

3-26-2019

The Prospector, March 26, 2019

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Border challenges increase

High numbers of migrant family apprehensions stress resources

BY VALERIA OLIVARES

The Prospector

The southwest border of the United States has encountered a record increase in the amount of unauthorized entries of migrant families, presenting significant challenges to the border region as various organizations struggle to deal with the influx.

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) apprehended more than 76,000 migrants during the month of February, making it the highest number of encounters in more than 10 years. Of those, 65 percent were made up of family units and unaccompanied children.

"This increased flow presents currently at our highest levels in over a decade, (and is) both a border security and humanitarian crisis that challenges our resources and personnel," Customs and Border Patrol Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said during a press conference.

Brian Hastings, the law enforcement operations director for the USBP, explained that October 2018 marked the first time that the amount of migrant family units exceeded the amount of single adult apprehensions.

"Border Patrol has no reason to expect that this trend will decrease. In fact, we believe it will increase," Hastings said.

McAleenan said that the El Paso Border Patrol sector has experienced these trends more acutely than any other place along the border, stating that El Paso alone has seen a 434 percent increase in apprehensions this fiscal year

with the majority being families and unaccompanied children.

The Annunciation House at El Paso has experienced first-hand the increase in families crossing into the U.S. as their demand for volunteers, shelters and assistance has grown.

"We've had to reach out to many church organizations, community organizations in the El Paso (and) Las Cruces areas and, even recently, out to Albuquerque requesting assistance for housing all of these immigrants," Christopher Davis, a long term volunteer for El Paso's Annunciation House said.

"This increased flow presents currently at our highest levels in over a decade, (and is) both a border security and humanitarian crisis that challenges our resources and personnel."

-Kevin McAleenan

In previous years, USBP would arrest up to 90 percent of Mexican migrants who could be easily deported back to Mexico. Currently, 70 percent of migrants that are crossing into the U.S. are from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, otherwise known collectively as the Northern Triangle.

Word of mouth and social media has helped spread the fact that adults entering the U.S. with children will not be detained during the immigration proceedings for illegal entry.

Victor Manjarrez, the associate director of the Center for Law and Human Behavior at UTEP, served for more than 20 years in the USBP. He explains the strain that border patrol agents face as they have to pull people from other areas to fill the gaps created as the number of migrants increase.

Throughout the current fiscal year, there have been 70 large groups of more than 100 migrants each which make up a total of more than 12,000 apprehensions. According to Hastings, family units coming from

the Northern Triangle comprise 99 percent of all apprehensions.

"We're devoting a large amount of our daily resources to this," Hastings said. "The facilities and the manpower cannot support the increase in apprehensions of family units and unaccompanied children."

USBP stations and facilities were originally built with a different demographic in mind and not for the current increasing trend of family units.

"We're committed to addressing this humanitarian need but the current situation is unsustainable for Border Patrol operations," Hastings said.

