

7-18-2017

# The Prospector, July 18, 2017

UTEP Student Publications

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/prospector>



Part of the [Journalism Studies Commons](#), and the [Mass Communication Commons](#)

Comments:

This file is rather large, with many images, so it may take a few minutes to download. Please be patient.

---

## Recommended Citation

UTEP Student Publications, "The Prospector, July 18, 2017" (2017). *The Prospector*. 289.  
<http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/prospector/289>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections Department at DigitalCommons@UTEP. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Prospector by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UTEP. For more information, please contact [lweber@utep.edu](mailto:lweber@utep.edu).

ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE

# PROSPECTOR

WWW.THEPROSPECTORDAILY.COM

VOL. 102, NO. 34

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

JULY 18, 2017



# TEXAS LEGISLATIVE

## Special Session Agenda

ILLUSTRATION BY ALEJANDRA GONZÁLEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

BY LESLIE SARIÑANA  
*The Prospector*

This week, Texas will go into special legislative session in an effort to review and pass legislation that was not passed during the regular session.

Governor Greg Abbott has called for the session and highlighted 20 bills, some of which include more laws regulating abortion, land annexation, permits being distributed at a state level rather than local, education vouchers and the bathroom bill.

Many people, especially those outside the Republican Party, have argued that there was no need for the session and claim it was a way for Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick to push forward his bathroom bill. The House didn't complete its

sunset review process in time during the last session, which is the reason the state is going into special session.

If nothing gets resolved within the 30 days they are allowed, the governor can ask the legislature to come back again and again until all matters get resolved.

This particular session has generated controversy for its primarily conservative agenda. Many from the Democratic Party argue that the extended session is unnecessary.

State Senator Jose Rodriguez, D-El Paso, said that the session is a waste of time and is being used to revive bills with private interests that didn't pass through the House during regular session.

"That is a waste of time. It was by pure politics. The lieutenant governor, Dan Patrick, wanted some of his priority bills passed by the House," Rodriguez said. "The bathroom bill, the voucher bill, a tax rollback bill, which is also in special sessions to provide tax reform because the House didn't support those, he didn't pass the sunset bill. The one bill that needed to pass, and that's why we're having to go back"

Associate provost and political science professor, Irasema Coronado, whose area of specialization is comparative politics, also keyed in on the upcoming special session. Unlike Rodriguez, she believes it is crucial to go back into session.

"Sometimes the business of government takes longer than the 140-day biannual session. Texans are of two minds: thank goodness the legislature only meets once every two years for 140 days and too bad they only meet for 140 days," Coronado said. "I just think that the issues are too complicated and there's not enough time in the regular sessions. Sometimes it is important to have a special session."

The Texas Legislative session takes place every two years and runs 140 days long. After the session wraps up, the governor can then call for a special session that can last up to 30 days. He also has the power to keep calling the legislators back after that if he believes not all of the issues were addressed.

The governor sets the agenda for what can be reviewed during the session.

Celeste Acevedo, a senior communications studies major and president of the University Democrats, sees this as unfair. She believes there are private interests when it comes to the governor's agenda.

"Republicans have the majority in the House and the Senate. The Republicans' priorities weren't in the right place and I think that it's dishonest for elected officials to push it into a special session," Acevedo said. "Specifically prolonging this one bill (the bathroom bill), so that way other bills that weren't prioritized during the regular session could be passed."

see SESSION on page 3

• FREE ADMISSION

THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE PRESENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 21



Movie begins at 8:30 PM\*



SUMMER 2017 AT CENTENNIAL PLAZA

OFFICE OF  
STUDENT  
LIFE

(915) 747-5648

[www.sa.utep.edu/osl](http://www.sa.utep.edu/osl)

f /UTEPOSL @UTEPOSL  
@UTEPOSL @UTEPOSL



Closed  
Caption

JULY 18, 2017

OPINION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
ADRIAN BROADDUS, 747-7477

Why you should care about Texas legislative session

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS  
The Prospector



Beginning this week, Texas legislators will return for a special legislative session in an attempt to pass legislation that was not enacted during the regular session. This special session was called for by Governor Greg Abbott, who is keying in on bills regarding abortion laws, state and local control, public education finance reform and the restrictions on bathroom use for transgender Texans.

Most who stay away from politics would skip over this column or stop reading after the first paragraph because they think, “this doesn’t apply to me, why should I care?” Or, they think these actions are entirely out of their control, so they should sit back and wait until laws are passed.

Although it’s easy to be in the passenger seat during this drive of new legislation that may or may not pass, there’s no reason to sleep on these new actions. In fact, in our border town, most of these bills can greatly affect our livelihood and local laws would be affected. So, it’s actually very important to keep up to speed on these legislative issues.

In fact, what this special session can show the Texas public is the widening separation between state government and local government. Almost half of Abbott’s legislative session derives from proposals to better control local government spending and guidelines. Some journalists throughout Texas, who are extensively covering this session, are using words like “harsh” and “crack down” to describe Abbott’s agenda toward local municipalities. From harsher punishments in driving laws to permits being granted or denied at the state level, Abbott is calling for more state control over counties in Texas. Nonetheless, it is fueling a growing tension between local rule and the state government.

