

4-17-2018

## The Prospector, April 17, 2018

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## ONE PROJECT AT A TIME

UTEP's Engineers for a Sustainable World  
awarded for rainwater harvesting



PHOTO COURTESY OF ENGINEERS FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

**Francisco Bunsow**, a sophomore in Construction Engineering and Management at UTEP helps drill in a gutter alongside other Engineering for a Sustainable World members. The group worked on a rainwater harvesting system for Las Pampas residents, a colonia outside of Presidio, Texas.

BY MICHAELA ROMÁN

The Prospector

Outside the quaint town of Presidio, Texas, where less than 4,000 people reside, sits an even smaller colonia Las Pampas, where until 2016 there was no piped water.

Now, some families in Las Pampas will not have to haul water from nearly 10 miles away thanks to the collaboration of UTEP organizations that have come up with a solution.

The Texas Water Development Board awarded The Center for Environmental Resource Management (CERM) and UTEP's Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW) chapter with this year's Texas Rain Catcher Award for their work in rainwater harvesting in Las Pampas.

"The city of Presidio has a plan to expand water service to Las Pampas, but it's going to be several years before that can actually happen," said CERM Director Bill Hargrove.

Hargrove and his team at CERM decided to reach out to ESW to work on a project that would get Las Pampas up to where they could be quicker in using a rainwater harvesting system that collects rainwater from roofs and stores it in tanks. Together the group estimated they could cut down the amount of water residents would haul to the colonia in half. This saves each household in the system about \$15 to \$20 per month.

The group installed two systems in 2017, one in the spring and one in the fall, at two different homes. Now two homes can store water, which will be used for gardening, landscaping and for livestock use.

Coca-Cola Bottling Co. in El Paso donated free tanks to the group that are used to collect 2,200 gallons of water. This helped with expenses since the tanks were the biggest financial component. Some of the project costs were paid by a grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

“One of the biggest takeaways is learning to be more grateful because when we were there, we saw the conditions that people were in.”

- **Nayeli Holguin**  
Sophomore engineering  
leadership major and  
secretary for ESW

UTEP alumnus Jesus Placencia, a recent graduate with a master's degree in civil engineering and research assistant for CERM, acted as task manager for the project. Placencia drew inspiration from

the model of the project from Tucson author Brad Lancaster's book "Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond."

Placencia planned out how many tanks and gutters were needed and what materials were the most sustainable. He enjoyed working with the group of student engineers, who often had input and ideas while they were working.

"It was a huge learning experience, for sure, just because I've never managed so many students, especially so many people who don't have experience using power tools," Placencia said jokingly, noting the fact that students in ESW did all of the labor themselves. "It was really worthwhile, especially helping them learn something new."

Alexis Lopez, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, helped work on the project for two long weekends in Presidio, which is about four hours away from El Paso. There

he had his first experience working hands-on with materials. Lopez worked on different positions, including cleaning the tanks, making holes for the tanks and drilling holes to install rain gutters.

"It seemed very easy, but once you were working on it, it was harder," Lopez said. "We came up with a lot of solutions. We faced a lot of problems we didn't expect and learned to use the power tools."

Most of the students working on the project had never worked with piping, so it was challenging to some, but a learning experience for all, according to the group.

"The gutter and the piping was more challenging because digging and moving around dirt, that's something that we've all done as children—playing with dirt, but doing things such as the piping and using the power tools to get all of these items on the roof was a bit

see RAINWATER on page 3

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A society fueled by plastic

BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ  
The Prospector



Plastic or paper? What used to be a common phrase is now only used at “natural” and “organic” grocery stores in El Paso, and is only asked where consumers can afford to think about the environment, which is a shame because that question is more relevant now than it ever was.

Petro-based plastics—plastic made from the byproducts of petroleum or natural gas—have undoubtedly shaped our world. Petro-based plastics are essential for the entire medical field, transportation, construction, clothing and all around play an essential role for a modern way of life. I challenge anyone to look around them and find something that does not have plastic.

It's impossible to argue against the fact that petro-based plastics have provided a great benefit, but it's equally impossible to argue that they do not pose a great threat to our health and our environment.

Petro-based plastics are so ubiquitous they have even found their way into the air we breathe, according to a study by the University of Paris, which found there are microplastics in the air small enough to breathe in.

To put that in perspective, every time you wash a synthetic garment—anything with nylon, polyester, spandex, etc.—around 1,600 petro-based plastic microfibers are produced, washed down the drain, bypassing any sewage filters and enter the ocean, land and air.

Disintegrated petroplastics have found their way into the fish we eat and are one of many ways humans also ingest microplastics, according to a study in the journal Scientific Reports.

Most have heard of the Texas-sized island of plastic and trash in the middle of the Pacific, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, but the mass has grown and is roughly four times the size of California, according to another study in the journal Scientific Reports. Microplastics only make up 8 percent of the island according to the New York Times, and it's not a patch inasmuch as 1.8 trillion pieces of underwater trash disintegrating into microplastics that will eventually enter our food supply.

There aren't enough studies to know exactly how bad ingesting or inhaling

microplastics are for us, but it's just asinine to wait around to find out, and not when there are already other options.

Bioplastics are made from renewable sources such as vegetable fats, oils and plant-based derivatives, and have gotten some significant traction in recent years. Electrolux, a global appliance manufacturer, recently created a refrigerator made completely from bioplastics. Recyclable cutlery has started to pop up as well and Lego recently announced that some of their iconic Legos will be made from plant-based plastic.

These are relatively small examples compared to the many ways petro-based plastics are used, but they show that the harmful effects can be decreased if corporations are willing.

There are small things that the individual consumer can do as well. Don't use straws, take a tote bag with you to the grocery store or simply reuse the hundreds of grocery bags under the kitchen sink and buy products that are made from biodegradable materials. There are hundreds of certificates that show biodegradable, plastic-free, plant-based and more—all you have to do is look.

Unfortunately, there is a line of thinking on the left that the working class cannot afford to think about the environment, and bringing a tote bag tells more about the size of the bank account than anything else. While it may be true, it matters not one bit. Besides the classist stereotype that the impoverished can't care about their environment, it's not an adequate excuse when the consequences are so extreme.

Ireland imposed a heavy tax on grocery bags and it was called a tax on the poor by the left. To be quite honest, get over it. People have suffered and survived under the labor-crushing, wage-stealing foot of the upper class long before plastic was invented, and there are enough cheap alternatives that single-use petroplastics are not vital to survival.

Either people learn how to use products other than petro-based plastics or they can get used to asking how many microplastics are in this season's salmon. The question is no longer paper or plastic, but plastic or basic health.

Follow Christian Vasquez on Twitter @chrismvasq

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‘Fortnite’ engulfs the video game world

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS  
The Prospector



Developers have long attempted to make a video game suitable for a popular audience that can sustain novelty and become a trend-heavy game, yet be simple enough for anyone to play.

“Fortnite Battle Royale” has swept the nation in becoming one of the most popular video games in modern era, with a simplistic gaming concept and a giant following.

Available on PC, Playstation 4 and Xbox One, “Fortnite” is a free video game that pins users in a battle royale situation and the mission is simple: be the last person standing.

In a general solo match, the game joins 100 live users in a player-versus-player all-out battle to the death. Users are able to drop down on a standard map and collect resources to stay alive, such as building materials, weaponry, health and shield potions and more. Throughout the game, a storm approaches and narrows the map down constantly, so players must travel within the inner circle to stay alive.

Aside from solo matches, players can join with friends or people online for two-player games or squad matches, which are teams of four.

From a beginner's perspective, the game is simple enough to pick

up a controller and play, and is also appealing for a download since it's completely free.

