

3-12-2019

# The Prospector, March 12, 2019

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Dr. Heather Wilson, sole finalist for the position of UTEP president made her first appearance on campus Monday, March 11.

## UTEP president finalist visits Dr. Wilson's first appearance at university

BY BRIANNA CHAVEZ

The Prospector

The UT System Board of Regents unanimously selected Secretary of the U.S. Air Force Dr. Heather Wilson as the sole finalist for the position of UTEP president Friday, March 8.

Over the weekend, Wilson traveled to El Paso and met with Mayor Dee Margo, UT System legislators, Regent Paul Foster and Dr. Natalicio. Wilson visited UTEP Monday, March 11, to speak with faculty and staff and addressed the media during a press conference.

"It's clear from everyone I've met, this is a welcoming and wonderful community deeply proud of this university and proud of this community, and I look forward to engaging more," Wilson said.

Wilson will succeed current UTEP President Dr. Diana Natalicio, who announced her retirement in 2018. The regents must wait a state-required 21 days before they can vote to appoint Wilson as president.

Wilson oversees 685,000 active-duty, National Guard, Reserve and civilian forces, as Secretary of the Air Force. According to Reuters, Wilson submitted a resignation from her position over the weekend and plans to step down May 31. President Donald Trump congratulated Wilson on her new position via Twitter.

During Monday's press conference, Wilson took questions, some concerning backlash she is facing based on her past voting record and

political ties.

Some voiced concern about Wilson's ties to the Trump administration.

"I'm the Secretary of the Air Force," she said in response. "My responsibility is to organize, train, and equip air forces ... With respect to this university being a bicultural and binational university, the responsibility of this university is to educate students ... As a leader of this university, it is my responsibility to educate."

Another concern voiced before and during the press conference was Wilson's political past as a former New Mexico congresswoman. A petition began circulating over the weekend asking the UT Board of Regents to reconsider Wilson as the sole finalist due to a history of voting against funding for the LGBTQ community and black and Hispanic colleges.

"My general approach with respect to LGBT issues is to treat everyone with dignity and respect and I think that's what a leader should do with everyone," she said.

She tackled questions about voting against funding black and Hispanic serving colleges by encouraging people to dig a little deeper and realize that legislators have to consider an entire piece of legislation to vote, not just parts of it. She cited an example where it was claimed she did not support Pell Grants.

"I've always supported Pell Grants and then I dug into what the vote was that someone was

see WILSON on page 3

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## Take others' opinions into consideration



BY CLAUDIA FLORES  
The Prospector

Spring break is always fun. Whether you go on a trip by yourself, with family or friends, this week off from school is the perfect opportunity to take on a new adventure and have a good time.

However, a tip I will give is to always organize and plan ahead before your departure, especially if you're going with some friends.

Last year my best friend and I decided to go on a small road trip to San Antonio and for the most part we had a good time, but I have to say we had some disagreements along the road.

A couple of days before our departure, I insisted we should spend a whole day in Houston, so we could visit my uncle, go to museums, stay the night and have a good time.

Since the beginning she sounded hesitant about my idea, but I insisted.

Once we made it to San Antonio, we stayed at her brother's apartment, explored the city and for the next couple of days we had fun.

I remember that after all I convinced her to go to Houston on a Wednesday, so we could stay that night and come back the next morning to have some time for the last two days of our trip.

That day we woke up early and we drove to Houston.

After our arrival, we went to have brunch with my uncle and he insisted we should spend the night to take advantage of our day and rest for a bit.

Long story short, we made a brief stop at Galleria Mall, went to the Natural History Museum and we headed back to San Antonio.

She didn't want to stay and I was truly pissed, not only because she didn't want to stay,

but because throughout the whole trip we had done exactly what she wanted.

Back on the road to El Paso we didn't talk much, only when necessary, which made things very uncomfortable.

She dropped me off at home and we didn't see each other for a good couple of weeks.

When you go on a road trip, especially with friends, it is always important to plan things out. For this trip we didn't plan a thing (besides my suggestion of going to Houston) because she didn't want me to.

For me, going to Houston to see my family was important. I get to see my uncle just a couple times a year and to be just three hours away from him sounded exciting. The fact that she didn't want to stay, even after my uncle offered us his house, was complete madness to me because we drove for three hours to stay about three hours in the city and back on the road for three more.

