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The Prospector, January 23, 2018

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE

PROSPECTOR

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

JANUARY 23, 2018

#PowerToThePolls

Women's march returns with an emphasis on voting

BY MICHAELA ROMÁN

The Prospector

In a sea of signs and “pussy hats,” hundreds of women and allies commemorated the one-year anniversary of the nationwide Women’s March movement on Sunday, Jan. 21.

This year, organizers of the El Paso March wanted to turn last year’s “Hear our Voice” message into a call-to-action “Hear our Vote” one. El Paso joined Las Vegas, Atlanta and other cities in stressing the importance of voting in what they are calling a “Power to the Polls” march.

Marchers walked from Centennial Plaza, down Oregon Street and continued to downtown El Paso.

Lyda Ness-García, El Paso’s representative in the State Democratic Executive Committee, the founder

of Stand with El Paso Women and a family law attorney, said it is a crucial midterm election year and a collective voice can change the narrative by bringing out the vote in record numbers.

Megan Goldner, a UTEP grad student in occupational therapy, was attending her fourth march in the past year.

“I marched the Women’s March last year in Austin, I did the Science March in San Antonio and I’ve marched for refugees and I’m here now again,” Goldner said. “I really think we need to take a stand and raise our voices because we don’t like what’s going on these days with politics. The fact that we’re all yelling together, through diversity, with the exact one voice that we all believe in these same progressive issues.”

This year, organizers used the march as an opportunity to engage voters, along with the work being done by partner organizations, to bring attention to the urgency of preparing for the November midterm elections. Voter registration was available on-site.

Goldner said the emphasis on voting this year is important.

“I think we all need to take the time to get registered to vote. We can’t just stand by and be silent when we don’t like what’s going on. Apathy is the worst thing you can do,” she said. “The fact that we are all saying the same things in every single city, not just nationally but internationally, I really like coming out here because I can be part of that voice and united front.”

Follow Michaela Román on twitter at @michaelaroman_



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Senior psychology major Rocio Fierro-Pérez and EPCC student Andrea Porras dance and chant along with a crowd at the end of the Women’s March El Paso 2018 on Sunday, January 21 at San Jacinto Plaza.

THE EVOLUTION OF EL PASO’S HISTORIC VENUES AND THE FUTURE OF LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

BY BRIANNA CHAVEZ

The Prospector

The Clash, Portugal. The Man, “Wicked the Musical,” Michael Buble and even Weird Al Yankovic are just a few of the countless artists and acts that have performed at the Plaza and the Abraham Chavez Theatre.

Pollstar, a publication for concert industry professionals, recently listed these theaters on the Top 200 Theatre Venues of 2017.

The list is based on ticket sales from venues worldwide. The Plaza Theatre made the list at number 81 with 103,973 ticket sales. The theater made the list back in 2013 as well.

The Abraham Chavez Theatre made the list at number 171 with 35,476 ticket sales. El Auditorio Nacional in Mexico City is ranked number one with 1,466,180 ticket sales. Radio City Music Hall comes in at number two, trailing with just a little over 200,000 in tickets sales.

“We are extremely proud that our theaters ranked in Pollstar’s Top 200 List,” said Bryan Crowe, general manager of Destination El Paso, in a statement. “El Paso is being recognized nationally and internationally as a city where the community supports concerts, musical theater and events, which leads to more quality entertainment for the border region.”

The Plaza Theatre opened its doors on Sept. 12, 1930. The Great Depression was in its earliest stages that year, but El Paso was booming and the Plaza Theatre, best known for its atmospheric architecture, would later become known as The Showcase of the Southwest.

It was known as the nicest movie palace between Dallas and Los Angeles, according to Doug Pullen, program director for the El Paso Community Foundation. Pullen said it was one of the first buildings in El Paso to have air conditioning and refrigerated water. The Plaza continued to thrive until the late ‘70s when multiple screen movie theaters began to pop up.

“When ‘Star Wars’ opened in 1977, the Plaza wasn’t closed, but it was on life support,” Pullen said. “The theater was run down, beat up and went through multiple ownership changes. It was almost demolished to make room for a parking ramp, but the president of the El Paso Community Foundation at the time, Betty MacGuire, could not let that happen.”

In 1986, the El Paso Community Foundation raised \$1 million to save the building and purchase it. In 1987, the Plaza was added to National Register of Historic Places.

The foundation knew they wanted to renovate the theater during the early ‘90s and bring it back to its former glory.

However, they knew it would not survive as just a movie theater.

“I think they realized over time that the best way for this building to survive is as a performing arts center, which is what it is today,” Pullen said.

It took \$38 million over a three to four-year period to renovate and expand the Plaza. The stage house was completely rebuilt to accommodate big touring shows like “Wicked.”

While the Plaza struggled as a movie theater back in the 1970s, other venues were thriving. The El Paso County Coliseum opened its doors in 1942, where the rodeo was held as well as other concerts and performances.

