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Early voting begins today at more than a dozen locations around the city. This advanced balloting period will last until Feb. 28.

This year, voting will be easier for students with UTEP receiving a mobile polling location. On Wednesday, Feb. 19, students will be able to vote at Union Building East. Ballots may be cast on campus from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The type of student voting is special because students will be able to participate on campus regardless of their home precinct. Generally, citizens may only vote at a location based on geographic districts.

Four years ago, during the 2010 gubernatorial race, 160 UTEP community members took advantage of the on-campus polling. Statistics from the El Paso County Elections Office show that 115 ballots were cast on a Democratic ticket while 45 GOP primary ballots were counted.

Kimberly Escobar, junior kinesiology major feels indifferent about the election. She said voting is important at a local level, but when it comes to a national election, she feels she doesn’t know enough.

“I don’t really vote, I don’t think my vote makes a difference,” she said.

Arleen Reyes, senior history major and senator-at-large for the Student Government Association, sees elections as a way to make a difference.

“I think students’ futures are being shaped by the people who are elected to make decisions on their behalf”

- Kathleen Staudt, political science professor

Students’ futures are being shaped by the people who are elected to make decisions on their behalf.
In a Feb. 13 interview with CBS News, actor Kevin Spacey jokingly said that House Whip Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., told him “if I could just kill one member of Congress, I wouldn’t have to worry about another vote.”

This is in light of the recent premier of season two of Netflix’s “House of Cards,” which Spacey stars in and produces. If you can imagine “Breaking Bad” Walter White running Congress, then you get the main idea of “House of Cards.”

The show centers on Spacey’s character, the narcissistic, sadistic, power-hungry House Majority Whip Frank Underwood, and his corrupt rise to power. The series also showcases something we typically don’t see in our reality—a Congress that actually gets stuff done.

Before I continue the rest of this column, let me stress that I don’t wish our Congress were run by the likes of Underwood—(spoiler alert) I’d rather not have a murderer running our country, and I don’t think it takes corrupt officials to maintain a productive government.

But the notion of an administration—particularly a House that “cleans the pipes and keeps the sludge moving,” as Underwood describes—that keeps promises and finds a way to enact policy despite ideological extremes should not be so far fetched as it seems to be.

In planning this column, I originally set out to praise Congressional Republicans for cooperating with Democrats to avoid another government shutdown. However, I was really looking forward to saying, “I guess they all decided to do their jobs so they wouldn’t miss the ‘House of Cards’ premiere” but that quickly changed when I realized the House planned to stall immigration reform in 2014.

According to House Speaker John Boehner, Republicans don’t “trust the president to implement the law the way we would design it.”

I don’t doubt there is merit to their worries, but it’s not enough of a reason to completely stall the bill. We all know why they’re really putting a halt to it—Republicans are scared of losing their majority in the upcoming primary elections.

As it stood, the House bill contained some drastic differences from the Senate version, including stiffer border control measures and it fell short of complete legal status for some immigrants.

Democrats in the House are now saying they are waiting to see until 2017, once President Barack Obama has finished his term, to pass immigration reform.

It’s common knowledge that change comes slow in Washington, but the House running the way it has for the past few years is taking that to a new extreme.

No wonder Obama has taken to so many executive orders.

Even though “House of Cards” is a fictional series, in its own right it reminds us of just how counterproductive our own government is. Spacey said members of the real-life Congress agree and disagree with the premise of “House of Cards.”

“I get the spectrum,” he said in the CBS interview. “One on hand some people are like ‘it’s closer than anything one could imagine it’s really like,’ and others that say it’s a fantasy and it’s a cynical perspective.”

Obviously “House of Cards” was designed to captivate an audience with great story telling, drama, suspense and amazing cinematography, but it’s also a nice break “for the public to see a Congress that actually gets things done,” Spacey said.

Jasmine Aguilar may be reached at theprospectordailynews@gmail.com.

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**WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED**

**POLL RESULTS**

Will you participate in early voting this year?

- **60% YES**
- **30% NO**

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Submit a letter to the editor!

Letters will be edited for clarity and brevity. Letters over 250 words are subject to editing to fit available space. Please include full name, street address and telephone number and e-mail address, plus major, classification and/or title if applicable. Address and phone number will be used for verification only.

