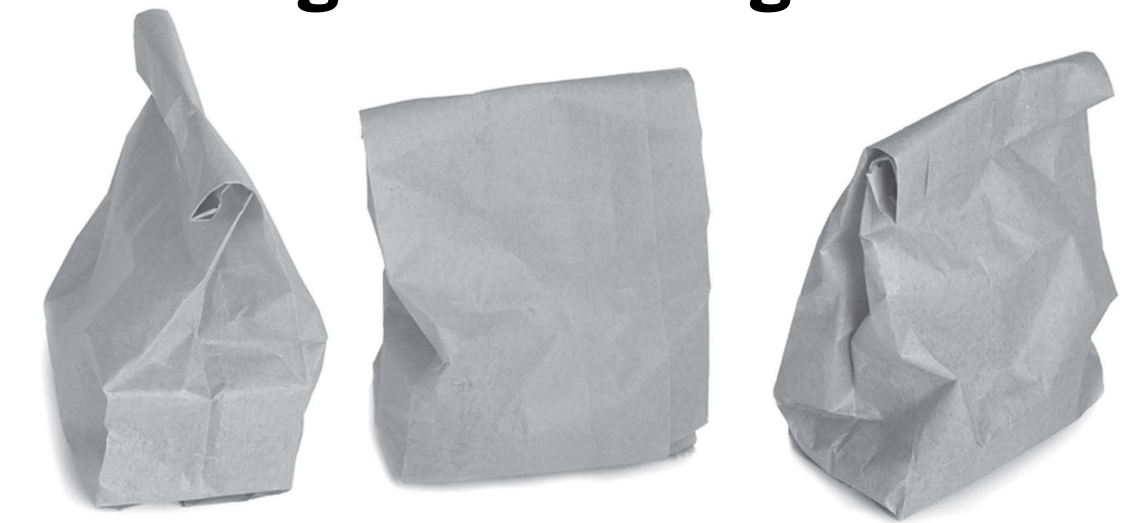
Registration is \$5 for all team except for the first three teams that register and, includes a meal with a vegetarian option and an exclusive t-shirt.

“You do not have to be a computer science major or an engineering major in order to participate in this event,” Ayub said.

For more information on registration and questions, ACM can be reached at <http://79.170.44.113/acmregistration.com>.

Follow Eddie Velazquez on Twitter @ezvelazquez

## Safe space open to students through Brown Bag Series



BY GRECIA SANCHEZ  
The Prospector

Emily Martinez, senior psychology major and intern for inclusion and advocacy at the Student Engagement and Leadership Center, is in charge of the Brown Bag Series, a handful of different topic discussions for engaging students toward different view points around the community.

“We’ve had one on privilege and oppression and other (topics) have been immigration, the N word, cultural appropriation,” Martinez said. “It’s just to engage the community, the students and staff and faculty into having these difficult discussions because we need to be having those—we think that’s important.”

Martinez said the main purpose of the BBS, which started three years ago, is to learn about the topic, develop the skill set needed for discussion with peers, and to help in the constructive conversation for students to become better community members.

“Creating this safe space for them to be having this dialog is very important because usually our students, unless they are in liberal arts, usually they won’t really be having these types of talks and discussions around these social issues,” Martinez said.

BBS was first called the Brown Bag Lunch Series because the discussions would take place at lunch time and SELC would provide lunch to attendees.

“The brown bag is kind of like a symbol for lunch. But now we’ve changed it from lunch time to actually being at 3 p.m., so now we just call it the brown bag series, we took out the lunch part,” Martinez said. “We are still providing like snacks and stuff, but not like a full meal.”

The dynamics of the discussions, according to Martinez, are up to the speaker. She said the conversations just flow because there is not a structure to it and that the whole point is to have a conversation.

“Once we pick our topic, we reach out to any staff, faculty or community members that are able to talk on this topic and to kind of lead this conversation and facilitate the discussion,” Martinez said. “Sometimes the speaker would be more interactive, sometimes we kind of talk or some others have activities, others will bring handouts, so it really depends on the speaker.”

Martinez said one of the biggest problems that students face when trying to make it to the events is schedule conflicts. She said there are some students that really want

to attend, but they have class or other responsibilities.

“Last year, the student-athletes were required to attend two workshops per semester or something like that,” Martinez said. “So we had like a really big influx of student athletes and we had about 40 people at the conversation when on regular basis it’s 15 to 20 pushing to 25.”

Martinez said students are not obligated to talk at all. She said there has been students who sit and listen and others that just love to talk.

“The very last question is ‘what other topic would you like to discuss?’ and then from there we tend to choose the one that pops up the most, (it is about) what students really want to talk about so we listen to them,” Martinez said.

