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# THE PROSPECTOR

ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

VOL. 104, NO. 24  
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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO  
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## BETO 2020

*O'Rourke  
holds first  
presidential  
rally in El Paso*



CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

**El Paso native,** Beto O'Rourke launched his presidential campaign Saturday, March 30, in Downtown El Paso.

BY DANIEL MENDEZ

The Prospector

In a sea of thousands of people holding black and white signs that read “Viva Beto” or “Beto for America,” El Paso native Beto O'Rourke officially kicked off his presidential campaign Saturday, March 30, in Downtown El Paso.

“It is here, from my hometown of El Paso, that I officially launch this campaign to serve you as the next President of the United States of America,” O'Rourke said.

O'Rourke spoke for a total of 35 minutes to about 6,000 people—according to an estimate from the O'Rourke campaign—as he laid down the foundation of his campaign. This included a plan for universal and guaranteed high-quality health care, climate change protections, a new voting rights act, criminal justice reform, such as ending the prohibition of marijuana, immigration laws regarding migrants and asylum seekers, and Dreamers, and the economy of the United States.

Carlos Chavez, 65, born and raised in El

Paso, attended the rally because he wanted to witness history and show his support for O'Rourke. Acknowledging that this is the first and maybe the last time he will ever see anything like this in El Paso.

“I wanted to see the opening of a tremendous presidential opportunity. I'm here to observe history in the making,” Chavez said.

For the El Paso rally, there were multiple groups of people that came from all over the United States to get a glimpse of their hope for 2020. People held up signs from Seattle, Washington, Michigan, New Mexico and other places.

Ryan Prochaska, originally from Wichita, Kansas, was in town visiting family and saw an opportunity to see O'Rourke kick off his presidential bid. Prochaska paid attention to O'Rourke's senate campaign and feels he is the perfect fit for this country.

“It's the way he delivers his message. It's very upbeat and positive,” Prochaska said. “It's not divisive and full of anger and hate. It's about bringing everyone together. And you know, here we are in a great border town. And, you know, we're all welcome as Ameri-

cans and that's what we need to do.”

O'Rourke is the first El Paso politician to seek the nation's highest office and the only candidate in the race who lives on the U.S.-Mexico border.

The rally was held at the intersection of El Paso Street and Overland Avenue—just a few blocks from the Santa Fe bridge connecting the U.S. and Mexico where hundreds of migrants were being held in makeshift camps.

During his speech, O'Rourke took a shot at the president's stance on immigration.

“Let's remember that every single one of us, including those who are just three or four blocks from here, detained under the International Bridge that connects us with Mexico behind chain-linked fence and barbed wire, that they are our fellow human beings and deserved to be treated like our fellow human beings,” O'Rourke told his supporters.

Just a block away, in front of the Plaza Theatre, the El Paso Republican party hosted a “Support Trump Rally.” Supporters dressed in Make America Great Again (MAGA) hats and clothes to support President Trump and his bid to be re-elected into office.

Gary Gosset, UTEP alumnus and Trump supporter, was one of the protesters that attended the “Support Trump Rally.” Gosset said he voted for O'Rourke when he ran for Congress against Silvestre Reyes in 2012, but stated that he wanted to come out and show “everyone in the world that El Paso isn't all Beto.”

Gosset said that one of his main concerns about O'Rourke are his “non-American values,” and he believes that whomever came out to support O'Rourke hates the president.

“It's just two different kinds of Americans,” Gosset said. “Let's see the future one way or the other. I came down here because I don't want everyone in the world to think El Paso is all Beto.”

The supporters in favor of Trump held their rally before O'Rourke began his speech. Midway during O'Rourke's rally, members of the Republican party attempted to disrupt the former congressman and his guest speakers, which included his wife, Amy O'Rourke, as well as U.S. Congresswoman Veronica

see BETO on page 5



## 'Fake a-- News'

BY BRIANNA CHAVEZ

The Prospector



"Fake a-- news... You're fake. You spread fake news. You should be ashamed of yourself."

That's what a woman yelled at local KVIA broadcast reporter, Michael Gordon just as he was about to go live Saturday morning.

The woman, who held a sign listing all the news stations that were "fake," was attending a counter rally to Beto O'Rourke's hometown presidential rally just one block away in Downtown El Paso.

The entire incident was caught on camera. The footage never aired, but the reporter shared it on his Twitter profile.

The same woman yelled at a different broadcast reporter Saturday morning.

"Put this on the air, not on your stupid a-- phone," the unidentified woman yelled.

The incident was also posted on Twitter. KFOX reporter, Portia Baudisch, tweeted, "Here to tell the story of this rally not feeling very welcome right now."

Both reporters were there to tell a story. That's all journalists ever want to do. It's our job.

As student journalists, our goal is to report objective and accurate stories to the best of our ability. We may not get it right every time, but we're all still learning.

We are all hoping to gain as much experience as possible in hopes of getting hired by professional publications and continue to tell stories everyday.

Sometimes, however, incidents like the ones that happened to Gordon and Baudisch make me question if I'm cut out for this job.

As a young girl, I would watch local and national news pretty regularly and thought it was the coolest job in the world. I still do. It was one of the reasons that made me decide to become a journalist. Being able to tell stories and listen to different people is the best part of the job.