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Old buildings to be demolished for new behavioral sciences

By Amanda Guillen

Editor’s note: this is part three of a three-part series that explores the 2011 Campus Master Plan.

According to the Campus Master Plan 2011, two of the university’s oldest buildings are on their way to be demolished.

Benedict Hall, which was built in 1937 and named after Harry Yandell Benedict, served as men’s dormitories and currently houses offices for faculty and staff.

Bell Hall opened its doors in 1948 and was named after Elizabeth Merrill Bell. It was a women’s dormitory and election site and now consists of classrooms and office space.

These two buildings will be transformed into a Behavioral Sciences building.

Associate Vice President for Business Affairs Greg McNicol said the future Behavioral Sciences building will replace the current psychology building.

McNicol said the location of the buildings will make the campus look better and help improve the information that happens when students from different colleges work together.

"Higher education is always looking for ways for you to work with different people and different units together," McNicol said. "If you take psychology, which is all about the brain, and drug dependencies for instance and you put them with the biologists who are developing drugs, those two can work together to find better solutions.

This is one of the reasons we look to take psychology and get them relocated closer to biology and chemistry and this entire zone."

Randi Taylor, a doctoral student in general psychology, said the current psychology building doesn’t have enough bathrooms and working washrooms. He said better facilities would give them access to accommodate research.

"We have a lot of neuro (science) research that we do here and psycho biochemistry research that we do here so I’m sure that would be opening the floor to collaboration," Taylor said. "Especially for the neuro fields and people in other departments might be able to find more avenues to conduct research."

McNicol addressed the purpose of a master plan and referred to it as a proposed plan that gives them an idea of what is needed for the university, a master plan according to McNicol is subject to change.

"With this master plan you often look at the short term buildings that you think you need right now and which are your highest priority, there are three in the 2011 version right now and none of them are yet funded, but that doesn’t mean they are not going to be. You are constantly working in the background whether it is with the state legislators or the board of regents to talk about what we need in this area and why," McNicol said.

The three buildings that McNicol addressed are the Behavioral Sciences building, a new Liberal Arts building, and an Interdisciplinary Research building.

"The replacement of the Liberal Arts building is another one that we think is very critical and needs to be replaced. The building served its purpose but it is really outdated and its systems are not available to support us as we move forward," McNicol said.

This new era of UTEP becoming a tier one university does come with its losses and in this case result in the loss of historic buildings.

McNicol said that this is all for the good of the university and servicing the general population and preparing to become tier one.

To look at the complete Campus Master Plan 2011 visit masterplan.utep.edu.

For more information please contact the Prospector at news@prospetor.com.

ELECTIONS from page 1

encourages students to vote in the primary elections.

"I think there might be a lot of students who don’t know how it directly effects you," Reyes said.

Reyes is president of the UTEP student chapter of the Texas Freedom Network which is a non-partisan organization that registers student voters and promotes political awareness.

Reyes said the TFN will offer training on Feb. 22 and 23 on campus at the Blumberg Auditorium at the UTEP library. Reyes said this training will give students guidance on how to vote.

Katherine Staudt, political science professor, said students should be aware of who holds office locally or nationally.

"Students’ futures are being shaped by the people who are elected to make decisions on their behalf," Staudt said. "Those decisions will affect them in either a good or a bad way."

On the ballot will be a senator, governor, commissioners and a number of local or civil positions.

"We anticipate this being a high participation election," said Janet Chacon, El Paso County elections administrator. "The two highest elections are always the president and the governor’s."

Chacon said that anyone planning to vote in the primaries must have their registration completed and be a valid form of identification.

As of last year, Texas elections require an acceptable form of ID. Documents accepted include driver’s license, election identification certificates, passports and military ID cards.

"This is my first time, so I’m kind of excited," said Leslie Palacios, freshman biology major. "I want to participate and be involved."

Students will be able to choose to vote as a Democrat or Republican. Voters do not have to be registered members of the party to vote on a specific ticket.

Voters will pick candidates with a party to compete against their opposition in the November general elections.