Most ask, how can this video game self-sustain itself when it's free? The game offers players in-game purchases, such as different skins for characters and unique tools to buy. Forbes estimated “Fortnite's” overall gross to be valued at \$126 million, surpassing the second-best video game, “PUBG” at \$103 million. Moreover, PC Games reported that nearly a third of all users that play video games on PCs play “Fortnite.”

This begs the question, is “Fortnite” the most popular video game we've seen in modern era?

Taking it back to the monumental movements of video games in the '80s, there were games like “Pac-Man,” “Tetris,” “Duck Hunt,” “Donkey Kong” and “Mario Bros.” that all had lasting effects in the gaming world. These games are regularly referenced among the best games in history for their breakthrough efforts.

Then came games that appealed to certain gamers' style of preference. For those who liked adventure games, “Grand Theft Auto,” “Need For Speed” and “Resident Evil” were among the most popular. Shooting games such as “Call of Duty” and “Halo” were extremely popular from the 2000s-2010s. Animated strategy games such as “Mario,” “Pokemon,” “Zelda,” “Minecraft,” “Super Smash Bros” and “World of Warcraft” grew with a large cult following and also became extremely popularized.

But what sets “Fortnite” apart from the rest is its accessibility, availability and strategic external support.

“Fortnite” is the first of its kind, being a grand-scale mixtape of video games. Apps that are used on phones are free, so “Fortnite” basically took what app developers have done for the past years and capitalized on their success, but this time through multiple video game platforms.

Anyone, any age, any gender and at almost any place can play “Fortnite.” It's simplicities make it dangerously addictive. Even Twitch TV, a streaming site for gamers, has seen the likes of “Fortnite” reaching its most views at 178,000, reported by Forbes.

Even celebrities like Drake and Travis Scott play “Fortnite” and broadcast it live on social media platforms.

There's really never been a game so popularized through social media platforms and through society like “Fortnite,” and it's only been trending for about five months.

The developers, Epic Gaming, still have a lot of potential for “Fortnite” down the line. With opportunities for updated maps, new characters, more game modes and more, the opportunities for “Fortnite” are truly endless.

Only time will tell if this is a game for the ages or if it is simply another multi-platform game that dies out after the novelty wears off.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian\_broaddus

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The Prospector Daily

The Prospector Sports Weekly Podcast - UTEP softball's Kaitlin Ryder and Courtney Clayton

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Join The Prospector Sports Weekly Podcast as they sit down with UTEP softball seniors Courtney Clayton and Kaitlyn Ryder. The two discuss their legacy as two of the top-10 best UTEP softball players of all-time and reflect on their time at UTEP.

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RAINWATER from page 1



(From left to right) Nayeli Holguin, Jesus Palencia and Bill Hargrove pose in front of their award for their project on harvesting rainwater.

more challenging because that was something we had not been exposed to before,” said Nayeli Holguin, a sophomore engineering leadership major and secretary for ESW.

Holguin and the other students agreed it was all worth it, as they understood the impact they were making.

“One of the biggest takeaways is learning to be more grateful, because when we were there, we saw the conditions that people were in,” Holguin said. “This issue was especially pressing because the people there are mostly elderly. So to be hauling water a lot of times a week is really hard on them, so it just really made me be grateful for being here in El Paso, where I can just open a faucet and it’s there and I don’t really have to worry about that.”

Most Las Pampas residents are retired, previously working in construction or on the ranches. One of the men, whose house was part of the project, actually worked at the hardware store the group often had to visit. Lopez enjoyed the bond they created.

“What I really enjoyed was seeing the satisfaction from the families that we helped because they were very thankful with us,” Lopez said. “They cooked us food, they were supervising our work all

the time, they were chatting with us and they were very happy. Using our engineering skills to help people and make them happy was very satisfying.”

Since one of the systems built was off the freeway, it generated interest from other members in the community and even the local airport. The goal was to have people interested in doing it themselves.

Holguin was able to get feedback and ideas for future projects from national ESW members at their annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

“I’d like to continue on with these projects,” Holguin said. “As we grow as a community, we have more connections and people that can offer us different opportunities.”

Holguin is now running to be elected as project manager for the ESW to help

make sure all future projects get the same amount of attention and are balanced. She said ESW now wants to put the skills they learned into closer colonias in areas such as Hueco Tanks and Juárez. They also plan to continue to have a strong connection with CERM.

Follow Michaela Román at @michaelaroman\_

EARTH DAY EVENTS:

**‘EARTH’ AT THE MOVIES**

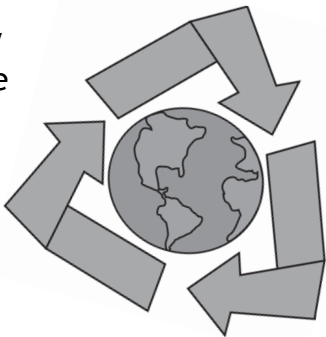
The El Paso Zoological Society will be screening “Earth” at the Alamo Drafthouse on Sunday, April 22, from noon-3 p.m. Bring the family and reconnect a new generation with nature and the inhabitants of this planet. Tickets for adults are \$20 and include popcorn, candy, and soda, beer or wine.

**CLOTHING DISCOUNT**

Celebrate Earth Day with Uptown Cheapskate On Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Enjoy 25 percent off gently used clothes and shoes.

**BICYCLE RIDE FOR PLANET EARTH**

There will be a fossil fuel-free celebration to support the March For Planet Earth. Dress up in all green and celebrate this Earth Day on two wheels. The riders will meets at Centennial Plaza to show support to marchers. The ride is a fun scenic loop that will end at the downtown Earth Day festival at San Jacinto Plaza. There will be food trucks, spoken word and live music.



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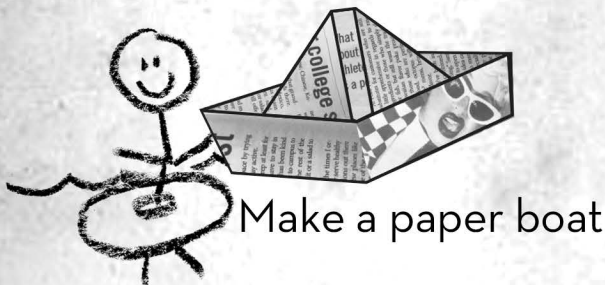
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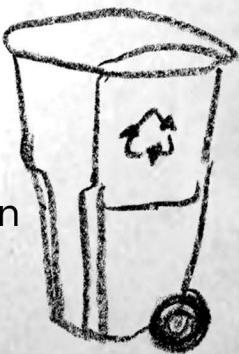


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What TO and what NOT TO recycle

How many times have you seen your neighbor throw the pizza box in the blue bin that is supposed to be used to recycle? Well, according to the Environmental Services Department this is among many of the reasons why the average rate of contamination in the blue bins has increased in the last 10 years. In 2008 the average contamination rate was about 13 percent, which has increased now to 33 percent.

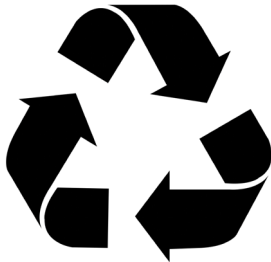
ESD explains that recyclable items that have different kinds of liquids, grease and food end up contaminating the recycling process.

There's lots of misinformation about the items that can and can't be recycled. Check out this list of items that should go inside of your blue bin, provided by ESD El Paso and test your knowledge on recycling.

