MEET HO BARON

The artist behind 'Gods for Future Religions,' as Baron calls them.

Although he eventually decided to practice his interest in sculpture, Baron's first passion was writing. "I graduated with a master's degree (in English), and I thought of myself as a writer," Baron said. "I got into photography too. Photography and visuals. (For me visuals are a right.)" If you're writing, it's got to be said and visuals. (For me visuals are a right.)

"At one point I was living with a group of artists in Belgium. I was passing through Belgium, and I met some guy, some people who lived in a commune, an artist community, and they were cartoonists," he said. "I stayed (with them for) about three years and I left for about a year, and then I came back. For (about) four or five years I was with them, and they had a kind of slogan, and their slogan was 'Make Art,' and I thought that's a pretty good thing to live by." Following his introduction and immersion in art, Baron went through various mediums and tried multiple forms of art. It was not until his time in Philadelphia that he would experience sculpting firsthand. "I was living in Philadelphia. I was a librarian, and I took a night class in sculpture. There was an old guy there, and we had clay, and we had to model his face," Baron said. Following a sculpting class in Philadelphia and dealing with a new transition from his job as a librarian, Baron decided to come back to El Paso. He then studied art at UTEP while working for his arts.

Baron peers through his sculpture "Doppelganger" that was inspired by contortionists. Photos by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

Baron moves to El Paso as a young child and considers the city his home. Throughout his life he has made many choices to live and see things in his own way, things that would help him fulfill a desire he did not know was there. The desire to create.

Located on the corner of Aurora Avenue, and North Piedras Street, is Ho Baron's Sculpture Garden. It is filled with "Gods of Future Religions," as Baron calls them.

Baron's time in New York City helped him discover a passion for art, but he did not just stop there. He lived in many places throughout his post-college years and met many people who served as mentors that pointed him in the direction of the arts. "I stayed (with them for) about four or five years I was with them, and they had a kind of slogan, and their slogan was 'Make Art,' and I thought that's a pretty good thing to live by." Following his introduction and immersion in art, Baron went through various mediums and tried multiple forms of art. It was not until his time in Philadelphia that he would experience sculpting firsthand. "I was living in Philadelphia. I was a librarian, and I took a night class in sculpture. There was an old guy there, and we had clay, and we had to model his face," Baron said. Following a sculpting class in Philadelphia and dealing with a new transition from his job as a librarian, Baron decided to come back to El Paso. He then studied art at UTEP while working for his arts.

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Perks of working on campus

BY EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ
The Prospector

There are so many students at the university who feel as if many incoming students do not understand the perks of working on campus... I certainly did not. I have said it before, but I will say it again for the sake of this being the career issue, joining The Prospector was the best thing to ever happen to me.

Before joining the student publication, I did not even consider working on campus. I went three years not understanding how an on-campus job could benefit me in the long run. My favorite part has been seeing how flexible university jobs are for students, from constantly working around their class schedules to understanding we have commitments outside of school. The flexibility is a major part of why campus jobs are so convenient for students juggling full schedules.

Another perk of having an on-campus job being able to network with people who are experiencing the exact same things as you—mid-terms, homework, busy schedules, etcetera. Finding people who understand and relate to you is hard enough, but in college. For so long, it felt like I would never really find people who understood me so wholeheartedly and completely. Working on campus allowed me to find individuals I could build real relationships with, rather than semester-long ones that only last as long as a course does. Choosing a job that goes into my field of work directly has allowed me to also build connections and find opportunities outside of UTEP that will be beneficial for me long term.

In getting a campus job, not only have I found peers, but mentors who are more lenient and understanding than I will probably ever find again. If you must come in late to go meet up with a professor or a study group, no one will be more understanding than a boss that also works at the university and understands the unexpected surprises that come with being a student. Not to mention there are so many different job options to choose from on campus, whether it be a job in the food industry, working at an office, as a teaching assistant, or a work study. The number of opportunities on campus available for students is endless and because there are so many options, a lot of jobs will be quick to hire you.

One of the other things that is so unique about working on campus is that for a lot of people, this can be their first job. But not only do they have plenty of jobs to choose from, they also have plenty of people to help you prepare for getting a job at the university. For example, the Career Center will help you create a resume if you do not have one and can even guide you in picking the right options based on your career and education.

Overall, a campus job is so convenient for students as there are so many options, most are paid positions, and they help give you the experience you need for when you leave the university.

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Coffee lover compares competing Starbucks

BY EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ
The Prospector

As a working full-time college student, I tend to need caffeine to get through my long days on campus, and my go-to since I was in seventh grade has been Starbucks. I would even go as far as calling myself a Starbucks connoisseur considering I have been to about 98 percent of the Starbucks locations in El Paso, ranging from the far west side to the east side.