When I started my collegiate and professional

career, I never considered that I might be yelled at or that it would be possible to have the accuracy of my work questioned, like Gordon and Baudisch.

It wasn't until February of this year, when President Donald Trump held a rally here in El Paso that I realized those circumstances are very real.

I was fortunate enough to cover that rally. That morning the Prospector's assistant director, Tracy Roy, gave myself and two other reporters a hand-out with tips to help us in case we were to get into a confrontation with anyone or even get arrested.

Getting arrested never crossed my mind, but in today's political climate, it's definitely a plausible outcome.

Unfortunately, those outcomes aren't new for journalists, but to me, it was a big wake up call.

Multiple people spotted my press pass that day and called me fake news. While I was excited to cover the rally, a first in my career, having random people say those things to you really does take a toll.

However, I wasn't being yelled at like the woman was doing to those reporters.

Trying to stay professional when incidents like these happen is difficult, at least for me.

Watching videos of the woman getting in those reporters' faces was difficult. The woman was vulgar and aggressive. Quite frankly, her behavior was unacceptable. Realizing that that could soon happen to me is a bit disheartening.

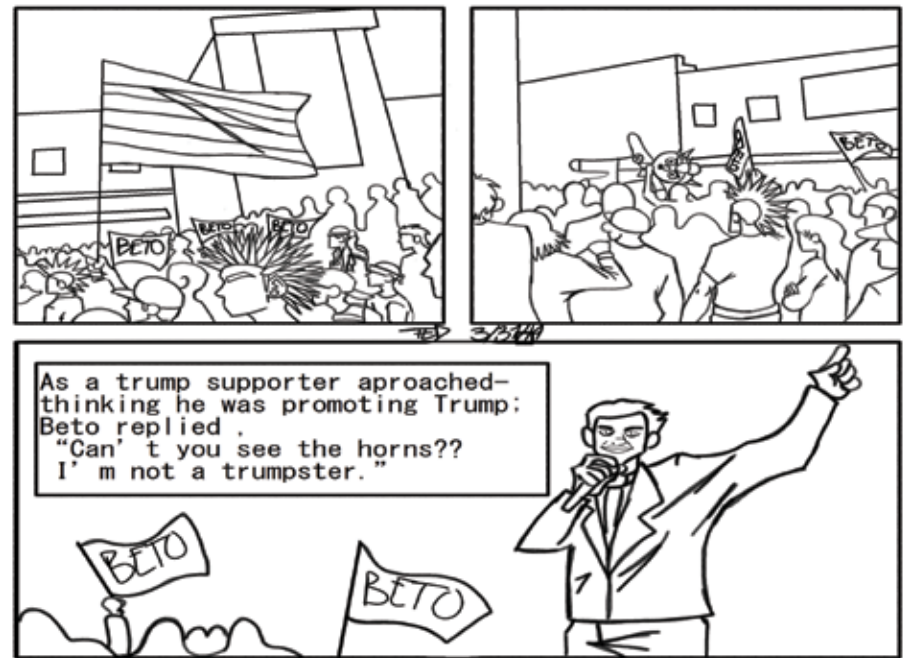
I'm still figuring out if I'm cut out for this job, but every story I write and every opportunity I have to better myself as a journalist is helping me understand what the job entails.

I'm not sure if my feelings towards reporting will change in the future, but I know that today I can say with confidence that I do enjoy what I do.

I feel terrible for what Gordon and Baudisch experienced. And I hope people can understand that being treated with dignity and respect, in whatever it may be, goes a long way.

If I have to be called fake to be able to tell the stories I want to tell, then so be it.

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THE PROSPECTOR

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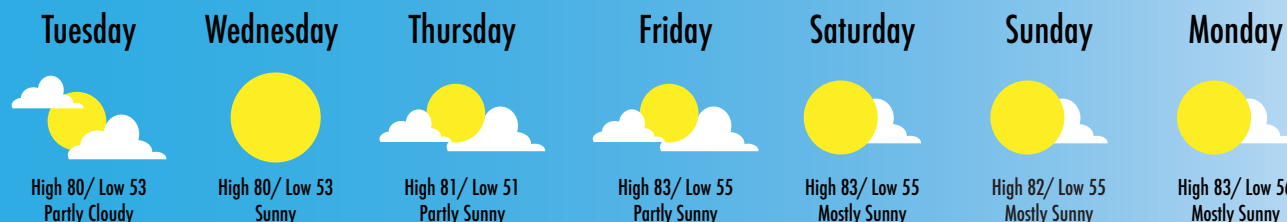
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SPEAK YOUR MIND



## UTEP prepares for border closure

BY DANIEL MENDEZ

The Prospector

UTEP President, Dr. Diana Natalicio announced early Monday evening in a memorandum a protocol for UTEP faculty, staff and students who may be experiencing delays along the U.S.-Mexico border.

On Friday, March 29 President Donald Trump stated he will close parts or all of the southern border as early as next week. Which could include the port of entry from El Paso and Cd. Juárez.

To help deal with the influx of migrants seeking asylum, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers are being pulled away from working at the ports of entry.

Monday it was brought to the university's attention that students, faculty and staff were experiencing long wait times between two to five hours driving and two hours walking to cross the border.

