

3-10-2020

## The Prospector, March 10, 2020,

UTEP Student Publications

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# Coronavirus impedes travel for spring break, summer

Sven Kline, Marisol Chávez

The Prospector

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) has suspended all university-sponsored travel to regions with a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Travel Health Notice Warning Level 2 or above or a coronavirus State Department Travel Advisory Level 3 or above, according to an email from the President's Office.

With less than a week until spring break, UTEP is requiring that all students, faculty and staff traveling for personal reasons to a country with a Level 2 travel notice or a Level 3 travel advisory to inform UTEP's Department of Environmental Health and Safety (DEHS) using an online form.

"Members of UTEP who have personal travel plans are advised to weigh the necessity of their planned travel," DEHS's website reads.

A Level 2 travel notice is designated to countries for which "enhanced precautions" need to be practiced by travelers in order to avoid risk of infection, according to the CDC's website. A Level 3 travel advisory is designated to

countries for which travel should be reconsidered due to "serious risks to safety and security," according to the Department of State's website.

Ruby Gonzalez, a 24-year-old UTEP graduate of art, looks to fulfill her childhood dream of visiting Japan, now currently at Level 2 risk of coronavirus, and has dedicated the past few years to planning a trip.

"(Ever since) graduating (from) UTEP and finding a job, I have been saving \$1,000 every month from my paycheck. Last year, in December, I finally saved enough money to buy a ticket for me and my younger brother," Gonzalez said. "It has been a tough decision to make. I have been hesitant each day. I feel positive and excited one minute, and then I feel scared and disappointed the next."

Gonzalez said Japan's shutdown has not affected her itinerary. Japan's prime minister, Shinzō Abe, announced March 2 that more measures to counter the virus will be announced March 10, according to Japan Today.

"I will already be in Japan by then, so I guess I'll find out a little too late," Gonzalez said.

see **CORONAVIRUS** on page 2



Photo illustration by Teddy Baylón



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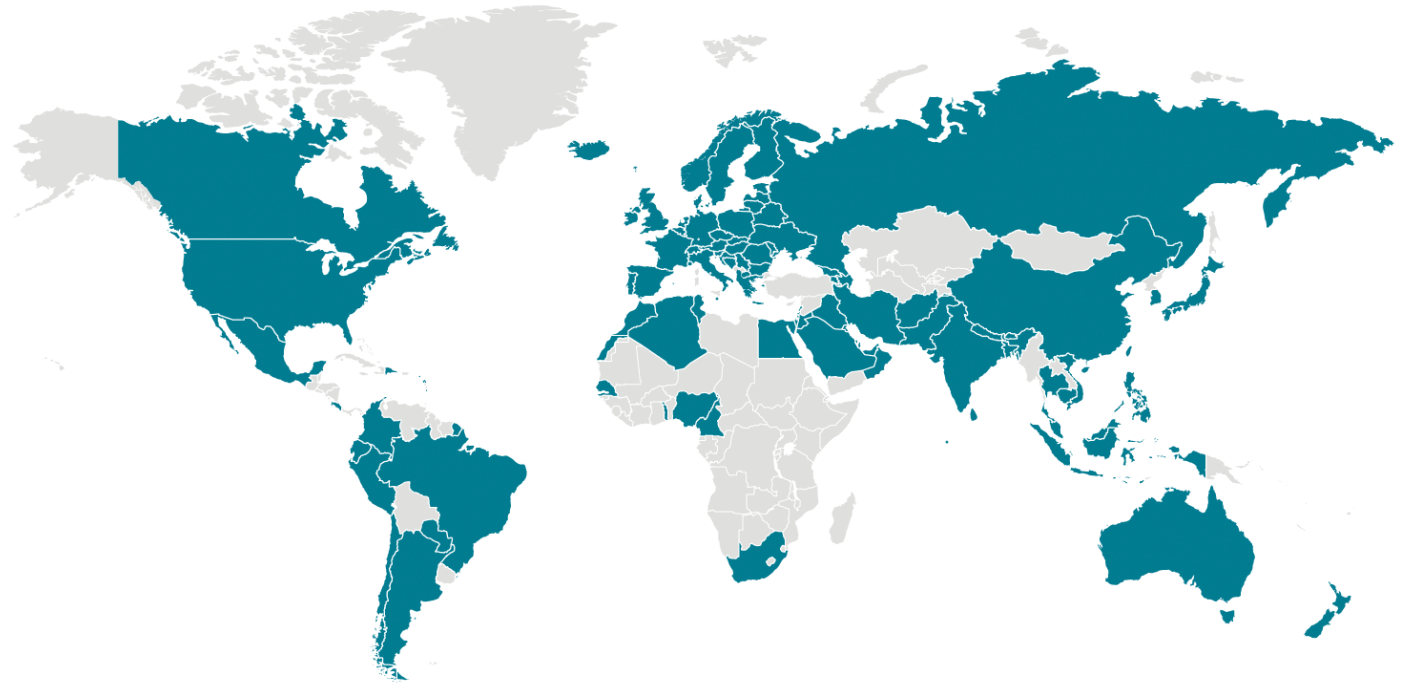
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## CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS

Although the Texas Department of State Health Services has not reported any cases of coronavirus in El Paso County, UTEP is still advising members of the community to take the following precautions:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash immediately after use
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing

Graphic by Valeria Olivares



Courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Global case numbers are reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) in their coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) situation report, found in [who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports](http://who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports). For U.S. information, visit CDC's COVID-19 in the U.S. at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html). With less than a week until spring break, UTEP is requiring that all students, faculty and staff traveling for personal reasons to a country with a Level 2 travel notice or a Level 3 travel advisory to inform UTEP's Department of Environmental Health and Safety (DEHS) using an online form.