In San Antonio, she got to see her brother and her in-laws, and I just got to see my uncle for brunch. It was very unfair to me that we could've stayed the night with my uncle and we didn't because she didn't want to.

When traveling with friends or even family it's crucial to take in consideration what the other person wants, because you're not only sharing the cost, you are sharing time.

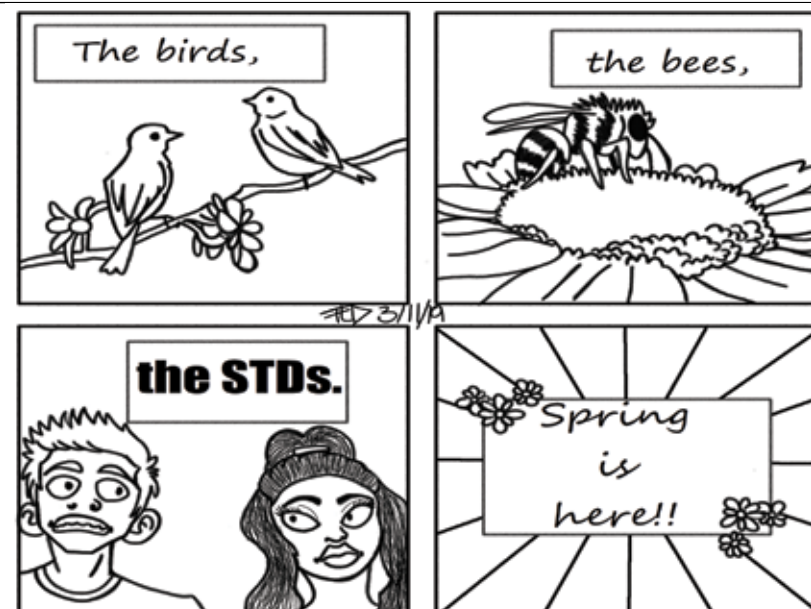
Always make sure that it's a hand-in-hand cooperation because it's not only your trip, it's also the other person's.

Even after that chaotic part of our trip, we had a good time and I would go back on the road with her, but this time I would make clear that I also need have the right to spend some of our time in an activity of my preference.

So just remember to always organize, plan ahead and always take in consideration the time and suggestions of the other person for everyone to have a great experience!

Happy spring break!

Claudia Flores may be reached at [theprospectordaily1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospectordaily1@gmail.com)



THE **PROSPECTOR**

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## Spring break getaways on a budget

BY VALERIA OLIVARES

The Prospector

With one week left until spring break, time and distance are always a priority for a quick getaway to visit a new panorama. Here are some options for the perfect getaway on a budget.

### Ciudad Juárez, Mexico

Although it might seem obvious, Ciudad Juárez is the nearest option for those who want a change of scenery within a budget. Due to the dollar to peso exchange rate, students can do many things in El Paso's neighbor city without spending exuberant amounts of money. Whether it is going to new Italian restaurant Muzza; Sabor Amor, a nightclub that offers salsa dance classes on Thursdays; or the city's downtown area to enjoy live music, performances and street food, Ciudad Juárez has many activities to offer at low prices.

### Marfa, Texas

Spring break is the perfect time to make the three-hour trip to Marfa that many have been constantly postponing. Even though visitors can enjoy most of the city in a day, staying a couple of days is recommended to truly enjoy the many seemingly out-of-place attractions. Whether it is stopping at the Prada Marfa sculpture found on the way to the city, visiting the Chinati Foundation Museum to admire modern art, or going to witness Marfa's mystery lights, the small city offers many opportunities for leisurely entertainment.

### White Sands National Monument

Less than two hours away, the White Sands National Monument is the place to go for nature

lovers. Found in Alamogordo, New Mexico, the crisp, white dunes are an incredible sight to behold. For those who are at a loss of what to do nearby for an entire morning or afternoon with friends and family, people can embark on a short drive to enjoy sledding on the sand, have a picnic, admire the contrast between the cool, white sand and the colorful sunset, or simply enjoy how the sand feels on bare feet.

### Santa Fe, New Mexico

In order to enjoy a city filled with art collections, renowned restaurants and relaxing activities, people should consider taking the five-hour trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico's capital. Some of the city's iconic exhibitions include the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, which includes paintings, sketches and sculptures, and the Loretto Chapel, which features an unusual staircase that has attracted national attention. The city also includes an interactive exhibition called Meow Wolf. People are encouraged to explore the exhibition at their own pace as there are various hidden rooms, nooks and crannies.