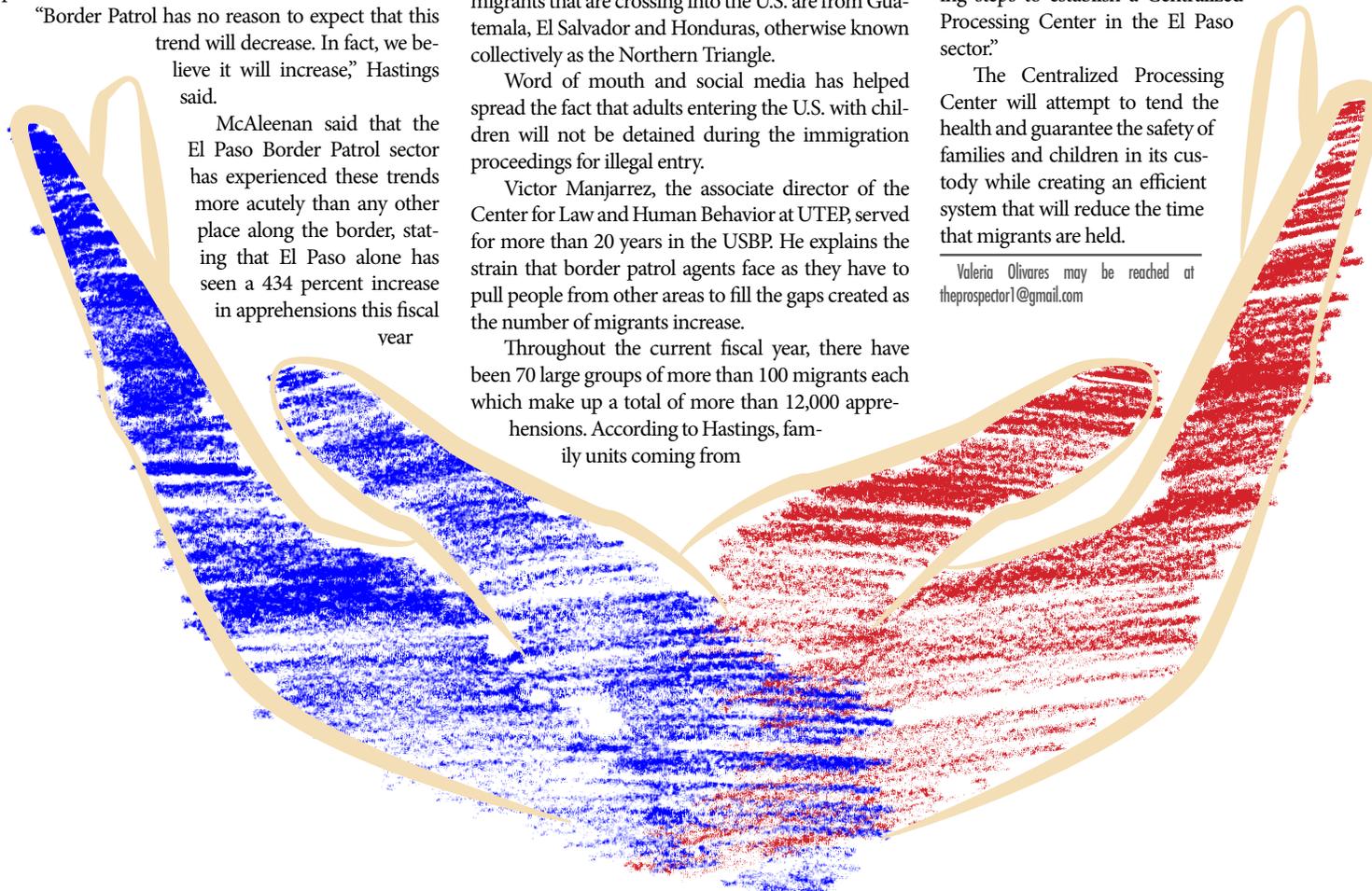
Because of this, organizations such as the Annunciation House and Casa del Migrante in Cd. Juárez have become crucial resources for migrants.

These organizations are also struggling with the increasing amount of migrants that seek their help. These organizations rely on the help of volunteers who donate essential items such as socks and underwear or help transport migrants to bus stations and airports.

"Facilities housing migrants near El Paso have reached capacity and gone over capacity numerous times," McAleenan said. "We are taking steps to establish a Centralized Processing Center in the El Paso sector."

The Centralized Processing Center will attempt to tend the health and guarantee the safety of families and children in its custody while creating an efficient system that will reduce the time that migrants are held.

Valeria Olivares may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com



Heather Wilson deserves a chance



BY CLAUDIA FLORES
The Prospector

UTEP has been in the national spotlight due to the recent controversy surrounding UTEP President Diana Natalicio's probable successor, Heather Wilson.

With Wilson's anti-LGBTQ voting record, her role as U.S. Secretary of the Air Force for the Trump administration, her "no" vote on providing grants for black and Hispanic colleges and her "yes" vote to support a border fence, it was obvious the student community would not agree with the University of Texas System Board of Regents' finalist selection.

As a UTEP student, I see the importance of having someone who looks after and represents the values of our community.

UTEP's student population is 80 percent Hispanic, with a majority of Mexican-Americans and I can see, and understand why UTEP deserves better.