Something that many Texans are advocating for is the proposed bill that will allocate millions in bonuses to teachers, increased funding for education employees’ health plan once retired and better budgeting of money at the school district levels. While it sounds like the bill will directly give money to teachers, the state lottery money that will be allocated toward this bill will be given to school districts. This is very important to anyone

working in education because it could directly affect teachers’ paychecks.

Then we get into the most controversial topics on the agenda— Senate Bill 8 and Senate Bill 6.

While the state of Texas already has abortion laws in place, three separate measures, including SB8, relating to abortion are set to come up in efforts to place more restrictions on the procedure. Senate Bill 8 bans partial-birth abortions and restricts fetal tissue donations. Abbott is entirely for this bill and has even expressed how he wants to stop allocating taxes to abortion providers. This includes the defunding of Planned Parenthood clinics that provide health screenings for women, test individuals for HIV/AIDS and give accessibility to birth control.

Also on the controversial side, SB 6 has brought up a lot of controversy, not only on the state level, but also on the national level. SB 6, or “the bathroom bill,” will regulate public restroom use for transgender individuals. The bill will require those individuals to use the bathroom that corresponds with their biological sex and not their gender identity.

Instead of getting into the debate on abortion and whether taxpayers should have to pay for these clinics, or the debate on whether transgender individuals should be allowed to use the bathroom of their choice, the most fundamental point to make about this is the fact that this bill is on the table, and if you live in Texas, you should care.

Contrary to popular belief, these bills do not just affect the state level, but can affect anybody who lives in Texas and who is also trying to have a national influence.

One who depends on birth control may have less accessibility to buy birth control due to SB 8’s restrictions. One who is a transgender individual will have to resort to using a bathroom of their biological sex instead of going to the restroom of their choice, which could greatly affect the mental health or overall well being of a transgender individual who is at UTEP. These are all issues that hit home, and even can affect us at a campus level.

This is the time to stop and think, ‘how will this affect us on campus?’ So get out, start a protest, advocate for one or the other—the bottom line is, simply care about your state’s political standing.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrianbroaddus



BIG BUCKS  
BETO

V.S

PAC-MAN  
CRUZ

ALEJANDRA GONZÁLEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

THE  
PROSPECTOR

WWW.THEPROSPECTORDAILY.COM

KEEP UP WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



UTEP Prospector



@UTEP\_Prolector



Prospectordaily



@UTEP\_Prolector

THE PROSPECTOR STAFF VOL. 102, NO. 34

Editor-in-Chief: Adrian Broaddus  
Layout Manager: Alejandra Gonzalez  
Copy Editor: Leslie Sariñana  
Sports Editor: Mike Flores  
Entertainment Editor: Eddie Velazquez  
Photo Editor: Gaby Velasquez  
Multimedia Editor: Andres Martinez  
Photographers: Claudia Hernandez, Nina Titovets  
Contributors: Jeremy Carranco, Claudia V. Flores, Sergio Muñoz, Brianna Chavez, Andres Gallegos, August Touris

Ad Account Executives: Aaron Ramirez-Guzman, Peter Carrillo  
Ad Layout Manager: Jacobo De La Rosa  
Ad Designers: Vanessa Guevara, Laura Chaidez  
Administrative Secretary: Marcela Luna  
Accounting Specialist: Isabel Castillo  
Asst. Director-Advertising: Veronica Gonzalez  
Student Publications Director: Kathleen Flores

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Submit a letter to the editor!

Letters will be edited for clarity and brevity. Letters over 250 words are subject to editing to fit available space. Please include full name, street address and telephone number and e-mail address, plus major, classification and/or title if applicable.

Address and phone number will be used for verification only.

Write to 105 E. Union, e-mail theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com, call 747-7477 or fax to 747-8031.

The Prospector is published by the Student Media and Publications Board, 105 Union East, 500 W. University Ave. El Paso, Texas, 79968. The Prospector appears in print once per week on Tuesdays during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. The newspaper is not printed during holidays and when classes are not in session. The Prospector does provide news online at [www.theprospectordaily.com](http://www.theprospectordaily.com).

The Prospector is provided to students through student fees. First copy is free. Any additional copies, if available, must be purchased for \$1 through the Department of Student Media and Publications. The Prospector is not responsible for claims made by advertisers. Additional policy information may be obtained by calling The Prospector at 915-747-5161. Opinions expressed in The Prospector are not necessarily those of the university.



Nichole Gomez

Doppler  
Dave Speelman

Iris Lopez

abc 7

KVIA.com

StormTRACK  
WEATHER

TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
High 93 Low 73	High 93 Low 72	High 91 Low 73	High 92 Low 72	High 91 Low 73	High 91 Low 74	High 92 Low 74
Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Thunderstorms	Mostly Sunny
20% Chance for Rain	10% Chance for Rain	30% Chance for Rain	30% Chance for Rain	40% Chance for Rain	50% Chance for Rain	40% Chance for Rain

SESSION from page 1

Rodriguez agrees with Acevedo on the private interests of the governor and lieutenant governor with the bills that would be addressed.

“These are bills frankly that are motivated by politics for both him and the Lt. Gov. Patrick. These bills are right-winged, conservative voter-based bills that they want to impress their base of voters with,” Rodriguez said regarding the agenda that was set.

One of the key issues that many will be looking at is abortion. The state of Texas already has abortion laws in place, but three separate measures, including SB8, which relate to abortion, are set to come up in efforts to place more restrictions on the procedure. Senate Bill 8 bans partial-birth abortions and restricts fetal tissue donations.