see VENUES on page 6



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JANUARY 23, 2018

OPINION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7446

Going back to the definition of consent

BY MICHAELA ROMAN
The Prospector

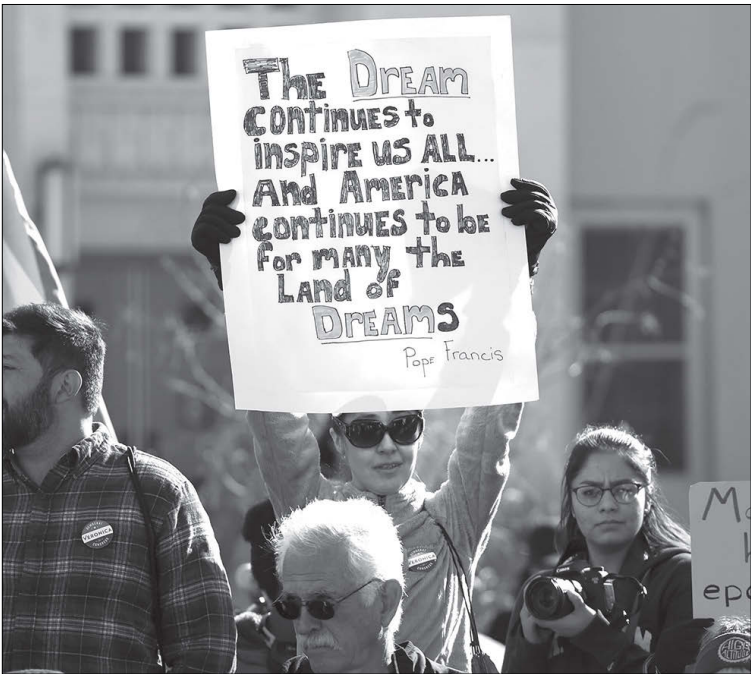
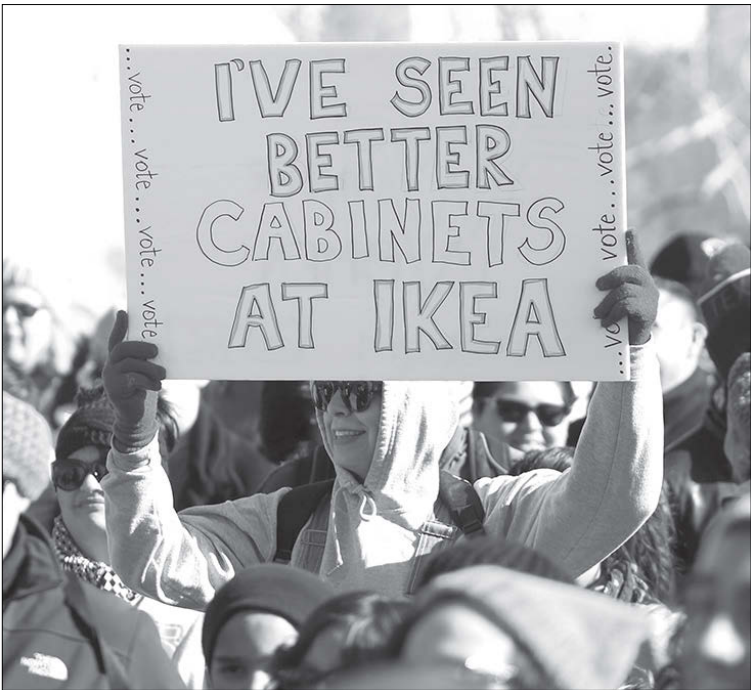


When I was younger, I always assumed I would meet a nice guy in college, we would make each other happy and that was that. That's not always how it is though. Like many other millennials, I've been sucked into the hookup culture and every part that comes with it. When I was 19 and already going out and drinking every weekend night, plus some weeknights, with friends, I didn't take dating seriously at all. I just wanted to have fun and flirt with guys with no intention of commitment. Things were going fine until one night everything changed. I went on a spur of the moment trip to Dallas one fall semester. On my list of people to catch up with was a family friend I've known most of my life. We were already used to going to concerts together and went to one while I was there. I drank before, during and after the concert, way more than I should have. Everything started to get blurry and dark. One moment I was alone on an unfamiliar street in downtown Dallas and the next I was lying down in an unfamiliar bed and felt my neck being kissed. In the morning, I woke up next to that friend and slowly realized what had happened even though I essentially blacked out. The white pillow case I was laying on was covered with mascara from crying through the night. At this point, you would think it would be time to tell someone or stand up for myself. Looking back, I wish I had. But in reality, I blamed myself right away. "Well I guess you shouldn't have drank so much," I told myself and shrugged. It wasn't until months later, I finally acknowledged and accepted I was taken advantage of. I felt crushed and completely blocked him out of my life. That one single night still haunts me to this day.

Speaking out when things like this happen isn't just hard because of fear. It's hard because no one wants to think that it could happen to them. I don't tell this story to say men are all monsters and women should be afraid of the men around them. I have had plenty of strong, intelligent and caring male friends, mentors and family members in my life. The thing is, someone can be deceptive on the surface and you don't always realize what they are capable of. I trusted that family friend. I trusted him just as much as anyone else I was close to at the time. He was a relatable guy, funny, always joking. People always compared him to Charlie Day. Reading the recent Babe article on Aziz Ansari was not easy for me. Although none of us know him on a personal level, he too feels so relatable and down to earth. You never want to think the funny, likeable, guys around you are capable of hurting you. I've respected Aziz and everything he accomplished throughout his career. Initially, I wanted to say in his defense that he thought the sexual engagement was consensual, but the woman who goes by "Grace" did not feel the same. She also cried that night. Consent can only be defined as each person giving verbal, physical and complete permission to one another to engage in anything sexual and when someone is intoxicated, they can't give consent. A night can start with feeling like something physical is definitely going to happen and then feeling the complete opposite by the end of the night. Regardless of your personal relationship to the person trying to engage in something you don't feel comfortable with, you should never let anyone make you feel like you can't say no. You should never give someone that power over you. As women, we have to encourage one another to stand up for themselves. Not ready to have sex? Say no if you can. Get up and walk out. If only it were always that easy though, right? Sometimes intimidation can make us feel like we have

no ability to exit an uncomfortable situation and causes us to not always make the best decisions in that moment. However, no one should be able to tell a victim of sexual assault how they should have acted in a given situation. We have to change the standards for the men in our lives. Unfortunately, today's porn: Pornhub, certain social media accounts, movies and even TV shows, create a false image of what a sexual encounter is expected to look like. The images often suggest that women are just objects of pleasure and enjoy being so. Even romantic comedies teach us if someone doesn't like you and initially says no, keep on trying because eventually they will sleep with you. It's easy for us as women to say "forget that guy, he's trash" and easily dismiss sexual assault, but that's letting that person get away with it and potentially causing harm to someone else. It's important as women to tell each other they aren't alone and have the power to confront abusers. Staying quiet did nothing but instill anger and self-doubt in myself. Assault isn't just waking up in an unfamiliar place and feeling ashamed. It's when someone tells you something inappropriate at school or work, constantly harasses you on social media or makes you feel trapped in any way. I applaud all the brave women who have been able to come forward and tell their stories about men in powerful positions. However, we need to also set a standard for the everyday person as well. Men and women both need to re-evaluate the way they treat one another in casual dating and hooking up. Although it may be awkward, having a talk before you engage in sex will always do more good than harm, even if it momentarily kills the mood. If we don't make changes and start speaking up, the #MeToo and Times Up movements will have been for nothing. When someone hurts you or you're not ready to do something, tell them. Don't regret it like I did.

Follow Michaela Román on twitter at @michaelaroman_



PHOTOS BY GABY VELASQUEZ THE PROSPECTOR
March attendees hold signs at Centennial Plaza for a rally before marchers walked down Oregon Street to San Jacinto Plaza on Sunday, Jan. 21.