*Recyclables should not contain food residue or be put in a bag before being placed in the blue bin. Rinse plastic and metal items.* For more information visit [elpasotexas.gov/recycle](http://elpasotexas.gov/recycle)

DON'T RECYCLE

- Usable or empty aerosol cans
- Anti-freeze
- Appliances
- Auto batteries
- Batteries
- Carpets & carpet pads
- Charcoal lighter
- Cleaning fluids
- Clothing/shoes
- Construction materials
- Cooking oil (used)
- Degreasers
- Diapers
- Drain cleaners
- Electronics
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Food & food contaminated products
- Furniture (rot reusable)
- Furniture (reusable)
- Furniture polish
- Glass
- Oil & filters (used)
- Paint
- Paper towels/napkins facial tissues
- Pesticides & other household chemicals
- Pool chemicals
- Pool tarps/covers
- Rust removers



RECYCLE ITEMS

PAPER

- Newspaper and advertising inserts
- Junk or advertising mail and envelopes
- All office paper
- Colored or white paper
- Paperback and hardback books (all soft, hardcovers should be ripped off)
- Magazines, catalogs and phone books
- Wrapping paper with no foil or glitter
- Shredded paper (only item that should be bagged)
- Paper bags (place 5-6 bags in each bag)
- Unused paper cups and plates
- Construction paper
- Heavyweight folders
- Holiday or birthday cards
- Postcards

PLASTIC

- Yogurt, dairy and margarine tubes and lids
- Milk, juice, soda and other beverage bottles and their caps
- Shampoo and conditioner bottles

- Window, bathroom, and kitchen cleaning bottles
- Detergent and fabric softener bottles
- Bubble wrap
- CD cases
- Shrink wrap
- Clear deli trays
- Empty prescription or over the counter medicine vials and caps
- Stadium cups
- Durable reusable containers and lids 9 Tupperware-type materials)
- Clamshell containers (those that have a black base and a clear lid)
- Rigid plastics (laundry baskets, lawn furniture, buckets and toys. You can place these items in your blue bin if they can fit with the lid closed)
- Food jars and squeezable bottles (mayonnaise mustard, ketchup, salad dressing, vegetable oils, barbecue sauce, and syrup)

CARDBOARD

- Cereal and dry food boxes (without the liner)
- Cardboard egg cartons
- Flattened cardboard boxes (free of Styrofoam or peanuts)
- Tissue boxes
- Kitchen or toilet paper rolls
- Toothpaste box
- Shoe boxes (must be empty)
- Gift boxes (free of wrapping paper, ribbon, or tape)
- Cracker boxes

ALUMINUM/TIN (METAL)

- Soda and another aluminum cans
- Canned food cans and their caps or lids
- Clean aluminum foil
- Clean aluminum trays
- Clothes hangers (bundled)
- Pots or pans (without wood, plastic or rubber attachments)

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# March for Planet Earth is taking over downtown



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR  
Activists marched from Mundy Park to San Jacinto Plaza on Earth Day, April 22, 2017, for the National March for Science.

BY JAKE DEVEN  
The Prospector

This Earth Day, the Frontera Water Protection Alliance is hosting March for Planet Earth, which will begin at Centennial Plaza and end at San Jacinto Plaza on Sunday, April 22, at 8 a.m. The march, which has been six months in the making, is meant to educate the community on environmental issues, such as climate change

and the harsh extraction of fossil fuels known as fracking. “We’re trying to get people in the community engaged on the issues that hurt our environment, and show them how, as a group, we’re able to make real change,” said Crystal Moran, founder of the Frontera Water Protection Alliance and NMSU graduate with a degree in public health.

The group wants to continue to spread awareness and education on the adverse effects of fossil fuel extraction such as fracking and oil and gas drilling. The organization, which is inspired by other water protection movements throughout the country, most notable being the group in Standing Rock, has been fighting to prevent future pipe-

lines, fracking, oil and other fossil fuel projects in the El Paso region. “As far as the energy we use, we want to create a sustainable future for our children and grandchildren, and the path that we are making right now is not the right one,” Moran said. Moran and other activists say the recent Comanche Trail Pipeline, which runs west from Pecos and to the border, is an example of the damage done to our environment. “It’s going to affect us some way or another,” Moran said. “Maybe it’s not at this very moment, but it will in the future. I don’t think it’s a question of if it will rupture, but when it will.” Those who attend the event will also be able to sign their name on a letter to state representatives that demands the movement to a healthy clean environment free of fossil fuel contamination. “We want to educate people so that they feel empowered and know what to do and how to directly affect policy,” Moran said. The event will encompass plenty of activities after the march, including food trucks, vendors and live music by artists Supaman, who mixes hip-hop music with traditional Native American music, Lyla June, Artson, Tara Trudell and more. Artson, a Native American and El Pasoan musician, won the Grammy Award for Best Narrative Music Video for his song “Never Give Up” dur-

ing the 17th-annual Native American Music Awards and has a new album dropping on April 20. Lyla June, also a Native American, is a motivational speaker, poet, musician and activist of Navajo and Cheyenne lineages. Organizers for March for Planet Earth hope to shine a light on the issue during the march to prevent more pipelines from coming into the community. Moran, who used to intern for U.S. Rep. Harry Teague, D-New Mexico, says one of the most important things you can do, besides joining the march, is to call your representatives. “They are paying attention, they are listening and noticing, whether you think so or not. What they hear from us is what sets their agenda,” Moran said. One of the main issues that the Frontera Water Protection Alliance wants to focus on is fracking. Moran says El Paso is currently being threatened by fracking. The main water source for El Paso, the Hueco-Mesa Bolson aquifers, sit right outside the county and is the site where Torchlight Energy plans to drill for oil. “Just because we don’t see it right away doesn’t mean our water is safe, we really want to get that message out. There’s a lot of footwork that could be done that could actually make a difference,” Moran said.

Follow Jake Deven on Twitter @jakedeven

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Deseche correctamente los residuos peligrosos, pesticidas, y fertilizantes. Llama al departamento EH&S en UTEP y agenda fecha para recoger los desperdicios.

Leave natural vegetation in place where possible to prevent erosion.

Si es posible, deje crecer la vegetación en forma natural para evitar la erosión.

Storm drains are easily identified with “NO DUMPING” decals at stormwater inlets.

Alcantarillado de aguas pluviales es identificado con anuncios de “NO REVERTIR DESECHOS AQUI”

Keep material out of the stormwater conveyance system (curbs, gutters, sidewalks, streets, drains, culverts, and arroyos). Dispose of grass, leaves, yard waste, and construction debris properly.

No tapar el flujo pluvial a canales, alcantarillas y arroyos con basura. Disponga correctamente de basura vegetal (césped, ramas, y hojas) así como basura de construcción.

Recycle oil, antifreeze, and other vehicle fluids, or dispose of them properly to prevent the pollution of stormwater, groundwater and the Rio Grande.

Recicle aceite, anti-congelante y lubricantes o disponga propiamente de ellos para prevenir contaminación del sistema de drenaje pluvial, mantos acuíferos y el Río Bravo.

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# Question of the Week: Do you consider yourself eco-friendly?

SERGIO MUÑOZ / THE PROSPECTOR



**YOKO KATO**  
Sophomore nursing major  
“I am eco-friendly. I recycle, I have also done projects for the community, and I do clean up parks. I plan on the future to start doing again cleaning parks, recycling and doing other things, saving up water and stuff.”



**PEDRO CENICERÓS**  
Freshman biology major  
“Honestly, I don't think I am. I try to be, but I'm not eco-friendly enough. My apartment complex doesn't have a recycle bin. I try to recycle, but sometimes I can't. And, well, I don't contribute enough to the ecosystem.”



**SHANNON JACOBSON**  
Sophomore nursing major  
“I would say I'm probably eco-friendly. I recycle every week, make sure everything is all good.”