Martinez also said topics are chosen by what she sees is happening in the community or suggestions from her supervisor, Andy Moreno.

BBS will have two more discussions before the semester ends on April 4 and April 18 on feminism and machismo, respectively. Both events will be at 3 p.m. at the Union West, room 111.

Follow Grecia Sanchez on Twitter @grecias068

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### UTEP PICKS TALENT

UTEP’s annual talent show is taking place March 24. The competition starts at 6 p.m. at Magoffin Auditorium. It is a free event for students and the general public.

### TCM

TCM is UTEP’s oldest tradition. On March 24, students can gather to celebrate the university’s beginnings as a mining and engineering school. It’s a day full of team building activities and challenges as well as honoring the patron saint of engineering, St. Pat. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. and the events take place until 2:30 p.m.

### DE-STRESS WITH PETS

El Paso animal services is hosting De-stress with Pets March 24 at UTEP. They will have an adoption van in front of the library and will have puppies for students to play with to relax and take a break from studying. They will be set up from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### ‘LYDIA’

UTEP is bringing Octavio Solis’ play “Lydia” to the stage. The play will run from March 22 to 26 at the Studio Theatre in the Fox Fine Arts building. Octavio Solis is an El Paso native and has written more than 20 plays.

### EL PASO WIND SYMPHONY

The El Paso wind symphony will have a concert at the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall on March 24 to celebrate 21 years of band music. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are available through Ticketmaster.



REVOLUTION from page 4

Stoltz said this group was created to offer support to different organizations that are trying to help those in need.

“We need to be more involved, we need to help out organizations. It’s not so much about politics, it’s about helping community organizations,” Stoltz said. “Sometimes they need help to feed homeless people, they need help with LGBT rights, they also might need our help with immigrants who don’t have any resources and we try to be there and offer our help.”

Stoltz said he has seen more involvement from the El Paso community after Donald Trump became president.

“It wasn’t because of Trump that we started this group, but we have seen a lot more people interested because of Trump’s election,” Stoltz said. “Out of the bad there’s always some small good, so I think that it kind of helped people to be aware of his policies, and since his win, we see more people wanting to volunteer.”

Some of the members who founded the group were supporters of presidential candidate Bernie Sanders. Stoltz said they were inspired by his campaign and adopted a name that would continue Sanders’ “revolution.”

“We took the name of Continuing the Revolution even after he lost because of his work, ideas and approaches in building a true-left group of people,” Stoltz said. “We want to see things improve in El Paso and in the U.S.”

The first event organized by Continuing the Revolution was El Pasoans

United Against Abbott, a protest against Governor Greg Abbott’s political stances on immigration, LGTBQ rights, the environment and abortion, when the governor was a guest speaker at the El Paso Republican Party’s Lincoln Dinner fundraiser.

“We need to be more involved, we need to help out organizations. It’s not so much about politics, it’s about helping community organizations.”

— Eric Stoltz, co-founder of Continuing the Revolution

Stoltz, who was one of the main organizers of this event, said organizations of the Continuing the Revolution coalition such as the El Paso Green Party, Democratic Socialists of America, Frontera Water Protection Alliance and the Progressive Democrats of El Paso were present to protest against Abbott’s proposals.



FILE PHOTO/ THE PROSPECTOR

Rodolfo Parra, who is another founder, said they are working on being more effective after noticing some communications problems amongst the members of the group.

“Many people of the group are spread among other organizations making it hard to maintain consistency in organizing future events. We need better communications

amongst ourselves. For me personally, I want to break out of my shell and be able to go out and talk to anybody about certain topics and just getting people interested in our work,” Parra said.

Continuing the Revolution is in the process of creating a website similar to a volunteer database showing all of the organizations that are involved. Stoltz said this will allow citizens to be more aware of important laws and social issues that may affect them.

“This is just the beginning, so we’re just starting the process out and seeing what organizations want to see,”

Stoltz said. “We’re not necessarily trying to do what we want, it’s about what the collective wants.”

On March 22, the Continuing the Revolution coalition will be meeting with The National Refuse Fascism, an activist organization that stands against the Trump and Pence presidency, at Glasbox, located at 210 Poplar St., from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to talk about how NRF can help spread information around the country on social issues happening in El Paso.

For more information, contact Continuing the Revolution on Facebook.

Follow Rene Delgadillo on Twitter @rdelgadillonews

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MARCH 21, 2017

# ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR  
**LESLIE SARIÑANA**, 747-7477


OUR VIEW

## Wyer tramway celebrates 16th anniversary



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

The Wyler Aerial Tramway celebrated its 16th anniversary as a state park on March 18. The celebration started at noon with exhibitors, live entertainment and food trucks.