During his recent State of the State address, Gov. Abbott told lawmakers he wanted a bill that would prohibit cities and counties from giving taxpayer dollars to abortion providers.

Oscar Sanchez, a junior electrical engineering major and president of the College Republicans, agrees with the Republican Party’s views on abortion.

“I’m for it. It’s pretty much one of the main principles of the party, being pro life. If you don’t believe in that stuff, why does your money have to go into (funding) those places,” Sanchez said.

Rodriguez is not in agreement with any of the bills relating to abortion. He said that the Democratic Party will be fighting the measures as they impose on women’s rights.

“They’re imposing more restrictions on women’s abilities to choose to have a lawful abortion, protected under the constitution, Roe v. Wade—the U.S. Supreme Court decision,” he said. “It’s almost a non-stop effort on the part of the state of Texas and other states across the country to restrict women’s rights to abortion.”

Coronado said she shares similar sentiments on the reproductive issues being addressed.

“Women’s rights have been eroding in the state of Texas for quite some time now. Everything is on the chopping block,” Coronado said. “I think women’s issues should be left up to women, not the legislature. I think it’s an erosion on women’s fundamental rights and their reproductive freedom.”

Acevedo is against abortion restrictions because of the repercussions it could have for women. The bill also places restrictions on women’s health care, such as Planned Parenthood and birth control.

“I think a bill like Senate Bill 8 directly violates the rights that women should have. I just think it’s awful. It’s so dangerous because abortions are going to happen, legal or not,” Acevedo said. “If women don’t have the proper access to a safe abortion, then they are either going to travel out of state or some people try to do it themselves and that’s a risk to their health.”

Along with the restrictions and regulations comes defunding of clinics that provided health services to women for free. These clinics provide different health screenings

for women, cancer screenings, cervical screenings, HIV/AIDS testing, family planning and access to free birth control.

“The state in the last two sessions, 2013, 2015, cut back on the women’s health program funding. Women who used to go to a lot of these clinics can’t do it anymore because a lot of those clinics closed and they kept Planned Parenthood from being involved in operating some of these clinics,” Rodriguez said. “Allegedly because Planned Parenthood does abortions, but these clinics that we’re talking about for low-income women are clinics that provide no abortions, but provide health services.”

The bill that arguably stirred the most controversy during the regular legislative session was SB6, better known as the “bathroom bill,” and it is being revisited as one of the key items on the governor’s agenda. When first presented, it was received with a widespread denunciation from large advocacy groups.

SB6 prohibits transgender people from using public bathrooms, including schools, that match their gender identity and requires them to use facilities that corresponds to their biological gender.

This is one bill that Sanchez doesn’t necessarily agree with.

“The bathroom bill, I understand why they want it, but at the same time, why should the government interfere with that?” Sanchez said.

Coronado is already anticipating the issues that will arise from the passage of SB6.

“This is the governor’s agenda, and I know one of the issues is the bathroom bill and that’s going to be a big issue for everyone,” Coronado said.

Another bill deals with annexation and prohibits cities from annexing properties unless they give the people who live in the area being annexed the opportunity to vote.

“Annexing land, all of a sudden the city wants to make your property part of the city,” Sanchez said. “These people, you didn’t even vote for, want you to be in their cities.



Senator Jose Rodriguez has been a key local activist against the proposed senate bills.

FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Your taxes will go up and you have to start following codes.”

Additionally, there are also bills that deal with local control. Rodriguez sees this as a destruction of local governments as they are getting power taken away.

“The state is trying to dictate local government, like cities and counties, how to run their business. There’s one that deals with how you can regulate trees in your community. There’s one that calls for issues on permits. I mean that’s as local as you can get,” Rodriguez said.

The priority bill is the sunset review bill because if it fails to be approved once again, it could

result in the shutdown of critical state agencies.

“If that bill doesn’t pass, that agency will go out of existence starting September 1. That’s the one bill we have to pass. Out of the other bills, there’s only two that I would call positive bills,” Rodriguez said.

Addressing 20 bills in only 30 days may seem unlikely, but the governor has the power to call another session.

“The entire country is going to be watching what the legislature will be doing. There’s a lot of politicking going on because the lieutenant governor might have other political aspirations and the governor certainly wants to be reelected, so we’ll have to wait and see how that plays out,” Coronado said.

✉ Leslie Sariñana may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

Savings.  
are in season at your local GEICO office.

6600 Montana Ave Ste J El Paso | 915-779-2489 | geico.com/elpaso

GEICO  
El Paso

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a BerkshireHathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2016. © 2016 GEICO.

HOME OWNERS • RENTERS INSURANCE AVAILABLE | FREE QUOTES • 6600 Montana Ave., Suite J, El Paso 915-779-2489

NEED TO SELL OR  
BUY SOMETHING?

LOOK UP OUR  
CLASSIFIEDS  
ONLINE

Announcements  
Tutor • Rent  
Textbooks • Cars  
& more

www.theprospectordaily.com



# O'Rourke takes a different approach to fundraising

BY EDDIE VELAZQUEZ  
The Prospector

Before announcing his bid for a U.S. Senate seat in 2018, El Paso's Democratic Congressman Beto O'Rourke and fellow Democratic representative from California, Ro Khanna, introduced the No-PAC-Act on March 27. The law is supposed to prevent all congressional candidates from inflating their campaign budgets with money provided by political action committees (PACs). According to the Center for Responsive Politics, the contributions these committees have provided have been significant after the 2010 Citizens United Supreme Court ruling. In the congressional election of 2014, PACs contributed approximately \$475 million to candidates, and about one-third of total funds to House candidates. In the case of O'Rourke's opponent, current Texas Senator Ted Cruz, PACs have contributed \$1,537,709 to his campaign (7 percent) over the course of the last five years, according to that same report.