At the top of the Republican ballot are the teams of Greg Abbott and David Dewhurst vying—respectively—for the Governor and Lt. Governor’s position. Democrats will pick from a gubernatorial race, currently led by state Senator Wendy Davis and state Senator Leticia Van De Putte for Lt. Governor.

Past El Paso mayor John Cook is also appearing on the Democratic ballot in the race for the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

Four El Paso County Department of Public Services election offices will be open on Saturdays in order to ensure voters can pick up a free electoral ID. DPS offices open on Saturdays until March 1, are the Gateway Office, Hondo Pass Office, Northwestern Office and the Scott Simpson Office.

Normal primary voting will take place on March 4.

For more information about polling locations, ballots or voting eligibility, visit epcountytvotes.com.
UTEP TO HOST INTERDISCIPLINARY HIGH-TECH STARTUP COMPETITION

Friday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. through Sunday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m., UTEP will host a three-day start-up competition where 45 students from undergraduates to doctoral candidates from various disciplines will form teams and be tasked with starting a high-tech company, an intense entrepreneurial exercise. They must generate an idea and develop it into a prototype by the end of the event.

Among the project’s goals is to build enough momentum to sustain the company beyond the weekend.

For more information, contact David Sterling at dsterlin@utep.edu or at 747-7776.
Alleo Martinez
Junior philosophy and art major
“Yes, because I don’t really have time during the ‘real’ elections. I participate in presidential elections, but I plan on voting for a state governor.”

Brenda Barrios
Sophomore business major
“No because I am not interested.”

Cesar Chavez
Freshman general studies major
“I was not taught about early voting or about local nor state elections, but now that I know about it I will look into it.”

Diana Jayme
Sophomore mechanical engineering major
“Probably not because I don’t feel informed enough to be able to make a vote. Governor elections are important, but I just need to find more information as to what that pertains to and what not.”

Jorge Huerta
Freshman computer science major
“I can’t vote because I live in Juárez, but if I could I would. I think we should care about the city elections because changes that are made will be more local.”

Dianna Prieto
Junior biomedical science major
“I’d like to participate in early voting because the local elections affects us more than the state ones. I’m not sure who I’m voting for yet.”

Evelyn Gutiérrez
Sophomore accounting major
“If I figure out where it is, yeah. I wasn’t old enough to vote, but I am more interested in national elections.”

Travis Balandran
Junior education major
“I probably participate in early voting but it depends what day it lands on. I would say state elections are more important than the city ones because we have to interpret the laws they give us.”

Megan Martinez
Freshman communication major
“I’m participating in early voting because it’s a right that everyone should take advantage of.”

Roberto Portillo
Freshman mechanical engineering major
“I plan on participating in early voting because I just turned 18 and it’s been one of my goals to accomplish.”

Are you participating in early voting?

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A LIFETIME OF LEADERSHIP!
"Digitalism" is scheduled to perform at 7 p.m. on March 1 at the Lowbrow Palace.

Their style is unique and I'm always interested in bands that are trying to do things that haven't been done before.

- Israel Perez, freshman math major

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BY LORAIN WATTERS
The Prospector

The German electronic duo Digitalism will perform for the first time in El Paso on March 1 at 7 p.m. at the Lowbrow Palace.
The group is known for their album "Idealism," which was released in 2007, and for their hit songs "Pogo" and "2 Hearts." Fans of Digitalism will expect to hear their vibrant, upbeat rhythms with electro-punk influences that are commonly heard on indie dance floors.

Israel Perez, freshman math major, has formed a new interest for Digitalism and hopes to see them perform live when they visit the city.

"My friend and I were talking about upcoming shows and they came up," Perez said. "Their style is unique and I'm always interested in bands that..."

see HISTORY on page 8

THE SUN CITY DIGITALIZED BY DUO

Feb. 20
Templeton Suite/Union East Wing, 3rd Floor.
Will Guzman, Ph.D., director of the office of Black Diasporan Culture and assistant professor of history/African-American studies at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, will give a lecture on "Dr. Lawrence Nixon, Drusilla Nixon, and Civil Rights in America." The lecture is at 1:30 p.m. and open to public.

