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The Prospector, September 20, 2022

UTEP Student Publications

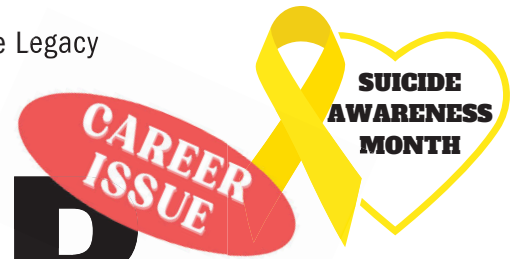
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THE PROSPECTOR

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Assayer of Student Opinion

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

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MEET HO BARON

EPISD gives Career Guidance



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

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS VALENZUELA
The Prospector

David Cervantes is the current director of athletics for the El Paso Independent School District (EPISD) and a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) where he earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and a master's degree in educational leadership.

Cervantes served as interim director of athletics at EPISD for a little more than a year before being appointed director of athletics in May. Previously, Cervantes served as assistant athletic director for about five years, while also lecturing part-time at UTEP. Cervantes said several students he taught at UTEP went on to also work for EPISD as physical education or athletic team coaches.

For about two years, Cervantes worked in the EPISD curriculum and instruction department where he oversaw the physical education department within the district.

Prior to his involvement at EPISD Central Office, Cervantes was a physical education instructor for the district and was a baseball coach for El Paso High School.

Cervantes spoke on the challenges he faced throughout his career.

"You have to be able to face challenges with an open mind. Know that things aren't always going to go your way," Cervantes said. "Once I was able to put that in my mindset, I was able to accomplish more things coming through the ranks in the school district."

Cervantes acknowledged the difficulties that come with managing such a large school district.

see EPISD on page 9

The artist behind 'Gods for Future Religions,'

BY ELISHA NUNEZ
The Prospector

There are many words to describe the sculptures made by Ho Baron. Eerie, elegant, bizarre and beautiful are just a few that capture the true essence of his work.

Born in Chicago in 1941, Baron moved 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.

Although he eventually decided to practice his interest in sculpting, 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 lot easier than writing (because) if you're writing, it's got to be said right."

During his time exploring visual arts, Baron recalled his first introduction to that form of expression.

He recalled living in a commune in New York City, and meeting a man whose craft caught his attention. The was into pen and ink drawing, which Baron wanted to try for himself. He recalled how he "picked up the pen and really liked

the flow of the line."

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.

"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.'"

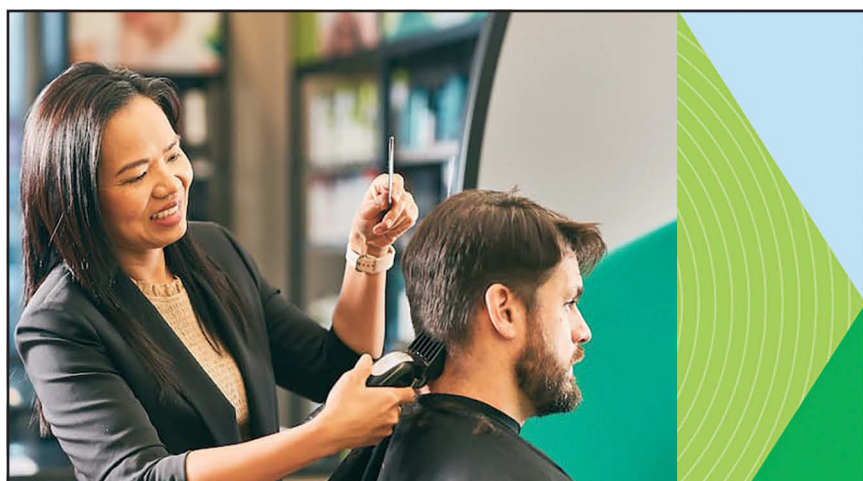
Following his introduction and immersion in art, Baron went through various mediums and tried multiple forms of art. It was not until his time in Philadelphia that he would experience sculpting firsthand.

"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.

After taking 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 see HO BARON on page 3

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Opinion

Emily Autumn Velasquez, editor-in-chief

Perks of working on campus

BY EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ
The Prospector

There are so many students at the university, but I 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 is 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 have plenty of resources 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 experience.