Imagine my excitement to learn I would be walking during not one, but three different Starbucks locations when enrolling at the university. With this being my fifth and final year at UTEP, I have formed some opinions on which location is the best campus Starbucks.

The most hidden Starbucks on campus is the best one and coffee lovers should not let its location keep them from giving it a chance. The Starbucks located in the Chemistry and Computer Science Building (CCSB) is the only Starbucks on campus where all the baristas are certified and is also the only certified Starbucks location. The CCSB-Starbucks is also the only location you can visit on campus to buy their seasonal cups or seasonal coffee grounds, gift cards or merchandise. This location has the full menu available to customers, wonderful baristas that will give you recommendations if you are undecided and is the only location that lets you use your Starbucks app to receive points via Starbucks’ app, Starbucks Rewards.

Having the full selection when it comes to the menu means having the biggest variety, and being able to explore not only the regular menu, but the "secret" menu that true Starbucks enthusiasts know so well. There are plenty of tips and tricks for getting a cheaper coffee, crazy combinations that make up unique flavors of drinks and more.

see STARBUCKS on page 3

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Personal information (phone numbers and address) will be used for identification only. Letters are subject to editing to fit available space, clarity and brevity.

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Recognizing UTEP’s top researchers

BY ELISHA MURÉZ
The Prospector

UTEP professors and ancillary staff have carried out a tremendous amount of research over the years and the research forum, held this year at 4 p.m. Sept. 13 in UTEP’s Undergraduate Learning Center, is a way to highlight the ongoing research happening.

Many students may not be aware that the very professors teaching them every day are the same researchers behind some great discoveries and research milestones. As more discoveries and projects are proposed by the UTEP community, it is time for these great milestones to be recognized. Grants which were given to faculty and staff for their achievements were also recognized during the event, which will allow recipients to pursue their goals.

“I’m here because we received a new grant as part of a team at engineering,” said Ana Martinez, a postdoc researcher at UTEP.

“We are working with Dr. Eric Mac Donald. We use 3-D printing of batteries, and today we are here because we were awarded a new machine, a new 3-D printer,” said Alex Maurel, a post-doc at UTEP.

The research forum appears on campus every three months, and this time, more than a hundred staff members were presented with grants they earned, as explained by Roberto Oseguera, UTEP’s vice president at the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects.

“In this year, for example, we had a record number of awards. We have 354 grants that have come in through the year. So, every four months we do an event (where) we recognize everybody who gets a grant,” said Oseguera. “We give them a certificate and a plaque, but what is important is that there is a campus-wide recognition for what they do. Everybody is attending. You know, typically we may have 50 people around, so it gives (people) visibility of all the activities that are going on campus in one sitting.”

UTEP allows everyone to take part in the research forum. The forum opened with an introduction from President Heather Wilson Ph.L.D., who was then followed by Oseguera, who welcomed attendees and recognized many patents for their achievements.

“I am here to receive an award for a grant that I just recently was receiving in July. It is a two-phase award that phase that funds me for the last phase of my doctoral dissertation and then the first phase of my postdoctoral position, which is going to be for the course of four years,” said Victoria Castro, a Ph.D. candidate at UTEP’s Bio-Sciences Department. “It’s super exciting, I am really thrilled.”

As the night went on, over 104 awards were announced, a record for UTEP’s staff and faculty. The forum, which occurs around every three to four months, is an event where people can see the goals and capabilities that fuel UTEP’s status as Tier 1 research university. The next research forum should take place around December, and it is open for all the community to see.

Emily Autumn Velasquez is the editor-in-chief and may be reached at eavelasquez@miners.utep.edu.

President Heather Wilson attends UTEP’s research Forum. Photo by Roman P. Carr/The Prospector

HO BARON
from page 1

family business, Dave’s Loans. Though many might believe that sculpturing was Baron’s full-time job, it was not. Aside from his day job at Dave’s Loans, he focused on sculpting because it was what made him happy and what helped him realize what his passion was.

“For some people, their passion is to play sports, or their passion is to get married and get a job and have kids, and no real passion,” Baron said. “I mean, a lot of us just kind of fall into situations. But what if you have a passion for something? Maybe (you can find) some direction.”

Just by looking at Baron’s pieces, one can see the passion he speaks of. Sharp edges, distorted faces and empty space on his sculptures can tell you the dedication he had in making them. Although some may think that Baron follows a particular style, like abstract art, he was delighted to say otherwise.

“My type of art is intuitive. I just make art and I don’t have any rules. It’s just what comes out,” he said. “I do figurative art. I do the figure, but I abstract it. I’m screwing around.”

Many of his works are displayed at his sculpture garden but they can also be viewed in his book, “Gods of Future Religions.” It is in another. Satire.”