"All of us at UTEP are dismayed by the negative impact of these CBP actions on our community. We fully understand that the current delays at the bridges, and the possible closure of the border, are disrupting many lives, and adding to the stress and anxiety associated with efforts to cope with them," Natalicio said in a memo. "UTEP is deeply committed to creating a supportive climate that minimizes the negative impact on our students, faculty and staff, both now and in the event of a complete border closure."

UTEP has established a response team led by Catie McCorry-Andalis, associate vice president and dean of students, and Sandy Vasquez, associate vice president for human resources, to provide support and institutional resources for students, staff and faculty who are impacted by the current situation.

According to the memo, the team is coordinating efforts across campus to offer different solutions to students, staff and faculty.

The team is working with faculty to help them understand the issues being faced by the students who suffer delays at the international bridge. They will provide faculty the support to administrator coursework through blackboard or email for students, which would enable the student to complete assignments while in Cd. Juárez.

The team temporarily providing on-campus housing for anybody from UTEP who is unable to cross from El Paso to their homes in Juárez.

It will also provide virtual counseling for those unable to come to campus.

It is also working with on-campus employers and employers around the community who employ students on Curricular Practical Training, to ensure that they understand the delays occurring at the bridges and, should it be

necessary, the implications of border closure on students' access to their workplaces.

"We value each and every member of our UTEP community and deeply regret the impact of the current situation on you and your family and friends," Natalicio said in the memo. "Please be assured that we are monitoring this situation very closely, and that we will do all within our power to ensure that you continue to have the opportunity to achieve your educational and professional goals at UTEP."

For more information, a website has been created, [www.utep.edu/irc](http://www.utep.edu/irc), that will provide updates on the port of entry, resources and support services for faculty, staff and students.

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## Refugees seek transportation

BY JUAN CORRAL

The Prospector

*Editor's note: Quotes have been translated by the reporter from Spanish to English.*

The Annunciation House is asking for volunteers to transport refugees to the airport or bus station in hopes of being reunited with their loved ones across the country.

According to the Annunciation House website, as of the end of February 2019, about 400 to 700 refugees per day were being sent to Annunciation House.

The Paseo Del Norte Border Patrol station has fencing constructed under the overpass to hold migrant families in temporary camps due to processing centers reaching capacity.

"I believe there (are) at least 1,500 refugees in El Paso, but we've processed over 800 within the last week with an influx of refugees at the border," said volunteer Jessica Grijalva.

Grijalva, who is an organizer for the Women's March of El Paso, believes it is crucial that our community contributes to the matter at hand by helping migrants get sponsors. Sponsors are normally someone refugees may have known from the past, a friend or family member who provides them with short-term housing, transportation services, food and basic toiletries, up until their court date.

During their trial, migrants await to see if they are granted a possible year residency or if they are sent back to their home country.

"Most of the migrants have their sponsors and we help get them to their bus stop or flights in order for them to report to their already set court date that is usually, within a month. Their sponsors are expecting them to arrive within three to four days," Grijalva said.

The refugees are currently scattered across El Paso in shelters hoping to exonerate the views society has on families such as Carlos Osorio, a 16-year-old boy with wishes to get to San Francisco with his family.

Carlos, along with his two younger brothers and parents, have traveled from Honduras to El Paso with dreams of having a chance at a life here in the states.

"I really want a better life for my children. I don't care about myself or what happens to me—I just want my kids to have a chance at a better life," said Ronal Osorio, Carlos' father, speaking in Spanish.

Before coming to El Paso, Osorio and his family lived in Santa Fe Ocotepaque, Honduras, where

many families are surrounded by drugs and gangs.

"My oldest son, Carlos, is taller, leaner, and growing, so the gangs over in Honduras wanted him to join and if he denied, they would kill him," Osorio said.

In Honduras, Osorio had what one would believe is an easy-going life, but wanted to escape the violence outside of their materialistic life.

"I abandoned my house, my car, my motorcycle, my job. The only thing I regret is crossing illegally," Osorio said. "I did it for my kids. I did it so that my kids can have a secure life – not to harm anyone or cause trouble, but for my boys."

Carlos and his siblings have hopes to live the American dream and now they might have the chance to fulfill that dream.

"To come to this country was a surprise. It was a surprise to me and my brothers because to stay in my country is horrible. The poverty is extreme and the cops from my country are extorting people once they get pulled over," Carlos said.

Families like the Osorios hope people within the community will help get them transported to either the airport or the bus station and send them in the right direction.

"It doesn't matter what situation we're in as long as my family is united, I'll get through. If I was by myself, I couldn't imagine how I would get through any racial turmoil," Osorio said. "We just want a better life because where we're from it's not easy. All we can do is have faith in God and hope that people will unite and see us as their brothers and sisters, as equals and want to help."

Refugees need help not only with transportation, but with food donations, clothes and hygiene items. There is a minor background check for the volunteers to keep refugees and volunteers safe.

"I think it's imperative for us to come together as a community. We're all humans. We never earned our citizenship. We got lucky and were born here. They weren't born here and we should come together as humans to help one another," Grijalva said.