See more photos and a video from the march at theprospectordaily.com

From #MeToo to Times Up to marching: 2018 is the year of women

BY ELENIE GONZALEZ
The Prospector



One year after the 2017 Women's March, women (and men) across the globe once again gathered in unity to advocate for women's rights, human rights, immigrant rights, LG-BTQIA rights, Ω Last year's march was held one day after Donald Trump's inauguration, and was meant to protest the then-incoming president and his views, words and actions.

This year the message has not changed, but has only become stronger as the 2018 Women's March has turned from a demonstration into a full-blown movement. Women will not stay silent and they're planning to make that known during the upcoming mid-term elections—I know I will. We're only one month into 2018 and women's voices are as loud as ever. Earlier this year during the 75th Golden Globe Awards, women in Hollywood wore black to show solidarity for the Time's Up movement, which aims to speak out against sexual assault, harassment and inequality in the workplace. From the red carpet to Oprah's fiery speech, as she became the first black woman to receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award, that night set off a fire storm as the fight against

those men who have taken advantage of and exploited women continued to roar. The #MeToo Movement is also going strong as more women are using their platform on social media to let it be known that they are survivors of sexual assault, hoping to find an end to sexual violence. Last week, the sentencing hearing of former Olympic team doctor Larry Nassar began. He was accused of sexually abusing over 140 women and girls. One by one, each survivor came forward to face Nassar and let him know exactly how he hurt them and took advantage of their vulnerability when they were under his care. I watched as Olympic gold-medalist Aly Raisman so bravely stood before her abuser, boldly stating, "We are here. We have our voices and we

are not going anywhere. And now, Larry, it's your turn to listen to me." Day after day as new stories continue to surface about the injustices and crimes against women, men, children, the LGBT community and immigrants, there will be other voices making sure they're heard and that they have someone standing up for them fighting for change too. This is exactly what allies of the Women's March, Time's Up and #MeToo seek to do. Like Oprah said, "a new day is on the horizon!" It's true. As a woman, I feel as empowered as ever, knowing I am part of this force of strong women and the men who help them. I will use my voice to vote, I will use my platform to speak out against harassment and I will stand with those who cannot.

This is the year of women. This is the year the world will witness just how much women can make this world a better place and influence others to follow suit. Last year was tough for women as the government threatened issues we care about and those in power tried to silence our voices. Our hope and our courage is growing stronger. This year we are rising into power and we will see more women become political leaders, directors, work in STEM and so on. We will continue to celebrate the legacy of those that came before us like Susan B. Anthony, Marie Curie, Rosa Parks and Katharine Graham. We will make a name for ourselves. It's our turn.

Follow Elenie Gonzalez on Twitter @eleniegonz

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EPQBA works to engage voters in the LGBTQI community

BY MICHAELA ROMÁN
The Prospector

Most nights at the Briar Patch, one of El Paso’s hottest gay bars, you can find people dancing on the patio, socializing and drinking.

But once a month there’s a different mood at Briar’s, as openly gay attorneys join together to advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) rights.

The El Paso Queer Bar Association has evolved in the last few months as politicians have reached out to them for endorsements as they recognize the necessity of the LGBTQI community vote.

El Paso native Cynthia Lopez, president and co-founder of EPQBA and immigration attorney, lived in Chicago for nine years and moved back in March 2011 to open her own practice. Lopez noticed the LGBTQI community was not as connected as it could be, especially in the legal field.

“There was a lawyer’s association and bar association, but nothing for the LGBTQ community,” Lopez said. “I reached out to some friends and they were all on board and excited to do it, so we just started meeting and organized and started putting everything together.”

In 2015, Lopez was motivated to form EPQBA—an association open to pretty much everyone in the legal profession. The group is also open to non-attorneys and has allies that are part of the organization.

The association is made up of a board and members who pay yearly dues.

“I think that El Paso has very much been ignoring the LGBTQI community, especially politically,” Lopez said.

Lopez also said the community had failed to see them as an important demographic, which has caused neglect in a lot of ways



GABY VELASQUEZ/THE PROSPECTOR

Members of the El Paso Queer Bar Association meet the first Tuesday of every month at the Briar Patch in downtown El Paso.

when it comes to resources and when it comes to police protection.

“It’s because we really don’t have a say politically because we haven’t organized before,” she said.

EPQBA is now working to educate the public informing the LGBTQI community about candidates and to expressing publicly where they stand on issues that are important to them.

“I think it’s important we, the community, force (candidates) to answer the tough questions about supporting gay marriage,” Lopez said. “One of the big things right now is Texas is still trying to not extend benefits to gov-

ernment employees who are in same sex marriages.”

The organization has hosted citizenship fairs to help pre-screen residents filing for their citizenship. They have also hosted health fairs, where medical organizations test for diabetes and other health issues.

EPQBA also helps the LGBTQI community and divorce information and they help transgender people get their gender legally changed.

The association is always looking for volunteers who can help out at the fairs.

“Some of them have had tons of people and some of them have had a few. We need help with directing traffic, parades and help with the floats,” Lopez said.

EPQBA has grown in the last few months, turning from four or five members into 30.

El Paso has also seen city and state representatives take a stand toward LGBT laws. In fact, State Sen. Jose Rodriguez has been very outspoken on his support for the LGBT community.

Daniel Collins, a UTEP alumnus and a former officer for the Austin

LGBT bar association, has worked for Sen. Rodriguez.

The Austin LGBT bar association launched in 2011, which parallels

“I think that El Paso has very much been ignoring the LGBTQI community, especially politically.”

- Cynthia Lopez
El Paso Queer Bar
Association president

the movement of the El Paso chapter.

“Even in Austin, which I think has a reputation for being more progressive, is still fairly new,” Collins said. “I was finishing law school that year and

we started a lot of the lasting programs like a robust mentor program that matches current queer and ally law students to give them mentorship.”

Collins, who identifies as queer, said that in law school he was eager to talk to other gay men who had dealt with issues like whether they should be out on their resume and how to navigate what a lot of people have seen as a generally conservative field.

The association started the first statewide scholarship for queer and ally law students. The scholarships have gone to students from UT Austin, St. Mary’s Law School, North Texas Law School, Texas Tech Law School and other Texas schools.

“This goes to show there are gay law students everywhere and gay lawyers everywhere, and I think all of them increasingly are trying to find community and find efforts where they can talk about issues that are unique to our community,” Collins said.