And they can worship my figures. For his work can be seen in his sculpture, “The Water God,” which he created after witnessing a multitude of Buddhists in Asia. “The Water God” is a god that was made as the bringer of water, for a desert city. With many meanings, “The Water God” represents eternal water for the people of El Paso and Ciudad Juarez. The tongues protruding from the faces represent anguish, greed and thirst, while the black spheres perched upon the tongues represent the people’s attempt at balance.

Like “The Water God,” Baron has many other projects that have backstories which carry the same satirical approach towards religion.

His last sculpture was completed over a decade ago and since then Baron has been preparing for retirement. Since 1979, Baron has sculpted over 300 figures and has estimated that over half a million dollars were spent on his endeavor.

Some of Baron’s pieces are geared towards adorning entrances to libraries and art museums outside and around El Paso, but he still carries some of his earliest projects at his own sculpture garden.

The world is tired of their exist-
The University Career Center held a “Suit-Up” event at Cielo Vista Mall in partnership with JCPenney, the University Career Center via social media. @floreseduardo on Twitter. The University Career Center held a “Suit-Up” event at Cielo Vista Mall in partnership with JCPenney, the University Career Center via social media. @floreseduardo on Twitter.

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2022 CAREER EXPO

EMPLOYERS ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU!

Meet representatives and learn more about internships and professional jobs.

Thursday-Friday, Sept. 22-23
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Don Haskins Center

Meet with university representatives to discuss your graduate possibilities!

Thursday, Oct. 4
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
In-Person Event
Tomás Rivera Conference Center
Union Building East - Third Floor

GRADUATE AND DOCTORAL PROGRAMS
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Review employer list in advance
Bring your updated résumé
Dress professionally

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Helping communities one drop at a time

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

In recent years, the U.S. has had many water crises where low-income communities had unsafe drinking water. Some of the more well-known instances include the Flint Michigan water crisis in 2014. UTEP Associate Professor of Civil Engineering Ivonne Santiago, Ph.D. and her team are collaborating with Texas Water Trade with the launch of entrepreneurial “Vida Water” to provide safe drinking water to underserved communities across Texas.

Santiago’s team includes CEO of Texas Water Trade, Shadrone Leung, and Jim Drees, the inaugural CEO of Vida Water. From UTEP it includes Professor of Civil Engineering Ivonne Santiago, Assistant Professor of Public Health Jeannie Concha, Director of Center for Environmental Resource Management and Professor of Civil Engineering Alex Mayer, UTEP students Leslie Nukha and Ingrid Gust.

Other team members include Daniel Brent, assistant professor of agricultural economics, sociology and education and UT-Houston School of Public Health, El Paso Campus Dean of the School of Public Health, Kristina Meno. Vida Water is also working with community organizations Families Triunfadoras from El Paso, Bridge4Health in Dallas, Com- unidade Care in Houston, Coalition of Community Organizations from Houston, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Area Health Education Center.

“Access to safe drinking water is important,” Santiago said. “Because if you don’t have it then you do not have good health then you are not able to do anything. The issue of safe drinking water access to communities, is an issue of equity because there is a disproportionate amount of people that are low income and people of color that don’t have access to safe drinking water.”

According to Santiago, the Vida Water project is not a big project that you invest millions of dollars into and immediately see a financial return, it is an investment in people, and it promotes social mobility, sustainability, and social justice.

Santiago and her team have been working on this project since 2012, they have previously received grants that have helped them educate, do outreach, and provide filtration units for free. Once they had used all the grant money, they would have to stop the project until they received more funding. The Vida Water project today has been provided funding that will make access to safe drinking water sustainable due to the grant they received from the Texas Water Trade nonprofit.

The nonprofit, Texas Water Trade, is an organization that is devoted to harnessing market knowledge and technological innovation in order to provide clean and safe water to all Texans. They recently gave the team a grant for nearly $15,000.

“For me this is a dream opportunity,” Santiago said. “We are proposing a subscription model, to provide low-income minority populations with these filtration units at a minimum cost. We will also provide maintenance, trouble-shooting and take samples of these filtration systems in order to ensure that the water in these communities is safe.”

Vida Water is currently launching 650 surveys in communities in El Paso, Dallas, Houston and Arlington. It is gathering information in order to develop a business model. The survey has questions on purchasing scenarios, behaviors, health assessment and financial questions that will help design a business model. The group is also hiring people from low-income communities to disperse the surveys. After this step, they will begin doing focus groups.

In order to help low-income communities with unsafe drinking water, Santiago and her team applied for the grant and received the money. They have previously received grants from Houston, Dallas, Denver, and San Antonio.

“Access to safe drinking water is one of the critical components of this business that will benefit them financially and opportunity wise along with providing them with safe drinking water.”

Here in El Paso, there are lots of people who do not have clean drinking water. Once the research phase is completed, people from the community can volunteer to help with the cause.