To learn more about volunteering and transporting refugees send an email to [refugees@annunciationhouse.org](mailto:refugees@annunciationhouse.org) or visit The Annunciation House website at [annunciationhouse.org](http://annunciationhouse.org)

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# Beto 2020 presidential campaign



▶ 1



▶ 3



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▶ 4



▶ 5

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CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

1) Amy O'Rourke supports her husband, Beto O'Rourke, at his presidential rally Saturday, March 30. 2) El Pasoans welcome U.S. Congresswoman Veronica Escobar at Beto O'Rourke's rally Saturday, March 30. 3) Beto O'Rourke pauses for a moment during his rally speech. 4) Victor Sanchez, Lory Sanchez and Arturo Florez at Beto 2020 rally in Downtown El Paso. 5) Beto supporter at Beto 2020 rally.

BETO from page 1

Escobar. O'Rourke acknowledged the dissenters and continued his speech, in which he made a plea for a universal America regardless of party or immigration status.

"If we are really serious about security, we have a golden opportunity—Republicans, independents, Democrats alike, to work on comprehensive immigration reform, to rewrite this country's immigration laws in our own image with our own values and in the best traditions of the United States of America," O'Rourke said.

Daniella Ramirez, a freshman criminal justice major at UTEP, was a first-time voter when O'Rourke challenged Sen. Ted Cruz for a place in the Senate last November. Ramirez came out to show her support. Ramirez feels that the youth vote is vital to O'Rourke's success as he attempts to get the Democratic nomination for president.

"I think it's so important. I think that's really what's going to put Beto over the top, because I think that older people may favor other parties and I think the youth have really brought Beto to life," Ramirez said.

O'Rourke, who announced March 14 he was running for president in 2020, hosted a series of rallies in the state of Texas Saturday. After El Paso, he visited Texas Southern in Houston and capped off the day in front of the Texas State Capitol building in Austin.

Shortly after the El Paso rally, Campaign

Manager Jen O'Malley Dillon (who was President Barack Obama's former campaign manager) sent an email to his press list announcing a goal to raise \$1 million online by midnight Sunday, March 30, with the FEC fundraising deadline Sunday evening. Before the deadline, the campaign had grossed over \$1,038,595 with a total of 31,741 contributions, per live tracker.

O'Rourke is continuing what made him popular among his constituents in the Senate race by refusing to accept money from special interests groups and PACs. In the first 24 hours of announcing his campaign for president, O'Rourke raised a record-breaking \$6.1 million in his grassroots campaign.

On Monday, O'Rourke announced at the We the People Summit in Washington, D.C., that if he's elected president, he'll sign an executive order requiring every single cabinet member to hold a town hall meeting every month.

O'Rourke will continue his campaign trip with a visit to New York April 3 to speak at the National Action Network Annual Conference. Afterward, he will travel to Iowa for a town hall at Iowa State University.

Daniel Mendez may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com



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# UTEP and UACJ planning to restore academic collaboration

BY ALEXIA X. NAVA CARMONA

The Prospector

The College of Liberal Arts in UTEP and the Department of Social Sciences in UACJ (Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez) are planning to restore collaboration practices between them throughout the year.

As of now, the two institutions are in the planning phases, talking and creating an agenda to restore the academic relationship the two universities had before the rise in violence in Cd. Juárez in 2007.

"From our point of view, there were a lot of things that were going on, you know, before the rising violence around 2007 and after, and we think it's very important that basically, we get people to start going back. I mean, now, it's past time," said Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Denis O'Hearn.

This collaboration, between UTEP and UACJ, became possible on behalf of Irasema Coronado, Ph.D., according to Servando Pineda Jaimes, head of the Institute of Social Sciences and Administration (ICSA, for its name in Spanish) at UACJ.

"This is a first approach that we had through Dr. Irasema Coronado, who has many years working with us here at the university," Pineda Jaimes said. "In reality, the relationship that the university has with UTEP dates back many years. It's been a very intermittent relationship, in (a) sense, because of many of the all-known events both in the United States and Mexico that have altered that relationship."

As of now, O'Hearn is talking to many people about how UTEP needs to increase the number of collaborative activities with UACJ and even other colleges in Ciudad Juárez.

"I had reached out to (Irasema Coronado) and various others, Joe Heyman (professor of anthropology), for example, who also does a lot of work in Juárez, about the need, and desire that we have to increase our participation and collaborative events with, not only UACJ, but COLEF (Colegio de la Frontera Norte), and other institutions in Juárez," O'Hearn said.

O'Hearn is also making a list of everything the two universities used to do before the rise of violence in Juárez.

"We have started a task force in the college to basically delineate or come up with a list of the things that we used to do. And the first thing we'll do is try and start those things going again," O'Hearn said.

One of such projects that both universities are planning to retake is the exchange of professors between UTEP and UACJ, where a professor from one university goes to the other to teach a course.

"There were many things that were already going on, you know, before, people kind of stopped going to Juárez. There were some joint exchanges of professors in different departments. So, people from UACJ would come here and teach a course at UTEP, and people from UTEP would go there. And I'd love to see those kinds of exchanges start happening again," O'Hearn said.

Pineda Jaimes mentioned that, for now, from the side of UACJ, they would like to focus more on the graduate programs for the collaboration due to the accessibility they have to students in these programs.

In Mexico, there is a program that grades the quality level of the graduate programs a university offers and UACJ is in the highest level, according to Pineda Jaimes. This implies that graduate students should be full-time students and have scholarships, he said.

"We can work with them in a better way (with the graduate students) than with the undergraduate students since they are not full-time in our institution, are more, and have to do other activities," Pineda

Jaimes said. "We are in a first phase, focusing more on the graduates, not excluding the undergraduates."