### CORONAVIRUS from front page

Coronavirus (COVID-19) surfaced late last year in China but has already spread internationally. According to the World Health Organization, more than 100,000 cases and 3,809 deaths have been confirmed worldwide.

Among the trips canceled is the Humanities Program's "Layers of Rome." Every year for 15 years, Ronald Weber, associate professor of history and western cultural heritage at UTEP, and John Leo De Frank, a lecturer for UTEP's Humanities Program, have hosted a two-week trip

to Rome to learn about Roman history, art and culture, according to the program's website.

"I write with a heavy heart. The threat level from the coronavirus in Italy has exceeded the level three danger," Weber said in an announcement forwarded to students. "Consequently, the university has had no choice but to suspend all university-sponsored events and groups traveling to Italy."

Due to the virus' unpredictability, Weber and De Frank are unable to give any certainty as to the trip being rescheduled for later this year.

German Rosas-Acosta, an associate professor at UTEP in biological sciences working with the

Influenza virus for about 15 years, gives insight into COVID-19.

"If you are going through an area where transmission is happening, I think that's not a smart choice right now," Rosas-Acosta said. "You'd be dependent on your health status ... but facing the possibility of being put in quarantine when coming back."

Those traveling will also be required by UTEP to self-isolate for 14 days before going back to work or school, even if no symptoms are showing, according to DHES's website. Self-isolation guidelines are available in the CDC's website.

No announcement has been made about the stay of UTEP students currently studying abroad.

Acosta does not recommend the use of face-masks. Since they are not fitted against the user's face, they are not effective in the prevention of the virus.

"The masks should be used to prevent dissemination, not as a way to prevent infection," Rosas-Acosta said.

For more information about the virus, visit [who.int/coronavirus](http://who.int/coronavirus), [cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus) and [www.utep.edu/coronavirus](http://www.utep.edu/coronavirus).

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## SPEAK YOUR MIND



# Classroom walkout protests pipeline

**Anahy Diaz**

The Prospector

Dozens of students from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) walked out of their classrooms to stand in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en Nation land defenders opposing the construction of TC Energy's Coastal GasLink's multibillion-dollar pipeline project Wednesday.

The student-led demonstration, organized by biological sciences senior Adan Saenz, was held as a symbol of support for Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs who say the pipeline seeking to be constructed is trespassing unceded indigenous territory in northern British Columbia.

"We know this is part of a history of exploitation and struggle for indigenous people," Saenz said.

The proposed 670-kilometer pipeline would cut across 22,000 square kilometers of one of Wet'suwet'en Nation's oldest camps, in order to transport liquified natural gas to the coastal community of Kitimat. Hereditary chiefs oppose the construction on the grounds that it could contaminate traditional territory they have claimed authority over, as they rely on the land to harvest food, medicines and draw water.

As protestors and defenders of the camp face arrests and intervention from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, hereditary chiefs have stated that under Wet'suwet'en law, the band councils don't have authority or jurisdiction over what happens in the nation's traditional territory and have "condemn(ed) the RCMP's use of intimidation, harassment and ongoing threats of forceful intervention and removal of the Wet'suwet'en land defenders from Wet'suwet'en unceded territory."

This has inspired people all around the world to stand in unity with Wet'suwet'en Nation, including people from communities facing similar problems. According to Saenz, El Paso is one of them.

"Our struggle here in El Paso is inextricably linked to the struggle in Canada," Saenz said. "JPMorgan Chase is trying to block in decades of new seals to omissions and they're escalating global warming and putting all our lives at risk."

In June 2019, El Paso Electric announced its agreement to be sold for \$4.3 billion to the Infrastructure Investments Fund (IIF), an organization affiliated with JPMorgan. Opponents of this deal argue that through this, the 117-year-old company could potentially give the big bank tremendous information advantages that can be used to trade for profit. Protestors have tried to delay the sale until IIF's ownership structure is reviewed.



Anahy Diaz / The Prospector

On March 4, Adan Saenz, the protest organizer, speaks to audience members about the importance of standing in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en Nation land defenders at the Centennial Plaza. The student-led demonstration was held as a symbol of support for Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs who say the pipeline seeking to be constructed is trespassing unceded indigenous territory in northern British Columbia.

"I hope people get a new perspective," Saenz said. "I want people to open up their minds and their worldviews and know that there's other struggles going on; and that what we're facing is also what other people are facing elsewhere in the world. I want people to feel the global solidarity that we can build and develop so that we can find our way through this crisis."

Both issues have strongly involved the topic of global warming, which is a primary concern for Cheyanne Lozano, a member of the Navajo Nation and UTEP alumni.