Ivonne Santiago, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Civil Engineering

“WE WANT COMMUNITIES TO FEEL EMPOWERED AND TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THIS BUSINESS THAT WILL BENEFIT THEM FINANCIALLY AND OPPORTUNITY WISE ALONG WITH PROVIDING THEM WITH SAFE DRINKING WATER.”

IVONNE SANTIAGO, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Civil Engineering

The National Federation of the Blind commemorates White Cane Awareness Day every year on Oct. 15. In observance, UTEP will celebrate with two events to recognize the critical role that white canes play in the lives of those who are blind or visually impaired.

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

Tuesday, Oct. 11 | 10 a.m. to noon
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 878 4048 5330

**FOOD, FUN, AND FESTIVITIES**

Wednesday, Oct. 12 | 10 a.m. to noon
Centennial Plaza

RSVP on :

utracker.utep.edu

utep.edu/CASS
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**WHITE CANE CELEBRATION**

Center for Accommodations and Support Services
Brian Jarvis, associate professor of music theory at UTEP skates over a keyboard and music textbooks. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

**Professor kickflips into UTEP’S heart**

By Alberto Silva Fernandez

In the early 90s, street skateboarding became a cultural phenomenon for teenagers at the time. One of those teenagers is now Associate Professor of Music Theory, Brian Jarvis, Ph.D. At the age of 14, he received his first ever skateboard for Christmas. He quickly fell in love with the hobby and would check out books from the library to try and learn how to do tricks.

“It is not a normal way to learn much about skateboarding but I got a book or two about skateboarding so I learned certain aspects about that and how to construct ramps,” Jarvis said. “Most of it is just trial and error and watching videos of people (doing) things and seeing things in magazines.”

As Jarvis grew up he fell in love with classical music after watching a movie called “The Man Who Wasn’t There” and fell in love with the score which included music from Beethoven. Although classical music is not part of skateboarding culture, Jarvis knew this was the path he wanted to take with his career.

Jarvis explains that the experience of learning on your own is something he loves about both music and skateboarding.

“Usually, skateboarding is just you and your friends and there’s no goal exactly. You’re just kind of working on yourself and the other people can’t really help you get better,” Jarvis said. “So, it kind of ties in with music because playing an instrument itself is a lot like that, where it’s just you and the instrument and you just kind of have to work.”

While skateboarding grew in popularity, to the common eye it was still a hobby that was only for delinquents.

“Skateboarders are prone to being labeled by society as rebels, social deviants or rule-breakers,” said Zoe Corwin, Ph.D., research professor at the University of Southern California.

This stigma that revolves around skateboarders has led to unfunded programs and efforts by cities to provide skate parks. According to the Public Skate Park Development Organization website said. Jarvis was aware of the negative stereotypes that came with being a skateboarder while becoming an academic.

“I never got any sort of ‘well you’re a skateboarder so you must be x, y, or z.’ Even though that was the stereotypes around it, (it) never really caused any sort of problems,” Jarvis said. “I didn’t like the idea of somebody looking at me and saying ‘oh you are a skateboarder, I just wanted to be me.”

Skateboarding has evolved from its early roots, now it is seen as a professional sport around the world and is hosted at the Summer Olympics. The two worlds of skateboarding and music have begun to collide more than Jarvis ever expected.

“There is such little overlap its interesting. Joaquin and Quinten Blanchard are two students at UTEP that are skateboarders and I don’t think I ever knew any skateboarder-music students that were in my classes,” Jarvis said. “I’ve been teaching for years so it’s pretty novel to have skateboarders start to be part of the music world. They were so separate to me, so when they come together it’s great.”

Alberto Silva Fernandez is a staff photographer and may be reached at asilva36@miners.utep.edu; @albertosilva_f on twitter.

**KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN!**

Only rain should go down the storm drain.

Recycle oil, antifreeze, and other vehicle fluids, or dispose of them properly to prevent the pollution of stormwater, groundwater and the Rio Grande.
The City of El Paso is home to a handful of cozy bookshops hoping to promote literacy and give back to the community with their new, rare, donated and affordable selection of books. While corporations like Barnes & Noble do diligent work in providing opportunities and readers access to a variety of novels, these local stores work to provide the Borderland with culturally significant literature to keep in circulation.

Located in Pepper Tree Square at 5411 N. Mesa St., the Literarity Bookshop, co-owned by Bill and Mary Anna Clark. Literarity opened in 2017, when there were not any other independent bookshops at the time. Literarity holds a combination of used and new books and it is a platform for local authors to get their books promoted. These authors include UTEP professors like Aldo Amparán, Alessandra Narváez-Varea and Jonna Perillo. "It’s about stories. It’s about words," said Bill Clark, when describing what it was about books that drew him in. In March 2019 Brave Books opened at 1307 Arizona Ave., once a 1915 bungalow. Owner Judd Burgess felt it was important as a book collector to open shop for the improvement of literacy numbers. Brave Books occasionally holds events in their shop, as well as creative writing activities via their Instagram. Burgess also promotes local artists in his shop. If nothing else, book lovers should go visit the bookstore cat. "There’s just so many different things that occur when a person dives into a good book, whether it’s fiction or whatever, that just occurs," Burgess said. Located at 7744 N. Loop Drive is Books are Gems, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting book literacy in El Paso.

see BOOKSHOPS on page 10
Write anywhere with an online MFA in creative writing

BY MEAGAN GARCIA

The Prospector

When it comes to accessibility in education, the UTEP Creative Writing Department created the online Master’s of Fine Arts (MFA) in creative writing program for students who are passionate about the field and eager to learn from writers across the globe.