There are also plans of hosting international seminars with participation from students of both institutions, as well as the "realization of publications."

O'Hearn said something this collaboration would like to improve are the opportunities for students to do field work and research on both sides of the border. O'Hearn also mentioned a goal of having joint degrees between UTEP and UACJ in the future.



While language barriers can be a problem, Pineda Jaimes said the project's biggest issue has to do more with public relations.

"For example, there has been times where, both students and professors from UTEP, have been, I don't know if it's the right term, forbidden to come to Mexico or have restrictions to come to Mexico and realize events of this nature," Pineda Jaimes said.

During years of extreme violence in Juarez, many El Pasoans stopped traveling to Cd. Juárez. To help people start getting back into the habit of crossing the border, O'Hearn said that a first step to overcome this and make the collaboration would be to start trying to become more involved with Cd. Juárez.

For now, both institutions are still in the planning phase, setting up talks and agendas to carry on. The current short-term goal is to restore the exchange of professors between UTEP and UACJ, according to O'Hearn.

Alexia X. Nava Carmona may be reached at [theprospectordaily1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospectordaily1@gmail.com)

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# Sun City Craft Beer Fest serves beer lovers

BY CATHERINE RAMIREZ

The Prospector

Sun City Craft Beer Festival, El Paso's largest craft beer festival, returned to celebrate craft beer on the Borderland for the sixth year on March 30 and 31 at the El Paso Convention Center Plaza.

This year's festival highlighted and hosted a "Sunday Fun-Day" March 31 with specialty beer-mosas (craft beer and orange juice) for guests and a gift for the first 2,000 attendees with Sun City Beer Festival Koozies. Events and gifts for Sunday also included a special drag show performance by Touch Nightclub & Bar and Alamo Drafthouse Movie Passes.

"I am really excited and proud to show what we have ready for this year's festival. What was once a dream has now become the largest craft beer festival in El Paso, a quality event that our community deserves to have," said Nahum Avila Sun City Craft Beer Festival creator in a press release.

The festival featured more than 170 national

and local craft breweries and the most popular beers for guests to taste and purchase. General admission tickets to the festival included 10 2 oz. samples of craft beer and the opportunity to purchase beers of their choice. Breweries at the fest included local brewing company Ode Brewing, national brewery Bell's Brewery, Four Peaks Brewing Company, Firestone Walker Brewing Company and many more.

A sports bar and liquor lounge was also available for festival attendees who prefer cocktails and other mixed drinks.

"It's been fun. I like how people are pretty much set in their ways, but are still willing to try new things (beer)," said Ryan Romero, Sun City Craft Beer Festival employee.

Food trucks from local eateries were available for beer fest goers, ranging from tacos, burgers and other specialty food items.

Local EP Home Brewing Equipment and Supplies, 11426 Rojas Drive, presented live brewing lessons to teach attendees how beer is made and where they could get their own brewing supplies to make



GLENDIA AVALOS / THE PROSPECTOR

El Paso's largest craft beer festival returned for the sixth year on March 30 and 31 at the El Paso Convention Center plaza.

beer at home.

"We sell the grains, the hops, the yeast, pots and fermenting buckets. We sell everything that you would need to create beer at home," said Sean Quintero, employee at EP Home Brewing Equip-

ment and Supplies.

The festival included live music, booths from local art and clothing vendors and outdoor games for guests to enjoy as they enjoyed their beverages.

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

# Water Lantern Festival lights up Ascarate Park

BY MICHELLE REYES

The Prospector

The Water Lantern Festival, voted No. 1 Festival in 2019 by USA Today, took place from 4:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday, March 30 at Ascarate Park, 6900 Delta Drive. The popular event was founded in 2017 and takes place in almost half of the country.

The festival "is an incredible experience where you, your friends, and your family will create a magical memory of a lifetime," according to the festival website.

The event's main focus was floating lanterns that illuminated the Ascarate Lake with the candle that lit up the drawings on the wall of the lanterns.

Organizers encourage attendees to write letters to their loved ones or even their own personal dreams and goals and sending it out to the water.

Each attendee was given a bag with a lantern, which included a piece of wood for the platform, the paper to decorate, markers, a blanket for them to sit on, and a scavenger hunt with missions and tasks for the people to complete.

"I like drawing on the lantern. I drew doodles and my name," said Sarah Marin, one of the attendees.

While the experience was fun for families to enjoy, the weather affected the experience for



CAROLINA ALVAREZ / THE PROSPECTOR

The Water Lantern Festival stopped in El Paso on March 30 at Ascarate Park.

some people.

"Unfortunately, it was very cold and windy and the lanterns stuck to the shore since the wind was blowing our way," said Juvenal Olivares.

Some attendees felt the event was a bit overpriced, with tickets ranging from \$15 to \$30.

The festival also included food trucks, music by local deejay, DJ Reid, as well as face painting.

Michelle Reyes may be reached at [theprospector1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospector1@gmail.com).

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# Brew at the Zoo returns to support the local zoo

BY CATHERINE RAMIREZ

The Prospector

The El Paso Zoological Society hosted the fifth annual Brew at the Zoo presented by Sun City ER, with dozens of breweries available for beer lovers to choose from March 30 at the El Paso Zoo.