"For Navajos, there is no heaven. This is the life we're given. We came from the earth and it is what we leave," Lozano said. "What I want to leave is a world for the future. It's not about me and my comforts. It's about the next generation."

Lozano says that although oil and other non-eco-friendly commodities may have a modern convenience, they are harmful to the planet, and there is no good in keeping up with something that is harmful.

"As a society, we have to change," Lozano said. "We as college students who are going to become the next generation have to make our voices heard ... At some point, if you get enough people yelling in a room, someone's going to hear them."

Anahy Diaz may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)

“  
I want people  
to feel the global  
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that we can find  
our way through  
this crisis.”

”

- ADAN SAENZ

UTEP senior majoring  
in biological sciences



Anahy Diaz / The Prospector

UTEP student holds megaphone as he speaks against Coastal GasLink's multibillion-dollar pipeline project.



Anahy Diaz / The Prospector

UTEP student speaks at Centennial Plaza on in front of audience members opposing a gas pipeline planned on being constructed on indigenous land.



Anahy Diaz / The Prospector

Cheyenne Lozano, a member of the Navajo Nation, speaks to audience members at Centennial Plaza about the importance of opposing a pipeline that would obstruct indigenous land.



Anahy Diaz / The Prospector

UTEP students stand in solidarity on Centennial Plaza with Wet'suwet'en Nation land defenders opposing the construction of Coastal GasLink's pipeline.

# Wage gap shrinks as women become more educated

**Exodis Ward**

The Prospector

A study found that the gender-wage gap is decreasing as employers hire more women to fill the need for skilled workers.

The Pew Research Center (PRC) studied women's careers from 1980 to 2018 and found that the average hourly wage has gone from \$15 to \$22, almost a 50 percent increase from what it was about 40 years ago.

"There's more access to information and more self-awareness. People understand more and can see disparities and discrepancies in society," said Melissa Ortega, instructor for the women's and gender studies department at UTEP. "I think that self-awareness is causing women in particular to see where those deficiencies are happening, so they're taking opportunities."

In 2018, women made up 47 percent of the total workforce, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

The increase is most visible in community and legal professions with an increase of 25 percent, business and financial operations with an increase of 18 percent and scientific and technical careers with an increase of 10 percent.

As men flock to mechanical careers that require less education, women are becoming increasingly educated.

In 1980, 16 percent of employed women aged 16 and older had completed at least a four-year college program, compared to 20 percent of



Photo illustration by Valeria Olivares

The Pew Research Center (PRC) studied women's careers from 1980 to 2018 and found that the average hourly wage has gone from \$15 to \$22, almost a 50 percent increase from what it was about 40 years ago.

men, according to the PRC. In 2018, 40 percent had completed at least a four-year college program, compared to 35 percent of men.

The increase in education is impactful in the lives of young girls, according to Ortega.

"Having women in leadership roles can raise aspiration and educational attainment in young girls," Ortega said. "They have more role models and they might represent more opportuni-

ties for young girls to see what they look like in those positions."

Although education is leveling the playing field, there are still barriers present. While researchers could measure education levels and financial correlations, they could not measure other aspects like work environment, gender stereotypes, discrimination and the effect of motherhood on women in the workplace.

Ortega thinks the most important thing is to build a support system.

"They're not alone. I was a single mom finishing my doctorate with three little girls and it was definitely challenging, but you find people who are like you," Ortega said. "I think it's about reaching out, knowing who to talk to and networking themselves. Really getting out there and not worrying about what other people think about them. There's always support out there."

Ortega is optimistic about the future of gender equality in the workplace.

"I like the idea that empowered women empower women. These women in leadership roles are going to help other people and other women reach their level. In the end, we're trying to grow each other and we're trying to create capacity within ourselves," Ortega said. "If you consider even a hundred years ago to now, the kinds of steps towards that progression we've experienced, I think with access to technology and people understanding their roles, it'll continue to change exponentially."

UTEP offers a variety of services for students' wellbeing. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) are in Union West room 202. The center for accommodations and support services (CASS) aids students with in-class accommodations and is in Union East, room 106. Food is available for students at the food pantry located at Memorial Gym, room 105.

Exodis Ward may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)

## 2020 Census Summit strives to 'get out the count,' get El Paso involved

**Marisol Chávez**

The Prospector

The Center for Community Engagement (CCE) at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) will host the "2020 Census Summit" Wednesday, March 11, in an effort to increase participation in the upcoming U.S. Census.

Students will be able to learn about their role in the 2020 census, recent trends in Latinx population growth and the different ways they can get involved.

"I think a lot of people are not trusting in participating in the census," said Jennifer Lujan, assistant director for the CCE. "Because our county is undercounted, we don't receive the resources from the federal government that are due to (us) based on (its) actual size."

According to Lujan, a sample form will be available at the event so that people can see for themselves that the citizenship question is not

part of the 2020 census and that the information collected is confidential and safe.

According to the census website, they are "bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to keep your information confidential." This means that even if the question is included, by law, the census department is prohibited to share that, or any other information provided to it, including other government agencies or even law enforcement.

The event's keynote speaker, Rogelio Sáenz, is a professor of demography at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). Sáenz stepped down as dean of UTSA's College of Public Policy in May 2019 to focus on his research, which includes focus on demographic trends, immigration, public policy, social justice and human rights, according to UTSA Today.