“The program started accepting students once a year, and we had a very small cohort,” said Professor Sylvia Aguilar Zeleny, awarded author, professor and advisor for the program. “And it has grown so much ever since.”

This one-of-a-kind program was originally curated by Professor Lex Williford. He, along with other faculty in the department, later helped accommodate students by providing the entire platform digitally while they navigated a post-pandemic world.

The courses are completely online, making them available to people on an international scale, as long as they have a bachelor’s degree prior to application.

In addition to its wonderful accessibility, the online MFA in creative writing has many talented professors that teach a large range of subjects or cover dozens of different fundamental and specialty courses.

Zeleny mentions the platform the program runs on makes curriculum that is the same as a residential scale, as long as they have a bachelor’s degree prior to application.

So along with the main faculty of the program, we’ve had the possibility of having authors who live outside of El Paso to teach in the program for a long time, others are rotated in from all over the world as guest professors.

“We started doing some Zoom check-ins. It was not necessarily a class, (or) a requirement of the class, but (more like) let’s get together and talk a little bit about what you’re writing, what questions you have, etcetera.”

The purpose of the Zoom check-ins was for students who needed extra time throughout their weeks, but the professors found that each person in their classes still made the meetings despite them not being mandatory. “These monthly meetings were a great way for students to connect with peers on a digital platform while also touching base with professors on their writing.”

The online MFA in creative writing offers plenty of foundational courses but still offers a wide range of specialty courses to take. Whether it’s “Women at War” or “Young Adult Novels,” students get to experience different topics that their professors approach with a similar enthusiasm.

Certain classes can also be visually engaging as one visiting professor taught a course that took a photo album and focused on turning it into writing. The program shows that various forms of art can be incorporated with writing in many original ways.

With students from across the globe, this program gives students access to their creativity through writing from across the globe. The different backgrounds and the options to present work in Spanish also creates more opportunities for learning and a better sense of community.

“If students have that been in Japan (and) Dubai,” Zeleny said. “I (currently) have a student that is in South Africa. I have students from Argentina. We have had students from Colombia and all over the U.S. It’s not only a possibility for them to write, but to create a community. So that brings richness and diversity.”

Howdy Homemade serving every scoop with a smile

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ

The Prospector

Editor’s note: Alyson Rodriguez was an intern with El Paso Community Foundation until August. Serving every scoop of ice cream with a smile, Howdy Homemade ice cream is coming to El Paso. Originally based in Dallas, Texas, the ice cream franchise is partnering with the El Paso Community Foundation to bring unique flavors of ice cream to the Sun City.

“Howdy Homemade is something fresh for the community,” said Adam Tirres, program coordinator at the El Paso Community Foundation and manager for the new Howdy Homemade Ice Cream shop. “It will empower people with disabilities and give them a chance to work and succeed. I think that this will be a breath of fresh air for the El Paso community and for people all over that already have Howdy Homemades.”

Howdy Homemade Ice Cream held interviews to find staff of “Heroes” in the Foundation Room Sept. 6-7, located at 333 N. Oregon St. The room was filled with many young and hopeful interviewees waiting for their chance to be a part of the endeavor.

One of the applicants included Maricé Tirres, who is a big fan of ice cream and would love to be a Hero at Howdy Homemade.

“I like ice cream and I would like to make and possibly sell it at Howdy Homemade,” said Maricé Tirres. “If I get the job, I will be the most excited about working around ice cream and getting to know new people.”

The qualities of a Howdy Homemade Hero include having a great smile, eager to work and a sense of purpose. That is exactly what hopeful applicant, Evan George Vourazeris, embodied.

“When customers come in, we want to serve them, to make them happy and to make them smile,” Vourazeris said. “That’s what life is about, making people smile. It doesn’t matter what we look like. What matters is what’s on the inside of your mind, in your words, and in your heart.”

Howdy Homemade Ice Cream will be located at 601 N. Oregon St. in the Rodricks Artspace lofts in two suites. One suite will be used as the café and retail space where Heroes will greet customers and interact with them. The second suite will be the manufacturing space where all the ice cream will be made from scratch.

There will be 24 different flavors for patrons to choose from when visiting Howdy Homemade. The El Paso location will also have flavors unique to the border city such as dark chocolate chipotle, Tamarindo and other local flavors.