Hundreds of attendees had the opportunity to sample beers from dozens of breweries such as Sante Fe Brewing Company, Firestone Walker Brewing Company and many more brought by L&F Distributors for guests to enjoy and paired it with food from local restaurants.

"I like beer and I like to try different beers," said first-timer Brandon Fisher. "It's pretty cool, I would come again."

While enjoying eateries and craft beer at-

tendees enjoyed educational animal encounters, games, live music from a local deejay and local bands Scatterbrain and the Sam Barlow Band. An arcade presented by Dave & Buster's was also made available for guests to enjoy.

"I came to just have a good time socially," said Cathy Perez, first-timer at Brew at the Zoo. "It's pretty interesting to get out and see something different like this."

This year's Brew at the Zoo sold out all tickets ranging from platinum VIP tickets to general admission, Olivia Siqueiros, volunteer and youth development coordinator of the El Paso Zoological Society, said many people love and missed the event since the previous Brew at the Zoo was held in 2017.

"We wanted people to miss it, we wanted to people to say 'you don't have it this year?'"

Alright well next year, we're ready," Siqueiros said.

Founded in 1963, the El Paso Zoological Society, a nonprofit organization, was created to support the El Paso Zoo and is currently composed of nine women.

"We're the partners to the El Paso Zoo, we do all the evening fundraisers and with that money we are able to help the zoo in various ways," Siqueiros said. "The money we raise is distributed throughout the zoo."

The El Paso Zoological Society not only raises money for buildings and areas at the zoo, but also raises money to allow low-income schools to visit the zoo.

To donate to El Paso Zoological Society or to become a member, visit [elpasozoosociety.org](http://elpasozoosociety.org).

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



CATHERINE RAMIREZ/THE PROSPECTOR  
The El Paso Zoological Society hosted the fifth annual Brew at the Zoo March 30, at the El Paso Zoo.



CATHERINE RAMIREZ / THE PROSPECTOR

This year's Brew at the Zoo featured dozens of local and national breweries.

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## El Paso Chihuahuas begin 2019 season



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

El Paso Chihuahuas infielder Luis Arias had 24 hits and 19 RBIs last season and was named a Triple-A all-star.

BY ISAIAH RAMIREZ

The Prospector

The El Paso Chihuahuas season is ready to begin as they take on the Las Vegas Aviators in their season opener and host a five-game homestand against their division rivals.

Last season the Chihuahuas had a 13-3 record against the Aviators.

The Chihuahuas are coming off a Pacific Coast League Pacific South division championship for the fourth straight season, but fell to the Fresno Grizzlies in the opening round of the Pacific Coast League playoffs.

The Chihuahuas fought back from a 2-0 series deficit to force a deciding fifth game losing 10-1.

This season the Chihuahuas plan to bring home a Pacific Coast League Championship back to the city of El Paso like they did back in 2016. In 2017, the Chihuahuas were close to bringing that glory to the Sun City but lost in the fifth in the deciding game of the PCL championship series against the Memphis Redbirds.

The Chihuahuas have a new skipper in manager Edwin Rodriguez who becomes the fourth manger in club history. Rodriguez previously managed the High-A Lake Elsinore Storm who is also apart of the San Diego Padres organization. Rodriguez replaces former Chihuahuas Manager Rod Barajas, who was named San Diego Padres bench coach in late October.

"We are glad to welcome our new manager, Edwin Rodriguez and look forward to his leadership with some of the Padres top prospects that will continue to come through El Paso," Senior Vice President

and General Manager of the El Paso Chihuahuas Brad Taylor said.

The roster for the Chihuahuas includes a talented bunch from pitchers Cal Quantrill and Logan Allen, to infielder Luis Urias. This roster has nine players with Major League Baseball experience and five of the Padres top 30 prospects.

Urias is a Triple-A all-star and last season posted 24 hits, 19 RBIs, and a .258 batting average for the Chihuahuas. Urias was also ranked the number four prospect in the Padre organization which had the top rated prospect class in the whole Major League. Urias was also ranked as the 22nd best prospect in the major league, according to MLB.com.

Quantrill is a 2016 first-round pick for the San Diego Padres and had a record of 3-1 on the mound with a 3.48 ERA, pitching 22 strikeouts for the year.

"It feels good to be here at this level and I'm just working as hard as I can every day to reach my goal of playing in the major leagues," Quantrill said.

Logan Allen pitched an overall record of 4-0 on the mound with an exceptional 1.63 ERA and 26 strikeouts. Allen who is a eighth round pick by the Boston Red Sox in 2015 has a 24-20 record in the Minors with a career 2.75 ERA and 378 strikeouts.

The El Paso Chihuahuas first three games and series finale in the five-game season opener series against the Las Vegas Aviators will take place at 7:05 p.m. April 4, 5, 6, and 8 at Southwest University Park. The fourth game in the series will take place at 1:05 p.m. April 7 at Southwest University Park.

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

## UTEP softball battles 11th ranked Arizona



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Senior infielder Courtney Smith has 10 home runs this season and is fourth all-time in homers with 27.

BY ISAIAH RAMIREZ

The Prospector

The UTEP softball team (10-24, 4-8) will take on the 11th ranked Arizona Wildcats (27-7, 9-0) in a two-game road trip. The Miners are coming off a series loss to the UAB Blazers this past weekend and have lost three out of their last four conference games. Arizona is on a nine-game winning streak after winning a three-game series against 17th ranked Arizona State.