"We thought it was important for our students at UTEP to see a Latino demographer who has extensive knowledge," Lujan said. "He's going to be talking about the growth of the Latino popu-

lation, what it means for the future and why it's important for us to be counted."

The day-long summit is part of a three-event series that launched Feb. 12 with "UTEP Creatives for the Count," a collaborative create-a-thon in which members of the community created digital content to combat stigma surrounding the census, and will end with "Census Day Kick Off" April 1.

Lujan believes this can also be an opportunity for students to network.

"It's a good way for them to network, to hear new information that they've never heard of, and also to be with their UTEP peers in a different setting," Lujan said.

The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Tomás Rivera Conference Center, located on the third floor of the Union Building East.

Marisol Chávez may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)



Illustration by Claudia Hernandez

This year's census will be the 24th in the United States. National Census Day, which happens every 10 years, will be April 1, 2020.



## SPRING BREAK EVENTS IN EL PASO

# 03

### FIVE COMMONLY UNKNOWN FACTS ABOUT DRINKING AND DRIVING

- 1) In the United States, drivers under 21 cannot drive with any level of alcohol in their system.
- 2) The average person arrested for driving under the influence has done so 80 times before their first arrest.
- 3) A growing number of accidents occur on vehicles other than cars, such as snowmobiles and jet-skis.
- 4) Car accidents are the leading cause of death in American teens.
- 5) Nothing can lower blood alcohol content (BAC) besides time. Showers, caffeine and/or exercise do nothing.

Source: <https://emeraldcoastjourneypure.com/drinking-driving-facts/>

#### MONDAY 16

Miyazaki Mondays: Princess Mononoke — 6:30 p.m. at Flix Brewhouse El Paso. Tickets at [flixbrewhouse.com](http://flixbrewhouse.com)

\$1 Margaritas & Pizzas — 9 p.m. at Fanatics Sports Bar & Grill.

#### TUESDAY 17

Issues at Rockhouse Bar and Grill — 7 p.m. at 9828 Montana Ave. Tickets: \$18. All ages event.



#### WEDNESDAY 18

Paranormal Cirque — 7:30 p.m. at Sunland Park Mall. Tickets: \$5. March 18-22.

The Independents at Rockhouse Bar and Grill — 9:30 p.m. at 9828 Montana Ave. All ages event.

#### THURSDAY 19

EP Sun City Pride Comedy Night — 7:30 p.m. at The Comic Strip. Tickets: \$10.

Lords of Acid at Rockhouse Bar and Grill — 6 p.m. at 9828 Montana Ave. Ages 18 and up event.

#### FRIDAY 20

Star City Tattoo and Arts Expo — noon at El Paso Convention Center. Tickets: \$20 single day, \$45 weekend. March 20-22.

Kate Del Castillo — 9 p.m. at The Plaza Theatre. Tickets: \$30-\$90.

#### SATURDAY 21

La Banda MS de Sergio Lizarraga — 8 p.m. at the Don Haskins Center. Tickets: \$39-\$149.

Poppies Festival — 10 a.m. at El Paso Museum of Archaeology. Admission is free.

#### SUNDAY 22

El Paso Psychic Festival — noon at Hawthorne Inn, 1700 Airway Blvd. Tickets: \$5. March 21-22.

Francisco Escamilla — 9 p.m. at The Plaza Theatre. Tickets: \$79-99.

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# Cher dazzles fans, empowers women at the Don Haskins

Anahy Diaz

The Prospector

Cher, often referred to as “The Goddess of Pop,” stunned an El Paso audience with iconic hit performances and words of inspiration for women last Friday at UTEP’s Don Haskins Center.

The singer, actress and television personality made an appearance at the borderland as part of her 2020 “Here We Go Again” tour, alongside fellow disco legends Nile Rodgers and Chic. The concert highlighted some of Cher’s most iconic career moments as an artist that has worked in various areas of entertainment and has continuously been a female role model in a male-dominated industry.

“Just to see her pose is a dream,” said Elsa Perraes, who attended the concert with her daughter Paula. “The music is a bonus and the fact that I love her as an actress just tops it off.”

The concert opened with her 2013 hit, “Woman’s World” off her 25th studio album “Closer to the Truth,” where blue-haired Cher appeared before a cheering audience.