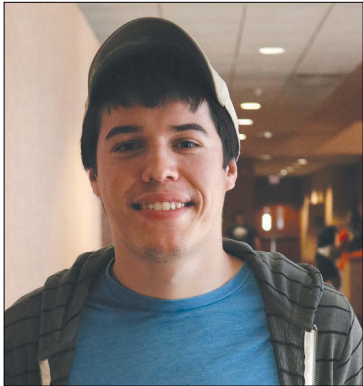
**ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ**  
Junior mechanical engineering major  
“Yeah, I do consider myself eco-friendly. I usually use my own water bottle, I don't buy any at the stores. And then, I reuse all my notebooks every semester, take out the old pages and use them.”



**CAROLINA DELGADO**  
Junior nursing major  
“I believe I am. I always try to recycle as much as I can, I save electricity and water. Just trying to help the community by cleaning up trash, trying to spread the word on how important it is to help save our earth.”



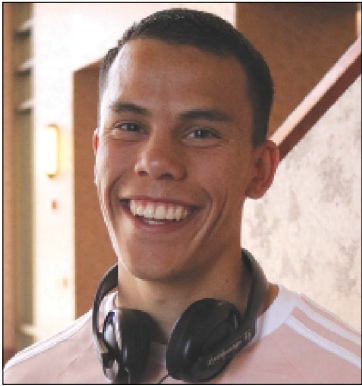
**JANETTE RODRIGUEZ**  
Senior english major  
“I attempt to do compost and use the waste of the food to put in the garden, and I just try to recycle when I'm on campus”



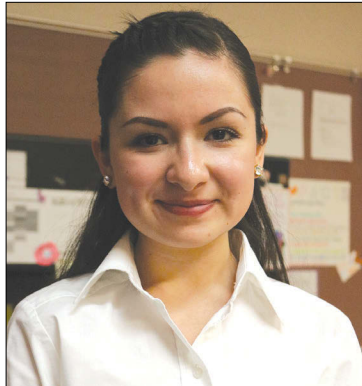
**CALEB GILLS**  
Senior computer science major  
“I don't actively try to be eco-friendly. I try to do it subconsciously, I don't go out of my way to make sure that I am eco-friendly.”



**ANA PAULA GUTIERREZ**  
Sophomore economics major  
“I would like to think that I am, but I'm not really. I waste a lot of trash and I don't turn off the lights as often as I should.”



**SETH VAN MATRE**  
Junior digital media production major  
“I participate in recycling, I also try to conserve as much gas as I can. I always try to look for eco-friendly alternatives, such as conserving the water and that kind of stuff.”



**ADRIANA CHAVEZ DE LA ROSA**  
Junior political science major  
“Unfortunately no, because, first of all, I don't recycle and because I use plastic water bottles all the time—something I think contaminates a lot.”

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APRIL 17, 2018

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR  
CLAUDIA FLORES , 747-7446

UTEP Dinner Theatre celebrates its 35th anniversary



CLAUDIA FLORES / THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP Dinner Theatre will celebrate its 35th anniversary by putting on stage a new version of Tim Rice's classic "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on April 20.

BY CLAUDIA FLORES  
The Prospector

As part of its 35th anniversary, the UTEP Dinner Theater is set to present "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on April 20.

Back in 1983, when the dinner theater opened its doors, this Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical was the first production to run at the theater.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" is based on the Bible story in the book of Genesis, about a young dreamer named Joseph. He was abandoned by his 11 brothers in Egypt and being a prisoner, rises triumphant as part of the Egyptian government and reunites with his family for a happily ever after.

"I get to direct so many different types of shows from the classic up to the latest releases. I also enjoy working with the creative people on our staff who design and make the sets, costumes, props and music for our shows," said Greg Taylor, direc-

tor for the UDT and of the show.

Taylor founded the UDT in 1983 when he was an undergraduate student at UTEP. After being given a \$1,000 grant by the Special Programs and Activities Committee of the Student Programs Office, Taylor and his friend Jimmy Legarreta presented "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" as a dinner theater show.

The first production took place in the former student Union Ballroom, and after three sold-out shows, Sonny Castro, who was the director of the Union at the time, gave Taylor a work-study position to run the concept of the dinner theater.

Named the Union Dinner Theatre, in 1998 the theater was renamed as the UTEP Dinner Theatre and has kept a four-show season tradition since then.

"We have a very talented crew/staff that make our productions shine. UTEP has been very good to me. I started out as a volunteer

student, then was hired as a work-study student," Taylor said. "A few years later I was hired as a full-time staff member and now I am an associate professor getting to work in a field I love—all thanks to the many administrators over the years who have supported me and the dinner theater."

He has directed and produced over 140 shows at the UDT. His passion for theater has taken him to work as a production assistant on the Broadway production of the musical "Chess."

Since 1983, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," has been staged five additional times at the UDT.

"This is our sixth production of 'Joseph,' but it is almost an entirely new production. We are using one backdrop from our previous productions, but the rest of the set is brand new as are all of the costumes for this special production," Taylor said.

Ricardo Parra, a UTEP graduate and medical student at Paul L. Foster Medical School and principal character of the play, said it's definitely a privilege and a special opportunity to be part of this UDT production, not only because it's the show that started it all, but because it's also produced and directed by the guy who founded the UTEP Dinner Theatre, Greg Taylor.

"I was in the last 2010 production of Joseph, and it's awesome to see how the theater continues to progress and run strong," Parra said.

For Parra, this is the third time since high school that he goes on the stage as part of the cast for the Tim Rice classic.

"This musical is pretty much a storybook come to life. It presents the story of Joseph in a fun and silly way, while still keeping the integrity of the biblical story," Parra said. I love the concept of having to be comical and over the top, because it presents few limits for a performer."

From the start, the UDT built a special relationship with the work of renown lyricist Tim Rice, as his other plays such as "Blondel," "Tycoon" and "Chess" have also been presented at the theater. The production of "Chess" took Taylor and his UTEP team on to win the national award of the American College Theatre Festival in 1989 and they performed the play at the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center in Washington DC.

"It is amazing to realize that our little 184-seat theater (after 35 years, 150 productions and over 400,000 tickets sold, grossing over \$8,000,000 in sales) has become the most successful theater in El Paso, Texas, regularly selling out and holding over most of our productions," Taylor said. "We are still (as far as we know) the only full-time, year-round independently producing dinner theater on a university campus in the United States."

✉ Claudia Flores may be reached at [gigibertaflores43@gmail.com](mailto:gigibertaflores43@gmail.com).



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\*4843\*



# Paradise Heritage Cruise Nights take over Texas Avenue

**BY GABY VELASQUEZ**  
The Prospector

On December 28, 1987, Cabral's life changed forever during the moment holding his son for the first time.

Sergio Cabral, El Paso Chapter Paradise Car Club President, originally from California, joined a gang at the age of 14 along with other people that were his age. However, he would hang around with the older crowds that were 18-25, or closer to 30.

"They would protect me, they would say, 'Nah, you're different, you're not like these other mocosos (brats),' " Cabral said.

Although he would sell drugs, he never tagged a wall. He was in the gang for four years before he left.

"'This is mine,' like if it was a thing, no one can tell me what I can do with him or tell him what to wear or tell him what to do," Cabral said.

That was the exact moment he felt he had to leave the gang. However, at that time it was very hard for a gang member to leave the crew.

Cabral told his good friend Pato, one of the older leaders in the gang, about his situation. Since Pato was older, he was well respected by the "homies" and told Cabral that he had nothing to worry about.

"He told me that 'do what you gotta do' and he promised 'you come and tell me, I'll take care of you,'" Cabral said. Cabral has never touched an illegal drug since that day.

He worked for the state of California for 15 years and got contracted for the government at Fort Bliss when he moved to El Paso.

"People might judge me in how I am like this, but my records, everything is impeccable," he said. "It's clean and that's what changed me right there."