Feb. 22
The annual Black History Month parade and festival sponsored by the El Paso Inter Club Council. The parade, which is themed Civil Rights in America, begins at 10 a.m. at Pershing Drive and Montana Avenue and ends at Mary Webb Park, 3401 E. Missouri Ave.

Feb. 25
Union Cinema/Union East Wing, 1st Floor. Dramatization of "The Mountaintop," written by Katori Hall will be performed by Kathryn Smith-McGlynn and Bob Sneed at 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 27
Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall
Lowell Graham, chair of the music department, will conduct the UTEP Orchestra in "The Music of William Grant Still" at 7:30 p.m. For more information contact the Department of Music at 747-5606.

see DIGITALISM on page 8
‘The Lego Movie’: embrace your inner child

BY AMBER GOMEZ

Your childhood has finally come to life. The popular toy building blocks, Legos, have been around since the ‘50s, and for those of us who grew up playing with them, it’s almost nostalgic to see the mini figures in theaters.

With a mix of CGI and stop-motion, it’s no wonder the movie has raked in more than $48 million so far at the box office. It took five years and 3,863,484 Lego blocks for the movie to be pieced together.

Drinking over-priced coffee, following the rules and working at a construction site is our hero, Emmet Brickowski (Chris Pratt). Emmet lives at a construction site our hero, Emmet Brickowski (Chris Pratt). Emmet lives at the bottom end of the world with his weapon of mass destruction, the “Kragle. ”

However, the woman, Wyldstyle (Elizabeth Banks), quickly discovers that Emmet has no creativity of his own, and an unexpected journey begins to try to stop President Business (Will Ferrell), who is trying to bring the Lego world to life.

Featuring the voices of Will Ferrell and Morgan Freeman, “The Lego Movie” will leave you laughing and wanting more. While the first half of the movie is partly stop-motion and computer animated, the second half was surprising. As Emmet falls down a dark abyss, the movie switches to a live-action point of view, where a man is playing with the Legos and his father is the one trying to keep him from touching them.

While the movie is mostly directed toward kids, with its slapstick humor and amusing antics, it is still a great movie for adults as well. Abraham Lincoln, Superman and even Han Solo have cameos in the movie. You will begin to reminisce about when you were a child, building and accidently stepping on the hundreds of blocks you once had laying around the house.

Your inner child will relate to the little boy in the movie as his imagination brings the Lego world to life. Overall, “The Lego Movie” is fun for the whole family as you follow the adventures of the very ordinary Emmet. Amber Gomez may be reached at agomez@utep.edu.
The Miners who are currently on a three-game in the lead in Conference USA, will have two crucial road games that could determine their fate come selection Sunday on March 16.

Conference USA may have a chance to send two schools to the NCAA Tournament. At the moment, it seems UTEP may only have a chance to get into the tournament by winning its conference tournament that takes place March 11-15 in El Paso.

The Miners are coming off a stumble reciprocated by a victory in last week’s two-game home stand. They lost to Florida Atlantic on Feb. 13 and went on to defeat Florida International two days later. The Miners have won 14 of their last 16 games.

“We are going to play two teams that have always given us issues,” head coach Tim Floyd said. “We’ll play against a bunch of man (defense) one night and a bunch of zone the next night. So it’s an important week of practice for us.”

A tough two-game road challenge comes UTEP’s way when they face the Tulane Green Wave on Feb. 20 followed by an interesting matchup stop conference standings against the Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles on Feb. 22.

Tulane stands at 14-12 overall and 6-5 in conference play. The Green Wave’s most recent victory came on the road over Alabama-Birmingham 86-80.

“Leading the Green Wave there are two guards. Sophomore Louis Duney are our leading scorer averaging 16.7 points and freshman Jonathan Starks is producing 14.7 points and 4 assists per game.”

Two days later the Miners will face the Golden Eagles who are one game behind the leaders, UTEP. Middle Tennessee State and Louisiana Tech in the conference standings. This team has ESPN College Basketball analyst, Jay Bilas, ranking them as the No. 49 team in the country. They have five straight home conference games up to this point. UTEP has proved very resilient this season when facing conference foes on the road. They have not lost a conference road game all season (4-0) and are 5-1 on road games for the entire season.