### Puerto Peñasco, Mexico

When people think of spring break, many generally think of road trips and beaches. Around nine hours away from El Paso is Puerto Peñasco, a resort city found on the Gulf of California. This location provides the perfect excuse to organizing a trip with a couple of friends to drink tequila, enjoy fresh seafood, drive a jet ski and dive into the ocean. Puerto Peñasco is the perfect place to find some peace and relax before returning to the second half of the semester.

Valeria Olivares may be reached at [theprospectordaily1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospectordaily1@gmail.com)

WILSON from page 1

characterizing," she said. "I went back and looked at the congressional records and it was a substitute amendment for an entire authorization act on a higher education act. And yes, I did vote against that substitute because it would have dropped the amount of the Pell Grant from \$6,000 to \$5,800 per person. That matters a lot. There was something else in that entire piece of legislation that somebody else thought should have been supported, then there were arguments for and against. In the end, that was an important decision. I absolutely support Pell Grants and I opposed cutting the level of Pell Grants to individual students."

She said she is willing to engage with students and hear their concerns.

"I think it's important to get to know people and to answer questions, engage with them," Wilson said.

Wilson is the former president of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, an engineering and science research university. She served as president from 2013 to 2017.

In 2018, Natalicio stated she would like to see her successor continue a commitment to access to higher education, particularly with low-income and underrepresented students.

"Everybody focuses a lot on excellence. Everybody wants to be prestigious. Everybody wants to rank high, but there's not a lot of focus

on access, which is creating opportunities to people who wouldn't otherwise have them," Natalicio said in 2018. "And I think that public higher education is extraordinarily important because all the data show that low-income students don't have access to higher education anymore."

Wilson said that because of UTEP's stance on access and excellence and its ability to do both for students, the university is a true example of what higher education in America should be. She said its mission of access and excellence played a role in her interest to take on the responsibility of becoming UTEP's next president, if appointed.

"I think the people who want to define universities as having to choose either access or excellence create a false choice," Wilson said. "... UTEP doesn't buy into that and it has shown that access and excellence go hand in hand."

Wilson stated she knows she has "big pumps to fill" if selected to take over Dr. Natalicio's position.

"There are universities around the country that are in crisis, one reason or another...this is not one of those (universities)," Wilson said. "I think it's important for me to spend time listening and understanding and then engaging with the faculty, staff and students about 'it's as good as it's ever been, and how do we get even better?'"

Wilson is expected to meeting with faculty, staff, and students in the upcoming weeks.

Brianna Chavez may be reached at [theprospectordaily1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospectordaily1@gmail.com)

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OUR VIEW

# Students protest against UTEP president sole finalist Heather Wilson



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CLAUDIA FLORES, CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

1. UTEP students protested outside the Geological Science Building against UTEP's sole finalist for president Heather Wilson, Monday, March 11. 2. Students marched from the Union Plaza breezeway to Centennial Plaza. 3. Members of different organizations on campus protested outside the Student Union. 4. Chants of "UTEP deserves better" rung around campus. 5. Students held signs in protest.





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**APRIL 5th-7th**

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Register by March 28th.

Cost: SRC Member \$50 / Non-Member \$75



**MAY 24th-26th**

### **TAOS BOX WHITE-WATER RAFTING:**

Register by May 16th.

Cost: SRC Member \$175 / Non-Member \$225

Register at the Student Recreation Center

Mandatory Pre-Trip Meetings for all Multiple-Day Trips to be held at the SRC Game Room (016). Pre-trip meetings take place at 5:30 pm on the day of the trip's registration deadline. Each trip is limited in participants. OAP Trips are open to UTEP Students, Staff and Faculty. Registration is first-come, first-serve and non-refundable.



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# Safety tips for travel

BY OSCAR AVILA

The Prospector

Road trips are definitely something to look forward to when spring break comes around. However, there are a lot of risks to consider when setting out on lengthy journey. To help you get to your destination safely, the National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA) has multiple tips for drivers this spring break.