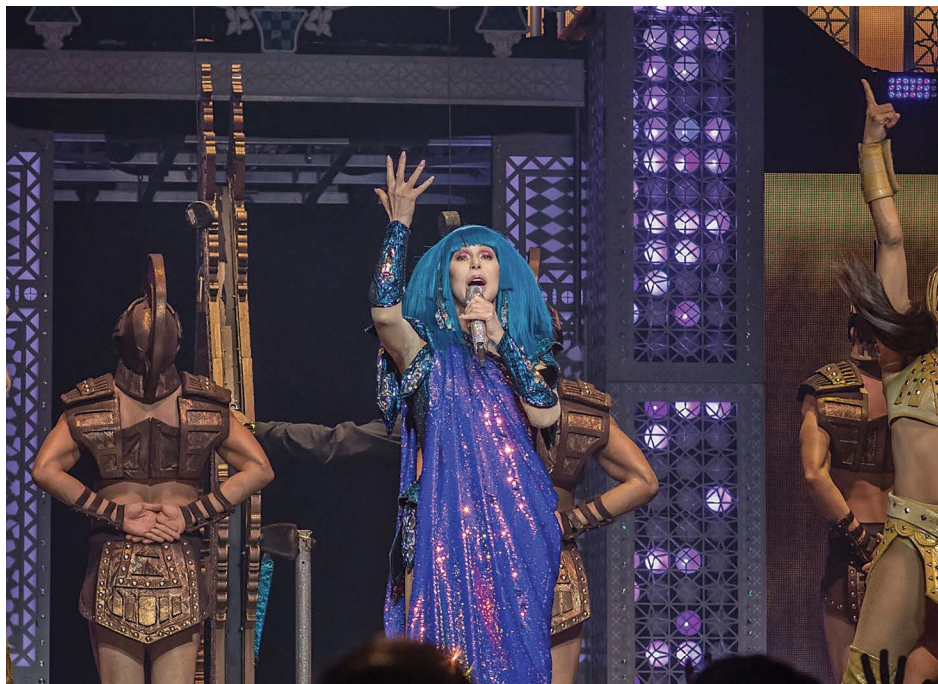
“I love all the towns that I go to, but somehow I especially remember you,” said Cher, who revealed she was sick but didn’t want to disappoint the crowd by canceling the show. “This show will be brought to you by stubbornness, heart and a little technical assistance.”

With her enchanting charisma, Cher continued to work her way through an assortment of tunes from her long career, including “I Got You Babe.” Through this song, the Grammy award winner paid tribute to her late husband of 10 years, Sonny Bono, and their success as a husband-wife duo best known as Sonny & Cher.

“I grew up listening to Sonny & Cher, and eventually just Cher,” said Tracey Benson, who first saw the singer live in 1968, when she performed under Sonny & Cher in what used to be the Northgate Theatre in Northeast El Paso. “She is so versatile in the music industry and she’s always been so popular throughout the different genres that she’s gone through.”

The night followed with other popular Cher songs like “Welcome to Burlesque” from the 2010 film of the same name starring her and American singer Christina Aguilera. The Goddess of Pop also sang songs from her most recent album “Dancing Queen,” a tribute to the Swedish pop supergroup ABBA, including “Waterloo,” “SOS” and “Fernando.”

“She’s positive for everybody and equal,” said Marta Gallegos, a nurse at the University Medi-



Anette Baca / The Prospector

Cher, with the “Here We Go Again Tour,” was the third top-grossing female touring artist of 2019 and ranked at number 11 on Billboard’s Year End Top 40 Tours.

cal Center in El Paso, who was accompanied at the concert by five other fellow nurses. “She brings everybody in, I mean look at the diversity that’s here tonight. She’s awesome.”

The show was held in a packed venue, as fans filled almost every seat at the Don Haskins. However as new confirmed cases of the coronavirus continue to spread throughout the country, various organizers and artists have found themselves having to cancel program trips, conferences and concerts as a form of precaution to avoid further contamination. But for Cher fans, attending the packed concert amidst coronavirus fears were not a concern.

“Wash your hands, sneeze in your elbow. We work at a hospital, the flu is killing more people than this is,” said Gallegos, who thinks people should not be concerned about attending large events like these.

Benson and Perraes both shared a similar attitude towards the virus, saying some people are overexaggerating.

“I’m faith driven, so if it’s going to happen to you, it’s going to happen,” said Perraes. “You have no control over it, so why worry?”

The night continued with Cher and her backup singers and dancers performing other hits like her infamous song “If I Could Turn Back

Time” from her 19th studio album “Heart of Stone.” The show then concluded with “Believe,” the iconic late ’90s song that departed Cher from her folk-rock style at the time to an upbeat dance-pop style.

Throughout the night, the 73-year-old sported colored wigs and sparkly outfits with bold accessories that have continuously defined her as a woman who does what she wants, which is the exact message she shared with the crowd early on in the show, as she reminisced the day she turned 40.

“For the young women, what I want to say is that you have to fulfill your dreams and do what you want to do,” said Cher. “And for the older ladies, where’s your blue hair?”

Cher ended her speech by asking an ironic question as a sarcastic response to the people who consider her too old to still be performing.

“I just have one thing to say; what’s your granny doing tonight?” the Academy and Emmy Award-winning artist told the audience.

Cher is set to visit 26 more cities in the U.S., including her final stop in Sacramento, California on May 6.

Anahy Diaz may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)

# Water Lantern Festival set to float your boat

Jaqueline Martinez

The Prospector

Paper mâché lanterns will be put afloat to create a magical, atmospheric scene and memorable experience at the third annual Water Lantern Festival set to take place Saturday, March 28, at Ascarate Park on 6900 Delta Dr.

People are invited to write their wishes or desires on the crafted lanterns before participants send them floating along.

In Japan, a three-day Buddhist festival is held annually in late August, dubbed the festival of Toro Nagashi “floating lanterns” that the purpose is to remember deceased ancestors. It is believed that the spirits of the ancestors return home for a short period of time with the help of “mukaebi,” a welcoming fire meant to guide the spirits so that they can easily find their way home.