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.

Emily Autumn Velasquez is the editor-in-chief and may be reached at eavelasquez@miners.utep.edu; @byemilyautumn on Twitter; @emilyautumn20 on Twitter.

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 far east side.

Imagine my excitement to learn I would be in walking distance of 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 on campus.

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' rewards program.

Having the full selection when it comes to the menu means having access to their full food menu 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

Introducing a new style as designer

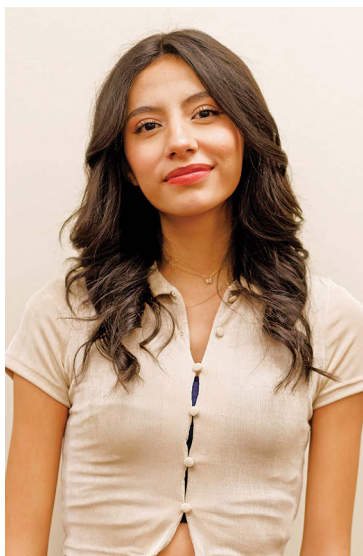
BY FATIMA ALVARADO
The Prospector

Design has many contributions to the world, much more in the field of journalism. Though it may seem like the last little detail to any publication, it is the structure of a clean-cut or personalized product.

The organization, use of colors and placement of graphics are all important to catch the attention of the audience. Whether it be for an advertisement on social media, or a modern magazine, designers tend to put their own personal take on what is seen daily.

Being able to create any type of design has always been a part of my life. From learning how to graphically create three-dimensional figures in fourth grade, designing clothes my freshman year of high school, and being able to create my senior yearbook as editor in chief that year, design has followed me wherever I go.

Taking classes in order to master the concepts of design throughout grade school allowed me to under-



stand and grow into a deeper love for it. This field of design tends to allow a platform for ingenious ideas to be freely expressed for readers and the audience to enjoy.

As a freshman majoring in communication at UTEP, my end goal is to hopefully go into the journalism field as a reporter.

Although design has been a big part of my life, my passion has

always been being able to listen to people and make sure that their voices are heard. Media has taken a big part of what we learn and use in society. That is why I feel it is crucial to learn the full truth, connect to it and be able to share it with those around you.

I was a part of the Pebble Hills High School yearbook staff all four years where I not only learned how to use my voice but was able to contribute my ideas in design and get critiques where I learned what was more approachable rather than the use of different fonts and colors for every page.

From a young age, I was taught to love music. My parents would buy albums and DVDs filled with cartoon animals who would dance to classical music. Since then, I have always tried to grow my love for music, before falling in love with journalism, I had aspired to be an opera singer. I joined every choir I could, where I met most of my best friends and found my competitive side. My favorite artists are Rex

Orange County and Harry Styles, both of whom have contributed to my love of extra detail whether in clothing or in my designs.

Art has always been something that I will always be able to appreciate. I have grown an interest in painting, where I have learned how to use color theory and the importance of lines and shade values when it comes to creating. Although I have yet to grow out of my expertise of painting cows on flower fields, I hope to learn more about how it intertwines with design.

As a freshman, it has not been easy to adjust to these new and somewhat unsettling changes. I am so lucky to be a part of such a welcoming group of people with the same interests. I am so honored to be able to contribute my ideas to The Prospector. I hope to continue to share my creativity through this opportunity as the new designer.

Fatima Alvarado is the layout editor and may be reached at falvarado1@miners.utep.edu.

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Alberto Silva Fernandez

VIDEOGRAPHER

Vacant

CONTRIBUTORS

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SalmaPaola Baca

Roman Carr

Daniel Alec Lopez

Joel Molina

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Recognizing UTEP's top researchers

BY ELISHA NUÑEZ
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 Martínez, a postdoc researcher at UTEP.

"We are working with Dr. Eric MacDonald. We are doing 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



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

Roberto Osegueda, 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 254 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 Osegueda. "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 150 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.D., who was then followed by Osegueda, who welcomed attendees and recognized many patents

for their achievements.

"I'm here to receive an award for a grant that I just recently was receiving in July, it's 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.