After leaving the gang, Cabral jumped into a lowrider and bike club, Paradise, in Los Angeles, where he and his brother

er Eddie had their own bikes. However, when the president passed away, the club fizzled out.

**Starting the cruise in El Paso**  
Now 50 years old, Cabral decided to bring Paradise to El Paso since he had left California in August. Paradise has 14 members.

Cabral would take his Marilyn Monroe fleet line to a cruise they had at Ascarate Park, although he says he didn't like the location.

"I wanted a street, like we had back then in the Baldwin Village," he said.

He started telling the club members at the meetings that he wanted to start a cruise, but most of the members doubted him, saying that it would be too difficult.

Cabral then called up his brother Eddie and told him about his idea, asking him to help him find a street to start the Paradise Car Club.

"He found a street, which was Texas Avenue between Campbell Street and Copia Street," Cabral said. "I went to go look at it, I liked it. It was perfect. The businesses shut down at 5:30. It's close to the police station. We wouldn't have no drama, you know keep it for the people and their families and stuff like that."

Every Sunday at 5:30 p.m., Texas Avenue becomes a time machine that will take El Pasoans back to the '60s, where anyone can come out and show off their car. They can keep it parked or cruise up and down the street at Heritage Cruise Night.

**Cruising in Paradise**  
According to Cabral, Paradise is unique compared to other car clubs in El Paso.

Cabral says the main difference between his car club and the one he was in at California are the club dues. He says he is very lenient with the members in his club compared to how they were at California.

"In Cali, there's more, pretty much



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR  
**Paradise CarClub** president Sergio Cabral drives his Marilyn Monroe fleet line at Heritage Cruise Nights every Sunday.

more politics. You are required to pay so much; you got to pay dues. You're late, you got to pay the late fees and stuff like that," Cabral said.

Some car clubs only focus on the cars. However, Cabral said he sees his club as a family.

"Away from the club, I'm taking my club to go camping and stuff like that away from the cars—the kids, the family, everybody," he said.

The car clubs are usually restricted to men but Cabral finds it important to include women in the meetings.

"It makes it whole lot easier. Everybody is happy," said Cabral about when the women are involved in the club.

Back in the '60s, there were many gangs that were rivals. Clubs now support each other out with whatever they need despite what the club they

belong to.

"If we're doing something, 'hey we got your back.' If they're doing something, 'hey, me and my club are there to support you for that cause,'" Cabral said.

Paradise member Carlos Macias was in a different car club, but left it to join Paradise six months ago because he felt Cabral's club brings people together.

"It's a family thing, we do different things, away from the shows, we get together every weekend," Macias said.

**Chicano Culture**  
Car shows, cruises and the Chicano culture have a different meaning from when they started in the '60s.

"A lot of things have changed, which is cool for me, now I wouldn't mind my son having a lowrider car. Because back then it would be hard to distinguish a lowrider car from another lowrider car that a gangster might own. But now you can tell them apart because they have their plaques, their names," Cabral said.

Stand-up comedian, actor and activist Cheech Marin recently brought his private collection of Chicano art, "Papel Chicano Dos," to the El Paso Museum of Art in March, which features 65 of his art pieces including prints, paintings and drawings from different artists.

Macias said that Cheech Marin was impressed by the Chicano culture in El Paso.

Marin believes that "you can't love or hate Chicano art unless you see it" The exhibition has traveled around the country, showcasing the Chicano culture and struggles through different eyes.

"It's good to see that he is doing that because it is true, not anyone has collected that history from back then," says Cabral.

"They would say, 'Oh you're a Mexican,' 'No I'm not, I'm a Chicano!' Of course, I would argue that fact too. 'Where's your mother from?' My mother is from Juárez. 'And your dad?' My dad is from El Paso, but I was born in East L.A. But I'm a Chicano, you know, and that was the thing," he said.

Although at first Cabral didn't want to move to El Paso, he said he likes it now because there are so many events going on here for Chicanos.

The car clubs have multiple car shows every month to raise money for a special cause. Lincoln Park Day celebrates Chicano culture with a huge car show every year in September and the Lincoln Park Conservation Committee celebrates Cesar Chavez Day every year with a bike show. UTEP and EPCC have multiple events going on every September for Hispanic Heritage Month celebrating Chicano, Mexican-American and Hispanic culture in El Paso.

✉ Gaby Velasquez may be reached at [gabrielaavelasquez1997@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielaavelasquez1997@gmail.com).

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April 2 - 26

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Pledge Support and Help Stop Violence

Location: Various campus locations

April 10

BAD ROMANCE

Recognizing the Signs of an Unhealthy Relationship

10:00am - 11:30am

Union Bldg. East, Andesite Room 102B

April 25

DENIM DAY: ADVOCACY FAIR AND FASHION SHOW

Wear Denim With A Purpose

10:00am - 1:00pm

Union Plaza

LET'S TALK ABOUT CONSENT

How to Talk to Your Partner

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Union Bldg. East, Andesite Room 102B

April 26

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Union Bldg. East,

Tomás Rivera Conference Center, Room 308

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Divine Kegel headed to NDMF for the second time

BY JAKE DEVEN
The Prospector

This year is one of Neon Desert Music Festival biggest years for local artists, with almost half the lineup dedicated to El Paso artists, and one of those bands being Divine Kegel.

The duo, made up of drummer and vocalist Elijah Watson and guitarist Daniel Lopez, have been thrashing their way in and around El Paso for over three years. There's no telling what kind of rock Divine Kegel plays, but it's somewhere between hip-hop, garage, psychedelic, noise, hardcore and punk-rock.

"If I had to explain Divine Kegel in two words, I would say garage-punk," Watson said.

The band released their first EP titled "La Solidaridad I" in December 2017. Watson, who lives in Brooklyn, New York, said that a lot of the album was recorded in New York last summer when Lopez went up to visit. However, the EP and band is entirely an El Paso product. Watson compares the experience to rap artists who spend countless nights in the studio, cooking up something special for their new group.

"It was a great experience, just two dudes getting drunk in the studio, talking about El Paso and recording our ode to El Paso here in New York," Watson said.

The band plans on releasing two more EPs by the end of the year, "La Solidaridad II" and "La Solidaridad III," with their debut album planned to be released sometime in 2019.

Like many great artists, Divine Kegel was a product of a strong musical bond held together by a collective of a different name and sound. The two met when they were in a mutual friend's band named The Prospectors. The band was originally set to play a show in Marfa, Texas, in 2015, but the two bandmates were the only ones to make the gig. Going out on a whim, Watson and Lopez decided to play anyway. They came up with a

quick 30-minute instrumental set that changed the course of their music careers, achieving massive praise from the audience and inevitably forcing Divine Kegel into existence.

"We played so well and got a good response—they wanted encore but we didn't have anything else to play," Watson said.

At the time, The Prospectors offered a more progressive and psychedelic sound, which was a sound that Watson and Lopez were ready to ditch.

"Divine Kegel is the direct antithesis to The Prospectors. We have three-minute songs, no real dynamic contrast and just a balls to the wall sound that makes you feel like you're getting punched in the face every second," Watson said.

Lopez's guitar is minimalist in approach, with clear influences from classic bands such as Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin. There's the repetitive distortion in the riffs that send the listener into an aggressive daze only to be complemented by Watson's bombastic beats.

"Eli, with his drumming, provides this space where I can be like somewhat robotic, repetitive, come up with riffs to make noise," Lopez said.

Watson's drums are unique, in that they are a mix of fast-paced, violent clatters and rhythmic hip-hop beats that you may find in group like the Beastie Boys.

"At this point, I'm not really influenced by other drummers, I'm more influenced by hip-hop producers like J. Dilla, Metro Boomin," Watson said.