In America, the traditional celebration has taken its own meaning as a time of unity where people come together in harmony to express their hopes and dreams or let go of any tension or overwhelming feelings, as part of a healing process.

Each ticket comes with a floating lantern kit, an LED candle, a commemorative drawstring bag, a marker and a wristband to access food trucks in the festival area. The price will also cover the cost of collecting the lanterns from the water after the event and any trash left behind. The lanterns are made from rice paper and wood and the LED candles are reusable, making the event eco-friendly.

“This serendipitous, harmonious, peaceful event allows people the opportunity to share their stories and reflect on the world around them. You can feel the peace and overwhelming love as you observe the lanterns reflection upon the water,” said Katie Shwendiman from the festival’s marketing and communications outreach. “The release of the lanterns can symbolize different things for people. Some dedicate their lantern to a loved one, others may create a lantern filled with their hopes and dreams or a favorite quote or drawing.”

Tickets are now available online, but prices are expected to increase closer to the event’s date. Guests will also be able to buy tickets at the door on the day of the event. Get information at [www.waterlanternfestival.com/el Paso.php](http://www.waterlanternfestival.com/el Paso.php).

Jaqueline Martinez may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)



# Border artist channels emotions in new art exhibit

## Anahy Diaz

The Prospector

Adriana Peraldi, a renowned border artist, presented her art exhibit titled “Conversaciones y emociones a color” last Thursday at the Consulate General of Mexico in El Paso.

Peraldi’s exhibit, which translates to “Conversations and emotions through color,” is a set of 20 paintings inspired by the emotions and feelings experienced daily. Her mission was to listen to her own emotions and transmit them through brushstrokes and colors, in hopes of invoking those same emotions to whoever sees her art.

“When you have that picture in front of you, as ugly or beautiful as it may be, I want you to not ignore it,” Peraldi said. “I want you to have a conversation with the picture. I want you to feel what I felt in my heart when I began painting it.”

Peraldi, born in El Paso and raised in Ciudad Juárez, leads an artistic studio on both sides of the border, with more than 30 exhibitions over the years. In her paintings, she captures vivid color, movement and transparencies to express sensations and emotions. The manipulation of proportions and materials seen in her artwork



Glenda Avalos / The Prospector

Adriana Peraldi, borderland artist, presents her exhibit “Conversaciones y emociones a color” at the Mexican consulate in El Paso.

have labeled her as a plastic artist who uses mixed techniques to create a unique vision of reality.

“I work with emotions,” Peraldi said. “I work with all those feelings that happen when we get up in the morning and when we go to bed. I tried capturing them all one way or another.”

The featured paintings are purposely untitled because each spectator is given the opportunity to title each painting themselves based on the emotion and connection they experience while observing it, Peraldi said.

These titles, written on paper, will be collected by Peraldi throughout the duration of the ex-

hibit at the consulate for her to analyze the various internal conversations people had with each illustration.

“I want you to connect with this house right here,” Peraldi said, while pointing at her heart. “Reality and creativity is just that, the return home.”

Peraldi’s exhibit was a collaboration between the Consulate General of Mexico in El Paso and the Centro Cultural Paso del Norte, as a way to support and expose the United States to the rich culture and art found on the other side of the border.

“For me, it is a pleasure to have such an exhibition here at the consulate,” said Mauricio Ibarra Ponce de León, the Consul General of Mexico in El Paso. “I always say that the consulate belongs to all Mexicans. It is a place where we can promote the cultural, artistic values of Mexico.”

“Conversaciones y emociones a color” will be available to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until April 3. Admission is free.

Anahy Diaz may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)

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# UTEP win streak hits four

## Miners undefeated against C-USA's worst

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

The UTEP Miners (17-14, 7-9) led for all but two minutes of its matchup versus the Rice University Owls (15-16, 5-11) Saturday in a 77-72 victory. Rice is winless versus the Miners in three matchups this season. Clinching the No. 11 seed in the Conference USA (C-USA) tournament, the Miners feasted on the grouping of the four bottom tier teams.

"I'm excited for my guys, the way my guys are playing," second-year UTEP Head Coach Rodney Terry said. "They have really bought into details. It's hard when you face someone a second time, a third time for Rice, they had to be locked into the details."

Continuing his torrid scoring pace for the Miners was senior guard Darryl Edwards, who finished with 22 points on the night on 9-19 shooting. Edwards connected on three 3-pointers, once again displaying his prowess from that range.

Rice briefly led on a jumper after about one minute of play. Sophomore Souley Boum then proceeded to connect on a 3-pointer to give the Miners a lead it would never relinquish. Boum would go on to hit two more shots from that range and led the team with 25 points on the night.

Once the Miners scored, the team went on a 9-point run and was able to take control of the game early. With about seven minutes left in the first half, the Owls made a run and cut the Miner lead to one point. Another 3-pointer by Boum extended the Miners' lead to 7 points with less than two minutes remaining. A last-second 3-pointer from Rice made it a 30-26 lead for the Miners at the half.