Collins also said it’s an interesting time to tackle legal issues today such as family law when it comes to the LGBTQI community. He said a lot of firms are waking up to the importance of these issues. He said that Texas can’t take for granted the strides that the LGBTQ community has made in the last 10 years.

“Not only in law, but I think in just general acceptance in larger culture,” Collins said. “I think it’s easy for people to become kind of complacent when they see there’s a general acceptance of the LGBTQ community, but we’ll need people to stand up and say no, discrimination isn’t a Texas value and you, my elected officials, should support me and not support policies that keep me from living my fullest, most productive life.”

The EPQBA is currently working to organize a debate for the District 16 congressional candidates in early February at El Paso Community College.

“We do want to be active politically, so I think it would be great to endorse or not endorse candidates,” Lopez said. “I think it’s really important to know our voices are heard. In an organized manner. You can really be a lot more effective with having voices heard.”

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JANUARY 23, 2018

SPORTS

EDITOR
JEREMY CARRANCO, 747-7446

Men’s basketball team faces tough challenge on the road



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR
The UTEP men's basketball team faces UAB and Middle Tennessee on the road this week.

BY DANIEL MENDEZ

The Prospector

Falling to the No. 12 spot in the Conference-USA standings after a 65-61 loss to UTSA this past Saturday night, the men’s basketball team will still be in search of their first road win of the season when they face UAB and Middle Tennessee this week.

The Miners (7-12, 2-5) will look to redeem themselves as they face two of C-USA’s top five teams on the road this week, starting with the UAB (13-7, 4-3 C-USA) on Thursday, Jan. 25,

and top-ranked Middle Tennessee (15-4,6-1) on Saturday, Jan. 27.

UTEP has relied on sophomore guard Isiah Osborne, who has been improving his game in recent weeks and scored a season-high 25 points against Louisiana Tech earlier this month. Osborne has dropped three 20-point games in his team’s last four outings. In the Miners’ last pair of games (FIU, UTSA), Osborne has been the Miners’ leading scorer.

The scoring from the sophomore has been a nice surprise, but it also comes down to the struggles from

senior guard Omega Harris. Harris suffered a back injury early this season and has not been the same player UTEP has seen in the past. The senior’s average is down 5.2 points per game from last season with an 11.8 clip after averaging 17 points a game in 2016-17. Against UTSA on Saturday, Harris recorded a season-high 40 minutes, yet only managed to score nine points in the contest.

Another reason why Osborne’s scoring has been crucial is that the Miners’ leading scorer Keith Frazier (12.5) is working himself back into the rotation. After taking a leave of absence in December, Frazier rejoined the club on Jan. 11.

Interim head coach Phil Johnson said he wanted to ease Frazier back into the rotation, but against Florida Atlantic (Frazier’s first game back), Johnson used Frazier as a spark off the bench when the team needed one.

After missing playing in the Miners’ last home stand against FAU and FIU, Frazier came off the bench against UTSA and missed three shots during eight minutes of play. If Frazier can work his way back to being the same scorer that dropped a season-high 25 earlier this season against Appalachian State (Nov. 19), the Miners might have a chance against the top tier teams of C-USA.

Another important contribution the last few games has been freshmen forward/guard Trey Wade. Wade has gotten an increase in minutes, filling

in for the injured Tirus Smith. Smith, who injured his leg during practice two weeks ago, has not played since the Miners fell to Florida Atlantic (73-66) on Jan. 11, and is out indefinitely.

At 6-foot-8, Wade has been crucial for the Miners in attacking the glass. Against UTSA and FIU, Wade had a combined 14 rebounds. But it’s his defensive ability that has been beneficial. Against FIU, Wade recorded a season-high of four blocked shots.

The Miners will face C-USA’s fifth-best team when they play the Blazers on Thursday. UAB is just two games from first place as three teams are currently tied for the number one spot (ODU, MTSU, WKU).

Second-year head coach Robert Ehsan has his team in the top 100 in offense and defense. UAB is ranked No. 73 in points per game (78.9) and No. 72 in points allowed (67.5). Another aspect of the Blazers’ game is their attack off the glass with 38.7 rebounds per game, which ranks 55th best in the country and second in Conference USA.

UAB is also in the top 25 nationally in assists per game (22). The Blazers average 17.5 per game in that category with each member of the team sharing the wealth. Meanwhile, UTEP is ranked 335 out of 351 division one teams in assists per game.

Defensively, UTEP will have to be ready for UAB’s senior forward Chris Cokley. The senior is averaging near double-double stats with 18.3

points per game and 9.5 rebounds per game. Cokley has nine double-doubles on the season and is coming off a season-high of 28 points in the Blazers’ loss at Marshall in overtime on Saturday (Jan. 20).

Following UAB, UTEP will head to Murfreesboro, Tenn., where they will face one of the teams that is currently in a three-way tie for first place in C-USA. The Blue Raiders are led by 16-year head coach Kermit Davis.

Middle Tennessee does not have the flashy offensive statistics like UAB, but the Blue Raiders get it done on the defensive end with a national rank of 50 in points allowed per game (66.4). Nick King leads the Blue Raiders with an average of 21.7 points per game and 7.9 rebounds per game. He has already torched opposing defenses for three 30-point games and has nine 20-plus point games.

In a showdown last week against rival Western Kentucky, King scored 28 points to hand the Hilltoppers their first loss in conference play with a 66-62 win on the road. Senior guard Giddy Potts was the second-leading scorer in that game for the Blue Raiders. Potts is averaging 13.4 points per game as Middle Tennessee’s second-leading scorer behind King.

Tip-off against the Blazers is set for 6 p.m. MST in Birmingham, Ala., and 5 p.m. will be the scheduled tip-off against the Blue Raiders in Murfreesboro.

Follow Daniel Mendez on Twitter @dmendez24

Questions & answers with athletic director Jim Senter

BY PROSPECTOR STAFF

The Prospector

Editor’s note: The Prospector got a chance to sit down with new UTEP Athletic Director Jim Senter and have him talk with us about all he has to bring to UTEP. Check out what he told us here and listen to the full podcast interview on The Prospector Daily’s SoundCloud account.

Q: Now that you’re settled in, how does it feel to be in the Sun City?

A: Well, I’ve told people it’s like taking a drink out of a firehouse. There’s a lot of information coming at you, a lot of people to meet... I followed about 500 new UTEP fans in the last week. It’s gone great; people have been so welcoming. I love this feeling that everyone has when meeting me saying, “welcome to El Paso, welcome to UTEP.” It really makes me feel like they care.”