There's a certain element of danger and exhilaration that Divine Kegel provides that other local bands don't. That element of danger, spectacle and unpredictability is noticed in Kegel's live performances. The band attempts to replicate the strength, precision and energy of old hip-hop beats and new hip-hop beats, but applies them into a punk-rock context.

Follow Jake Deven on Twitter @jakadeven



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Pamela Azaeta owner of District Coffee runs the shop she and her husband opened in March 2018.

District Coffee opens in the heart of downtown El Paso

BY ELENIE GONZALEZ
The Prospector

Located in the heart of downtown at 222 Texas Ave., Suite F, District Coffee offers a place for people working in the area and for students to grab a cup of joe and take a break.

This new coffee shop, which opened in March, has a modern atmosphere that embodies the aesthetic of newer El Paso hot spots.

Former elementary school teacher Pamela Azaeta fulfilled her goal of opening a coffee shop last month after two years of planning, and years of dreaming.

Pamela and her husband Cesar Azaeta had spoken about opening up their own business one day and decided that a coffee shop is where they would set their sights.

"We love coffee and like to visit coffee shops whenever we travel. I have family members in California that bought a coffee farm in Nicaragua. After learning a lot from their farm, we decided that a coffee shop is what we wanted to open up," Pamela said. "It was over my summer break, two years ago that we seriously began developing our plan to open up our shop."

With the ongoing revitalization of downtown, the Azaetas took the opportunity to give downtown what they felt it needed.

"We wanted to make this a comfortable place for people to come and sit and study and work. We try and make it very cozy," Pamela said. "I worked with my friend and her sister to help design the space. We also partnered with Aiden James, an advertising agency, who played a big role in our branding and designing."

Pamela wanted the coffee shop to appeal to students and employees in downtown.

"I like going to District Coffee because of the atmosphere," said Rafael Ornelas, a junior forensic science major. "They also have really good coffee and I'm a big coffee drinker, so it's a cool place to come in between my classes and get away from campus for a bit and study before I have to go back."

The name District Coffee stemmed from the fact that downtown is divided into districts. They wanted to encompass every district and make it a place where anyone can hang out.

Pamela says that they have received positive feedback from customers so far.

"I've learned that it's a pretty tight,

close community downtown and we're just getting to know new people, making new friends and that's been really cool," Pamela said.

District Coffee offers a menu of traditional coffee drinks, matcha and tea. All of their coffee is from Picacho Coffee Roasters, located in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Being a local business themselves, the Azaetas want to support other local businesses in the area.

"The tea we sell is from The Tea Spout. We know that not everyone is a coffee drinker, so we wanted to offer tea to our customers as an option," Pamela said.

Customers are also able to purchase baked goods made by Guilty Pleasure Pastries. Muffins, scones and macaroons are just a few of the goods that can be enjoyed with your cup of coffee or tea.

Customers receive a punch card to use each time they purchase an item off the menu. After five punches, customers receive 50 percent off one item, and 10 punches gets people one item for free.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Follow Jason Green on Twitter @greenevansj

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# Good Morning Kiss creates organic skin care products for El Pasoans



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOD MORNING KISS

Good Morning Kiss is a local beauty brand that creates organic skin care products.

BY BRIANNA CHAVEZ

The Prospector

The skin is the largest organ in the body and having an effective skin care routine can be a daily necessity for some.

For Lilly Navarro, using organic products for the skin is especially important. Navarro, a native El Pasoan, makes her own organic skin care products from the comfort of her own home, creating the local brand Good Morning Kiss.

It all started two and a half years ago after the birth of her twins. Her grandmother would come over and help her with her children and around the house. Navarro’s grandmother taught her about essential oils and the different benefits they have.

“This sounds silly, but I hung out with my grandma,” Navarro said. “We would make all kinds of face masks and play around with the stuff.”

Navarro, who is a full-time mom, never has the opportunity to leave

the house and treat herself at a spa.

“I can relate to so many moms. It’s not feasible to just go and get a facial. So, I started seeing things that I could use from my counter,” Navarro said. “My grandma said, ‘you should bottle this stuff up and consider selling it.’”

Navarro eventually took her grandmother’s advice and turned her hobby of making quality organic skin care products for herself, her kids and friends into a business.

Navarro began selling at the Downtown Art and Farmers Market. Since then, Good Morning Kiss has taken off. The name Good Morning Kiss comes from her love of her family.

“There’s nothing sweeter than those good morning kisses from your loved ones,” she said. “Once I started selling at the market that’s when I realized, ‘oh man, this is something.’ I’ve had repeat customers since I’ve started. They’ve been super loyal to me for the past two years.”

Two out of Navarro’s four children suffer from eczema, making her more aware of what ingredients are used in other skin products. Now her children use her products.

“It’s hard to go buy a product at a store and then it makes it worse. You have kids and your life changes. You want to better yourself so your kids are better than you,” she said.

Navarro created a seven-piece facial kit consisting of a chamomile cleanser, rosemary facial scrub, charcoal mask with its own brush, a rosewater toner and rose serum, and a moisturizer. The rose serum is Navarro’s most popular item. All of these items and more are also available for purchase separately.

Good Morning Kiss also has a spot treatment for people with acne-prone skin, and a coffee-infused serum. The coffee serum is made with coffee beans from a local roaster, Bean Type Coffee Roasters.

Navarro’s products are also available at MJ Skin Naturals - Skincare Boutique in Far East El Paso.

“Clients have absolutely loved (Navarro’s) products and we highly recommend them,” said Zylene Martinez, owner of MJ Skin Naturals - Skincare Boutique.

Martinez used to make her own products for her salon. After adding additional services and booking clients, Martinez became too busy to make her own products anymore.

“I wanted to stay true to green beauty and support the local makers. I had heard of ‘GMK back when I used to sell my skin care in the farmers market, so when I stopped making my products, I looked her up on social media and reached out to her,” she said.