Making a 3-pointer to begin the half, the Owls were now within a single point of the Miners and gaining momentum. Boum and Edwards then took over and combined to score the next 16 points for the Miners, giving UTEP a 48-37 lead. Freshman forward Deon Stroud followed up with a layup and foul shot to push the Miners' lead to 14 points.

With about a minute remaining, the Miners had a comfortable 10-point lead. Rice still fighting back gamely hit a quick 3-pointer to cut the UTEP lead to 69-62. A thunderous dunk from freshman Tydus Verhoeven quickly ended any idea of a Rice comeback as the Miners finished



Michael Cuvillo / The Prospector

Sophomore guard Jordan Lathon shoots corner 3-pointer in the second half over two Owl defenders late in game versus Rice Sunday March 1. The Miners defeated the Rice Owls for the third time this season on Saturday, March 7, 77-72 to acquire the 11th seed in the Conference USA Tournament.

# Softball loses 2 of 3 to LA Tech

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

The UTEP Miners (5-17) showed a resurgence of offense in a weekend series with the Louisiana Tech (LA Tech) Lady Techsters, scoring 24 runs in three games. Over the past eight games, the Miners have scored an anemic 21 runs, which is less than it scored this three-game series combined.

In the series opener, senior Pamala Baber opened the scoring for the Miners with two out of a two-run double in the first inning for an early 2-0 Miners' lead. Freshman pitcher Isabella Kelly then surrendered a solo homer from LA Tech's Maddie Green to make it a one-run game.

The following inning, sophomore third baseman Kasey Flores connected for an RBI scoring single top extend the lead to 3-1. Squandering a bases-loaded opportunity, the Miners struck out twice in a row to end the second inning.

Both teams went three batters up and three batters down in the third inning. Neither team scored in the fourth inning. After four innings, the Miners still held a 3-1 lead.

After a promising start to the fifth inning on a runner thrown out by freshman catcher Isabella Hanson, things started to unravel for the Miners. LA Tech's Zoe Hicks then stole third putting her team in scoring position, which was followed by a fielding error that led to two scores for the Lady Techsters, tying the game.

UTEP then responded with a three-run inning, which featured back to back doubles, including Baber's second of the day, giving them a 6-3 lead.

With one runner on base and two outs in the bottom of the sixth, the Miners allowed four straight hits by LA Tech, which led to a five-run inning. After receiving a walk, the Miners ended its scoreless inning, hitting into a double play trailing 8-6.

Trailing by two runs going into the final at bats for the Miners, Baber and Illena Santos were able to score on mistakes by LA Tech, which sent the game into extra innings. Down by one run in the eighth inning, Baber got hit by a pitch to load the bases with two outs. Junior Macey Brown struck out looking to end the comeback and game losing 9-8. Kelly pitched the complete-game loss.



# UTEP women prepare for Conference-USA tournament

**Isaiah Ramirez**

The Prospector

The regular season finale did not go as planned for the UTEP women's basketball team as it fell to the North Texas Mean Green 68-58 on the road. Now the Miners will look to regroup and battle Florida Atlantic in the first round of the Conference-USA tournament. The Miners are the seventh seed while the Owls are 10th seed. UTEP dismantled Florida Atlantic 96-65 at the Don Haskins Center Jan. 4.

In the conclusion of the regular season, Florida Atlantic, Southern Miss and Marshall were in a three-way tie for eighth place with a record of 7-11 in Conference-USA play. The Owls ended up finishing as the 10th seed in the Conference-USA tournament due to tiebreaker rules.

Last season, the Miners rang out the upset siren, defeating Marshall 64-56 in double overtime in the first round of the Conference-USA tournament with seven active players on the roster.

The Miners' path to the tourney this season included a revamped roster, constant defensive intensity and a young core that showed they belonged at the Division I level.



Carolina Alvarez / The Prospector

UTEP senior forward Jade Rochelle boxes out Rice junior center Nancy Mulkey Jan. 24 at the Don Haskins Center.

Freshman Katia Gallegos is third on the squad in points with 9.7 and leads the team and Conference-USA in assists with five per game.

Gallegos recently broke the UTEP freshman record for most assists in a season with 146 assists

thus far and was named to the Conference-USA Freshman team by league officials.

Freshman guard Avery Crouse has stepped up for the Miners in recent games, with four double-digit scoring performances in her last five games played while also putting up 15 points in the regular season finale versus North Texas. Crouse is third on the team in 3 pointers made with 21 and fourth on the squad in points with seven per game.

UTEP's young core looks upon veteran leadership and guidance in the form of senior guard Katarina Zec and forward Ariona Gill. Zec and Gill lead the team in scoring with 12 points and 11 points, respectively.

Zec leads the team in minutes per game (31.8) three-pointers made (41) and was named to the All-Conference-USA second team by league officials.

Florida Atlantic is led by graduate transfer guard Crystal Primm's 15 points per game, which is sixth-best in Conference-USA. The Owls are also anchored by freshman guard Lotta-Vehka-Aho who averages 12 points per game

see WOMEN on page 12

## UTEP ATHLETICS

# SPRING 2020

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MEN from page 9

out its matchup with six more free throws for the 5 point win.