Q: We’ve seen you being very interactive with fans. Can you talk about the breath of fresh air you bring to UTEP?

A: Going up to people and saying hi—I think they genuinely appreciate that. I don’t know a single human being who doesn’t appreciate to being recognized or appreciated. That’s one of the things I’m trying to do. What’s really cool about this is the fact that people always want to tell you, “I’ve had these seats for 30 years,” “I’ve had these seats for 40 years—50 years,” “I watched the 1966 team when they were here.” What they’re really saying is they love the Miners and they’re proud to be here. It just reaffirms what I thought all along and when I interviewed that there’s a great fan base here.

Q: Any thoughts on upgrading the facilities like the Sun Bowl or Don Haskins Center?

A: Any day you aren’t working on facilities, you’re going behind because your competitors are. I think we have a good

foundation for facilities. For example, the Larry K. Durham has been here for a while. That building was built when we had almost eight less people than now. We just added our 10th coach. We have to design facilities, build facilities that are forward thinking. Some of the things—obviously the Sun Bowl—it’s in dire need of some work. It’s a 60 to 70-year-old facility and we’ll be announcing some things in March or April, where we’re going to be doing some enhancement on that. It will make all fans excited.

Q: Thoughts on UTEP performing in the Mountain West Conference in the future?

A: I can appreciate why fans long for the good ol’ days with the Mountain West Conference because there’s 50-60 years of history there. But for us to be attractive to anyone else, we need to be really good in the league we’re in. If you look all over America, when there’s conference realignment, the teams at the bottom of every conference are not the ones moving around. It’s the ones who are at the top. The Miner fans who want us to move, we have to first dominate the one we’re in. I totally get it why people want to be in it. For expenses and budget, it would be better in that regard. At the end of the day, I know what conference we’re in and let’s get after it.

Q: El Paso has a rich history in baseball. Is a Miner baseball team a possibility?

A: As much as I would like to see a baseball team here, I don’t see it in the immediate future, no. If I have four kids and I don’t take care of them, don’t get them health care, don’t take them to the doctor, not putting money aside for college—if I was to say, “gosh honey, let’s have more kids,” most people would look at us and think we’re irresponsible. They would say we aren’t taking care of the kids we have now. That’s my analogy

when people ask if we should get another sport for that matter.

Q: After Tim Floyd announced he would retire, you said this would be a tryout for interim head coach Phil Johnson, how has he been doing?

A: First, let me say I really appreciate Tim Floyd as a head coach and what he did with us. You don’t know how that affects players, coaches and team chemistry, well now that’s all been moved around. I think coach Johnson has done a good job with what he has, but I think they’ve been competitive.

Q: With the release of UTEP adopting a new orange, what are your overall thoughts about the change?

A: As I understand, the university had been working on one shade of orange and athletics had been working on another shade of orange. I don’t know where the disconnect there was, but the institution said we are moving to a lighter shade of orange—kind of reminds me of Tennessee orange. My sense is that any time you change something that is based off tradition, some will be excited, and others will be mad because you are changing who we are. We are going to follow what the university asks us. We aren’t going to throw away all the orange uniforms and spend a million dollars buying new uniforms, but we will phase out the old ones.

Q: What are some ways we can bring more students to the games, especially since attendance has been bad?

A: I met with Kristen Ahumada, the student body president (SGA), and I want to hold a student town hall. We need to find out what it’s going to take to get students there. I’m sure we’re going to hear a lot of things. I think people have very busy lives these days. Also, when we aren’t winning, there isn’t a lot of energy going into the games. My next



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR
Jim Senter is entering his first year as athletic director for UTEP.

guess is we aren’t doing enough marketing for students going to the games, so they don’t know what’s happening. That’s where we can partner with different student groups... because it takes a village to tell a story. So many people are consuming their content different ways. I’m from the old school, where we pick up a paper or watch the news. You all are getting your information through hundreds of different mechanisms. The traditional way of marketing isn’t going to reach the student. We need to find out how we can connect with the student and bring them out.

Q: Any hope of seeing an ACC/Big Ten game home or away?

A: I get this question a lot. Basketball scheduling is very difficult because no

one wants to leave their stadiums to visit anyone—that’s why some of these teams have great records. For football, the biggest challenge, even doing a home-and-home game, they are drawing 40,000 people a game consistently. They’re different than Texas that has 90,000 in their arena. If we were to do a home and home, they are going to make a lot more money than we would. They would rather just pay someone money to come year after year.

Listen to the rest of the interview on Soundcloud at theprospectordaily.com.

Follow The Prospector on Twitter @UTEP_Prospector

INBRIEF

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL BACK ON THE ROAD

The UTEP women’s basketball team will be back on the road for the first time since Jan. 7, as they face Rice on Jan. 26 and North Texas on Jan. 28. The Miners (12-6, 3-2 C-USA) are coming off a 75-70 home win against Florida Atlantic this past Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Don Haskins Center.

MEN’S HOCKEY TO PLAY AT TSU, TEXAS

The UTEP men’s hockey club (15-8) will face Texas State (Jan. 25) and Texas (Jan. 26-27) on the road this weekend. The Miners have won eight straight and are coming off a two-game sweep of the Bobcats this past weekend in El Paso by a combined score of 26-0.

RHINOS HOST SNIPERS THIS WEEKEND

The El Paso Rhinos (34-2) return home this weekend (Jan. 26-28) to host the Dallas Snipers. El Paso is coming off a 5-1 road trip where they swept the Wichita Thunder and took two of three matches against the Oklahoma City Blazers.

Trust the process: UTEP athletics on the rise

BY MIKE FLORES
The Prospector



On Nov. 22, the wishes of UTEP Athletics and their fans finally came true when new Athletic Director Jim Senter was announced to take over for Bob Stull.

Some weren’t happy at first since the frontrunner before Senter, Lisa Campos, ended up taking the job at UTSA over UTEP. Eventually everything worked out and what a blessing in disguise Senter has been so far for UTEP.

Coming into the job for UTEP, Senter had his work cut out for him. He took over one of the worst situations in all Division I sports.

Senter took over with a football team that had their first winless season in school history (0-12), former football coach Sean Kugler called it quits just five games into the season, UTEP men’s basketball also lost head coach Tim Floyd six games into the regular season, and fans all around were growing tired of disappointment after disappointment.