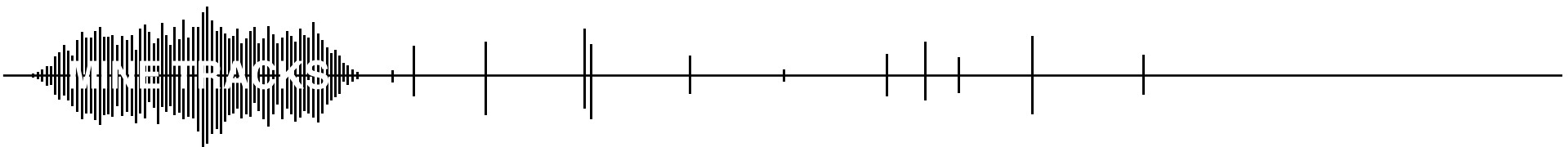
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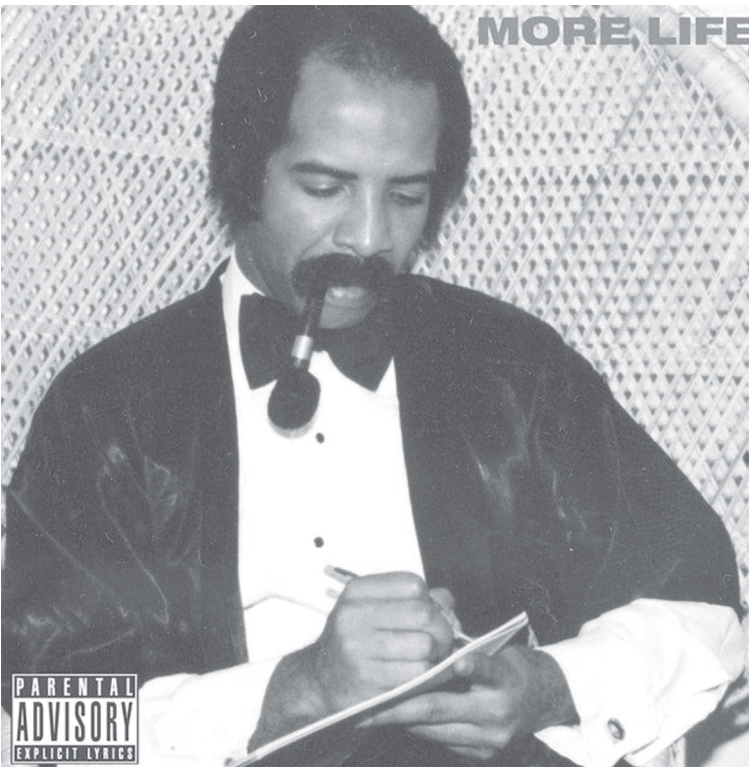
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# Drake’s release of playlist ‘More Life’ excites



BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

In 2011, Drake had one of the hardest tasks: to live up to his previous impressive album, “Thank Me Later.” He not only met every level “Thank Me Later” had, but he surpassed all expectations with his benchmark album, “Take Care.”

Even though he garnished quadruple platinum in the 11 months since its release and racked up five 2017 Grammy nominations, Drake lacked depth with his eighth album, “Views.”

Nonetheless, “More Life” was one of the most highly anticipated albums of the year, and listeners were hungry for something that would redeem “Views.”

Through a 22-track alternative hip-hop venture, “More Life” serves as a strictly solid Drake album and beautifully notches an-

other notable project in Drizzy’s illustrious collection.

The long-awaited playlist premiered on OVO Sound Radio on March 18, and features a plethora of features from 21 Savage, Young Thug, Kanye West, Skepta, Giggs, Jorja Smith, Travis Scott, Quavo, 2 Chainz and more. The production group also features a wide range of artists such as Noah “40” Shebib, London On Da Track, Kanye West, Murda, Nineteen85, Boi-1da, Vinylyz and Frank Dukes.

The album’s intentions, unlike traditional hip-hop releases, was to pioneer a new wave of releasing an album by calling it a playlist. In an interview with DJ Semtex, Drake said, “I asked myself, ‘What if I just did OVO Sound Radio, but every song is a new Drake song.’” It highlights up-and-coming artists while still giving it the Drizzy taste everyone wanted.

Although this album’s intentions were to be an in-between release before his next album, Drake is victorious with “More Life.” He’s best when he doesn’t come across as a try-hard, and on “More Life,” Drizzy utilizes his effortless swagger to his advantage.