In a recent letter obtained by The Prospector, Wilson wrote to UT System Chancellor James Milliken to explain that she plans to meet with students, faculty and staff. She points out how she wants "to advance its extraordinary record through access, opportunity, and excellence."

"I will be focused on student success, advancing meaningful discovery, and connecting the university to the community," she said in the letter.

Here I find myself in a difficult position, because I don't agree with the decisions she has made in the past, but as secretary of the Air Force, I know she has the leadership skills to take the lead and continue with Natalicio's legacy of access and excellence.

She clearly has interest in taking UTEP to the next level and despite her record, there is always room for change and improvement. If the ultimate decision is made by the UT System Board of Regents and Wilson becomes UTEP's new president, we'll all have to cooperate and accept that decision.

For the past few years, I believe, as a country,

we've coped with a man whose decisions have not been the best for the country and have directly affected our community. If Wilson becomes our new president, we can cope with that. If it's in her best interest to lead UTEP, I want to believe she will take the students' voices seriously and make the best decisions for the student community and the institution regardless of her personal beliefs.

Some are afraid that she might want to lead the university as she did the Air Force, but in the letter to Milliken, it seems clear that she recognizes the difference.

"University communities are different from the military, to be sure, but I can assure you that I will not only treat people with respect and dignity, but under my leadership, the university will continue its tradition of welcoming and supporting all members of our student body, faculty and staff who join us committed to the important work of this great university," the letter reads. "America has changed a lot since I entered the Air Force Academy in the third class to include women. As a first-generation college graduate and as a woman who has worked at the highest levels in education, politics and national security affairs, I am personally committed to opening the doors of opportunity and keeping them open for everyone."

I wish we could've had the chance to be taken into consideration when choosing the new president of our university, so our voices and opinions could've been heard because as part of the student community, I want the best for our campus.

I know her voting record is a hard thing to swallow, but I believe she also deserves a chance to prove the student community that she is a good fit for UTEP.

Keep an open mind. We have to be respectful and if she is the sole finalist to become the new president of our institution, we as students have to give her a fair chance to demonstrate that she can continue to make of UTEP a great institution where access, excellence and inclusivity represent the true values of our community.

Claudia Flores may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com

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#UTEPDeservesBetter movement demands a better candidate

BY GLENDA AVALOS

The Prospector

After the University of Texas System Board of Regents unanimously selected Dr. Heather Wilson as the finalist for the next president of University of Texas at El Paso, concerns were brought to light by current UTEP students and alumni. The decision has been controversial among the student community, creating the movement #UTEPDeservesBetter.

Since the announcement, UTEP students decided to take action on the decision. UTEP alumna Cristina Calvillo-Rivera initiated a campaign that collected more than 9,600 signatures to try to reverse the decision of Wilson taking on UTEP's presidency.

"To bring forth a candidate whose actions have spoken louder than her words, in that she has a horrible track record against the LGBTQ community, indicates she won't serve in the best interest of all students," Calvillo-Rivera said in an interview for KTSM.

The UTEP Student Government Association (SGA) released a letter by SGA President Cristian Botello, with the help of Vice-President of Internal Affairs Carlos Chavira, to the student community.

"The intention of the statement was not to take a stance, or represent the Student Government or represent the student body. It was my statement. It was made to inform the student body, to let them know that we were working on the concerns, that we were listening to them and we were trying to

do something about it," Botello said about the letter.

After Botello's letter was publicized, SGA Senators Raneem Karboji and Kaelin Walker released a response to Botello's letter in which they invited the students and student organizations to join the SGA senate meeting.

"I continue to stand by what I said, because I don't agree with the letter...honestly, student government has failed to the students and I continue to stand by the students in regards to the opinions," Karboji said.

SGA held an open forum March 14, where students had the opportunity to express their concerns against Dr. Wilson. The forum was transmitted via live stream on the UTEP SGA Facebook page.