### Batting Woes for UTEP

The Miners two top batters in senior Kacey Duffield and freshman Kasey Flores have struggled in their last couple of games with both players going a combined 1-for-13 at bats over the last two matchups. Flores is still second on the team in batting average at .381 and leads the team in RBIs with 29 but has gone hitless in her last two games. As a team the Miners had nine hits total in their last two games. The Miners have not had a double-digit hitting performance since their 12-4 loss to New Mexico State on March. 23.

### Stellar play for the Wildcats

The 11th ranked Wildcats come into their series against UTEP with lots of momentum on their side. Earlier this season Arizona defeated third ranked Florida State 11-3 when the Seminoles were ranked the top team in the nation. The Wildcats are led by redshirt sophomore outfielder Reyna

Carranco with a batting average of .455 and hits with 51.

Junior infielder Jessie Harper leads Arizona in home runs and RBIs with 17 and 41. Senior pitcher Taylor McQuillin has an ERA of 1.36 and a record of 12-5 on the mound. McQuillin is coming off a shutout performance against Arizona State in which she allowed only two hits in the 2-0 win for Arizona.

### Miners in the record books

Two Miners have moved up in the record books in the first game of the three-game series against UAB. Senior infielder Courtney Smith hit her 10th home run of the season, giving her sole possession of fourth all-time in homers with 27. Smith is currently the only player in Conference-USA with double digit homers. Smith is currently tied for second the squad in RBIs with 21 and was named the Steve Hoy Player of the Week for her four home-runs and three hits in the series against Southern Miss on March 23 and 24. Senior outfielder Ariel Blair recorded her fifth steal of the season moving her into fifth all-time on the steals list with 22.

UTEP's series against Arizona will take place at 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. April 3 in Tucson, Arizona. The game will be live-streamed on the Pac-12 network.

Students may get their tickets at the UTEP Sports Lottery, available at [utepsportslottery.utep.edu](http://utepsportslottery.utep.edu).

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



# UTEP football defense looks to reload in spring

BY MICHAEL CUVIELLO

The Prospector

The UTEP Miners will only bring back four members of its starting defense from last season. The defense has made some strides, giving up fewer points and improving from being the worst defense in college football the previous year. The team's top four tacklers are gone. Unfortunately, its most significant loss will be second team All-Conference linebacker A. J. Hotchkins who could very well be playing in the NFL next season.

The Miners also lost their starting cornerback duo of the past four seasons in Nik Needham and Kalon Beverly. Needham is also considered a solid sleeper candidate for the NFL. Jamar and Kahani Smith have also left UTEP's starting defense. Two-year starter Trace Mascorro decided to transfer, which leaves the defensive line some with some depth issues.

The defensive line health wise is a big concern at this time along with depth.

"We're three guys down right now on our defensive line that have still not recovered from last year's injuries or off-season surgeries so, right now, I would say our defensive end position is probably our biggest concern for depth," UTEP head coach Dana Dimel said.

The defensive line will be led by the return of senior starters Chris Richardson and Denzel Chukwukelu who are being praised for their efforts in practice with Richardson moving outside with the departure of Mossaro. Taking over in the middle will be former starter and redshirt sophomore Dedrick Simpson who is now fully recovered from an ACL injury. The defensive line, if it can stay healthy, should be a strength of the team. The most promising freshman for the fall will be defensive tackle Jeremiah Byers from Austin, Texas.

Losing a top-tier talent at linebacker will be a tough task, and the Miners have quite a few puzzle pieces to try to fill that spot. Highly regarded junior Joe Jay Smith, a transfer from Garden City Community College, has turned heads in practice with his quick grasp of the



► 1

defense and seems a sure starter. Red-shirt junior Jayson Van Hook, who was injured most of the last two seasons after showing tremendous promise as a freshman, is showing that same promise for this season. Sophomore Sione Tupou who started nine games as a freshman, has solidified his place in the lineup with strong practice effort that has not gone unnoticed by Coach Dimel. Senior linebacker Dylan Parsee who is still rehabbing an injury seems to be in the

mix to start in the fall, but will not play in spring.

The secondary lost three starters and only returned two experienced players in starting senior safeties Michael Lewis and Justin Rogers. Both players were a big part of the secondary last year. Juniors Josh Caldwell and Robert Corner III from Cerritos College have both looked very sharp at times in practice with Caldwell looking like a sure starter in the fall. Junior Duron Lowe from But-



► 2

FILE PHOTOS / THE PROSPECTOR

**1. Defensive coordinator Mike Cox** will head into his second season with many positions to rebuild. **2. Junior defensive back Robert Corner III** will compete for the starting position this fall.

ler Community College also seems to be in the mix for playing time. Freshman Ray Walters is also getting a long look at corner. Regarding the safety position, Coach Dimel said, "I think we have a lot of experience there, we have a lot of talent there, we've created a lot of depth there, so I'm happy with that position."

Overall, the Miner defense has big holes to fill at linebacker and cornerback but returns a very experienced and talented online. The secondary has targeted fixes from junior college transfers who will have big shoes to fill in replacing four-year starters at corner.