Elisha Nuñez is a reporter and may be reached at egnuñez2@miners.utep.edu.

STARBUCKS from page 2

The second location on my list happens to be the Starbucks located inside of the library. One of the major reasons for it coming in second is because of how busy it always is. It is convenient because it is in the library, however, that is what tends to make it busier than the other two locations. The library is one of, if not the most popular places to hang out between classes and study. Because of this, there have been times where this location has run out of coffee for the day or students must skip their coffee because the long line will make them late to other commitments.

The Starbucks located in the Union is probably the first one that everyone hears about, however, this one is my least favorite. Spending most of my time on campus in the Union is what makes it so hard to have it last on my list.

While the most convenient in terms of location, the fact that they split their location with Jamba Juice impacts the quality of the drinks at times. The ice they use in the drinks is different, and their menu is extremely limited, which is also a big factor in why it ranks last on my list. However, a perk of this location is that they offer different food items that you would not find at a local Starbucks.

If you are a fellow coffee lover, put the locations to the test and tell me what you think on our Instagram [@UTEP_Prospector](https://www.instagram.com/UTEP_Prospector).

Emily Autumn Velasquez is the editor-in-chief and may be reached at evelasquez@miners.utep.edu; @byemilyautumn on Instagram; @emilyautumn20 on Twitter.



Baron also sculpted a piece called "The Distortionist" that was inspired by Cirque de Soliel dancers. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

HO BARON from page 1

family business, Dave's Loans.

Though many might believe that sculpting 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 plans," 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 no 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 his book that Baron explains the intent for most of his sculptures, which are mainly him poking fun at religion.

"So, I talk about at the beginning why I call my work gods for future religions, because I'm making fun of religion. I think religions are pretty silly," Baron said. "So, when

the world is tired of their existing religions, I have a lot of little figures that I made and big figures, and they can worship my figures. What's the difference? One figure in another. Satire."

One example of his main theme for his work can be seen in his sculpture, "The Water God," which he created after witnessing a multitude of Buddhas 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 Juárez. 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 his art pieces were selected to adorn 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.

Though his career and sculpting have come to an end, his pieces will leave a legacy on the people around him and other art lovers for years to come.

Elisha Nuñez is a staff reporter and may be reached at egnuñez2@miners.utep.edu.

NCAA changes rules for transfers

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL
The Prospector

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) announced Wednesday, Aug. 31, that it has made changes to the transfer rules for student-athletes to be able to receive financial aid at their next school, continuing until graduation without interruption.

Adjustments made to the transfer rules by the Division I Transformation Committee will provide clarity for all student-athletes and the member schools in the transfer landscape across all sports. The changes to the transfer portal rules will be implemented immediately.

According to the NCAA, the new rules for the transfer portal will require that the schools consider athletics when they begin awarding scholarships to transfer student athletes in order to provide scholarships to the students for the five-year eligibility period or until they complete the requirements for

their bachelor's degree.

Athletes in all sports can continue to be eligible the first time they transfer if they notify their school in writing during the notification-of-transfer window determined by their sport. According to the NCAA, the board has also adopted more specific standards for immediate eligibility waivers for student-athletes who do not meet the one-time transfer exception.

The new notification-of-transfer window is as follows:

The 45-day window begins the day after championship selections are made in their respective sport, or May 1-15 for fall sports; accommodations will be made for those who are participants of the Football Bowl Subdivision and Football Championship Subdivision Championship games.

A 60-day window for winter sports begins the day after championship selections are made. Dec. 1-15 or a 45-day window for spring sports begins the day after

selections are made for the sport. There are also exceptions to the new windows for student-athletes who experience head coach changes or have their athletic aid reduced, canceled or not renewed. Immediate eligibility waiver for student-athletes who do not meet the one-time transfer exception have more specific standards. These focus on the student-athletes' well-being or any circumstances that are outside of the student-athletes' control.

There are no current transfer rules that will allow student-athletes to transfer multiple times and be immediately eligible if they meet the degree requirements at their new school. The board has opted to not enact these exceptions.

The NCAA has recently instructed that college football programs remove any names of student-athletes who entered the transfer portal since the new transfer portal window was implemented Aug. 31. Schools have also been informed

not to contact any student-athletes that have entered the transfer portal during that period.