He blends exuberant Caribbean-like beats with shifty vocals to push uncharted boundaries. He also rectifies previous work to new, redefining pieces that sometimes sound lazy and dragged on. Really, there’s only so many times Drake can try to remake a “Take Care”-sounding track. He pulls out his inner Kanye West by asking the featured artists to perform to his standard, which they all accomplish.

Drake opens the album on “Free Smoke,” and is how everyone expected, with shots to Meek Mill, celebrity gossip and him flaunting how he’s the best rapper on the planet. Contrary to the opener, Drake steers pretty far away from his boastful rap and the level he’s at.

Drake is at his best when he divulges his music into new, tropical sounds that differentiate from his previous baby-making-music-tracks. On “Passionfruit,” Drake gives a present-day “Marvins Room” with the twist of a new-found beat. The song has uniqueness, drags at times, but collectively is one of the more notable love songs on the album.

It’s the same Caribbean style found on tracks like “Madiba Riddim” and “Blem,” which both utilize these different beats to add uniqueness to the album. At times, however, Drake’s experimentation with this tropical production goes against his favor and the sounds dragged on.

The features on this album often overshadowed Drake’s quality of music, but it is learned and accepted because of the context of

the album being a playlist, as he describes it. The collection’s notable features can be drawn into two separate categories: on one end, Drake brings to the limelight up-and-coming artists, and on the other end, Drake gets top artists in the game to come out and murder some rhymes.

Taking a more humble and subtle approach, United Kingdom singer Jorja Smith teams with Drake for back-to-back tracks on “Jorja’s Interlude” and “Get it Together,” which sounds as selfless on Drake’s end as the title states. Recently to the R&B spotlight is Sampha, and on “More Life,” he delivers a powerful solo track, “4422.” The song serves as a break in action for the normal rap-heavy tracks and speaks soulfully, “You built it up to break it halfway through/Just make the call, 22/ But you’re just the same as I ever knew, 44.” While both Skepta’s and Giggs’ respective features seems a little dragged on and unfitting, they still showcase how good of a rapper both British artists are.

On paper, a Quavo, Kanye and Young Thug feature seem godly. On “More Life,” all three dominate each song they’re a part of. We hear Quavo join Drizzy on “Portland,” which could be the next biggest song in the hip-hop world. On “Sacrifices” and “Ice Melts,” Young Thug abandons auto tune and sounds spectacular, rapping interesting verses such as “I’m talkin’ neat like fleek/I’m talkin’ neat like a geek.”

With the help of Kanye, Drake capitalizes on “Glow” for a true hip-hop rooted track as the rap god duo finds a harmonic edge to the story of their come-up.

Although he collaborates with some past friends like 2 Chainz and PartyNextDoor, the two respective verses almost fall short from this project. It feels like we

expected more from a Drake and a 2 Chainz collaboration, and Chainz’ verse on “Sacrifice” falls lazily. On “Since Way Back,” PartyNextDoor does something he’s never done on a Drake tape—sing over a hard-hitting beat. It felt like this was pulled from a PND album because when it’s a Drake album, the duo have only collaborated on pseudo-deep rap tracks.

Notably so, the features showcase the growth of Drake’s maturity and his ability to dish load tracks to others. He abandons his stereotypical quirky rhymes throughout the tape, with the exception to “My side girl got a 5S with the screen cracked.” It shows waves of growth as an artist for Drake, even if he still whirls into lyrics about him struggling to achieve true love with a girl.

“More Life” is the “Cozy Tapes” to Drake’s discography and that is impressive at this stage. When A\$AP Rocky and company dropped “Cozy Tapes,” we were able to truly witness how prestigious of an artist Rocky is. Now, with “More Life,” we are able to experience Drake’s true reign over all of the hip-hop game and how much he influences others.

At the end of the day, Drake didn’t have to prove anything on “More Life” because he’s already on top of the hip-hop game. Rather, “More Life” was simply an addition to the storied discography that he has. It falls at times, but it’s seemingly allowed to since it’s a self-labeled collection of music instead of an album. And, yet again, “More Life” is another tape to hype up the anticipation for what’s to come.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @Adrian\_Broaddus

# The ‘Rocket Man’ himself set to light up Don Haskins

BY MICHAELA ROMÁN

The Prospector

Get ready to slowly wave your lighters (or cell phone flashlights) in the air, singer-songwriter icon Sir Elton John and his band are making their way to perform at 8 p.m. this Thursday, March 23, at the Don Haskins Center for the first time in 10 years with his “The Wonderful Crazy Night” tour.

Elton John has been known for combining pop, rock, blues, soul and funk in his songs as he performs from behind his personally customized Yamaha piano. John has sold over 200 million albums, including 35 that went gold and 25 that went platinum throughout his 50-year career of writing and performing.