"There is too much money in politics generally, and specifically corporations have too much sway over the laws that are made, and where money and resources go in this country," O'Rourke said. "One of the ways that they influence that is through PAC contributions, so it allows them to concentrate a lot of money to a number of candidates and get whatever it is that they are looking for."

O'Rourke, 44, first ventured into politics in 2005 as a member of El Paso's City Council and climbed up the political ladder in 2012 to occupy a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving Texas' 16th Congressional District.

As has become emblematic of his political persona, O'Rourke announced on a Facebook post that his campaign had raised \$2.1 million during the second quarter of the year, which encompassed April, May and June. The congressman's fundraising effort during the second quarter is set to beat that of the current incumbent Cruz.

Cruz is scheduled to report \$1.8 million raised in the second quarter, as the Fed-

eral Election Commission reports are due at the end of July.

O'Rourke also said that the money came from 46,574 individual donations. That means every donation comes at an average of \$44, with 81 percent of the money coming from his home state of Texas.

"I'm not waiting for that (No-PAC-Act) to pass, I'm running this campaign as if that were a law, not taking any PAC money," O'Rourke said.

The congressman said that significant national issues have been affected because of the influence of these PACs.

"Immigration reforms are a great example," O'Rourke said. "People talk about it, they have been talking about it for decades and it hasn't come together in part because it is not a priority to corporations and PACs, who are focused on ensuring profitability, changes to policy that benefit them and less about what is in the public interest."

During a fundraising event for O'Rourke's campaign at Tricky Falls on Saturday, July 15, County Commissioner David Stout said O'Rourke's effort was an "amazing feat."

"PAC money can sometimes be considered as dark money. You don't know where it is coming from and I definitely think there should be a campaign finance reform in this country," Stout said.

"He is leading the way on making that charge and I think it is very respectable, and I certainly hope that he continues to raise the amount of money that he has been raising."

O'Rourke is optimistic about the rate at which these grassroots-style donations are coming at, despite facing an opponent with a national fundraising base.

"It means people decided, 'we are going to be part of this effort, we are going to drive this effort,'" he said. "And I love that it is people doing it with 20 bucks, 50 bucks, sometimes more at a time, deciding that this is possible and they are gonna make it happen."

He also attributes some of his success to Texans wanting a change of guard at the national Senate level.

"This is a really formidable opponent, but I think part of what has made him formidable is also the frustration that so many Texans have," O'Rourke said. "This guy was in Iowa campaigning for president, he was in New Hampshire, he was in Nevada, he wasn't in El Paso, he wasn't in Lubbock, he wasn't in Dallas, he wasn't focused on the needs of the state. I think people are responding to that, and I think that is what partly explains our success so far."

At the state level, O'Rourke is not sure what the upcoming special session will bring, however he sees some of the rumored bills as being detrimental to the border community.



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR  
Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke's average donation is \$44 per donor.

"Trying to scare people in the case of SB4 (anti-sanctuary cities), trying to scare people about transgender kids in the case of SB6 (bathroom bill), trying to use fear and intimidation and using people's anxiety for political gain is not only the wrong thing to do, is not only unjust, but it is gonna make state communities like El Paso less safe," O'Rourke said.

O'Rourke said that in the case of El Paso, the negative effects of initiatives such as these can already be felt, with "fewer people are coming forward to report crimes or serve as witnesses and testify in cases."

In the case of Senate Bill 4 (SB4), the city has already launched a lawsuit against the state with the help of San Antonio-based law firm Garza Gollado and Moran PLLC. However, when asked for comment, Mayor Donald "Dee" Margo said he had no updates at this time.

As part of his 2018 campaign, O'Rourke wants to focus on canvassing the state. His schedule for July included trips to Austin, El Paso and Canyon.

"Wherever I go in the state, folks are focused on jobs and they wanna know that we are gonna fight for them to be competitive by getting a college education," O'Rourke said. "If that is what you want to do that is what it takes, by making sure that it is affordable."

He also highlighted the importance of serving people with training and cer-

tifications in the case of those without a college education.

"We wanna make sure that if you have a skill, you can use to get a job that pays above living wage and is fulfilling to you that there is the connection to the certification or the vocational training or the apprenticeships that allow you to do that."

O'Rourke is also concerned with student debt in El Paso, especially after a tuition raise has been put into effect. He proposed an idea to attract workers back to El Paso with the promise of a lighter student debt.

"If you do take on debt to finish your education, as I did when I went to college, and you are willing to work in an in-demand profession in an underserved community—and El Paso meets that criteria in many different areas—then we have to be a lot better and more effective at wiping that debt clean in order to bring back that talent to the communities where it needs to be," he said.

The spirit of the congressman's cause was embodied at the concert venue, with people from all ages flooding in to see former At The Drive-Ins guitarist Jim Ward, Austin-based musicians David Garza and Gabriel Gonzalez and Frontera Bugalu's Kiko Rodriguez. The makeshift band performed covers of popular songs such as "I Fought the Law," by The Crickets, and some of Ward's original material from his country project Sleepcar such as "Fences Down."