According to ESPN, athletes were still entering the transfer portal. This is a process that requires the school's compliance office to officially enter the athlete's name in the portal. Athletes must enter the transfer portal during the window of their sport but are not required to transfer to their transfer school during the window.

Once student-athletes are entered in the portal, they may meet with coaches at other schools and transfer at any time. According to ESPN, if a head coach is fired during the season, student-athletes on the team have a 30-day window from the time the coach is fired to be allowed to enter the portal no matter the transfer portal.

All information courtesy of the NCAA and ESPN.

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

Mental health resources available for students

BY VICTORIA RIVAS
Guest Contributor

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, and UTEP is here to help students and bring awareness of the mental health resources available to students.

According to ASFP, Texas ranks 36 for suicide deaths in the U.S. with 3,924 deaths reported in 2021.

UTEP's Deans of Students Office (DOS) hosted its annual "R U OK?" Day event Sept. 9 to inform students of how they can help prevent suicide in our community.

"We're asking the UTEP community to connect with people in their lives and help stop little problems from getting bigger," UTEP's DOS said via Twitter.

R U OK? is an Australian harm prevention campaign that encourages people to have meaningful conversations that can help others who are going through difficult times in their lives.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students.

According to the CDC, suicide affects all ages, races and ethnicities.

UTEP offers several resources, including Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), which is free for all students. Students can receive up to eight sessions of individual counseling.

CAPS will host a Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Training workshop from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 13, at the Union East - Cactus Flower Room 102C to train students on how to recognize the signs and symptoms to look for.

R U OK? recommends people to start the conversation by asking, "are you ok?" Then continue by listening without judgment, encouraging action and continually checking in to express support.

UTEP also offers Miners Talk, an after-hours crisis line for evenings, weekends, and holidays. Students can call 915-747-5302.

Students also have access to Togetherall, an anonymous online community that supports mental health every day of the week.

As of July 16, the 10-digit National Suicide Prevention Lifeline transitioned to 988, a Suicide and Crisis Lifeline available 24/7.

"988 is more than a number, it is a message: we're there for you," said Xavier Beccera, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in a statement.

El Paso offers the Mental Health Crisis Line to assist with anxiety, stress, grief, and hopelessness at 915-779-1800.

For information, visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website. For UTEP resources, visit the CAPS website.

Victoria Rivas is a guest contributor and may be reached at rivas7@miners.utep.edu; @VicRivas_18 on Twitter.

Connecting with employers at the annual 2022 Career EXPO

BY EDUARDO A. FLORES
The Prospector

The Career Center at UTEP continues guiding students to options that best fit their individual career needs and aspirations during and after their undergraduate years.

UTEP's largest career fair, "Career EXPO," is a two-day annual event hosted by the University Career Center that welcomes employers across the United States to hire UTEP students for professional, internship, and part-time employment opportunities.

This fall semester, the event will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 22-23 at the Don Haskins Center located at 151 Glory Rd.

"This year, we will host the largest number of companies for over 20 years," said Betsy Castro-Duarte, director of the Career Center. "This is exciting because that means more companies around the United States are looking at UTEP as a diverse talent pool from them."

Some participating employers include local, state, and national companies and organizations such as Amazon, Dell Technologies, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Walmart Stores, Inc., Tesla, Inc., Google, El Paso Children's Hospital, GECU, and the El Paso Police Department.

A smaller virtual version of Career EXPO will also be available to students and UTEP alumni from 9



Graphic designed by Fatima Alvarado.

a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 7th via Job Mine. Students can expect to network with different and some of the same companies that participate in-person.

Information sessions about the virtual Career EXPO will take place Sept. 19-23, where students can schedule a 10-minute appointment with representatives of ExxonMobil, Texas Instruments, Inc., Air Force Civilian Service, Amazon and many more.

Each year, Career EXPO draws more than 3,000 students from the

nine main academic colleges (Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Liberal Arts, Science, and Health Science), the School of Nursing, the School of Pharmacy, and the Graduate School. Therefore, all students are eligible to attend.

Students are encouraged to update their résumés and LinkedIn profiles, create a list of target companies, conduct company research, prepare insightful questions, practice a 30-second elevator pitch, and wear professional business attire.