**Avoid distractions:** Distracted driving is any activity that takes away someone's focus on the road. It includes talking with passengers, using a phone, consuming foods or beverages, changing the radio. While all of these are potentially dangerous, the highest concern is texting. According to NHTSA, a sent or read text takes five seconds of attention away from the road, and at 55 mph, that is the equivalent distance across a football field. The National Occupant Protection Use Survey, found that 3,450 people were killed while using their phone in 2016.

**Obey the speed limit:** Speeding is an aggressive behavior that can lead to several consequences for the driver and others on the road. At high speeds, impact includes the likelihood for losing control, effectiveness of safety procedures and the severity of crash. NHTSA reported that speeding killed 9,717 people in 2017, which accounts for 26 percent of all traffic fatalities that year. When faced with a speeding driver, other drivers have several solutions at hand. The NHTSA suggests it is best to switch lanes, keep some distance and adjust your speed using good judgement.

**Don't drink and drive:** Alcohol impairs brain functions like thought, reason and muscle co-

ordination, which are all essential to operate a vehicle. A person's blood alcohol concentration, which measures the level of alcohol in their body, can also get them into trouble the higher it is. The most dangerous levels are .08 grams of alcohol per deciliter or higher, although smaller measurements can still impair someone's ability to drive. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that in 2016, 2,433 teens from the ages of 16-19 were killed, while 292,742 survived with severe injuries.

**Buckle up:** If a car suddenly stops, seat belts are the only thing that keeps someone from flying through a windshield. Shockingly, about 27.5 million people do not use them, according to the NHTSA. This is a major issue because the seat belt is the only part of a vehicle that does not have the potential to injure or kill you. Air bags are designed to work in conjunction with seat belts, because the seat belt keeps people from colliding with the air bags, which could cause severe harm. It is never too late to make sure that everyone is buckled in, before the car begins to move.

**Always be well rested:** Drowsy driving is a thing and sadly many college students drive drowsy because they compromise on sleep. Similar to driving under the influence, it affects a driver's alertness, attention, reaction time, judgment and decisive capabilities. NHTSA said drowsing driving claimed 803 lives in 2016, and some studies suggest drowsiness may have been involved in more than 10-20 percent of fatal or injury crashes. Bottom line: the most important thing to do to prepare for a road trip is to get some sleep.

Oscar Avila may be reached at theprospectordaily1@gmail.com



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## Things to do in El Paso during spring break

BY CATHERINE RAMIREZ

The Prospector

Although many students hope to spend their spring break on a beach. Work, school and financial situations may not always allow students to take that getaway. For those planning to stay in town, El Paso has a lot to offer to feel as if you had left town for the break.

### ATTEND A GAME

Founded in 2018, the El Paso Locomotive FC is El Paso's new professional soccer team. Locomotive made its debut in the USL Championship in 2019. Locomotive hosts Rio Grande Valley FC at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 23, at the Southwest University Park. Tickets are on sale from \$5 to \$49. For information, call 915-235-4625 or visit [eplocomotivefc.com](http://eplocomotivefc.com).

### ATTEND AN EVENT

Star City Tattoo and Arts Expo

More than 150 tattoo artists from across the nation will be on hand at El Paso Convention Center for the Star City Tattoo and Arts Expo March 22-24. Each day the expo will hold tattoo competitions and include special guests such as tattoo collector Yallzee, and internationally renowned side show, cabaret, striptease and suspension artist Marlo Marquise. Tickets are \$20 per person for a single-day pass and \$45 per person for a weekend pass. Admission is free for kids under 12. For information about the Star City Tattoo and Arts Expo, call 915-231-1100 or visit [starcity-expo.com](http://starcity-expo.com).

El Paso Psychic Fair

The El Paso Psychic Fair will be held at Hawthorn Inn, 1700 Airway Blvd., March 23 and 24. It will feature handmade new-age crystal and gemstone jewelry, essential oils, aura photos, feng shui products and more. Personal readings will be made available by more than a dozen professional psychic readers and mediums across Texas and New Mexico. Admission is \$5 for both days, but private readings are not

included with the admission price. For information, visit [elpasopsychicfair.com](http://elpasopsychicfair.com).

Poppies Festival

The 13th annual Poppies Festival will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 23, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4301 Transmountain Road. The festival will include art vendors, live entertainment, music, food trucks, hands-on activities, exhibits and more. The Poppies Festival is a free family event. For information, call 915-755-4332 or visit [archaeology.elpasotexas.gov](http://archaeology.elpasotexas.gov).