"We are here to support Beto, that is a simple concept," Ward said. "I hope we can entertain you tonight."

Follow Eddie Velazquez on Twitter @zvelazquez



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR  
Tricky Falls owner and singer Jim Ward performs at Beto O'Rourke's fundraising event on Saturday, July 15.

If you wear anything this summer...  
...make sure it's repellent

To protect yourself and your unborn baby from the Zika Virus:

- Drain standing water
- Wear long sleeves and pants
- Avoid travel to affected areas
- Use condoms if your partner is or could be infected with Zika

For more information visit  
[www.EPHealth.com](http://www.EPHealth.com)  
or call (915) 212-ZIKA

JOIN A FRATERNITY OR SORORITY!

LEADERSHIP • SCHOLARSHIP • FRIENDSHIP • SERVICE

ΑΣΑ ΑΞΔ ΚΔΧ ΘΧ ΣΛΓ  
ΚΑΨ ΩΔΦ ΖΤΑ ΛΧΑ ΣΔΒ

Contact: 915-747-5670 • [fsl@utep.edu](mailto:fsl@utep.edu) • [sa.utep.edu/fsl](http://sa.utep.edu/fsl)  
Connect with us @GoGreekUTEP #GoGreekUTEP

**FREE** Small Fries & Small Drink  
With The Purchase Of Any Thickburger<sup>®</sup>  
AT REGULAR PRICE

Show UTEP ID for Student Special

6998

OFFER VALID AT PARTICIPATING EL PASO RESTAURANTS.  
Tax not included. Offer available only after regular breakfast hours.  
One coupon per customer per visit. One discount per coupon. Not valid with any other offer, discount, or combo. Price may vary. Cash value 1/100 of 1 cent. Not for resale. ©2016 Carl's Jr. Restaurants LLC. All rights reserved.



JULY 18, 2017

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR  
EDDIE VELAZQUEZ , 747-7477

Viva! El Paso! adds color to El Paso’s history



GABY VELASQUEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

Viva! El Paso! will run through July 29 at McKelligon Canyon Amphitheatre.

BY LESLIE SARIÑANA

The Prospector

Summer in El Paso marks the return of the musical “Viva! El Paso!” For 40 years the McKelligon Canyon Amphitheatre has served as the home for the historical production. This year the production saw some changes in the script and music as El Paso Community College’s Performance Studies Director Keith Townsend took over as artistic director in 2016.

The changes included more dance numbers, but the addition did not lengthen the show. Townsend worked with UTEP film professor, Marty Martin, to streamline the script, making room for more song and dance numbers without lengthening the show.

This year’s iteration of the musical also includes kids from the Viva! Kids! program. The children participated in some of the dances and two scenes. This year also marked the first person with Down’s syndrome to be cast in the musical.

Friday night’s weather was a bit unpredictable and rainy, but the rain didn’t seem to scare people away as the amphitheater still filled up. The show began a bit late and without warning. The show opens in El Paso circa 1881 as Mayor Joseph Magoffin and citizens anticipate the arrival of the railroad to the city. As they wait, they reflect on El Paso through the ages as narrated by the spirits of the elements.

At the start of the show there were microphone problems as. Magoffin’s wife’s mic kept cutting out and the wind kept knocking over actors’ props and clothes. However, everyone carried on acting, unfazed by the interferences.

El Paso’s history is told through a love story over the ages. The story is told in a way as unique as the city itself. This production featured a mix of Spanglish dialogue as well as songs in both English and Spanish.

Erick Canales was the star of the show. He played the male lead over the course of El Paso’s history. It was his vocal talent that carried his performances.

The transition in between scenes consisted of dancers coming out in costumes and doing choreography based on the era the story was transitioning into. A couple of times they used the dancers to not only represent the cultural change, but to help move the main plot along in the background, montage style.

The only comedic relief came from Sean Diaz, who played the boisterous Juan De Oñate, a conquistador from Spain in the mid-1500s. He had a short scene where he wouldn’t stay still and went off on a tangent as he was getting his portrait painted by an artist.

One of the most entertaining scenes of the night was during the time of the Mestizos. It featured a dance battle turned sword fight between Josue (Erick Canales) and the father of the girl he wished to marry, played by Diego Parada. After the battle, the father blesses the marriage and we see the wedding happen in the background of the folklorico (a Mexican folk dance) dancers. Canales and Parada delivered the most thrilling fight scene of the night in this scene.

Out of all the different dances performed, the folklorico was the most visually pleasing as they had the brightest and largest costumes. All of the dancers were graceful in their movements and the females even balanced bottles on their heads through the dance, while the men were incredibly charming and never missed a beat.

Costumes were a standout element of the show. The play incorporated clothes from over 400 years of history. The elements’ costumes were grand and lit up.

The show’s performances seemed to come back stronger in the second act, as well as the choreography.

At the beginning of the second act, they went back to 1881, where the mayor and the citizens were still waiting for the train. The kids also got to sing in the show, singing “De Colores.” Shortly after, the story picked up again from where they left off in the first act.

Another special element to the show was the music. All of the music in the show was performed live. It was all executed well as musicians changed from scene to scene. In some parts of the show, the mariachis served as the band, and in others there was a pianist and a banjo player inside of a saloon playing music along to the scenes.