John was born in 1947 in England. At 4 years old, he started to teach himself to play the piano, and when he was 17, he dropped out of school to pursue music full time.

Although his first album, “Empty Sky,” in 1969 was not a chart-topper, he soon became known for his number one hits “Your Song,” “Rocket Man,” “Bennie and the Jets,” “Tiny Dancer,” “Philadelphia Freedom,”

“Crocodile Rock” and “Don’t Let the Sun Go Down on Me.”

In 1994, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1998.

John is still recording new music. In 2006, he released “The Captain & the Kid,” a second part to his earlier autobiographical “Captain Fantastic and the Brown Dirt Cowboy,” which came out in 1975.

He also teamed up with Leon Russell for 2010’s “The Union,” which led to a joint tour. John later released “The Diving Board” in 2013, his 30th studio album.

Also in demand as a songwriter, John brought “Billy Elliott the Musical” to the stage. The show, adapted from the 2000 film, opened on Broadway in 2008. John also worked on the 2011 animated film “Gnomeo & Juliet,” serving as a producer and a composer.

He plays numerous concert dates each year as a solo act and with other performers, including



Elton John will perform at the Don Haskins Center on March 23.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELTON JOHN ON FACEBOOK







# Haunted Pub Crawl offers unique local experience



NINA TITOVETS/ THE PROSPECTOR

Ghosts915 will host the Haunted Pub Crawl on March 25. Two of the stops will be at Hotel Garder (left) located at 311 E Franklin Ave. and Craft and Social (right) located at 311 E Franklin Ave.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS  
The Prospector

Through the illustrious history of downtown El Paso, many tales and stories of paranormal activity have been relished and brought to the present-day limelight. The city’s local paranormal organization, Ghosts915, is putting together a Haunted Pub Crawl on March 25. The event will mainly take place at the Gardner Hotel, 311 E. Franklin Ave., and will feature a three-hour walking adventure to different bars and locations in El Paso. Ghostly tales will be shared

by the guides, and the organization encourages people to “toast a ghost” to all the spirits visited. Ghosts915 is an El Paso non-profit organization that hosts weekly ghost tours, they handle different paranormal activity and serve as historians to some of the local mysteries. Their more popular tours are the Concordia Cemetery, the Haunted Downtown Brothel Tour and the San Elizario Tour. This tour, unlike their others, has a thematic twist. At each pub, bar or club, tourists are offered drink specials on the tour in the spirit of

the pub-themed event. On the card for stops, tourists will enter 8 1/2, The ToolBox, Craft and Social, The Speakeasy and other surprise locations. Guests are also encouraged to reserve a hotel stay at the Gardner Hotel for an added experience. During the tour, guides from Ghosts915 will tell stories about love, murder, mayhem and humor regarding the spirits and ghosts they claim still lurk in the vicinity. Although drinks are not provided by the organization, individuals are encouraged to buy drinks at each stop and every bar will


offer good drink specials. No one under 21-years-old is allowed to attend this event, and all guests must have a valid photo ID before starting the tour. All members who stay at the Gardner for the night will pay \$15 for the tour, while others pay \$20 per person. The event will span from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Ghosts915 encourages guests to reserve their spots on the tour by calling 915-274-9531. Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @Adrian\_Broaddus

JOHN from page 8


his friends Ozzy Osbourne, Eric Clapton, Stevie Wonder and Paul McCartney, among others, in celebration of Queen Elizabeth’s 60 years on the throne in 2012. In February of 2016, John released his 33rd studio album, “Wonderful Crazy Night,” an album reminiscent of the good times in his past. The album featured the Elton John Band, who he’s worked with for this past decade. Elton John’s band features Nigel Olsson on drums, Davey Johnstone, who first recorded with Elton in 1971 and joined the band a year later, on guitar, John Mahon on percussion, Kim Bullard on keyboards and Matt Bissonette on bass. This may be one of John’s last tours for a while. “The simple truth is I want to spend more time with my family and less time touring,” John said in a press release for the tour. “I am all too aware of how precious the time ahead is. My sons are growing up so quickly. Their early years are just flying by and I want to be there with them.” El Paso is the last stop on “The Wonderful Crazy Night” tour before he heads to Vegas for eight shows at Caesar’s Palace, then John will take his tour to Europe. Tickets for the concert are still available at ticketmaster.com.

✉ Michaela Román may be reached at michaelairoman@gmail.com.

2017



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MARCH 21, 2017

SPORTS

EDITOR  
JASON GREEN, 747-7477

# A ‘New Era’ of lucha libre dawns in El Paso

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS  
*The Prospector*

As the city winds down from the week on a Friday night, a whole new community emerges from a shabby warehouse on Dyer Street.