At the forum, Botello explained the selection

process for the next UTEP president. The UT System selects a committee that is formed by one student (Christian Botello), several faculty members, business leaders, Mayor of El Paso, and three regents to vet the candidates chosen by a search firm and make recommendations to the Board of Regents. However, the decision is ultimately made by the regents, who will vote on Wilson after the mandatory 21-day waiting period after a finalist was announced.

During the forum, Botello was asked about the candidates for the UTEP Presidency, however, because of a disclosure statement he signed, Botello is not permitted to reveal certain details about the process.

see UTEP on page 4

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Concerns about Wilson's voting record arose in the forum and attendees criticized Botello's leadership. The students questioned Botello's research about the ideology and controversies of Wilson and his knowledge of them during the committee's process.

"I was aware of some of the issues, not all of them," Botello said when questioned about his knowledge about Wilson.

"We just want to let you know, that based on the decisions that you made to put these candidates on the board of regents, you have put the Latino/Latina community at risk, you have put the LGBTQ community at risk," said Hira Ali, a member of We the Student Coalition.

UTEP students demanded more transparency of the process the Board of Regents used to select Wilson as the sole finalist. Also, the students requested a formal sit down with the Board of Regents to voice their concerns directly to them.

Since the meeting, Botello announced to SGA members that SGA Senate would be required to meet on Monday in order to discuss the next steps to move forward as an administration, and to give a resolution to the UTEP student community.

"I cannot say what students should expect from SGA after our statement is released. I imagine it might just be a statement of neutrality giv-

en the conservative ideals many of the senators hold," Walker said. "They were greatly offended by the students who do boldly hurt the senators' feelings. I can, however, speak for myself and say that I will never stop fighting for the enfranchisement of marginalized and oppressed people and groups."

The #UTEPDeservesBetter movement decided to hold a press conference in San Jacinto Plaza March 21 to further its efforts to change the decision on the next UTEP President.

Walker said the group shared its views at the protest and delivered the more than 9,600 signatures to UT Board of Regents Vice-Chairman Paul Foster in Austin, Texas.

"Paul Foster declined to meet with us when requested previously and would not schedule an appointment. So, we were denied when we got into the building," Walker said. "However, we still consider the petition drop somewhat of a success, because it was publicized and we got our point across."

Walker said she would personally endeavor to hold Wilson accountable and will demand solidarity from her for marginalized groups, even if it is insincere.

"I want her to show up for every Queer Student Alliance (QSA) event, every Latinx celebration, every women's health event, every pride event," Walker said. "This might be outside of the job description of a university president but with



GLEND AVALOS / THE PROSPECTOR

SGA president Cristian Botello addresses students at the SGA senate meeting March 15.

her record, I am not going to accept less. She will become an involved ally or I will keep opposing her. She can say that she's for inclusivity and diversity but her past proves she's not and she can't just talk the talk, she needs to walk the walk."

UTEP student organization We the Students

Coalition will host a gathering at noon March 27 at Centennial Plaza. The purpose is to hand out fliers that will inform the students and it is open to students and the general public.

Glenda Avalos may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com

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Star City Tattoo & Arts Expo showcases artists

BY CATHERINE RAMIREZ

The Prospector

For the fourth year, the Star City Tattoo and Arts Expo showcased more than 150 tattoo artists from the area March 22-24, at the El Paso Convention Center.

Each day, tattoo enthusiasts, artists and those who appreciate the trade filled the convention center. Attendees could get a piece of body artwork from tattoo artists or take a look at the art of those who did receive a new addition.

"This is my third or fourth time at the tattoo expo and my favorite part about being a part of this is being surrounded by all the tattoo artists," said Alex Rodriguez, a tattoo artist with Steady Ink Tattoo Studio at 1506 Lee Trevino Drive.

The expo was not only the place to receive a

"This is my third or fourth time at the tattoo expo and my favorite part about being a part of this is being surrounded by all the tattoo artists."

-Alex Rodriguez

new tattoo for guests. Local artists were able to network and connect with other artists to advance their skills.

Rusty Cooper, a tattoo artist with Sun City Tattoos has been tattooing for nine years and said his tattooing style is known as neo-traditional.