In partnership with JCPenney, the University Career Center held a "Suit-Up" event at Cielo Vista Mall to help students purchase professional attire at 50 percent off and prepare them for upcoming job interviews. The offer included suits, dresses, sports coats, dress pants, shoes, and accessories.

"Students still have the opportunity to shop online with discounts until Sept. 24," according to a statement released by the University Career Center via social media. Some of the selected items include suit jackets, skirts, dresses, ties, dress shirts, and fashion jewelry. To receive the special discount text UTEPSUITUP to 67292.

In addition, the University Career Center has partnered with local human resources professionals to help students with resumes review during the week of Sept. 19-22.

"We want to invite every single student, whether you are a freshman or graduating student to attend the EXPO, because everyone has the opportunity to go learn, explore, and make connections to employment opportunities," Castro said.

For information about the event or to access the complete list of employers, visit or go to Room 103 of the Union Building West on the UTEP campus.

Eduardo A. Flores is a contributor and can be reached at eaflores17@miners.utep.edu; @eduardo_aa_flores on Instagram; @floreseduardo on Twitter.



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GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS FAIR

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



- Review employer list in advance
- Bring your updated résumé
- Dress professionally

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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**

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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, Sharlene Leurig and Jim Drees, the inaugural CEO of Vida Water. From UTEP it includes Professor of Civil Engineering Shane Walker, Assistant Professor of Public Health Jeannie Concha, Director of Center for Environmental Resource Management and Professor of Civil Engineering Alex Mayer, UTEP students Leslie Nuñez 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 Mena.

Vida Water is also working with community organizations Familias Triunfadoras from El Paso, Bridge4Health in Dallas, Com-



Ivonne Santiago, Ph.D.

munity 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 \$115,000.

“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

and her team applied for the grant but then COVID hit. At first, the foundation chose a different organization to win the grant, but they were one of the five finalists out of 180 applications. But the foundation reached out because they did not realize what a huge issue unsafe water was in Texas and granted Santiago and her team the money.

“The great thing about this business model is that we want to create employment opportunities within these low-income communities,” Santiago said. “There is a workforce development component here. We want communities to feel empowered and take ownership of this business that will benefit them financially and opportunity wise along

“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

model. The group is also hiring people from low-income communities to disperse the surveys. After this step, it will begin doing focus groups.

In order to help low-income communities with unsafe drinking water, Santiago and her team applied to the Lone Star Price, which is a \$10 million grant to solve a grand challenge in Texas and is provided by the Lyda Hill Philanthropies Foundation. In 2019, Santiago

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.

Alyson Rodriguez is a staff reporter and may be reached at aerodriguez20@miners.utep.edu; @alyson_rod1127 on Twitter.

WHITE CANE CELEBRATION

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.

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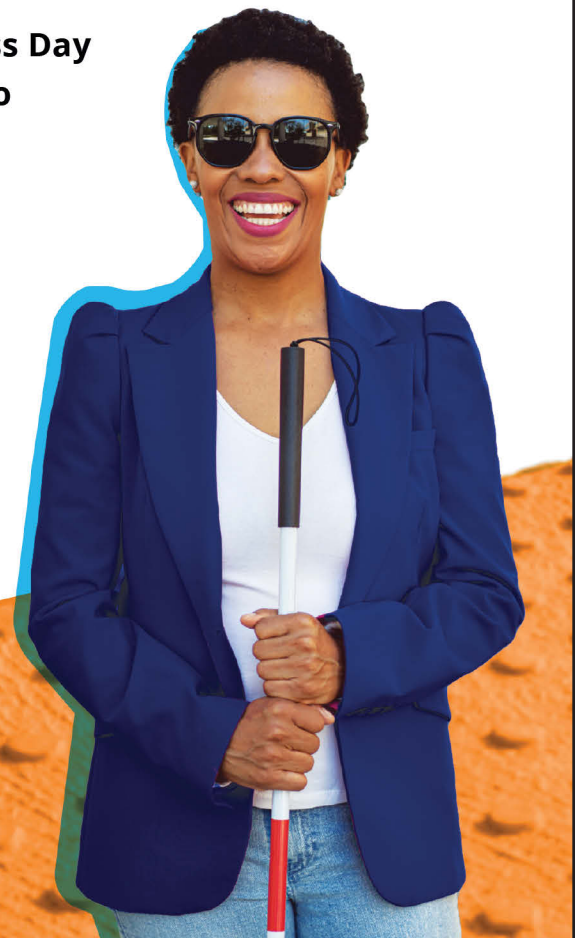
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Arts & Culture

Meagan Garcia, editor

Professor kickflips into UTEP'S heart



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

BY ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ
The Prospector

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 Zoë 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, when cities do not provide dedicated areas for skateboarders it can create tension between skaters and residents.