New Era Wrestling, a local El Paso Lucha Libre organization, opens their doors every Friday night to hundreds of people of all ages to put on a full lineup of wrestling matches and entertainment.

When entering the arena for the Friday matchups, immediately a wave of intense energy hits as hundreds of children and adults are scattered around the wrestling ring.

All of this energy builds up until the emcee calls for the first match. As the different wrestlers come out, all of the children inch close to the walkway and cheer ecstatically for each wrestler. They know every name, every move and they let the whole stadium know as each wrestler comes out to the ring.

The event commences with a handful of different matches, featuring tag teams, one-on-one fights and occasionally title matches for various championship belts.

There’s high intensity, minimal gruesome violence and impressive athleticism by the wrestlers. As they perform, the entire crowd hones in on every detail, cheering for their favorite wrestler to win.

Although the idea of watching Lucha Libre sounds comical and even quirky to some, New Era Wrestling never fails to pack a full house on any given Friday night and has completely revolutionized the local wrestling scene in El Paso.

It’s a bowl of magic that general manager and founder Jose Ontiveros worked to build since 2012.

“This is something original; something for everyone,” Ontiveros said. “We want to put on a nice show for everyone. No obscenities, no bad language. We want New Era Wrestling to be an event for everyone.”

It was always a dream of Ontiveros to start up something like this. Now that his dream has become a reality, he is surrounded by a plethora of young wrestlers, and more importantly, he gets to do his dream with his five children. All five of his children are competitive wrestlers in New Era Wrestling and perform every Friday.



New Era Wrestling has changed venues several times in the last few years in order to accomodate larger crowds and a new wrestling school.

“I loved wrestling all my life,” said Ontiveros, who is a native of Chihuahua, Mexico. “My kids started training and they’re really good. That’s me saying that as their father, but other people have told me that as well. People call us the best wrestling group of all of the Southwest.”

It was the same dream that started with Ontiveros’ kids trading in shin guards and cleats for hours of training at a wrestling gym.

“Growing up, we grew up playing soccer and football—the normal sports everyone would play,” said El Tirano (The Tyrant), Ontiveros’ son who is a wrestler. “Our oldest brother was a very good soccer player and he even got scholarships to go out and play soccer. My dad didn’t really want him to leave because he wanted us to stay together as a family. One day, my dad knew a guy who was a professional wrestler and he wanted us to go try it out. We went for the first time, liked it and the rest is history.”

Then the dream took a new turn. Ontiveros and his kids started training individuals in their backyard and pioneered the idea to put on shows for the public. From its humble beginnings in a ballroom, to it’s growing stages at the EPIC Railyard, and now to its present day location, New Era Wrestling has grown substantially in numbers and in its fans.

“We went from 50 to 60 people per show and it felt like there were no people,” El Tirano said. “We stayed at the ballroom for a year, doing shows every 15 days and we decided to move it to a warehouse.”

The change was the best decision the organization could have made, according to El Tirano.

“That’s when we exploded,” he said. “We started to get 300 people and it exploded, but it wasn’t a big venue; 300 people was all we could do.”

After the warehouse, the group moved its operations to the EPIC Railyard, where they saw a bigger audience. They were

radiating local waves with their bi-weekly shows and making a citywide impact. However, the operational side of the events was not in their favor.

“We had to set up the ring and tear it down every time we did it, so it was kind of hard,” Ontiveros said. “We had the shows outdoors, so rain, snow or shine, we never cancelled a show.”

The difficulties they faced prompted the idea to move to a facility that accommodated their large audience and also a place they could regularly practice.

They found their home on 10400 Dyer St., where they can hold open daily practices, train wrestlers and put on a show every Friday night. Ontiveros believed that the move was not only beneficial to the audience, but also favorable for the wrestlers.

“When you come and train, you forget about everything,” Ontiveros said, looking around the facility. “We do classes, we do training and we make wrestlers.”

What separates New Era Wrestling from other amateur Lucha Libre organizations is the blend of Japanese, Mexican and American wrestling influences. Each Friday features passionate rivalries, unique storylines and different winners.

“Wrestling started here in El Paso back then—called ‘tiemposoros’ or golden times. It was when wrestling was popping and everyone was going to see it in Juarez or here,” El Tirano said. “It kind of died in the early 2000s, so we didn’t know anything about it since. When we came out as the New Era Wrestling, people were impressed that we were doing things differently. It wasn’t the typical Lucha Libre wrestling event. It was more Americanized, storylines behind the wrestling. It’s just incredible how we pulled everyone out to watch wrestling again.”

In fact, after every fight, the wrestlers stay ringside and interact with all of the kids and families. Photos, autographs and high-fives are traded between the wrestlers and the different fans from across the city. It truly feels like a family-centered environment and every wrestler makes sure to broadcast that feeling at every show.