Despite all the mess, Senter got to work right away. His first move for the Miners was done in a blink of an eye, hiring Dana Dimel as UTEP football’s 26th head coach in school history on Dec. 6. This all took place while Senter was finishing up his time at The Citadel before transitioning to El Paso.

While Senter has done a great job so far in his short tenure, Dimel has been just as remarkable. Even though Dimel has only been on the UTEP campus for less

than a month and was only granted 10 scholarships to offer this year, he’s already changed the culture and atmosphere when it comes to football.

UTEP football had one of the worst offenses last year. They put up a nation-worst 11.8 points per game, were bottom 10 in both passing yards per game (134.9) and rushing yards per game (95.6).

So what does Dimel do? He hires former Tennessee quarterbacks and former UNT offensive coordinator Mike Canales as the offensive coordinator. His resume speaks for itself.

Under Canales (2010-15), UNT averaged 31.8 points per game, they reached over 4,000 yards in his first four seasons and were No. 1 in the nation in red zone efficiency. Canales also knows how to get the best out of his quarterbacks—a position UTEP struggled to find consistency in all of last season. Canales helped groom NFL All-Pro quarterback Phillip Rivers at North Carolina State and guided Derek Thompson to become UNT’s second-best single-season passer (2,896).

Recruiting from Dimel, Canales, defensive coordinator Mike Cox, secondary coach Keith Burns has already raised eyebrows around the city.

The biggest snatch from the new core of coaches at UTEP was former Texas Longhorns quarterback Kai Locksley.

Coming out of high school, Locksley was a four-star product and decommitted from Florida State to become a Longhorn for a season. His path later took him to Iowa Community College, where he became the fourth-best JUCO quarterback with his big season of 2,238 passing yards, 705 rushing yards and 40 total touchdowns.

For UTEP to make a splash with Locksley speaks about what to expect from the football program now.

During Dimel’s last two seasons as head coach at the University of Houston (2001-02), he brought Conference USA’s best recruiting class to the Cougars. One of Dimel’s greatest strengths is his relationship with Texas high school coaches and his ability to recruit—something Kugler struggled with.

Other verbal commits for UTEP football include JUCO offensive lineman Tres Barboza, wide receiver Justin Garrett, linebacker Hassan Belton and defensive lineman Savien Jenkins. The cool thing is the fact that Dimel and his staff have done this on his first weekend of hosting recruits.

Senter and Dimel and his staff have also been very involved in the community. Social media is a huge part in today’s world and UTEP athletics is connecting with their fans like never before.

While Stull never adjusted to the social media era and Kugler barely made a Twitter account his last year on the job, Senter, Dimel, Cox and Canales are the opposite and have generated excitement nearly every day on social media. It’s something UTEP supporters aren’t used to from the athletic department.

Senter has offered one-on-one Town Hall Meetings to fans at local restaurants, loves taking selfies with people of the community, media and former or current players. The football staff keeps everyone updated on where they’re traveling to recruit, calls UTEP home already.

It’s not hard to see that they’re all happy to be in El Paso. And more importantly, they’re more excited to rebuild athletics for the city.

A-plus for Senter and Dimel’s offseason report card.

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @mikey_flores

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ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
CLAUDIA FLORES , 747-7446

UTEP student lives his dream of becoming a painter

BY AYLIN TAFOYA
The Prospector

Choosing a hobby as a full-time job is a dream many want to pursue, Babak Tavakoli-Nejad, a junior at UTEP, is doing exactly that.

Majoring in studio art with a focus on painting, he is slowly gaining recognition from his chalk artwork at various establishments in El Paso, allowing him to follow his dream of being a working artist.

“I didn’t have brothers to look up to, but I had cousins. They were really talented musicians. They could pick up any instrument and start playing it and I couldn’t, but I could draw” Tavakoli said. “I also looked up to my sisters, but I couldn’t really follow in their footsteps because I was just gifted differently.”

Before working as a chalk artist for restaurants and cafés such as Crave, Hillside Coffee and Independent Burger, Tavakoli had a variety of jobs.

Tavakoli worked as an animal caretaker for some time, as a mechanic assistant and currently works as a server at Malolam. However, a few months ago, he was given the opportunity to put his skills to the test.

Through the recommendation of Daniel Delgado, a friend and the previous chalk artist for Hillside Coffee, Tavakoli was offered the opportunity to do the artwork for their October calendar and has been doing so every month since.

Although his personal style is graffiti-oriented, the exposure he’s gotten from his chalk art has made it possible to put that background to use once again.

Tavakoli has a new project in the works involving a 640-square-foot mural.

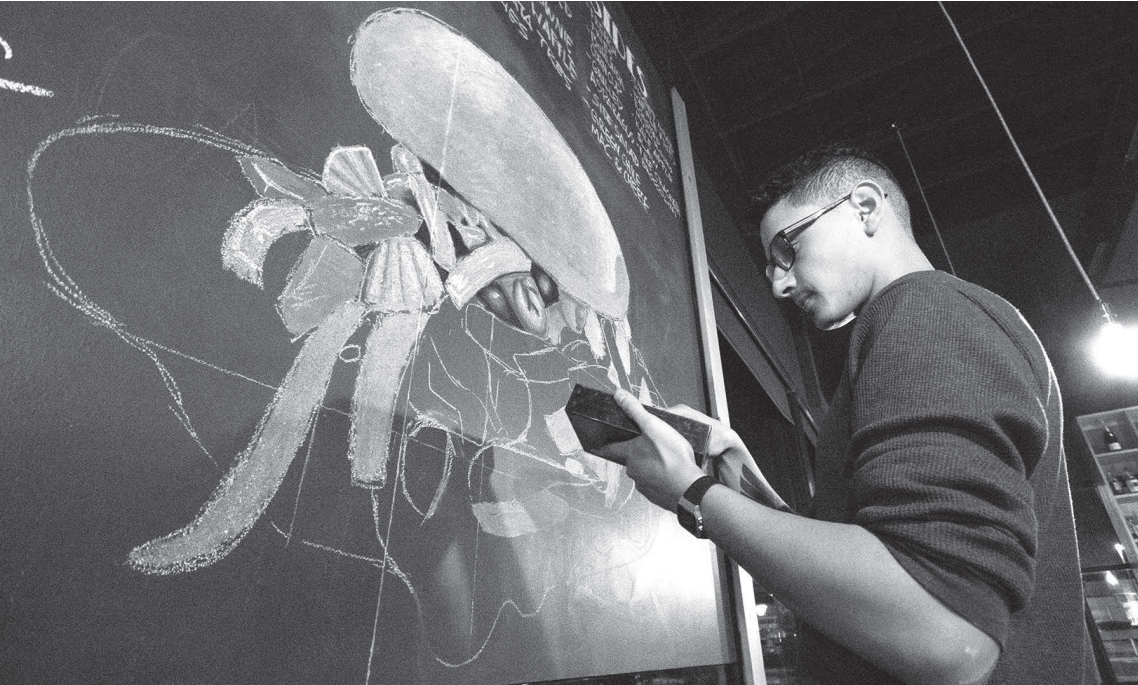
“When you pick up a can of aerosol, no one knows how to control it. But over the years, I started to get more control over it,” he said. “It made me appreciate the relationship of letters, where they all have to fit into the same style and have the same emotion. Not just that, but the color, the different effects you can give things.”