"The situation in many cities

is reflected in roving groups of skateboarding youth that a general public views as a pack of destructive, insolent teenagers. These communities are creating an 'outsider' subculture in their youth," 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; @albert.sf08 on Instagram; @albertosilva_f on twitter.



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Make a visit to the borderland's best bookshops

BY KRISTEN SCHEAFFER
The Prospecter

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 authors with publishing 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. is 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

Narváz-Varela 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



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Visitors can drop in at any time during the event.



Cactus Flower Bookery is located at 5024 Doniphan Drive Suite 9 and co-owned by mother and daughter Shirleen and Stephanie Roberts who were inspired by the Southwest and sells books that are all sourced from within the community. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospecter**



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LIVE NATION

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 program special since writing and workshops are tackled in a different manner. While some professors are set and have been working in the program for a long time, others are rotated in from all over the world as guest professors.

"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 for our students," Zeleny said.

From poets like Natalie Diaz, to language workers like JD Pluecker, to writers like Carribean Fragoza or Jessica Powers, the online MFA in creative writing does an amazing job connecting students with incredibly talented authors. Even better is the fact that they teach across multiple genres, so students have a wide variety of subject interests to choose from.

In terms of the coursework and how learning is tackled, most of the education looks just like any other university classroom.

"Everything else is pretty much asynchronous through the platform," Zeleny said. "Each professor manages the classes different, but we have lectures paired with video or audio, discussion boards, exer-

cises (and) readings online."

A highlight of the program is the flexibility of the schedule. While the pandemic brings an onslaught of challenges for many individuals, it completely reshaped the current era of teaching and made education more accessible to those who need time or to learn from a different location. It also impacted how students could connect amongst each other and with their professors.

"We can say many things about the pandemic, but I think it also provided us with the possibility or the need to connect a bit more," Zeleny said. "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 is "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.

"I have students that have 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 also richness and diversity."

Meagan Garcia is the arts & culture editor and may be reached at megarcia19@miners.utep.edu.



Interviewees sat eagerly waiting for their turn to be interviewed at The Foundation Room. Photo by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospector

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 up until Aug. 8.

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 up 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."

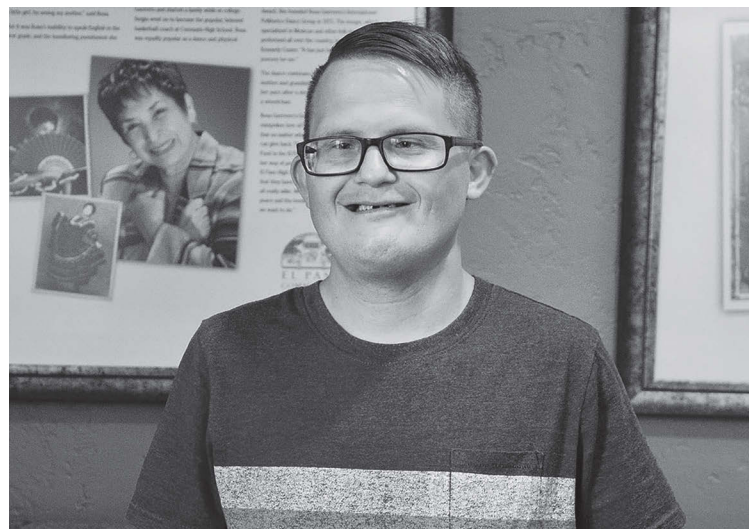
Howdy Homemade Ice Cream held interviews to find staff of "Heroes" in the Foundation Room Sept. 6-7, located at 333 N. Oregon St. The room was filled with many young and hopeful interviewees waiting for their chance to be a part of the endeavor.