“We do things differently. All our wrestlers are younger guys, so these guys are athletic, they can do flips, so it’s not old-school wrestling; it’s a new era of

wrestling because we want to change it up,” El Tirano said. “We want something different than what people were doing back then. We have fans, adults, who bring their kids and they tell us, ‘we used to go see wrestling in Juarez and this is totally different; people are more agile and it’s a better show.’”

Weekly New Era Wrestling fan Jose Martinez said he’s drawn to the matches because of the traditional impact it has on his personal life.

“I remember going to watch Lucha Libre matches when I was a young kid,” Martinez said. “I haven’t seen nothing like this (New Era Wrestling) and it’s great what they’re doing.”

In the past, New Era Wrestling has relished massive regional attention. They have performed at different events, such as Neon Desert, and have even brought wrestling celebrities out to their shows. Professional wrestlers such as Carlito, Brian Cage, Taya Valkyrie and more have come out to showcase their talents. According to Ontiveros, the different celebrity wrestlers greatly enjoy everything New Era Wrestling has to offer and are very willing to come when they have a chance.

Currently, the organization has a local television slot where they talk about upcoming matches and promote events. As the general manager, Ontiveros tries to bring a celebrity every month to amp up the hype for the center.

We want to put on a nice show for everyone. No obscenities, no bad language. We want New Era Wrestling to be an event for everyone.

- Jose Ontiveros, founder of New Era Wrestling

“Our goal is for the whole U.S. to know about us,” Ontiveros said.

Although Ontiveros believes that becoming a wrestler is a special talent that cannot be done by everyone, El Tirano encourages strong-minded individuals to one day give it a shot.

“If someone wants to try it, give it all they got and practice, you can become a wrestler. You have to have a lot of power, will, mental strength,” El Tirano said. “It’s a complete package into one whole thing. It’s tough—moves are tough, remembering stuff. It’s not just kicking a ball around; you have to be in the right spot, know all the moves and entertain people.”

Shows every Friday start at 6 p.m. and tickets may be bought at the door. Each week they offer different discounts for students, military and children. For more information about New Era Wrestling, visit their Facebook page at New Era Wrestling Ent.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @Adrian\_Broaddus