Boum and Edwards combined for 47 of the Miners 77 points. As a team, the Miners shot a blistering 52% from the field in the second half. The Miners dominated in points in the paint with 32 compared to 22 for the Owls. Shooting 39% from the 3-point line, the Miners had a distinct advantage from outside shooting compared to Rice's 25%.

Although fouling out the game, junior Bryson Williams made his presence felt with three blocks and nine rebounds. Verhoeven made an impact on the boards with six offensive rebounds.

Once again, the Miners shortened its rotation and went with only seven players for the whole game. Sophomore Kaden Archie and Stroud were the only players off the bench for the Miners in the game. Archie had a career-high eight rebounds in 26 minutes of playing time.

Williams was named to the All Conference first team Monday. He is the first UTEP player to be named all first team since the 2014-2015 season, when Vince Hunter was named. Averaging 17 points and seven rebounds a game, Williams has been the Miner's most consistent player this season.

Defensively the Miners have been more aggressive as of late, which has led to creating more fast break opportunities and turnovers for its opponents.

"We're just getting started right now. It was all about the defensive matchups; we knew they were going to small-ball. We had to defend the 3-point line," Terry said.

Currently the 11th seed in the C-USA Tournament the Miners next take on No. 7 seed Marshall University (16-15, 10-8) 8 p.m. Wednesday in Frisco, Texas.

Michael CuvIELLO may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)



Senior transfer Darryl Edwards lobbs a high arching shot over Owl defender versus Rice Saturday, March 1.

Michael CuvIELLO / The ProspectoR



Guard Darryl Edwards takes a pullup jumper inside the paint versus Rice University Saturday, March 1.

Michael CuvIELLO / The ProspectoR

SOFTBALL from page 9

Due to predicted inclement weather for Sunday, the Miners played a doubleheader.

Game two of the three-game series was dominated by the Miners, with junior second baseman Ariana Valles and Santos each driving in three runs apiece. Freshman Zaydie Calderon pitched 5 shutout innings and allowed only five baserunners the whole game for the 9-0 win.

The Miners jumped out to a five-run lead in the rubber match of the series after three innings, with a thundering two-run HR from Santos. Santos' home run was her eighth of the season, which currently leads the team. Santos is currently sixth in the conference in HRs.

At the bottom of the fourth inning is where things started to come apart for the Miners. UTEP allowed two doubles, a walk and a home run that resulted in three quick runs for LA Tech. A third double set up two more runs for the Lady Techsters as the team clawed back to a 5-5 tie heading to the bottom of the inning.

Responding with three singles in four at bats, the Miners loaded the bases in the fourth inning. Valles came through once again with an extra-base hit, which scored all runners and gave the Miners an 8-5 lead. The following inning LA Tech added one more run.

Starting out well at the top of the sixth, the Miners quickly had two outs on LA Tech. Giving up two straight singles and a homer, Calderon could not get any pitches past the LA Tech batters as the Miners fell behind by one run. After a hit batter and a walk, the Lady Techsters added another run to take a 10-8 lead heading into the bottom of the inning.

UTEP could only manage one hit by Baber in the next two innings and came up short with the 10-8 loss.


UTEP will host Alabama Birmingham in a three-game series starting at 6 p.m. Friday, March 13, at Helen of Troy Field.

Michael CuvIELLO may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)

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WOMEN from page 10

and sophomore forward Juliette Gauthier's 11 points per game.

The Owls have struggled on the defensive side of the ball this season, allowing an average of 68 points per game, which is second worst in Conference-USA.

In the Miners last matchup against Florida Atlantic, it earned its largest halftime lead in a con-

ference game in program history (47-25). Gallegos earned her first career double-double (11 points, 11 rebounds), in the Miners 96-65 win.

The winner of the first-round battle between UUTEP takes on Florida Atlantic 12:30 p.m. March 11 in Frisco, Texas, in the first round of the 2020 Conference-USA Air Force Reserve Conference-USA Women's Basketball Championship. The game will be streamed on ESPN +.

Isaiah Ramirez may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)



Carolina Alvarez / The Prospector

Senior guard Katarina Zec fights for position as she drives to the basket versus North Texas Jan. 25.

## Area high school basketball playoffs end in sweet 16 round

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

The Eastwood and Clint high school boys' basketball team's exceptional playoff runs ended in the sweet 16 rounds, but both teams accomplished many feats this season.

The Eastwood Troopers reached its first regional tournament berth since 1987 while the Clint Lions reached the regional tournament for the first time since 1982. Both squads featured senior leadership that will have to be repackaged next year, but will also have several players with key experience reaching a regional semi-final.

The Eastwood boys' basketball program holds the elite distinction of being the only El Paso

boys' public school team to hold a state basketball championship.

In the 2015-2016 season the Clint Lions finished the season 4-19 overall and 2-7 in district play. Since then the Lions have a record of 94-35 overall, a perfect 35-0 record in district play, four bi-district championships, and two area championships.

The focal point of the boys' basketball sweet 16 runs is that the Sun City has a bright future ahead and talent will continue to blossom in the coming years. Both teams will be looking to go farther in its respective regional tournaments and will plan to deliver in the 2020-2021 season.

To read Ramirez' full story, visit [TheProspectorDaily.com](http://TheProspectorDaily.com)

Isaiah Ramirez may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)

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