Tavakoli said he does not believe one should be risking their freedom to create art. With graffiti having negative connotations attached to it, artists run the risk of getting arrested and could lose their motivation along with other opportunities.

Tavakoli wasn’t always an art major, but he ended up changing his major to drawing because he was good at it. This semester, however, Tavakoli changed his focus to painting.

“I feel like if I became as good at painting as I am at drawing, then I could produce work that would impress me. I feel like the great version of myself is not a drawer... it’s a painter,” he said.

As he described how his practice has changed from his experiences with different artistic mediums, it was apparent that painting is his true passion.



MICHAELA ROMÁN / THE PROSPECTOR

Babak Tavakoli-Nejad promotes his art by working at various restaurants in east and west El Paso.

Tavakoli described himself as an artist who doesn’t try to make art that is “fake deep” because he doesn’t always have metaphors or meanings in the things he makes.

Most of the time, he’s just having fun. He does try to make sure the pieces he puts out represents how he feels at that moment.

“I’m trying to make something that you could look at, and then turn back at it and look at it one more time,” Tavakoli said.

Tavakoli said his dream project would be to become a traveling mu-

ralist. He follows artists on social media that are touring the world, bringing blank walls to life with their art, which is what he aspires to do.

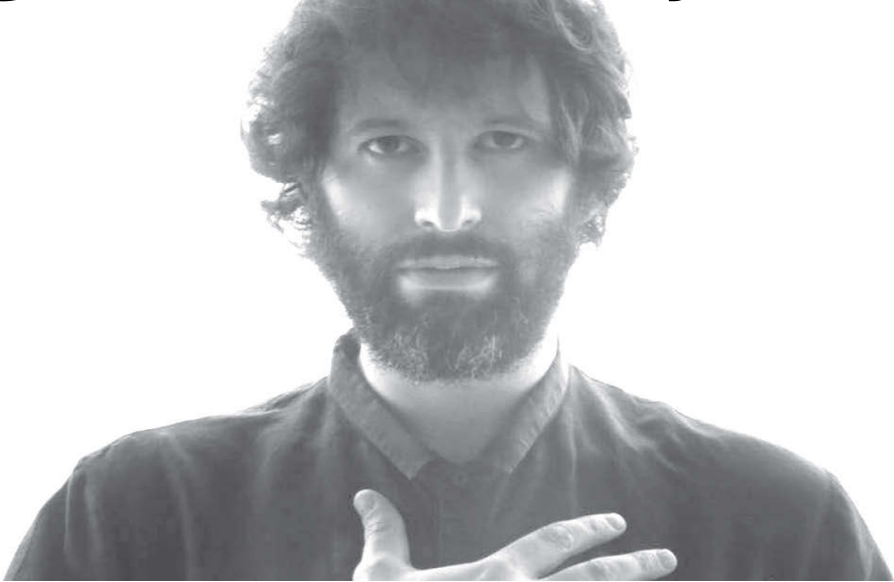
“That would be my dream job. I decided I was always gonna travel, but I wanted to get my degree first,” he said. “And if I can do that, I think that would make me the happiest person ever.”

With art, just like with anything in life, you don’t get good until you mature. Until you hone your skill and style.

“Accomplishing that is the main goal of my art. If it’s not drawing that you do, if it’s writing, write every day. If it’s not writing, if it’s dancing, dance every day. Do it all the time and don’t stop doing it,” Tavakoli said. “You’re not going to become a master of your skill unless you do it all the time. I’m just trying to give birth to that, I don’t want to die before I reach that point where I’m making my great art.”

✉ Aylin Tafoya may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

Llega Adán Jodorowsky por primera vez a la frontera



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

Adán Jodorowsky se presentara este 23 de enero en The Lowbrow Palace

BY AYLIN TAFOYA
The Prospector

El músico francés, Adán Jodorowsky se presentara por primera vez en El Paso este 23 de enero en The Lowbrow Palace.

“La gente dice que es muy feo El Paso, pero yo encuentro que es una ciudad muy bonita y con gente muy amable y profunda”, dijo el músico y cantautor de 38 años. “Lo que más me interesa de El Paso es tener una conexión con la gente esa noche y que vibre algo positivo.”

Jodorowsky quien a corta edad recibió lecciones de guitarra por parte del ex Beatle George Harrison, se ha convertido en uno de los músicos más influyentes en la escena latinoamericana.

“Harrison me paso una guitarra y me enseñó tres acordes, los cuales después trabaje y jamás lo volví a ver, pero podría decir que es gracias a él que yo toco la guitarra”, dijo Jodorowsky.

En años pasados, Jodorowsky no solo se ha dedicado a la elaboración de sus propios proyectos, sino que también ha invertido su tiempo en convertirse en productor.

En 2012, el parisino produjo “Solstis”, el primer solo álbum de León Larregui, vocalista de la banda mexicana Zóe. “Solstis” alcanzo doble disco de oro y platino.

“De cada artista yo aprendo algo, con las producciones de León y otros artistas aprendo algo que me ayuda a desarrollarme en mis proyectos personales”, dijo Jodorowsky. “Por ejemplo, con lo

que estoy haciendo ahora digo ‘la próxima vez no hare ese error’ entonces, sobre todo, aprendo de mis errores”.

Jodorowsky mencionó que para la elaboración de un disco es importante encontrar un lugar despejado donde grabar.

“A mi antes no me importaba donde grabar, grababa donde fuera, pero ahora si me di cuenta que hace falta grabar con energía limpia que da otra vibra a la música”, dijo Jodorowsky. “Toda la música que se toca tiene que ver con la vibra que hay en ese momento”.