The winner of UTEP versus Southern Mississippi can be crucial for the Miners’ hopes of clinching a regular season title and can have an impact on how the teams are seeded in the conference tournament.

“In this program we try to work tirelessly to try to put together a championship level program here. The one year all you can relate with is ’06,” Floyd said. “Conference championships probably don’t mean that much to you and they probably don’t mean as much to me anymore. We’ll be trying to put together a team that can go win it all.”

Four years later, the Miners have full short of those expectations. Floyd has not even had some bad luck over the years. Arnett Moultrie and Chris Washburn transferring, Derrick Caracter leaving early for the NBA, blowing big leads, player suspensions/expulsions, and of course recruits de-committing or going back on their letter of intent.

This season though, Floyd has turned in his best coaching season since his arrival in 2010, and there is still plenty more basketball to play. Floyd has put together a team that is based around making no excuses and making adjustments seamlessly.

“With the virtuoso job by Floyd, he not only deserves to be Conference USA Coach of the Year, but national recognition as well. Neatly at every point in this season, Floyd’s team has had road-blocks put in front of them, and every time they have broken through.”

Starting out the season, the Miners lost out on McDonald’s All-American Isaac Hamilton due to possible tampering. Rivals’ four-star recruit Anthony January opted for junior college due to academic issues, as did ESPN’s two-star recruit Andre Spight. Although the public opinion of the team changed, Floyd made no excuses and moved on.

Ten games into the season, the Miners were 5-5 and had lost twice to archival New Mexico State. Floyd never said anything about the dynamics of his team not being what they could have accomplished if players who had committed actually had come to UTEP.

“Once again Floyd made no excuses. After the home loss against New Mexico State, Floyd simply said they were the better team, even though the Miners were on perimeter fouls has become weaker than a prostitute’s abstinence.”

By the end of the season, the Miners were starting Big good.
SEASON UPDATE

Tennis grab important pair of wins at home

Javier Cortez / The Prospector

If there is one thing the UTEP women's tennis team is good at, it is playing at home. The Miners improved their home-winning streak to eight, with a 6-1 win over Northern Arizona on Feb. 14 and a 6-1 win over Lamar on Feb. 16.

With the back-to-back wins the Miners stand at 3-5 after a slow start to the season. With the latest victories, the Miners have the number-one seed in the Conference USA tournament, which happens to be here in El Paso this year.

"Just for the mood--to have the sun in nice weather is great," said head coach Myriam Sopel. "With the back-to-back wins the tennis team is looking forward to next week because we just found a way to win. All the girls have been doing such a great job and it lifts the team up. I'm just happy we played so well."

The biggest win over the two days came through Tench. The Melbourne native only surrendered one game on Sunday, winning 6-1. 6-1. Tench also secured her first doubles win of the season, along with senior Gabi Vazquez.

"It was good, especially because I had never played with Gabi before. So it was very different having a new doubles partner. It takes a while to get used to playing with a different person, but it was good," Tench said. "My singles match on Sunday was quick, but it was a good match. The match on Friday (Feb. 14) was much tougher, but I got through and won it."

"If there is one thing the UTEP sports teams do well, it is to always play out a full third set, as the super tie-breaker instead of a full third set. With the back-to-back wins the tennis team is looking forward to next week because we just found a way to win. All the girls have been doing such a great job and it lifts the team up. I'm just happy we played so well."

"Just for the mood--to have the sun in nice weather is great," said head coach Myriam Sopel. "With the back-to-back wins the tennis team is looking forward to next week because we just found a way to win. All the girls have been doing such a great job and it lifts the team up. I'm just happy we played so well."

The Miners will be back in action Feb. 22 against Abilene Christian, and they are looking to extend their home match win streak to nine.

Javier Cortez may be reached at theprospectordaily@gmail.com.
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Frickin printed chino short, $49.50

Dillard’s
The Style of Your Life.
Miners split home games, remain on top of Conference USA

1) Freshman Vince Hunter gets in between two Florida Atlantic defenders to make the layup on Feb. 13.
2) Junior guard/forward Julian Washburn makes a three-point shot against FIU on 
3) Washburn steals the ball and gets a layup against FAU.
4) Freshman center Matt Willms makes a dunk against Florida International on Feb. 15.