"The expo is an awesome way to meet people and get your name out there, as an artist," Cooper said. "I'm from Ohio and, to me, local people are those you need to connect with it's



CATHERINE RAMIREZ/THE PROSPECTOR

Over 150 tattoo artists participated in the Star City Tattoo and Arts Expo March 22-24, at the El Paso Convention Center.



CATHERINE RAMIREZ/THE PROSPECTOR

Tattoo artist Alex Rodriguez from Steady Ink Tattoo Studio welcomed guests with a pet snake.

the best thing."

When asked how many tattoos he has, Cooper said he has too many to count.

"I have more embarrassments than anything, I started too early at the age of 14 so I was young," Cooper said.

For guests that have a few tattoo regrets, there were several tattoo removal shops present at the expo to aid those in need.

"This place is perfect for a shop like mine. I get all kinds of people. I get tattoo artists because they have a lot of old work they want gone. I also get some who want cover-ups and they come to me to fade out a tattoo," said Esteban Lucero who owns Before and After Laser Tattoo Removal located at 907 Chelsea St. "You don't have to do permanent removal. We treat certain parts."

The expo featured special performances from pole dancers and a live performance from Marlo Marquise internationally renowned side-show, cabaret, striptease and suspension artist.

The tattoo expo was kid-friendly with small craft stations, along with local food eateries, local vendors, and reptiles and small animals from Ark Exotics, a local pet store, for guests to play with.

"Every year it gets better," Cooper said.

All three days included competitions, including best small color and best neo-traditional. Best of Show was awarded to local tattoo artist Omar Orozco from Aspired Vision Studio, 1580 George Dieter Drive. The competition was judged by special guest Yallzee, a Puerto Rican tattoo collector, world traveler and journalist.

Catherine Ramirez may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.

Spring blooms at annual poppies festival

BY CATHERINE RAMIREZ

The Prospector

The El Paso Museum of Archaeology partnered with the National Border Patrol Museum and the Downtown Artist and Farmers Market to host the 13th Annual Poppies Festival March 23, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology on Transmountain Road.

The event was free to the public and included live performances from Noah The Creature, Jewells of the Desert, Tigua Youth Dancers and several others. The festival in-

cluded admission to the El Paso Museum of Archaeology and the National Border Patrol Museum to explore the exhibits.

"We support the museum, we're sort of partners with them. We help put the Poppies Festival together every year," said Fernando Arias, president of the El Paso Archaeology Society, who hosted a booth during the fest.

The El Paso Archaeology Society has assisted in hosting the festival since its inception in 2006 to support anthropology and archeology education in the area.

see POPPIES on page 6



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"They support us and we support them," Arias said. "It's a whole lot of fun, especially meeting new people every year."

More than 50 food and art vendors from the Downtown Artists and Farmers Market set up shop for poppies fest goers. Among the vendors at the festival was a Poppies Festival first timer, jewelry craftsman Marcela Vargas.

"We are part of the farmers market and they invited us come participate here, and we were happy to," Vargas said. "All our jewelry is handmade. Trends inspire us and we love fashion, colors and all sorts of textures that really inspire

our work."

Poppy season in the borderland is late January to early April, and according to Texas Highways Magazine, this year's bloom of poppies has been considered the best within the past three years. During the festival, guests could take a walk on a nature trail to take a peek at the yellow and orange poppies.

The festival included a booth that allowed guests to get their own poppy seeds to grow at home and keep the flowers blooming throughout the region.

Catherine Ramirez may be reached at theprosector1@gmail.com.



CATHERINE RAMIREZ/ THE PROSECTOR

The El Paso Museum of Archaeology hosted the 13th Annual Poppies Festival on March 23, on Transmountain Road.



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'Nudes & More' adorns the walls of Hal Marcus

BY NOAH SARABIA

The Prospector

The Hal Marcus Gallery opened exhibit "Nudes & More" March 14, at its gallery, 1308 N. Oregon St., and features works from more than 15 artists including Hal Marcus, Tom Lea, Krystyna Robbins and John W. MacKenzie in about 60 images.