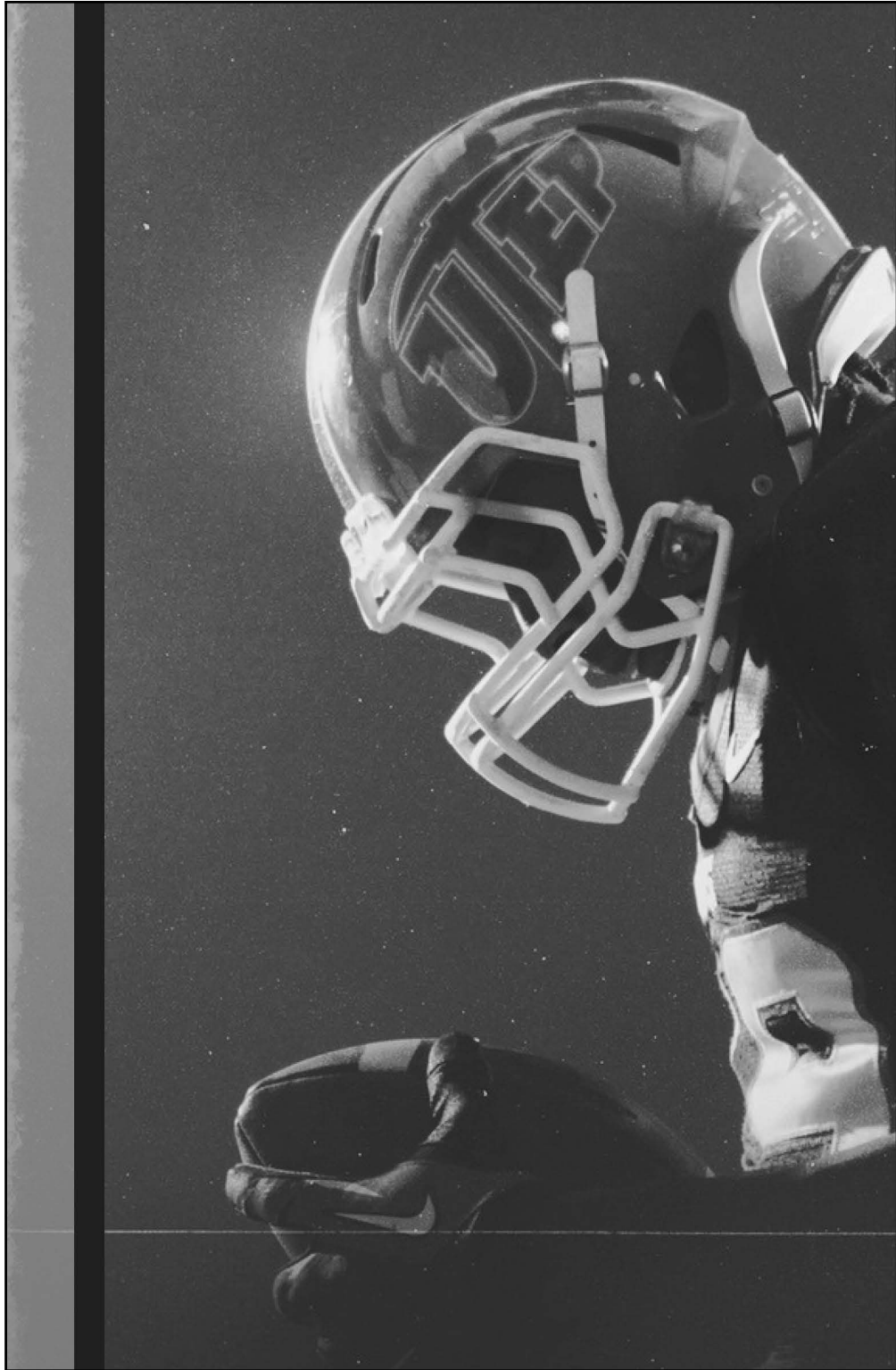
Good Morning Kiss is sold at Soteria Wellness as well. Both MJ Skin Naturals Skincare Boutique and Soteria Wellness offer full facials with the organic products that Navarro sells.



If used weekly, the Good Morning Kiss facial kit lasts about four months. The full kit sells for \$90. The products range from \$18 to \$30 separately.

“I’ve always been into essential oils, so this is like a great way for me to kind of nerd out,” Navarro said with a giggle.

Good Morning Kiss products are available at the Downtown Art and Farmers Market on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and at the Upper Valley Farmers Market on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit their website [goodmorningkiss.com](http://goodmorningkiss.com).

✉ Brianna Chavez may be reached at [brichavez2008@gmail.com](mailto:brichavez2008@gmail.com).





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APRIL 17, 2018

SPORTS EDITOR  
JEREMY CARRANCO, 747-7446

Football wraps up spring training on the right track



The orange team defeated the blue team 20-13 at the Spring Game on Friday April 13 at the Sun Bowl stadium.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS  
The Prospector

Last Friday, UTEP football concluded its spring season, as the Orange team beat the Blue 20-13 in the annual spring game.

The game was a chance for first-year head coach Dana Dimel to see where the team stands in terms of quality and readiness.

“The guys have got a lot to work on, obviously, but I thought we had a ready good scrimmage,” Dimel said. “But overall I was very, very pleased with the scrimmage and very pleased with what they did.

“I love the attitude and the effort was fantastic. The things they’ve got to work on now, are getting in the weight room and finishing up the ac-

ademics very hard these next couple of weeks going into finals.”

Here are some questions the Miners need to answer during summer camp.

**When will they name a starting quarterback?**

It was not much of a surprise that the starting quarterback battle did not find a conclusion in the spring football game on April 13, with the competition now continuing into the summer.

It wouldn’t have been fair to name a starting quarterback with Kai Locksley dealing with a late spring injury and no quarterback having had a breakthrough spring season.

Along with Locksley, Ryan Metz, Mark Torrez, Calvin Brownholtz and Alex Fernandes threw a whopping 63

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”

- Dana Dimel  
UTEP football head coach

passes and threw for 380 yards the spring game.

The two frontrunners, Locksley and Metz, both had a good showing on Friday night. Locksley led the way, completing 11-of-17 passes for 119 yards. Metz went 4-of-9 for 66 yards and ran for a 15-yard touchdown.

The summer will tell a lot, especially if one of the two begins to separate himself into a solidified starter. But it won’t be surprising if the Miners haven’t named a starter when August rolls around.

“I saw all five quarterbacks get a chance to do some good things and all of them showed some nice things,” said Dimel. “So that’s encouraging for the future to build some depth. Obviously we split the reps up so everybody could play in the game tonight, and that was cool too, for the parents and the fans to get to see everybody play.”

**Air raid or run heavy?**

Throwing 63 passes in a scrimmage cannot be overlooked for this team. This is pretty much the same team that just a few months ago was a run-first offense.

It’s hard to say which way the Miners will turn on offense, but throwing 63 times alludes to the Miners being more balanced in offense than before.

The Miners are also taking about 95 percent of their plays from a shotgun formation, which is completely different than last year, where they primarily went under center.

Once summer is finally over, this team will probably look more balanced. They will utilize Locksley or Metz in the air game and give significant carries to runners such as Quadraiz Wadley, Treyvon Hughes and Joshua Fields.

**Run by committee or true running back?**

With weapons such as Wadley and Fields, the Miners had a lot of firepower at the running back position

going into the spring. But guys like Hughes, a converted running back from linebacker, TK Powell and Ronald Awatt have made their weaponry at running back even deeper.

The Miners lost running back Kevin Dove during the off-season to a transfer, and thus Walter Dawn Jr., who took significant carries at the tailback position last season, converted back to a slot receiver, so there were definitely questions surrounding that position.

However, it seems that Dimel and offensive coordinator Mike Canales have a grip on the position and continue to develop the spot.

This year’s running back group will probably operate again as a running back by committee approach. Due to his talent, Wadley will probably be the No. 1 back for the Miners, with Fields and Hughes splitting reps behind him.

**How quickly can the defense readjust?**

Switching from a 3-4 to a 4-2-5 will be a challenge to say the least for the defense. It will be even more challenging considering at one point last season, the Miners had over 15 linebackers on their roster.

At the spring game, there were no interceptions, but the defense had six sacks and nine pass deflections.

“I wanted to see good tackling and I saw really good tackling tonight,” Dimel said. “That’s what I was really, really pleased about. The defense didn’t miss many tackles at all. They had restrictions on them about tackling high. Normally when you have those types of restrictions, you’re going to see some missed tackles, but I didn’t see that today.”

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian\_broaddus

Rhinos complete successful season with Thorne Cup

BY MIKE FLORES  
The Prospector

For the second time in five years, the El Paso Rhinos are the Western States Hockey League Champions after defeating the Ogden Mustangs 3-2 on Sunday, April 15.

While their season record reads 52-1-1 for the 2018 season, the Rhinos’ road was much tougher than it looked. They were on the brink of elimination before eventually winning their third national title in program history (2008 and 2014).

Heading into the tournament, the Rhinos were one of the hottest teams in the nation. The path to the finals was off to a rocky start after El Paso lost their first two games of the tournament to Long Beach, losing 4-1, and to Oklahoma City.

The opening two losses in the round-robin games had the Rhinos in a must-win situation. Any loss after that would have eliminated the Rhinos from the playoffs.

Set to face the Utah Outliers on a two-game losing streak, the Rhinos found themselves down early against the Outliers. However, a late surge from El Paso and a game-winning goal from Austin Simpson, 4-3, sent the Rhinos to the Thorne Cup against the five-time champions the Idaho IceCats.