### PARTY RESPONSIBLY

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

Kick off spring break with green beer Sunday, March 17, at any local bar. Many bars around the city will have specials and unique green cocktails.

Lost and Found

Visit the Cincinnati Entertainment District's newest bar Lost and Found, 2519 N. Stanton St. This chic and laid back bar is spacious — perfect for the weekend crowd. Enjoy a few drinks on the patio or inside. Take photos with friends in the telephone/photo booth.



GLEND AVALOS / THE PROSPECTOR

Lost and Found located at 2519 N. Stanton St..

While in the area, visit other Cincinnati spots such as Fools Gold, The Palomino Tavern, Ditzzy Duck and Spirit of 66. For information, visit [facebook.com/lostandfoundep](http://facebook.com/lostandfoundep).

### GIVE BACK

100 Helping Hands Halt Human Trafficking

Join Links, Inc. El Paso chapter for a luncheon at noon Thursday, March 21, at Wyndham El Paso Airport, 2027 Airway Blvd., to raise awareness of human trafficking. Special guests at the luncheon will include Dr. Stephany Powell, executive director of Journey Out, and Angelica Gomez, a human trafficking survivor. Music will be provided by Pro Musica. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$100 per person, and a portion of proceeds will be donated to the El Paso Center for Children. Tickets are available at [100helpinghands.eventbrite.com](http://100helpinghands.eventbrite.com).

### GET ACTIVE

St. Patrick's ACTS Shamrock Run/ Walk

Run or walk at 8 a.m. Saturday, March 16, at St. Patrick Cathedral. Registration is \$20 per person 15 years old and older, \$15 per person

10-14 years old and free for 10 and under. Food and drinks will be available to participants and a complimentary beer for participants 21 years and older.

Javier Arana Jr. Memorial Run

The 7th annual Fallen Trooper fun/run walk will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 23, at Ascarate Park, 6900 Delta Drive. Registration is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child. There will be a \$2 vehicle fee for parking at Ascarate Park. To register for the race visit [raceadventuresunlimited.com](http://raceadventuresunlimited.com). Race-day registration allowed.

### VISIT A MUSEUM

El Paso Museum of Art

The El Paso Museum of Art (EPMA), 1 Arts Festival Plaza, holds more than 7,000 works of art from the Byzantine era to present. EPMA presents paintings, sculptures and other works of art created by local artists and artists from all over the world. EPMA also offers classes and hands-on workshops for people of all ages. For hours of operation and more information about the EPMA visit [epma.art](http://epma.art).

Catherine Ramirez may be reached at [theprospector1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospector1@gmail.com).

*Spring break means time to have fun in the sun!*



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# 'The Humans' is a 'haunted family drama'

BY ALEXIA X. NAVA CARMONA

The Prospector

The UTEP Department of Theatre & Dance presents "The Humans" at the Studio Theatre, first floor of the Fox Fine Arts Building, March 27-31.

Originally written by Stephen Karam, "The Humans" has been called "the best play of the year" by the New York Times. It won the 2016 Tony Award for Best Play and was a finalist for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize.

The play follows the Blake family during Thanksgiving dinner at a Chinatown apartment in New York City. Strange things happen that bring secrets and insecurities to light.

"I like to call it a haunted family drama," said Kim McKean, assistant professor of performance of the UTEP Theatre & Dance Department and the production's director.

McKean said the script gained her attention because it so closely resembles life.

"I had never read anything like it. It is written very tightly and succinctly, and written very much as the way we speak today," McKean said. "The nuances and the subtext in the script is so rich, and all of the characters are talking over each other and talking at the same time, just like we do in real life."

Another thing that grabbed McKean's attention to direct the play is the way the characters felt real and relatable.

"These people, these humans, if you will, are so rich, drawn and crafted. They don't feel like stereotypes; they feel like real three-dimensional people. It could be my family or your family," McKean said. "And I don't think you get that very often – where every single line in the play, every single word is specific and is there for a reason."