Gallery manager Haydee Alonso said the exhibit was configured to display art that was provocative and eye-catching.

The artworks are not only meant to showcase something provocative, but also to celebrate the human body. The works feature both male and female subjects, in different styles from abstract to contemporary to psychedelic to hyperrealism, and are created using a variety of media.

"The human figure has inspired artists

from the beginning of time, so we just wanted to showcase artwork from the 1970s to 2019 and see how that has kind of evolved," Alonso said.

The Hal Marcus Gallery rotates its exhibitions approximately every three months. The "Nudes & More" exhibit is located downstairs in the Hal Marcus Gallery and will be on display until July 26. A studio tour and KCOS auction, including a talk with the artists, will be held April 27-28 and May 4-5.

The Hal Marcus Gallery strives to promote local and regional artists.

Local artists who wish to showcase their art can contact the Hal Marcus gallery at info@halmarcus.com or 915-533-9090. The only rule: all of the artworks displayed must be for sale. The gallery is open from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday or by appointment.

Noah Sarabia may be reached at theprosector1@gmail.com.



NOAH SARABIA/ THE PROSECTOR

"Nudes & More" exhibition will be on display at the Hal Marcus Gallery until July 26, 2019.



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The madness of UTEP basketball's offseason



PRISCILLA GOMEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Sophomore guards Evan Gilyard (#3) and Kobe Magee (#15) announced through social media that they will be transferring from the UTEP men's basketball program.

BY DANIEL MENDEZ

The Prospector

The UTEP men's basketball program may not be playing in postseason ball this March, but that hasn't stopped them from creating madness.

Since the Miners last game of the season, the program has seen two players transfer out, lost two assistant coaches and one of the teams 2019-2020 top recruits announced he has reopened his recruiting after requesting permission for his release from UTEP.

What kicked things off was the same-day announcement of the transfers of sophomore guards Evan Gilyard and Kobe Magee out of the program. The guards announced they were leaving March 12 through social media.

The Miners entered the offseason with one too many scholarships available, so this was expected. The loss of Gilyard and Magee officially marked the end of the Tim Floyd era at UTEP.

Former assistant head coach Lamont Smith resigned from the program March 20, once he was named in the latest FBI NCAA scandal known as "Varsity Blues." Smith is accused of

helping a student be admitted in exchange for cash during his tenure as head coach at University of San Diego, then falsely naming the student as part of the team during 2015-2018 seasons.

"Earlier this afternoon, we were notified by the University of San Diego administration that Lamont Smith has been implicated in the nationwide college admissions bribery scandal," said Director of Athletics Jim Senter in a statement. "We have accepted Mr. Smith's resignation, effective immediately, as assistant basketball coach at UTEP. The UTEP administration and athletic department will have no further comment on this matter."

The following day it was reported and confirmed through assistant coach Brian Burton on Twitter that he was leaving the program after being let go by first-year head coach Rodney Terry. Burton claimed his departure was not related to Smith's resignation and that Terry had let him go the week prior to his announcement.

Burton leaving the program has already seen some fallout. One of the Miners' highly touted recruits from San Antonio, guard Brendan Wenzel, asked for his release and was granted

permission to reopen his recruiting process. Wenzel was one of coach Burton's recruits as he occasionally checked up on Wenzel during the state playoffs, and throughout the Miners season (as seen on Burton's Twitter account).

Wenzel's tweet was favorited and retweeted by another one of the Miners 2019-2020 recruits, fellow Texas guard Jesse Zarzuela. Late Sunday evening, Zarzuela tweeted out how he was disappointed he won't be able to play for Smith and Burton, but announced he was still going to be a Miner.

UTEP entered the offseason with too many scholarships. It is now in search of two new assistant coaches and is focused on recruit retention and keeping other players in the program.

Daniel Mendez may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.

El Paso Rhinos progress in playoffs

BY ISAIAH RAMIREZ

The Prospector

The El Paso Rhinos (42-8-3) advanced to the Midwest Division Finals against the Oklahoma City Blazers (41-12) after sweeping the Dallas Snipers (23-28-2) in the first round of the playoffs. The Rhinos have maintained a strong season thus far after finishing in first place in the Midwest Division.