“Great projects attract great people,” said Adam Tirres. “The mission and the people are what sets Howdy Homemade apart from other ice cream franchises. We’re going to change the way people with disabilities are viewed. We want to provide a good quality of life for people with disabilities and extend services after they graduate, so they have purpose in our community. It’s going to start happening one scoop at a time.”

The space that the ice cream shop will be located at is still currently under construction, but it will be finished mid-September. Training for the Hero team will begin soon after. Howdy Homemade Ice Cream will open its doors to the public in October.

One of the interviewees, Evan George Vourazeris talked about the importance of this new addition to El Paso and is eager to hopefully begin working at Howdy Homemade.

Photo by Jasmín Campoya/The Prospector

The program advisor of The Foundation Room and the future manager of Howdy Homemade Ice cream, Adam Tirres is excited about this new addition to El Paso.

Howdy Homemade Ice Cream will open its doors to the public in October.
**The Lollygag Night Market showcases local businesses**

**BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ**

The Prospector

Try something new for Saturday night and support local vendors at the Lollygag Night Market. The market showcases different local vendors who sell clothes, jewelry, food and much more.

The most recent Lollygag Night Market was held Sept. 10 at 1000 Diesel Drive, and was filled with more than 20 small businesses from across El Paso. Some of the vendors included Cloud Nine, Maeve Coffee Club, Mars & Vega, Third Eye Vintage, 67 West, The Coop & Post, Rantique, Record-Deli, Hux by Lex, Lucky Charm Necklaces and many more.

One of the many booths that customers congregated at was Third Eye Vintage which sells vintage clothing, and had racks filled with retro shirts and awesome sales.

“We started going to swap meets and started buying old T-shirts, pants and collecting hats and then little by little we got a store,” said Michelle Favola, founder and owner of Third Eye Vintage. “My family has always worked with antiques and vintage furniture. I decided to try and do the same but with clothes. I hope to one day own a larger store.”

Every shop owner has their own passions and dreams that they would like to accomplish. They all love participating in unique farmer’s markets in order to show-case their art. Mars & Vega is one of the booths at the market that sold its art and sustainable items.

“We started our business at the beginning of this year after we both graduated from UT,” said Mariam Vega, co-founder and co-owner of Mars & Vega.

“AFTER that we decided to take the journey to start our own small business. We sell prints that are printed locally, pastel drawings, handmade stickers and bottle bags made from secondhand materials. We try to be conscious with our work but also have a way to still pursue what we’re interested in and still make it accessible to our customers.”

Many of the shop owners have been practicing their art since they were young. Owners such as Claudia Cornejo started her crochet business, Yayale_Handmade, five years ago. Her creations include amigurumi dolls and crochet clothes. Charly Meza, owner and founder of Maeve Coffee Club, has been perfecting his coffee-making skills since his freshman year of high school.

“I started my business this past April, but I’ve been making coffee since freshman year of high school,” Meza said. “Kids used to come to school with a duffel bag full of chips and I would come to school with a duffel bag full of coffee jars.”

“Over the years my small business has expanded, and I saved up enough money to get into the world of craft coffee and home baristas. I have a manual espresso brewer. It takes a little bit of work, but it makes for a very unique cup of coffee,” Meza said.

The facility the market was being held in is owned by a local event studio and organic cotton candy cart, Cloud Nine. Every local business in the market has their own special niche, whether it is handmade, sustainable or unique, there is something for every customer at the market.

“People should come to the night market because we have great art here and customers should support local artists,” said Marissa Whiting, co-owner and co-founder of Mars & Vega.

“Everyone who is here at the market does such amazing work and it shows how supportive the community is.”

The market is currently accepting vendor applications for their next Lollygag Night Market Oct. 15. To learn more, follow Lollygag on Instagram (@lollygag.group).
The legacy of Luke Laufenberg

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL

Luke Laufenberg is a name that is well known in the UTEP community. Luke passed away from complications of Burkitt’s Lymphoma at the young age of 21, but his legacy lives on forever.

Luke was a very caring individual. His father, former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Babe Laufenberg, explains that Luke was everyone’s best friend. When he passed, Babe received 30 texts from both boys and girls letting him know that Luke was their best friend. When Luke was diagnosed as terminal, he made sure his loved ones were taken care of.

“A number of his friends told me later, (Luke) had said to them ‘make sure you take care of my mom and dad,’” Laufenberg said.

Luke did not always want to play football. According to Laufenberg, Luke played basketball for most of his life until he was in his sophomore year of high school when he decided to play football. Laufenberg mentions that Luke was approached by a good friend of his, who also happened to be the coach of the middle school’s football team, trying to recruit him to play football, but Luke stuck with basketball.

“Would be hard pressed to find a kid with some athletic ability in Texas who didn’t want to play football,” Laufenberg said.