Jodorowsky ha colaborado con artistas como Natalia Lafourcade, Enrique Bunbury y Anita Tijoux, entre otros a lo largo de su carrera.

Hijo del reconocido cineasta chileno Alejandro Jodorowsky y la actriz mexi-

cana Valerie Trumblay, Jodorowsky lleva también en su sangre el amor por el cine.

Su primera aparición en la pantalla grande fue en la película dirigida por su padre “Santa Sangre” en 1989.

Haciendo su debut como actor con tan solo 10 años de edad, Jodorowsky gano el Premio Saturn en la categoría a Mejor Actor Joven, gracias al papel del joven Félix en “Santa Sangre”.

“Lo que más me interesa de El Paso es tener una conexión con la gente esa noche y que vibre algo positivo

- Adán Jodorowsky, músico y cantautor

Recientemente, Jodorowsky tuvo una participación importante en la película “Poesía Sin Fin” en la cual da vida a una versión más joven de su padre.

Sin embargo, para Jodorowsky, el cine va más allá de la actuación, ya que en julio del año pasado realizó el soundtrack original para “Poesía Sin Fin”.

“Me encanta hacer música para películas, porque no hay versos, ni coros, ni puentes, es totalmente libre y es ponerle música a una emoción”, dijo

Jodorowsky “Yo me acuerdo que cuando estaba haciendo la música para la película caminaba en la calle y yo me divertía imaginando la música de tal señor que caminaba por ahí con el sombrero o de una señora que se cae”.

A lo largo de su carrera, Jodorowsky fue conocido como “Adanowsky” después del lanzamiento de su álbum “El ídolo” en 2009.

Hoy en una nueva etapa de su carrera llena de crecimiento y aprendizaje “El ídolo” se presenta como “Adán Jodorowsky”.

“Antes no tenía ni idea como cantar, ni cómo escribir, entonces yo pienso que el talento es nato pero también hay que desarrollarlo”, dijo Jodorowsky. “Entonces emperce a escribir y componer hasta que salió una canción, ahora escribo una canción en cinco horas y también puedo componer rápido, es algo que ya va mucho mas rápido”.

Ahora como padre de familia Jodorowsky mencionó que esto se verá reflejado en sus futuros proyectos.

“Siempre tengo una misma esencia pero si ya tengo una finalidad entonces si se va a sentir en la música y no quiere decir que va a ser aburrido, al contrario va a ser mucho más luminoso y va a tener más profundidad.”

Que: Adán Jodorowsky en The Lowbrow Palace

Cuándo: Martes, 23 de enero

Las entradas: \$15-\$20

Las entradas a la venta en ticketfly.com.

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

VENUES from page 1

The Abraham Chavez Theatre, formerly known as the Civic Center Theatre, opened in the early '70s. It was home to the El Paso Symphony, El Paso Opera and the Miss El Paso USA pageants.

The Don Haskins Center, opened in 1976. While its main purpose was to hold basketball games, concerts were also held at the center including a concert with the late Tom Petty.

When the Plaza was being renovated, the question of bringing back films was brought up, which is why in 2008 the El Paso Community Foundation started what is now known as the Plaza Classic Film Festival.

The festival shows about 90 films over the course of 11 days. Now in its 10th year, it brings in \$1.5 million per year with an average of 40,000 attendees and has brought several celebrity guests including the late Debbie Reynolds, Rita Moreno, Al Pacino and many more. The founda-

tion recently teamed up with El Paso Live to feature Christmas movies during the holiday season. Pullen said the festival keeps the history of the Plaza alive.

Annual downtown events such as Chalk the Block, Neon Desert and the film festival all started after 2006 as well as the completion of Southwest University Park in 2013.

These events and locations are encouraging for El Paso's growth and would not be possible without the help of younger generations.

Newer venue managers such as Patrick McNeil, co-owner of Lowbrow Palace, said the younger generation of concertgoers would shape the future for this city.

McNeil bought the Lowbrow with the idea of building a hub that supports lo-

cal music and national touring acts and aims to bring music for the masses.

"The reason for this business is based on passion and creating something great for El Paso," McNeil said.

Caroline Vazquez, who oversees artist hospitality at the Lowbrow, has noticed the audience at the venue is getting bigger, but also younger.

"There's a majority of younger than 21 demographic that come to shows, which we've learned to cater to by being a venue that's all ages," she said.

The Lowbrow has been doing so well that they are taking the legacy they have already built to the heart of the city. They are now moving to a new and bigger location in the Downtown area on Texas Avenue later this year.

"(The new location) is going to be new and improved. Not to take away

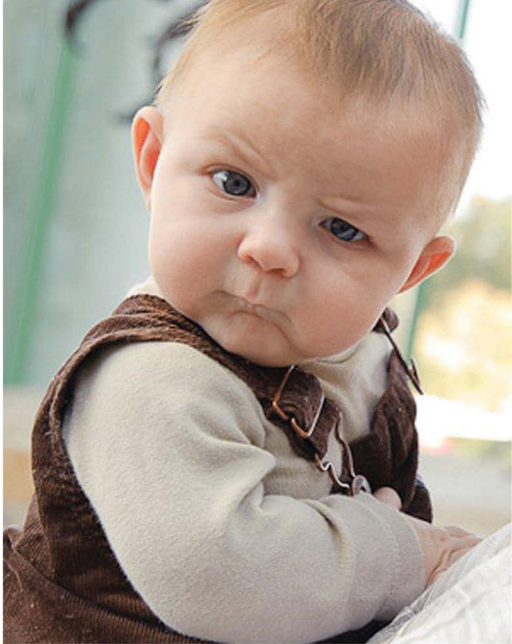
from what we've built and established over the past seven years, but we're doing it to carry over everything we've done and to make it one million times better," McNeil said.

This spring, the Abraham Theatre will be hosting Paul Anka on Feb.12, "Dancing With The Stars: Live!" on March 2 and Fleet Foxes on May 10.

The Plaza Theatre will be bringing several different acts and musicals such as "Dirty Dancing" and rock acts Pat Benatar and Chicago in March, but its biggest event of the year that will likely put it on the Pollstar list again in 2018 will be the "Disney Presents The Lion King," which will make its way to El Paso in May.

Follow Brianna Chavez on Twitter @bri_chavez

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FILE PHOTO/ THE PROSPECTOR
Isaiah Rashad has been one of the many recent artists the Lowbrow has hosted for a sold-out crowd in recent years.



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