With the guidance of UTEP professors, the ac-

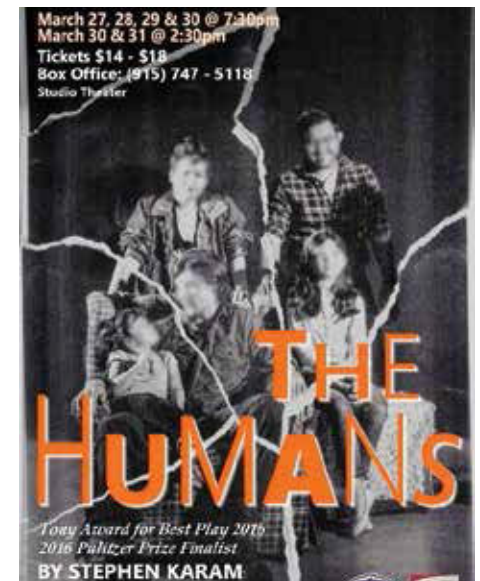
tors and production designers for the production of "The Humans" are UTEP theatre students, said McKean.

"I'm really proud of that in this show. Sometimes we use community members as well, but in the show, every single actor is a student lighting designer. We have two student sound designers. We have a student costume designer. We have a student makeup designer, a student stage manager."

"The Humans" premieres 7:30 p.m. March 27 at the Studio Theatre in the Fox Fine Arts Center. There will be showings at 7:30 p.m. March 28-30 and 2:30 p.m. March 30 and 31.

For adults and non-UTEP students, tickets are \$18. For alumni, UTEP faculty and staff, seniors and military, tickets are \$15. Students and children ages 4-12, tickets are \$12.

Alexia X. Nava Carmona may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.



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## Artists to check out live during break

BY NOAH SARABIA

The Prospector

The Lowbrow Palace, a popular concert venue at 111 E. Robinson Ave., has hosted many events, concerts and battle of the bands competitions over the years. It specializes in promoting underground bands and rappers, indie groups and local musicians.

During spring break, March 18-22, the Lowbrow will bring popular indie and underground bands, as well as EDM artists and DJs.

Every show is open for all ages, and tickets can be bought at the Headstand or Happy House. Further ticket information can be found on the Lowbrow Palace's website, lowbrowpalace.com. Surcharge fees for minors will be paid at the door.

Noah Sarabia may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com

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Doors open: 8 p.m. / Show 9 p.m.	
March 20	<b>Y La Bamba</b>
Doors open: 8 p.m. / Show 9 p.m.	
March 22	<b>Nitti Gritti</b>
Doors open: 8 p.m. / Show 9 p.m.	
March 23	<b>STRFKR</b>
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March 23	<b>TWRP</b>
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# The good, the bad and the optimism: UTEP men's basketball



CAROLINA ALVAREZ / THE PROSPECTOR

**UTEP men's basketball** head coach Rodney Terry had four freshmen in his rotation this season.

## BY MICHAEL CUVIELLO

The Prospector

Rodney Terry and the Miners finished the season with their closest road loss of the year at Middle Tennessee State losing by a single point, capping off the season winless on the road 0-13. Their conference record of 3-15 is the worst in UTEP's history in Conference-USA play, and the first time they have missed a conference tournament since Don Haskins was head coach during the '97-'98 season. This is the Miners worst record (8-21) since the Billie Gillispie led 2002-2003 Miners went 6-24 (3-15).

Coach Terry inherited a team that in the end only returned three players due to graduation and transfers. Isiah Osbourne, Titus Smith and Trey Wade left the team at the end of last season. Tim Floyd's final season was a tumultuous season which left the cupboard bare with players wanting out of the program.

The three returning players were sophomore guards Evan Gilyard and Kobe Magee, and lone senior Paul Thomas. Terry brought in freshman guard and four-star recruit Jordan Lathon, freshman forward and three-

star Efe Odigie, and freshman guard Nigel Hawkins to start the young foundation. Lathon was the most heralded recruit to be on the Miners roster as a freshman since Twymond Howard who was a four star recruit for the 2012-2013 UTEP team.

The Miners began the year with three freshmen, a sophomore and a lone senior starting. All the underclassmen scored in double figures for the season with Terry playing a very short bench of only three players for the most part. Point guard Evan Gilyard led the team in scoring with a 13.6 average but suffered greatly from the field shooting just 37.5 percent.

The most pleasant surprise of the season was Odigie who averaged a double-double for the year and lead Conference-USA in rebounding with 10.1 per game; he was the second UTEP player to lead the conference in rebounding since they joined C-USA. The last player to accomplish this feat was Vince Hunter as a sophomore in the 2014-2015 season who averaged 9.2 rebounds a game. Odigie was also named to the Conference-USA all freshman first team.