“He was his own man, all the way through. He was never influenced by the crowd or peer pressure. If he wanted to do something he was going to do it and if he didn’t, he wasn’t.”

Before attending UTEP, Luke attended Mesa Junior College. Luke went home with a horrible pain Dec. 13. 10 days later Luke was diagnosed with Burkitt’s Lymphoma. According to Dave Campbell’s Texas Football, Burkitt’s Lymphoma is a form of the B-cell non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, it is the single fastest growing tumor, and it only has about 1,200 cases reported in the United States. Burkitt’s also speeds up the metabolism by about 75 times above the normal rate. Laufenberg explains that Luke would do a week straight of chemotherapy, totaling six rounds, he went from 240 pounds to 150 pounds just as he was starting to get recruited. Luke kept fighting and was able to build his body back into football form.

“Honestly, cheer hard work and determination like I’ve never seen, and I played in the NFL for eight years,” Laufenberg said. “I’ve seen tough guys. I’ve seen determination. I’ve seen guys come back from injuries, right? All we were doing was hoping to keep him alive and all he was doing was thinking, how am I gonna get back to playing football?”

UTEP Football Head Coach Dana Dimel went back to watch Luke’s film and liked what they saw. He went on a recruiting trip and saw Luke looked like he was back to normal. Luke was pronounced cancer-free and arrived at UTEP in January and got to practice alongside the Miners for almost four months. In April, Luke started to have back pain once again.

“We were like, we better get this looked at and it was not good news,” Laufenberg said. “They had told us, when they first had the diagnosis of Burkitt’s, we basically got one shot at this. It’s not one you just keep treating, treating, and treating, but we did ultimately. We tried, but we knew when he re-lapsed, it was going to be a difficult situation for him to come back. But he almost did it (beat the cancer) again.”

Luke passed away Aug. 22, 2019, but his legacy lives on forever with the “Live Like Luke” tradition, from wearing his jersey number with his last name to the newly built futbol station for the football players to go and enjoy a delicious smoothie in honor of Luke’s love for protein shakes, which was provided by the Laufenbergs.

“Initially we were going to donate a scholarship in his name - just fund a scholarship for a player - but then his brother, Joe Willie had said, ‘Why don’t we do something that benefits every player, as opposed to just one. I said that’s a great idea and then the nutrition station came about’,” Laufenberg said.

Former UTEP wide receiver Justin Garrett was the first person to wear Luke’s jersey number and last name; he wore it for two years.

“For him (Garrett) to put Laufenberg on the back of his jersey and now Gavin Hardenison doing the same, I mean, what kid doesn’t want their own name on the back of the jersey right?” Laufenberg said.

“For them to do it, I will say it’s a selfish act and kind of epitomizes Luke.”

Garrett explains that he and Luke became friends because they were always in the weight room putting in extra work any chance they got.

“What it was 8 a.m. on Saturday or during the week, Luke was always there,” Garrett said. “We also became friends because we both played offense and carried a desire to play, so we work our extra’s with the quarterbacks.”

Garrett mentions that the tradition to honor Luke came about because of the impact that Luke had on UTEP. Coach Dimel gave Garrett the opportunity to wear Luke’s jersey number, in which they decided to keep Luke’s last name to demonstrate the importance of his legacy in UTEP football.

“Wearing the #2 at UTEP meant the world to me, I was glad that

Babe Laufenberg and coach Dimel granted my opportunity to wear it,” Garrett said. “The game is much bigger than myself and anybody really, so when I put on the jersey it was a daily reminder of the importance of what the jersey and the tradition represented. To ‘Live Like Luke’? Not just on the field giving your blood, sweat and tears but in your daily life. Continues to fight and never give up.”

This year junior quarterback Gavin Hardenison honors Luke by wearing the number two with the Laufenberg last name.

One of Luke’s close friends, Wade DiFrancesco, decided to create wrist bands to honor Luke. DiFrancesco explains she got inspired to create wrist bands while at a sorority rush where she saw someone who had bracelets for cancer.

“This is something everybody could wear if they wanted to,” DiFrancesco said. “I was like ‘what do I want it to say’ how do I want it to be designed, and then I thought, Luke loved the (Dallas) Cowboys, very traditional guy. Blue and white and I kind of picked of a font that resembled him. On the inside - nobody really knows this - there’s an engraving in the same color of the bracelet and it says, ‘Fight Like Luke’ because he was a fighter.”

In DiFrancesco’s, “Live Like Luke” means to be selfless, always think about others, always be willing to do something fun, and always do things at 110 percent.

“He was definitely a live-in-the-moment kind of guy,” DiFrancesco said.