Last season the Rhinos captured the Thorne Cup championship for the third time in team history after defeating the Ogden Mustangs, and are currently looking to repeat as division champions.

Forward Jonas Burman leads the Rhinos in goals with 35 and points with 76, while forward Martin Dubsky leads the team in assists with 51 and is second on the team in points with 75.

The Rhinos have a record of 3-4 against the Blazers this season and lost their last matchup 2-1 at home Feb. 24.

The Blazers are led by forward Vitali Mikhailov who recently tied the Western States Hockey Leagues All-Time goals record with 135 in a 5-3 win over the Dallas Snipers March 10.

The Midwest Division finals will take place at 7 p.m. March 29 and March 30 at the El Paso County Special Events Center, and if a third game is necessary, it will take place at 4:30 p.m. March 31.

Isaiah Ramirez may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.

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PAUL WALL * QUIN NFN * CID * RIBO RUCKUS * PET PEOPLE
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***** SUNDAY, MAY 26TH *****

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GUNNA * DEORRO * TCHAMI * CHICANO BATMAN
LOVELYTHEBAND * SALES * BANE'S WORLD * INNER WAVE
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UTEP Football: A look at offense



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP senior quarterback Kai Locksley heads into his second season with the Miners.

BY MICHAEL CUVIELLO

The Prospector

The Miners enter year two of the Dana Dimel era. Its most significant accomplishment last season was the end of a 20-game losing streak and a 1-11 record. Multiple injuries at quarterback and offensive line derailed any consistency or any chance to improve the offense from week to week.

As banged up as the UTEP offense was last year, they have improved from having the worst offense in college the previous year to scoring six more points per game – averaging almost 18 points a game of the prior year's 12 points.

Seven starters will return to the Miners on offense.

Last spring, five guys competed for the starting quarterback job. It would seem this year unless there is a setback, senior Kai Locksley (who had ankle issues last year) is the clear-cut starter with senior Brandon Jones as backup. Incoming freshman TJ Goodwin of Cypress Falls High School in Houston, Texas is a three-star pro-style quarterback with great size standing 6 foot 5 inches who would seem to be the single-caller of the future.

Dimel seems to want to take it slow with Goodwin and it sounds like he will not be playing at all his first season. When asked about Goodwin, Dimel told The Prospector, "It's too early to say."

"He's sharp. He's quick. He's athletic. He picks up things really quickly. I'm thinking redshirt." We've got to look at Torrez and Brownholtz; we don't want to go into next year with only TJ," Dimel said.

This year's biggest recruit, El Paso's own Deion Hankins out of Parkland High School, will not be on the team until the fall. That leaves the running

back job, at least for spring, to last year's leading rusher senior Quardraiz Wadley, who is the only returning running back to gain more than 100 yards rushing last year. Senior Treyvon Hughes switched positions from running back to line-backer.

Junior running back Joshua Fields is another experienced back and will look to rebound from a massive drop in production after leading the Miners in rushing as a freshman. The battle between Fields and Wadley should be among the most exciting spring battles with Wadley the favorite at this point.

The Miners don't return any receivers or tight ends that caught more than 20 passes last year, but do seem well set with their tight-end duo of junior Luke Laufenberg and sophomore Trent Thompson. Laufenberg has been getting praise for his receiving skills in practice and will be a reliable target for the Miners.

Coach Dimel has stated, "Luke will be more the pass catcher who's a solid blocker, while Trent is the blocker who is a solid pass catcher."

The offensive line was decimated by injuries last year but returns four starters, including sophomore Bobby DeHaro who finished the year as the team's starting left tackle after sophomore Zuri Henry went down. DeHaro started all 12 games for the Miners and earned honorable mention all-conference. Overall, the line should be significantly improved just by staying healthy.

UTEP football spring practice continues with the Miners practicing at 6 p.m. April 5 at Del Valle High School.

Michael Cuvillo may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.

Read next week's issue of the Prospector for a preview of the UTEP Defense: Will include players to watch and notable stats.