Odigie missed the final four games of the season with an ankle issue, and his rebound-



PRISCILLA GOMEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

**Freshman forward Efe Odigie** was named to the Conference-USA all freshman first team.

ing was sorely missed.

Lathon the highly touted guard out of Grandview Missouri started the season quite erratically but came into his own against one of the Miners top opponents Marquette (23-8) scoring 26 points. Lathon averaged 18.5 points per game in group play that consisted of the last four games.

Hawkins the other freshman starter averaged 12.6 points and grabbed four rebounds a game. Hawkins was highly recruited out of Cypress Fall High School in Houston, Texas and was ranked as the 15th best player in the state.

Paul Thomas averaged a respectable 7.7 points a game and grabbed 5.2 boards a game. Down the stretch, Thomas became one of the better three-point shooters on the team finishing third in percentage at .340.

Next season all of these underclassmen will have a year of starting under their belt and will be joined by a significant group of transfers. Junior forward Bryson Williams will follow his former coach from Fresno State in Terry along with his 13.8 points per game and 6.1 rebounds per game. A former four-star recruit, forward Kaden Archie has transferred from TCU, and was ranked as a

top 100 player by Rivals. Souley Boum is a 6 foot 3 shooting guard from the University of San Francisco averaged 10.9 points a game for the Dons. Sophomore forward Tyler Verhoeven out of Duquesne and junior forward Anthony Tarke round out the incoming transfers

Incoming freshman include guard Jessie Zarzuela from Spring Woods High School in Houston, Texas who averaged 21.9 points per game his senior year.

There should be good cause for optimism with the influx of transfers that have played Division I college basketball, and the current underclassmen that played significant minutes this season.

Coach Terry has experienced turning a team around as he made Fresno State one of the best in the Mountain West, and one lesson that can be learned from Gillispie season from 2002 is that it all can change in one season. The next year the Miners were in the NCAA tournament with a 24-8 record. With the experience and talent on the current roster, UTEP's future looks bright and promising.

Michael CuvIELLO may be reached at [theprospector1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospector1@gmail.com).



# UTEP softball gains momentum over weekend



COURTESY / UTEP ATHLETICS

Senior infielder Kacey Duffield was named the Conference-USA player of the week.

BY ISAIAH RAMIREZ

The Prospector

The UTEP softball team (7-16, 2-1) is coming off exceptional back-to-back performances against Charlotte University, winning two out of three games against the Charlotte 49ers. Prior to this past weekend's series win, the Miners lost their last four out of five games and were shutout twice.

The Miners opened conference play with a series victory for the first time since 2015 where they swept Middle Tennessee.

After losing the first matchup against the 49ers, 11-6, the Miners bounced back in a 4-0 shutout win in which senior pitcher Julia Wright pitched seven shutout innings earning her third win on the mound.

"I think Julia (Wright) did a great job with the two games she pitched. She just kept us in the game, and if that happens then our hitters can really open the flood gates at times," said head coach Tobin-Echo Hawk.

The Miners were led by senior infielder Courtney Smith who had one homer and three RBIs.

Smith now has 24 career homers and 69 RBIs.

UTEP did not miss a beat in its next matchup capping off the series win with a dominating 11-2 win over the 49ers.

Freshman infielder Pate Cathey had a solid outing in the last game of the series with a three-run walk-off homer and finished the game with three RBIs and two hits. Cathey now has 13 hits, eight RBIs, and two homers on the season.

Senior catcher Linda Garcia was a major contributor in the win against the 49ers with two hits, which included her first career triple and four RBIs.

Senior infielder Kacey Duffield was another key piece in the series win with six RBIs, six hits, and one homer through three-game homestand. Duffield has reached base in 22 out of the 23 games this season for the Miners. Duffield earned Conference-USA player of the week.

Duffield paces the Miners with a .441 batting average, 26 hits, and is second on the squad in homers with six.

"It was just nice to finally have league games. In all aspects of the game we played great. We played

great defense this weekend, we made really good adjustments hitting and then pitching was spot on," Hawk said.

“

It was just nice to finally have league games. In all aspects of the game we played great.

”

- TOBIN ECHO-HAWK  
UTEP Softball head coach

Looking ahead UTEP will matchup against North Texas (13-9, 2-1) in a three-game road trip. Last season the Miners swept the Mean Green in the three-game home series. North Texas is coming off a series win against Southern Mississippi this past weekend.