“They’ve just been fantastic quite honestly,” Laufenberg said. “The people there (El Paso) have been so friendly and are so friendly. It says to me it’s such a welcoming place. So, once I was there with Luke and we moved him into his dorm room and I just thought, ‘okay, he’s in a good place here’ and I think he felt the same way. He’d never really been to El Paso, but I think he felt like ‘I’ve got a second house here.’”

Katrina Villarreal is a staff reporter and may be reached at kvillarreal1@miners.utep.edu.
DIRECTOR from cover

“Being such a large school district, there’s a lot of moving parts, so I always try to focus on what students need are going to be. What can I do to help students achieve at a higher level,” Cervantes said. He also brought up how, in 2012, EPISD was recognized by the Active Schools Acceleration Project (ASAP) Innovation, an initiative founded by former First Lady Michelle Obama which was dedicated to increasing and improving physical education in schools.

With this recognition from ASAP, EPISD was able to secure several grants for physical activities allowing several athletic programs to flourish as a result. Cervantes approaches his work with one thing in mind: the student’s need.

“We see what athletic facilities are the ones in the greatest need of upgrades, and then we kind of tackle it project by project,” he said. “With our new superintendent and leadership, they’re really focused on right-sizing our district, and making sure we can provide the best opportunity for kids.” When asked about how he delegates such a large school district, Cervantes praised his staff which consists of the central athletics department, administrators, campus athletic coordinators and coaches.

While studying at UTEP his freshman year, Cervantes also worked with the City of El Paso through the Parks and Recreation Department. He worked all throughout the city at recreation centers managing several sports leagues for youth and adults.

“It really geared me and got me ready for a job like this,” he said. “I feel the preparation I had during college working with the City of El Paso, working with the Parks and Recreation Department, Club Rec, summer leagues, youth leagues really helped me understand what running an efficient athletic program looked like.” Cervantes said there is opportunity within the EPISD Athletic Department for UTEP students looking for work and experience that will advance their careers.

The Athletic Co-op Program allows students currently enrolled in a college or university to work at an EPISD middle school. Students interested in the Athletics Co-op Program can access an interest form via the EPISD Athletics website or call the department at (915) 230-2250. “I think [the co-op program] is a perfect program to get our potential teachers and coaches ready, so that [students] can say, ‘Hey, do I really like this or not?’ first of all. Second of all, they get to build those relationships,” Cervantes said. “They are already on campus, they get to meet the principal, the other teachers, the coaches, the athletics office so when they do graduate, they potentially already have a potential job lined up for them coming out of college.

That is a program that we are really excited about, and we’re glad we offer it here at EPISD.” Cervantes urges students interested in a career in athletics to volunteer as much as possible.

“Just wrapping themselves as much as they can around sports programming and any type of internship or work activities, they could do can really help them get a feel for what coaching is and what teaching is about,” he said.

The UTEP women’s soccer team finished out the past four home games with a draw versus LA Tech. Prior to that match up, the Miners faced the University of Incarnate Word (UIW), the University of Nevada (Nevada) and Florida International University (FIU).

**UTEP @ UTEP-Sept. 8**
Coming off a 3-1 win against Wyoming, the Miners looked to follow up a great outing against the UIW Cardinals. In the 13th minute of the match, freshman forward Mina Rodriguez noted the first points of the half thanks to an assist from junior forward Tessa Carlin. The rest of the first half was silent. It was not until a Rodriguez corner kick in the 76th minute that allowed Carlin to score a second goal for the Miners. This goal was made possible thanks to part to sophomore forward Justice Tillotton passing the ball to Carlin on the left side of the goal. The Miners ended up winning the match 2-0.

**Nevada @ UTEP-Sept. 11**
After the decisive win against UWU, the Miners faced a 1-3-1 Nevada team coming off a 0-4 loss versus New Mexico State. UTEP struggled to score in its last out-of-conference game, leaving the match 0-0 for the Miners’ first draw of the season. Rodriguez led the Miners’ share of shots, contributing 3 of the team’s 11 shots in this game. Meanwhile, senior goalkeeper Marih Scott provided two saves in this game for her third shutout of the season.

**FIU @ UTEP-Sept. 15**
To start off conference play, LA Tech pushed forward after a goal from freshman forward Flavie Dube. That goal put LA Tech up 1-0 to finish the first half. In the 54th minute, Rodriguez and Carlin connected for a goal bringing the score to 1-1. Eight minutes later, in the 62nd minute, the Miners attacked once again. This time, Rodriguez assists sophomore forward Taya Lopez in a looping score over sophomore goalkeeper Sydney Karchak. Late in the second half, LA Tech sophomore defender Carmen Suarez nails a goal off of Dube assist. This brought the score to 2-1 in the 84th minute. The Miners were unable to respond leaving the match on a third straight draw.

Statistics provided by UTEP Athletics.

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**OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH 2022**

#dvam2022

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**Soccer avoids losses in home stretch**

**BY EMMANUEL RIVAS VALENZUELA**

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