In the regular season, the IceCats handed the Rhinos one of their few losses of the season, 3-2.

But it was a different story come play-off time as the Rhinos played lights-out defense and scored the first goal of the game within the first two minutes of the matchup. Leading 1-0 in the second period, the Rhinos tacked on another score from a long-distance shot to increase their lead, 2-0.

From there on, the Rhinos made sure to complete their redemption game behind a 19-save game from Pickles, shutting the IceCats out 4-0 in the semifinals to reach the Thorne Cup finals.

The stage was finally set to crown the 2018 Thorne Cup champions.

At El Paso’s Sierra Providence Event Center at the County Coliseum, the Rhinos had their fans behind them in the championship game. And the Rhinos also had the advantage in experience, as El Paso was appearing in the championship game for their third time, while the Mustangs had never been on that stage before in their seven-year history.

In the final period of the game, the two teams were tied at two apiece. In crunch time, El Paso’s forward Nikita Pintusov generated a crucial turnover and trekked down the ice to score the go-ahead goal,



The El Paso Rhinos won the WSHIC tittle for the third time.

putting the Rhinos up 3-2 with only two minutes left in the game.

Pickles did his job after his offense got him the lead, as he denied everything that Ogden was sending his way. He ended the championship game with 27 saves and held the 3-2 lead until the final buzzer of the game went off.

General manager Corey Heon led the Rhinos’ third championship team. The team consists of a mix of talents from all over the world, featuring 13 American players, 13 Canadian athletes, two German natives, a player from Belarus and another from the Czech Republic. Altogether, the Rhinos’ experienced ros-

ter had played more than 1,100 games combined. This El Paso team’s average age is only 19 years old.

As the Rhinos have just won their third championship since they were founded in 2006, the future is of the team is just as bright.

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @Mikey\_Flores

SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR



INBRIEF

CHIHUAHUAS SPLIT WITH 51’S

In their second home series of the season, the El Paso Chihuahuas split the series with Las Vegas, both teams winning two games each. The 51’s won their first 7-1, while the Chihuahuas won two in a row by a combined score of 21-7. In Monday’s game, both teams were tied going into the 11th inning, but Las Vegas prevailed with a four-run finish to win 9-6 and stop El Paso short of winning the series. Next up, the Chihuahuas will take on Reno in Nevada on Tuesday.

SUN BOWL AND GECU PARTNER FOR STADIUM RENOVATIONS

UTEP President Diana Natalicio and athletic director Jim Senter announced that the department, along with GECU, will commence a new project for the Sun Bowl. The project calls for a new press box and Sky Lounge, a modernized look, continue to improve rest-rooms and include a cantina-looking terrace. The plans are set to take place this summer and will conclude in September of 2019. It will cost the athletic department \$10-15 million for these renovations, which were primarily raised through private donations and partners with the Sun Bowl.

UTEP BASKETBALL ADDS RECRUIT

Efe Odigie, a 6-foot-9, three-star prospect forward, announced during his official visit in El Paso that he will play college ball for UTEP under new head coach Rodney Terry.

ATHLETES TAKE ACADEMIC AWARD

Conference USA Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll announced Friday that 146 student athletes from UTEP maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.

Softball uses momentum down final stretch



FILE PHOTO/ THE PROSPECTOR

The softball team defeated North Texas 11-8, 11-5, 4-3 this past weekend and NMSU 7-0 on Monday, April 16 at the Helen of Troy field.

BY DANIEL MENDEZ

The Prospector

The UTEP softball team opened up their six-game homestand with their first Conference USA sweep of the season against North Texas this past weekend. The Miners improved to 18-26 and 7-11 in C-USA play as their offensive firepower took over on the weekend.

The Miners will look to extend their four-game win streak as the team is gathering momentum with the season coming to a close.

“We just have to keep going,” head coach Tobin Echo-Hawk said in a press release. “We started to pick up a few weeks ago. We just need to make sure everything falls into place and maintain confidence.”

Despite the team’s struggles this season, UTEP is ranked fourth in C-USA batting averages (.287), second in home runs (30) and in the top three of RBIs. UTEP is in the top five of fielding but is dead last in terms of pitching statistics,

allowing opposing hitters to a 5.68 ERA and .311 batting average.

That stat has not taken to affect for starting pitcher Kira McKechnie (9-7), who completed her third game of the season on Sunday. In the series sweep against UNT, the junior earned two wins and improved to 3-2 in conference.

McKechnie was not the only Miner to step up this past weekend. Junior first baseman Kacey Duffield earned C-USA Player of the week. Duffield hit .600 and produced seven RBI, two doubles, two home runs, four runs, and a stolen base during the series sweep against UNT.

Senior Courtney Clayton continues her rise through the UTEP records book. The slugger now has 51 career doubles, ranking second on that list behind Camilla Carrera (57). Clayton’s batting average is .406, with seven home runs, 27 RBIs, and she has a slugging average of .696. Clayton is the fourth-best hitter in C-USA.

Meanwhile, senior Kaitlin Ryder has been just as explosive. She is second best in batting average for the Miners (.315), with 19 RBIs that puts her fourth on the team. Ariana Valles is second (22) with Duffield at the No. 3 spot with 19.

The Miners will resume Conference USA play against Middle Tennessee on the road (April 28-29) after a three-game stretch at home against out-of-conference foes the Ole Miss Rebels from the SEC on April 20 and 21. The Miners are currently ranked ninth in C-USA.

UTEP has been dominant at home (12-4), but has struggled on the road (2-12).

Luckily for the Miners, they will play seven of their final 10 games at home, including a doubleheader against Texas Tech on May 3—a series that was canceled earlier in the season due to weather.

UTEP continued their offensive power when they played rival New Mexico on April 16. The Miners romped the Lobos 7-0, behind Ryder and Valles, as they both each batted in an RBI. Junior starting pitcher Julia Wright pitched a complete game, striking out six Lobos while allowing four hits.

The Rebels will come to El Paso being battle tested. Ole Miss lost a double header to Mississippi State on April 15 and will complete the three-game series Monday, April 16. Ole Miss (21-16, 4-11) will then host University of Louisiana at Monroe on Wednesday, April 18, before making the trip to El Paso.

The Rebels are led by sophomore Autumn Gillespie, who leads the team with 25 RBIs and 105 at-bat appearances. Gillespie and freshman Amanda Roth are tied with three home runs each.

Ole Miss has a three-pitcher starting rotation that is led by senior Kaitlin Lee, who is 12-7 this season. The next pitcher the Miners will face will be either Anna Borgen (3-5) or Ava Tillmann (2-2). Lee has given up the most hits (97) and home runs (six) as she is the pitcher the Rebels like to use to neutralize opposing offenses.

First pitch against the Rebels on Friday at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex is set for 7 p.m.

Follow Daniel Mendez Twitter @dmendez84

# We Love Our Readers

From April 3 - April 24, our readers will look through the ads in The Prospector and find a special symbol (♥) hidden in one of the ads for every issue in April.

All entry forms must be submitted by Friday, April 27 before 5 p.m.

In order to be eligible for the drawing, you must find the special symbol in all four issues of April and complete the form in its entirety.

You must be a currently enrolled UTEP student with a valid Miner Gold Card to claim your prize.

**PRIZES INCLUDE**

- Neon Desert Music Festival Tickets
- Fall Out Boy Concert Tickets
- UTEP Food Vouchers
- Planet Fitness Passes
- Chihuahuas' Baseball Tickets
- UTEP Recreational Sports t-shirts

In order to enter the drawing you will need to tell us in which ads you found the special symbol by submitting the entry form below to our office at 105 Union East.

Please write the name of the advertiser where you found the hidden symbol (♥) for each issue date of

## THE PROSPECTOR

Name: _____	April 3 _____
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