We also got to see the leads showcase their vocal talent through songs such as “Sing Me Something,” “The Heliotrope Saloon Rag” and “In the Mood.”

Canales also executed a powerful performance of “Despedida,” where he sings about saying goodbye to his loved ones as he prepares to head out to war. The song was sung beautifully and moved the audience to tears as we see the soldier’s lover receive his goodbye letter and break down in

the background of Canales’ touching song. It was his impeccable vocal talent that drove the emotion in the song.

Even Texas Western’s 1966 basketball team was given a spotlight in the show. Featuring the late legendary coach Don Haskins and emphasizing the civil rights strides he made not only in the city, but the country.

The show closes off with the train finally arriving in El Paso in 1881 and the whole cast singing to a remix of “La Bamba,” as they’re all dressed in costumes from every historic period that was visited. The closing number even featured new dancers and costumes that came out as the “Viva El Paso!” sign lit up on the canyon.

The energy and dedication of the actors was made clear through their ability to move through scenes smoothly and quickly adapt to different characters through the show.

When it came to sound, it was hit or miss as the microphone went out frequently throughout the show. However, the vibrant colors and

dance numbers made the production worthwhile and a summer delight El Pasoans should not miss.

The story succeeded in not only presenting the changes that El Paso has gone through over time, but how diverse it has always been.

Each era was given a spotlight without having one take a larger part than the other. It was truly a love story to El Paso through the ages.

✉ Leslie Sariñana may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.



GABY VELASQUEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

The musical features dance numbers that narrate El Paso’s extensive history.





# David Blaine to appear at the Plaza

BY ANDRES GALLEGOS

The Prospector

Illusionist, stunt artist and magician David Blaine will amaze the Southwest when his North American tour takes him to The Plaza Theater on July 21. Blaine is a committed, fearless magician, who is willing to risk his body for the sake of the audience's entertainment.

Blaine started out with his acclaimed TV special, "David Blaine: Street Magic." In the show, he presented himself as an aloof performer who executed tricks with ease and composure. Blaine produced and directed the show when he was only 23 years old.

The main appeal of the show was its focus on the spectator's reaction rather than on the trick itself.

Blaine holds proclivities when it comes to magic tricks. He excels in card tricks, as evidenced by his performance on "The Tonight Show." He pierces his own skin with needles and ice picks, he regurgitates frogs and he can hold his breath for more than 17 minutes, which is the current world record.

SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

He is only interested in pushing the limits of his profession. Blaine's astounding tricks are proof of both his passion and talent.

Just as he holds no special inclination for tricks, Blaine performs for and astonishes all kind of people. From prison inmates to Harrison Ford, Blaine promotes a closeness when it comes to dealing with his audience.

His close-and-personal style makes his work believable. The late Kimbo Slice, who was an MMA fighter, once punched him in the stomach, Jada Pinkett Smith removed an ice pick from his hand, and Harrison Ford kicked him out his house when he found his playing card inside an orange.

Blaine is more than just a party magician who digs a coin out from inside a child's ear. He is a once in a lifetime magician who deserves attention and earns his applause.

Tickets for his performance range from \$50 to \$90 and may be purchased at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

✉ Andres Gallegos can be reached at [theprospector1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospector1@gmail.com)

# Does a rapper's endorsement destroy their integrity?

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector



From former Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning talking about Papa John's being the best pizza on the planet to actor Matthew McConaughey starring

in commercials for Lincoln, celebrity endorsements flood today's advertisements.

Musicians and artists—particularly rappers—have recently become the entertainers who are getting a lot of attention in the commercial market. The juxtaposition of having these rappers, who front a hard outer shell, yet endorse various different brands, can be paralleled with the rise of popularity of hip-hop into radio music.

It's difficult to pinpoint what hip-hop artists forwarded these endorsements, but nonetheless, they have always been brands or commercials in their sort of field. For example, Kendrick Lamar's sneaker collaboration and endorsement with Reebok, which, in fact, had an anti-gang violence message behind the ad campaign.

Up until now, rappers had never really pushed the boundaries of consumerism and were not really shown in everyday commercials for things like candy, snacks, drinks or fast food. However, now it seems that the advertising marketers from more day-to-day large companies are collaborating with rappers as they did in the early 2000s with both big names and newer artists. It's odd to see a rapper, who is a Soundcloud artist that gives away music for free, go off and sell his or her name for endorsements.

The most surprising one is Vince Staples, who is currently starring in different Sprite commercials. If you know Staples, the rapper out of Long Beach, Calif., you know he's against doing just about anything that could be perceived as corny. He's released over five mixtapes independently before signing to Def Jam, which was a surprise on its own since he was very anti-label on the come up.

Now, Staples is leading the way among five other rappers in Sprite endorsements. Even though he officially signed with the company at the top of the summer, Sprite featured Staples last year on a short internet bit to talk about music.

One could perceive it as an ironic marketing scheme since Staples has spoken about it in such an obtuse way. In the commercial, he makes no effort to look like he's enjoying Sprite, make Sprite look appealing or make the commercial appealing, which makes the ad humorous. At the end he even says, "Product is important, make sure they see that logo right there (pointing at the Sprite can). Sprite! The commercial's over."