One of the applicants included Marcie 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 Marcie Tirres. "If I get the job, I will be 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, eagerness to work and a sense of purpose. That is exactly what hopeful applicant, Evan George Vourazeris, embodies.

"When customers come in, we



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 Jasmin 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. Photo by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospector

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 Roderick 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.

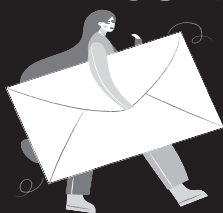
"Great projects attract great people," said Adam Tirres. "The mission and the people are what sets Howdy Homemade apart from other ice cream franchises. We're going to change the way people with disabilities are viewed. We want to provide a good quality of life for people with disabilities and extend services after they graduate, so then 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.

Alyson Rodriguez is a staff reporter and may be reached at aerodriguez20@miners.utep.edu; @alyson_rod1127 on Twitter.

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BEST BOOKSHOPS from page 8

Books are Gems opened in 2003 with their primary focus on children's books, offering one new book and six used books free to every child with each visit. Their general bookshop for adults charges 50 cents for paperback and a dollar for hardback, no matter the value

or condition. "We're trying to get literacy rates up and have children interested in reading and stuff like that. We also do Saturday story time," said Angel Pérez, Books are Gems manager. Cactus Flower Bookery, which opened just before the pandemic, is located at 5024 Doniphan Drive

Suite 9. Co-owned by Shirleen and Stephanie Roberts, a mother and daughter duo. Cactus Flower stands out with its strictly Southwestern collection, decorated with their own personal touch of knick-knacks. Stephanie Roberts explains that each book was handpicked and chosen because of the location,

keeping the books circulating in the region. "It's been a great thing that we haven't had to go outside of the community to find stuff that are already gems, that are already here," Roberts said. Cactus Flower Bookery offers art by local artists, and occasional

creative writing workshops. No matter where El Pasoans choose to get their books, each shop has made it clear: there is a need for literacy in the borderland and they hope to raise those numbers.

Kristen Scheaffer is a contributor and can be reached at kmscheaffer@miners.utep.edu.



LEFT: Cactus Flower Bookery opened just before the pandemic and is inspired by the Southwest. TOP: It offers a wide range of collections and themes, not only selling books but also tote bags, jewelry, stones and other gifts.

Photos by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

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, 6Vzvz6, The Craft-E Post, Rane Boutique, Record-Deli, Hex 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 Favela, 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 showcase 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 UTEP," said Miriam 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



Yayale Handmade, owned by Claudia Cornejo, features her handmade amigurumi dolls and crochet clothes at the Lollygag Night Market Sept. 10 at 1000 Deisel Drive. Photo by Alyson Rodriguez/The Prospector

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 crocheted 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 duffle bag full of chips and I would come to school with a duffle 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 Whitaker, 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.

Alyson Rodriguez is a staff reporter and may be reached at aerodriguez20@miners.utep.edu; @alyson_rod1127 on Twitter.

"El Paso's Finest" hosts local artwork from across the city

BY JASMIN CAMPOYA
The Prospector

El Paso is the heart and home of art for local artists. From graphic designers to painters and photographers, located at 314 N. Mesa St., El Paso's Finest welcomes multiple talented individuals to sell art. Founder of El Paso's Finest and local photographer Ruben Gómez opened the store in 2017.

"As an artist myself, I started at the farmer's market and have dealt with people who know more about business rather than art," Gómez said. "I wanted to build something ran by an artist, for artists."

In early September, El Paso's Finest celebrated its five-year anniversary of supporting the local artist community. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday and encourages the people of El Paso to come support the creative community of our city.

"I became interested in having my art shown somewhere," said Vanessa Clark, a graphic designer and mixed media artist. "As an artist, El Paso's Finest gives me a bigger platform for the people of El Paso to get to know my art."

Changing the artists quarterly keeps customers of El Paso's Finest wanting more and expands the collective of artists in the shop. Items like postcards, prints, canvases, coasters and more are sold to add vibrance to your home or office.

"We have about five permanent artists within the shop," Gómez said. "Besides our permanent artists, we try to rotate other artists as much as we can and try to keep it fresh for our customers."