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

# UTEP Recreational Center welcomes new director in Jerome Osborne

BY NOAH SARABIA

The Prospector

Jerome Osborne, a San Francisco native, has recently been named the new director for the Student Recreation Center (Rec Center) at UTEP. Osborne was stationed in Virginia up until two weeks ago, when he started at UTEP.

Becoming the director of the Rec Center is a position that was very appealing to Osborne with the visual and a feeling of being at home here in the Sun City.

"When I walked on campus and saw everything here at the university I said to myself where do I sign up?" Osborne said.

"Seeing the post and reading over the job description, I said 'That fits me to a T. That's what I want. That's what I want to be,'" Osborne said.

He is very thankful that he has been put in a location and a place where the professional staff and the facility's best fit his needs in being able to make the rec program the best program in the country.

He came to El Paso to take the tour of campus after applying for the position, and upon doing so, Osborne wanted to work at UTEP right away. A big part of what drove him to the university was the architecture, the landscape and the people. He feels the staff have been very hospitable and has made him feel like he is a part of a team.

Upon comparing his experiences, Osborne strongly feels that this is where he is supposed to be. He explained that this is his first time directing. His previous work experiences have included being associate director in various positions in South Texas, and senior associate director, but never director up until now, and Osborne plans on being here for a long while.

"This Recreation Center is set apart from

others in that students here can eat after a workout, study, meet new people and have a great experience all around," Osborne said.

Osborne said that here at UTEP, students can narrow down and focus on their eight components of wellness. As director, he strives to make sure that every student can work on every component under the center's umbrella.

The Student Rec Center has programs offered already geared toward students who might not know where to start when it comes to physical activity. Instructional classes include workout programs, conditioning programs, yoga classes, as well as dance programs. The Rec Center also offers intramural sports such as dodgeball, basketball, volleyball and soccer, and includes two large basketball courts, a swimming pool, and a racquetball court.

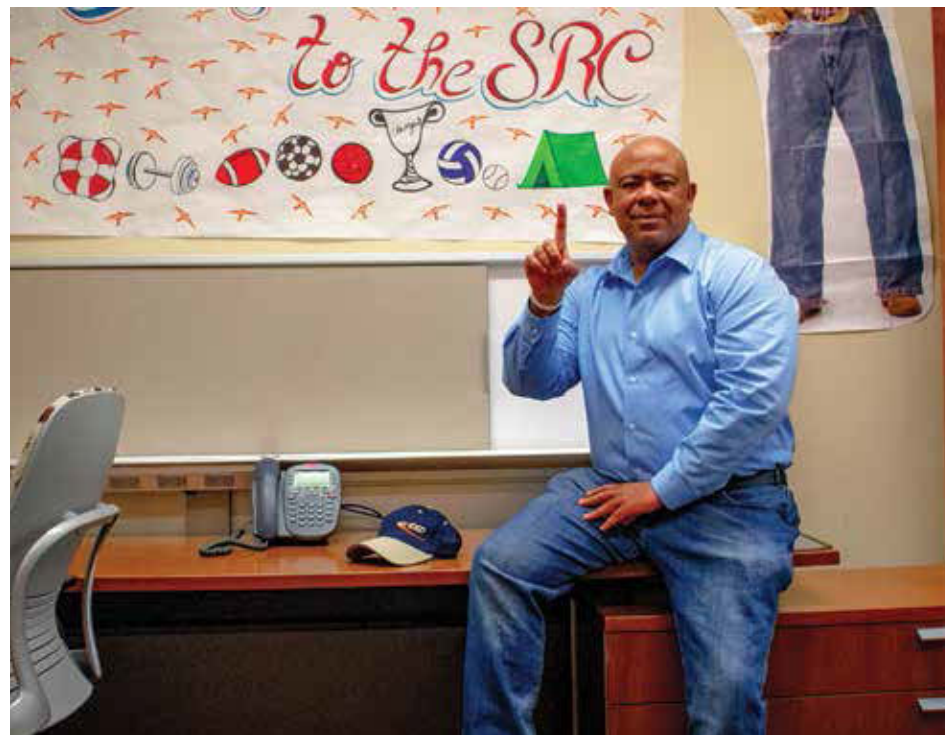
However, Osborne does plan on adding programs for students such as introduction to weight classes, as well as collaborating with other departments on campus for wellness connection to make sure they can provide students and staff adequate resources for their wellness.

"We are only the best when it comes to students and their happiness and their well-being, and their return visits," Osborne said.

Osborne's next step is to provide students a survey to make sure the Rec Center stays up to date with the programs and events in which the students might be interested in.

Osborne said they'll do whatever it takes to be the best in the eyes of the UTEP students. He recognized that students are paying for recreation with their tuition and explained he wishes to make sure students get what they need for maintain their wellness.

Noah Sarabia may be reached at [theprospector1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospector1@gmail.com)



NOAH SARABIA / THE PROSPECTOR

Jerome Osborne was named the new director of the Student Recreation Center at UTEP



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# Our View: UTEP Athletics



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR  
UTEP football will be at Del Valle High School at 7 p.m. for spring practice. Admission is free.



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR  
Senior Yvette Van Oijen and the UTEP tennis team take on Boise State and UT Tyler April 5 and 6.



COURTESY / UTEP ATHLETICS  
The UTEP women's golf team will complete the final day of the Fresno State Classic April 2.

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