Tons of Staples' fans went onto Twitter and took shots at the rapper, saying things like he "sold out" or that he is "a puppet for a corporation." Whether he truly "sold out" to Sprite or not, it is definitely contrary to the artist's behavior to do something like this.

But Staples isn't the only one. In fact, Sprite is notorious for getting famous rappers in the game, as they did with Drake in the early 2010s, but this time around, they chose to bring up-and-coming artists onto their team.

This summer, Sprite signed Lil Yachty, D.R.A.M., Vic Mensa, Kamaiyah and Kap G—all rappers who are gaining popularity entering the hip-hop world. Sprite made a deal to cover its cans and

bottles with the respective artists' lyrics. Sprite's movement is called "Summer Sprite Cold Lyrics Series," and while in the previous years Sprite had used older artists' lyrics, this initiative is focusing on future rappers in the game.

Another independently released rapper who's been all over commercials is Chance the Rapper with Kit Kat chocolate bars. The rapper has made his three solo projects free to the public and has become infamous for his recent work, and he did a commercial with Kit Kat in 2016.

When the topic of collaboration comes into play it becomes more of a widely accepted culture since the artist is usually given more free rein and freedom on creating the product, whereas in a commercial, the artist usually has to adhere to a script, directors and writers behind the scenes.

Now what do all these rapper endorsements mean? Should any music fan care what a rapper does in his off time? Why are fans so adamant about this being a detriment to the integrity of music, when the artist is probably making more off commercials and endorsing brands than actual album sales?

Short answer, it depends. When artists who have already made 10s, maybe even hundreds of millions, seeing them in a commercial feels fabricated and cheesy at times.

One thing is for certain, Sprite's new attempt to get these up-and-coming artists on board has definitely propped up the popularity for both the company and the artist, who are getting equal exposure.

Follow Adrian Broadus on Twitter @adrian\_broadus

# COME JOIN THE BEST STUDENT FAN CLUB!

## SPECIAL SUMMER PRICES!

### \$25 FOR FULL SEASON

### \$15 FOR FOOTBALL

### CONTACT: 915-747-6065



JULY 18, 2017

SPORTS EDITOR  
MIKE FLORES, 747-7477

Downtown Fitness Saturdays promote health



Trainer Walter Cupa is holding free workout sessions every Saturday downtown this summer from July 8 through October 21.

GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

BY MIKE FLORES  
The Prospector

Every Saturday from July 8 to October 21, Fit City Gym and trainer Walter Cupa are hosting Downtown Fitness Saturdays for the El Paso community at the San Jacinto Plaza from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. There is no charge and all ages are welcome to join.

Downtown Fitness Saturdays is being run by local fitness, yoga, timba and Zumba instructors. No equipment or weights are needed for the workouts, it's strictly body callisthenic-movements and body weight exercises.

Since Cupa became a certified personal trainer seven years ago, he has always wished to create a free workout event for the community. He is aware that a lot of people might not have the funds to pay for a monthly gym membership or be able to pay for a personal trainer, or that many people do not know where to get started, so he wants to help people out without making them have to pay to be in shape.

This year, the local businesses and sponsors for Fitness Saturdays are Fit City Gym, El Paso Downtown Management District, Body Hero Gym and Power Hour Pre-Workout.

When Cupa first got certified to be a trainer, he started offering boot

camp camps outdoors because he didn't have a place to train people. However, with time, his group kept growing and growing. Cupa didn't want to lose the progress he had made, so he saved up money to have a place to keep training people in the winter. He rented out a downtown gym called the Lion's Den.

As Cupa's business picked up, he made his way to other gyms, such as Planet Fitness, where he would do TV segments. That's when his following grew and the possibility of running a downtown event was finally achievable in Cupa's mind.

Cupa's right-hand man for Fitness Saturdays is his former trainee David Claudio, who has won multiple

first-place prizes at competitions and is opening up his own gym, Body Hero, on the Westside. Claudio has accomplished all of this despite the fact that he has to deal with a heart issue knowing that his aortic valve might rupture at anytime.

The main goal for participants of Fitness Saturdays is to keep in shape and start a change in the perception of how El Paso is looked upon.

"We were one of the fattest cities in the United States, I think we were second. And I got invited to do a TV segment in San Diego last year for the CW, because we were one of the fattest cities," Cupa said. "Since San Diego is one of the fittest cities, we spoke

about that and what it's going to take to keep the Latino community fit."

The first hour of Fitness Saturdays, from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., consists of a lot of the workout routines that revolve around plyometrics, which concentrate on explosiveness, movements, coordination and speed. Then, the second hour of the workout is the yoga segment.

"It's sunrise yoga. The buildings downtown cover the sun, so by the time we are finishing at 9, the sun is starting to rise and everyone ends up on the grass and wakes up to the sunrise," Cupa said.

✉ Mike Flores may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.



# Hernandez paves the way for the offense



Standout guard Will Hernandez believes UTEP can win a conference championship.

BY JEREMY CARRANCO

The Prospector

Ranked No. 6 out of 61 top eligible draft guards for the 2018 NFL draft and a preseason All-American by Athlon Sports, senior guard Will Hernandez has embarked on his highly anticipated and final season as a Miner.

On Thursday, July 13, the Football Writers Association of America also announced Hernandez as a 2017 Outland Trophy watch list. Named after John H. Outland, the trophy is awarded to the nation's best interior lineman in college football. Hernandez is one of 81 standout interior lineman and one of just 15 offensive guards named to the prestigious list.