In addition to amazing artwork, El Paso's Finest also hosts some small events downtown. The store has live painting sessions with the

artists and welcomes the community to get to know the artists through these classes. It also has many themed art shows for community involvement and for local residents to show their work to the city.

"As a shop, we are trying to have a collective of artists to travel and do shows outside of the city," Gómez said. "We would love for our artists to represent the store and represent our city somewhere else."

For information follow them on Instagram at @shopepfinest and visit shopepfinest.com.

Jasmin Campoya is a staff photographer and can be reached at jncampoya@miners.utep.edu.



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Sports

Emmanuel Rivas, editor

The legacy of Luke Laufenberg

UTEP honors late tight end

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL
The Prospector

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 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 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.

"You'd be hard pressed to find a kid his size 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



UTEP junior quarterback Gavin Hardison honors Luke by wearing Luke's number and last name in the win versus rival New Mexico State University. **Photo by Joel Molina/The Prospector**

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, sheer hard work and determination like I've never seen, and I played in the NFL for eight years," Laufenberg said. "I'd seen tough guys. I've seen determination. I'd 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 get 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 relapsed, 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 fuel 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 Jus-

tin 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 Hardison 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 selfless 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.

"Whether 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 worked out extra 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 me the 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. Continue to fight and never give up."

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

One of Luke's close friends, Wadie 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 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 Lauf' because he was a fighter."

To DiFrancesco, "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 home here.'"

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

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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 needs are going to be, what can I do 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 greater 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 consist 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 coach 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.

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela is the sports editor and can be reached at erivas7@miners.utep.edu: @rivasemmanuel2 on Instagram

Soccer avoids losses in home stretch

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS VALENZUELA
The Prospector

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).

UIW @ UTEP-Sept. 8

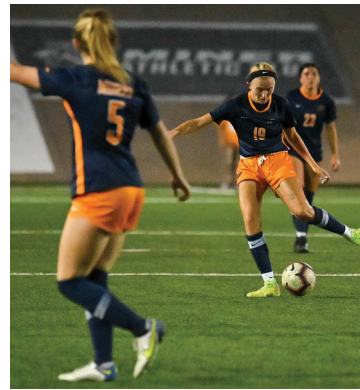
Coming off a 3-1 win against Wyoming, the Miners looked to follow up a great outing against the UIW Cardinals. In the 13th minute of the match, freshman forward Mina Rodriguez noted the first points of the half thanks to an assist from junior forward Tessa Carlin. The rest of the first half was silent. 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 in part to sophomore forward Justice Tillotson 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 UIW, 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 Mariah Scott provided two saves in this game for her third shutout of the season.

FIU @ UTEP-Sept. 15

To start off conference play,



TOP: Forward Taya Lopez aims to kick the ball versus the Cardinals.

BOTTOM LEFT: Midfielder Cayman Tamez sets up a pass versus UIW.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The UTEP women’s soccer team celebrated a goal.

Photos by Joel Molina/The Prospector

UTEP (3-4-1) faced the FIU Panthers (2-3-0) in a Thursday night battle. Neither team managed to score a single point resulting in the Miners’ second draw of the year. In the 33rd minute of the match, junior midfielder Vanessa Cabello attempted a corner kick, which placed the ball at the head of Carlin. The only thing between the ball and the net was the body of FIU goalkeeper Ithaisa Vinoly. Scott had another great game at goalkeeper, saving nine of 16 shots. This is the Miners sit at 3-4-2 coming into Sunday’s match up versus LA Tech.

LA Tech @ UTEP-Sept. 18

The Miners now face LA Tech (3-5-1) who are coming off a 1-0 win over Western Kentucky University (WKU). The start of this match was relatively quiet. It was not until the 42nd minute that

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 Sydnee Korchak. Late in the second half, LA Tech sophomore defender Carmen Suarez nails a goal off a Dube assist. This brought the score to 2-2 in the 84th minute. The Miners were unable to respond leaving the match on a third straight draw.

Statistics provided by UTEP Athletics,

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela is the sports editor and can be reached at erivas7@miners.utep.edu: @rivasemmanuel2 on Instagram

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