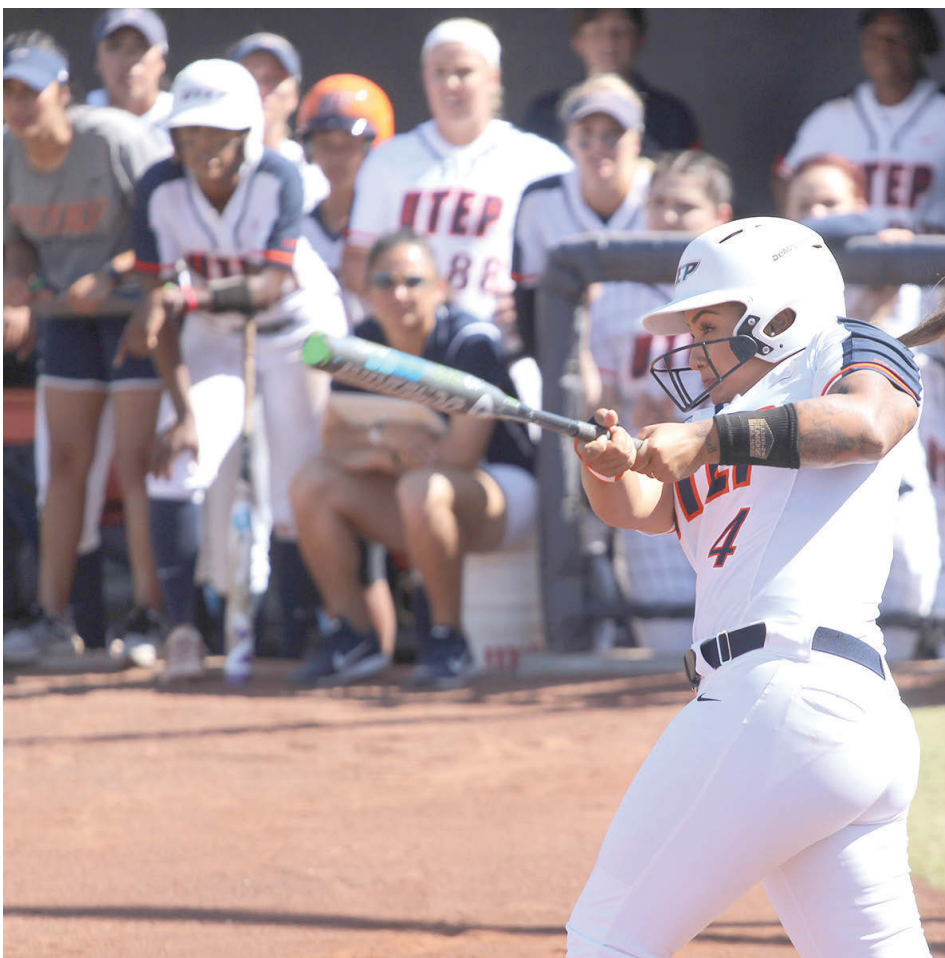


ADRIAN BROADDUS / THE PROSPECTOR

New Era Wrestling features male and female wrestlers such as The Patriot, El Tirano and Delilah—including five of founder Jose Ontiveros’ children.



# UTEP softball ready to take on Southern Mississippi this weekend



(Left) Senior pitcher Erika Harrawood currently has two wins in the season after picking up a win against MTSU last Saturday. (Right) Senior infielder Kiki Pepi is currently batting .355 with two home runs and 20 runs batted in for the Miners.

BY AUGIE TOURIS  
The Prospector

The UTEP softball team will face off against Southern Mississippi on Saturday, March 25, and Sunday, March 26.

The Miners are starting to turn their season in a better direction after a rough start that included losses to top programs Stanford, Arizona State and Utah.

Currently sitting at 7-19, the team just finished a weekend where they went 2-1 versus C-USA foe Middle Tennessee, with a quality 10-7 victory against the Blue Raiders to complete the weekend.

In the first of the three-game set with MTSU, the Miners jumped out to a 7-0 lead on the back of a lot of timely hits. Senior Kiki Pepi was 2-for-3 with two RBIs and junior Taylor Sargent also went 2-for-3. The power in the game was supplied by catcher Kaitlin

Ryder, who had a home run and three runs batted in.

Although MTSU would make the game interesting by scoring six runs, starter Erika Harrawood (2-7) still received credit for the win—her first as a Miner in front of her hometown El Paso fans.

The Miners lost the second game on Saturday by a final of 5-2, despite a very good pitching performance by starter Devyn Cretz (5-5). Following the game, head coach Tobin Echo-Hawk said that her fielders needed to do more to help her team’s starting pitchers.

“(The pitching staff) is getting much better and much improved,” Echo-Hawk said. “We just need to play better defense behind the pitchers. Sometimes we get on our heels on defense and should have more of an attack kind of mentality.”

Fielding was not as much of an issue on Sunday as UTEP took the series on the back of their best hit-

ting performance of the season. The Miners tallied 10 runs on 13 hits with four Miners tallying multi-hit games, Pepi (2-4), Pamela Baber (2-4), Cortney Smith (2-4) and Mallorie Cross (2-2). UTEP won 10-7, with Cretz winning the game as a relief pitcher.

The three-game stint against USM will take place at the Helen of Troy field, where the Miners will enjoy a home field advantage (2-1 after this weekend’s opening series).

The Golden Eagles come into the game sitting at 13-14 overall, having lost their most recent game to Louisiana Tech, 8-1, and getting swept in the weekend series.

At bat, the Miners will look to Smith, as she leads the team in batting average as well as home runs. Infielder Courtney Clayton will also be a big part of the effort, as she leads the team in hits and runs scored, in addition to holding places near the top of other leaderboards.

On the mound, Cretz leads the team in wins and strikeouts. Kaitlyn Fifield is the save leader for the Miners.

Head to head, the Miners appear to have an advantage in this game. Despite trailing the Golden Eagles in wins, UTEP has faced a tougher schedule than Southern Miss statistically speaking.

Two of the early opponents against the Miners, Arizona State and Utah, are in the top 25 nationally.

Southern Miss has not faced a ranked opponent this season. The experience of playing against elite competition puts the Miners in a good place for this matchup. Home field advantage is also important and fresh off a win, UTEP should have some confidence for this three-game contest.

Although the Golden Eagles are reeling from their 8-1 thrashing, they have one more game versus

South Alabama to rebound with before traveling to El Paso.

The Miners have shown flashes of success this season, even exhibiting this in early losses, and Echo-Hawk thinks that her team is ready to turn the corner following their big 2-1 weekend series win over MTSU.

“It’s not how you start the season, it’s how you finish the season, and as long as we progress throughout the course of the season, we’re going to be okay,” Echo-Hawk said. “I think everyone on the outside looking in thinks things are going bad, but we’re hitting our stride and getting better every single day.”

These teams are both eager to win and turn their seasons around, and with the clock ticking, expect an intense, hard-fought three games between the Conference-USA rivals.

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