According to Pro Football Focus, Hernandez ranks as the highest returning guard and second-highest returning player in all of college football in 2017, with a grade of 94.4, behind Oklahoma's Baker Mayfield, who sits first with a grade of 96.1.

In his highly respected annual College Football Preview Publication, Phil Steele ranks UTEP's offensive line as No. 1 in Conference-USA and 40th overall in the country heading into the upcoming 2017 season. UTEP is one of just five schools that made the top 40 from outside a power five conference.

"I try not to pay too much attention to that (awards and rankings),

but it is a cool feeling seeing that and seeing us being recognized, especially not being from a power five school. It's a cool feeling knowing somebody is watching you," Hernandez said. "What I do with these (awards) is that I use it to motivate all the guys on the team, show them that there are people watching you and seeing what you are doing in every game, and not that everything we're doing is not in vain."

Last season, as a junior, Hernandez's unit ranked third in sacks allowed (22) and fourth in sacks allowed per game, both national marks. The Las Vegas native was thought to be considered for the 2017 NFL draft after an outstanding 2016 season that saw former running back, Aaron Jones, become UTEP's all-time leading rusher setting the single-season program record for rushing yards with 1,773.

Jones always credited his success to the offensive line while he was a Miner, often saying he could not have done it without them. For his offensive protective efforts, Hernandez earned Second-Team AP All-American honors and was also named an All-American by Fox Sports and Pro Football Focus.

"A lot of the games didn't turn out the way we wanted them to last season, but I definitely felt we got better as a team and I felt like it showed in the last game against

North Texas. I felt like that's what we should have been doing all season long," Hernandez said. "We recognized that we showed it too late in the season to get where we wanted, but I definitely saw improvements in everybody in that game and it is going to carry on into this next season."

It was a pleasant surprise to Miner fans when Hernandez announced he would return for his senior season. Hernandez's decision to stay meant something more to him personally. He wants to finish his degree in kinesiology and improve upon his game.

"I wanted to help UTEP get to a bowl game this year and especially win a conference championship. I know we can do it," Hernandez said. "That's one of the major reasons why I stayed and another one was because coach Kugler said that it was best for me to stay and I trust the guy 100 percent, and I feel this year is going to be a great year for us and I am glad I stayed."

No. 76 has played in all 37 games with the Miners since jumping on board as a freshman. In 2015, Hernandez and his offensive line allowed the fewest sacks in Conference-USA (12) and tied for the sixth-fewest in sacks allowed per game (1.0) in the country.

Overall, UTEP's offensive line since Hernandez stepped on the field has only allowed a total of 47 sacks in 37 contests (1.3 sacks allowed per game).

"I love all our running backs that we have and I feel that whoever is back there, whoever has that starting job, whoever is in there backing them up, I am going to block for all of them the same either way," Hernandez said. "It doesn't make a difference, I just want to make those guys look good, and hopefully they will make me look good too."

During his freshman season in 2014, Hernandez and his offensive line surrendered just 13 sacks, which ranked first in Conference-USA and eighth nationally.



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR  
Hernandez and his offense line allowed the least sacks in Conference USA last year.

The Miners' success on offense propelled the team to an unexpected seven-win season and first bowl appearance since 2010, thanks to seven 200-plus yard rushing games and four 300-plus total yard games.

Hernandez is hoping that this season, his final one, will be like his first when the team reached the coveted six-plus win mark needed for a bowl opportunity.

"I feel like my freshman season and this season coming up are going to be very alike, especially the way that our schedules were set up," Hernandez said. "My freshman year, when we did go to a bowl game, we have seven away games and only five home games, exactly what we have this year, and we were underdogs in almost every game that we played and nobody thought we were going to have a good season."

This year, he sees a lot of similarities between now and the 2013 team. "We came out and won seven of those 12 and won road games that got us to that bowl game, and I think this season is going to be very similar to that year and especially because the way these guys have been training, we always step up to adversity and that's exactly what this year is, adversity and I feel like we will rise above and have a very good season this year, even though a lot of people don't think we will."

UTEP has only appeared in two bowl games since 2005 and has not won one since defeating Ole Miss 14-7 in the 1967 Sun Bowl.

Hernandez and the Miners open the 2017 campaign at Oklahoma on Sept. 2 (1:30 p.m. MT), followed by their first home contest and Conference USA opener against Rice on Sept. 9 (6 p.m.).

Follow Jeremy Carranco on Twitter @J\_Carranco22

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### CHIHUAHUAS VS STORM CHASERS

After nine consecutive road games for the Chihuahuas, they will come back to El Paso on Friday, July 21, to face Omaha at 7:05 p.m. to start a four game series. It will be the only time these two teams meet this season.

### NEW ERA WRESTLING

Lucha Frontera will be at the El Paso County Coliseum on Friday, July 21, starting at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at ticketmaster.com or at the door. \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids.

### ROLLER DERBY

On Sunday, July 23, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the El Paso County Coliseum, a double-header between Las Catrinas versus Last Viudas Negras and Las Diablas vs the Sexecutioners will take place.

### MICRO CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Speaking Rock will be hosting midget wrestling at its finest at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, July 21. But before, starting at 7:30 p.m., fans can meet and greet the four wrestling stars Brutus Beefcake, Greg Valentine, The Honky Tonk Man and Gangrel.