The Mean Green are led by junior outfielder Katie Clark who paces the team with a .467 batting average and 35 hits, and junior outfielder Lacey Gregory who is tied for first on the team in homers with four and leads the Mean Green in RBIs with 26.

Earlier this season North Texas defeated 11th-ranked University of Louisiana 5-1 and 23rd ranked Texas A&M. In the win against Louisiana freshman pitcher Hope Trautwein allowed only one run and three hits through seven innings.

UTEP's three-game road trip against North Texas will take place March 16 and March 17 in Denton, Texas. The first two games will be at noon and 2:30 p.m. on March 16, and the last game of the series will be at noon March 17.

Isaiah Ramirez may be reached at [theprospector1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospector1@gmail.com).

# El Paso Locomotive bring tons of energy to the city of El Paso

BY DANIEL MENDEZ

The Prospector

The City of El Paso welcomed its latest franchise, Locomotive FC, also known as the “Locos” for the inaugural season opener Saturday, March 9. In front of a boisterous crowd of 8,324 at Southwest University Park, the city proved it was ready to get loco.

Giving the franchise its first sell-out in history, the crowd’s energy steamrolled through the game despite the team giving up its first goal in the first 22 seconds. The goal by Energy FC forward Deshorn Brown is tied for the sixth-fastest goal in USL Championship history.

The crowd returned to its electric self prior to kickoff once the Locomotive started to attack and the first-game jitters wore off.

In minute 15, Derek Gebhard scored the first goal in team history and the crowd erupted. They were waiting for it. Team scarfs were waved. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages were thrown in the air. The air was filled with clapping, cheering and the sounds of drums. It was everything you wanted in a soccer game experience and more.

The team may have let the game slip out of their hands in the second half when they allowed two more goals and lost to Energy FC, 3-1, but the overall Locomotive experience proved to be a great event that could only get better and better going forth.

The stadium was already filled with baby blue, desert dusk and yellow shirts and jerseys, the official colors of the club, but more shades of blue were coming. Throughout the game, fans lined up outside the team shop and random merchandise stands to get their hands on Locomotive merchandise to support the city’s newest team.

The team’s official fan group, 8th Notch EP, not only provided the rhythm of drums and chants throughout the game, but gathered in formation and marched up the Durango Pedestrian Bridge into the stadium once the gates were open pre-game.

Section 105 is their home and they introduced themselves to the City. They caught flack on social media for how people were misinterpreting one of their chants and using an obscenity in Spanish. Every time the opposing goalie winds up and kicks the ball, they chant “El Chuco” – not a derogatory



MICHELLE REYES / THE PROSPECTOR

El Paso Locomotive FC fans watch as the Locomotive took on Energy FC in the season opener.

term.

But once the rest of the crowd learned the chant the crowd began to get more electrifying. 8th Notch has a total of 12 chants.

The sport of fútbol was made for the city of El Paso and the city gave us a glimpse of what this could possibly be in the future.

You still have time to hop on board the crazy train that are the El Paso Locomotive. This is just the beginning. What happened Saturday night at Southwest University was an experience unlike any other.

Daniel Mendez may be reached at [theprospector1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospector1@gmail.com).

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## Our view: A look at sports in the Sun City



MICHELLE REYES/ THE PROSPECTOR  
El Paso Locomotive FC defender Andrew Fox dribbles the ball.



PRISCILLA GOMEZ/ UTEP ATHLETICS  
UTEP women's basketball takes on Marshall in the first round of the Conference-USA tournament March. 13.



COURTESY/ UTEP ATHLETICS  
Freshman Kirsten Prella takes a shot at the El Paso Tennis Club.



# ATTENTION MAY 2019 GRADUATION CANDIDATES

## Share Your Story - Deadline Extended!

UTEP's Office of University Communications would like to hear the success stories of our spring 2019 graduation candidates. These stories may be shared with the local media, posted on UTEP's website and social media channels, and could be considered for the Commencement ceremony.

Please share your story or the story of someone you know in 500 words or less. Include your name, email address and phone number, if you plan to attend Commencement, and your post-graduation plans.

Submit nominations to [univcomm@utep.edu](mailto:univcomm@utep.edu) by noon Friday, March 15, 2019. You may attach a resume.

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