Undocumented and poor—a common combination in people along the southwest region of Texas where individuals travel to the U.S. for any work they can find to help keep their family afloat. However, easy work that may come their way is not always fair or safe.

The Paso Del Norte Civil Rights project, a nonprofit organization that promotes racial, social and economic justice by means of education and litigation, helps individuals in these scenarios by asserting their rights or alleviating financial problems.

“The civil rights program is civil and human rights. We do litigation, investigation and education for people who have issues or problems with the authorities or those in law enforcement,” said Sandra Arzate, office manager and paralegal for PCRP. “So that involves constitutional rights, freedom of speech, housing, American Disabilities Act in public places, schools, etc.”

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as of 2013 there are 11.7 million undocumented immigrants residing in the country. Out of those individuals, 7.8 million are in the labor force, according to the Pew Hispanic Research Center, and Texas has one of the largest shares of immigrants in the U.S. at 8.7 percent.

PCRP also has an economic justice program that litigates and educates individuals on wage theft.

“This is for when people don’t get paid their wages at all or they are owed money, which happens a lot here on the border because we have people who are undocumented working for minimum wage and they don’t know their rights,” Arzate said. Unethical employers or contractors will hire undocumented workers because they can get away with paying them less, Arzate said, since they don’t know the minimum wage laws or employee rights.

“Employees may try and contact these employers about wage theft, but contact is ignored, leading the employees in protest. “These situations are more prevalent in South Texas because you have a lot of undocumented people who are desperate for work. So they come here to make a decent living, but they end up being victims because the employers do not pay them minimum wage,” Arzate said. “They are happy because they get paid higher than in Mexico, but it is still not right. The employer knows it is not right, they know the law and should know the law but doesn’t do that, and that’s where we come in.”

PCRP also has a Violence Against Women Act program, which helps undocumented victims of domestic violence, rape, torture, human trafficking or other forms of violence.

“The abusive person will usually not help the abused with filing their papers. They will just keep using the fact that they are undocumented to further control the victim and their children,” said Paulina Baca, VAWA coordinator with PCRP. “The VAWA law allows them to file an immigration petition with evidence of the abuse, and based on that they can obtain a work permit and have a legal permanent residence, if approved.”

PCRP collaborates with the social work programs at UTEP and NMSU by recruiting interns at the bachelor’s and master’s levels so that they can provide extra support where case workers may not be able to.

“We can further help our clients to provide a more holistic service for them, especially with the VAWA program since you are talking about undocumented individuals and families,” Baca said. “It is not just about the immigration aspect of their case or economic problem they have, but also if they are homeless or don’t have food or have other needs they need to take care of.”

Arturo Vargas, junior political science major and event planner for PCRP, first began volunteering for the organization because of his interest in politics and budget planning.

“I did a fundraiser at Ripe Eatery throughout the month of June. I started there by investigating who would fundraise us and give us proper funds,” Vargas said. “They will just keep using the fact that they are undocumented to further control the victim and their children.”

“PCRP first began volunteering for the organization because of his interest in politics and budget planning.”

“Arturo Vargas, junior political science major and event planner for PCRP”
Immigrant minors should not be sent back

BY AARON MONTE
The Prospector

The United States government needs to stop playing politics with what is clearly a humanitarian issue.

For a month now, the Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Protection have been dealing with an influx of undocumented immigrants crossing into the United States. In South Texas, where most of these migrants are crossing, authorities have limited resources due to the number of people detained and that is why they have been sent back and forth between Phoenix, El Paso and other cities in the southwest.

The undocumented immigrants include women with their children and unaccompanied minors that have come from Honduras and other parts of Central America. In reaction, the U.S. government has issued a public service announcement in Spanish to the people of Central America that the U.S. is not permitting unlawful immigration.

According to the advocates, the origin of these migrants is from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

Since October, it has been reported that an estimated 40,000 children have been apprehended at the border. President Barack Obama has chosen not to bypass Congress and use an executive order to address this issue, or the larger comprehensive immigration problem. The Secretary of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, said that the administration would not be able to get through the issue concerning the large number of apprehended minors.

With the country’s political leaders stuck in debate, residents are taking it upon themselves to address the issue. In Murrieta, California, a bus carrying undocumented immigrants was turned away by a group of protesters that were against aiding the undocumented.

During a media conference, immigration advocates in El Paso said that DHS and ICE were working with the Administration, the Reynold’s home, the Salvation Army and other centers.

According to the advocates, the organizations would provide food, clothing and a place to stay. They also said that all migrants were leaving after the first night to reach their family members in other parts of the U.S.

Dr. Patrick Timmons, who has investigated the situation in Central America and works with the Mexican Journalism Translation Project, said that the instance has nothing to do with the immigration debate in Washington. He said that the number of undocumented children is not a sudden spike, but comes from a steady growth of people fleeing violence in the countries of Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

Timmons explained that Honduras is the most dangerous country in the world and is terrible at recording violence.

"The causes of migration were structural," he said. "Now, it is caused by drug violence." He explained that in the migrant’s situation, the cycle of refugees being apprehended and deported reinforces the tendency to return again.

According to Obama, the situation is a humanitarian issue, but he has also said that the government’s resources should be used to "detain both adults and children from this dangerous journey, increase capacity for enforcement and removal proceedings and quickly return unlawful migrants to their home countries.”

In 2008, President George W. Bush signed a law that made it difficult for a minor to be deported back to their home country without a trial before an immigration judge. While the minors wait, they are able to reside with their family in the U.S. until their court date.

A legislative solution is not in sight with Congress deadlocked on the immigration issue. Even if the Senate’s comprehensive immigration bill were to pass through the House of Representatives tomorrow, those 40,000 undocumented immigrants who were in custody would still be subject to deportation and likely would return either way. The Senate’s version of immigration reform accepts those who entered into the U.S. before the year 2013.

As Timmons stated, solving the problem depends on whether or not drug smuggling and drug related violence in Central America can be resolved.

What the government should consider is to create a refuge program.

If the country truly believes in its traditions as a haven for refugees, it would create a strategy to send minors back to what is a deadly situation.

On their venture to the U.S., it is likely that immigrants will encounter gangs and members of drug cartels that will exploit them because of their situation. Yet, they choose to endure such travel to come to the U.S. If these children are willing to experience such life-threatening experiences, it is certain that more will continue to come.

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La Copa Mundial en la frontera

Estudiantes se reúnen en Summit Hall para ver los partidos de la Copa Mundial

POR HÉCTOR BERNAL

Se dice que el deporte paraliza el tiempo, y que en muchos casos acapara las miradas de millones. Pero solo existe un evento al que se le reconoce por atrazar al mundo entero: la Copa del Mundo. Y aunque muchos no pudieron viajar a Brasil, la fiesta mundialista se hace presente aquí en la frontera.

En UTEP se ha presenciado la fiebre mundialista en la mayoría de los estudiantes. Adrián Hurtado, estudiante de ingeniería en computación de cuarto año, se ha visto afectado por la tal fiebre del mundial.

“Me tengo que pedir varios días en mi trabajo para poder ver los partidos de México”, dice Hurtado. “Es un mundial y perderse estos partidos es como si estuvieras pecando.”

Juan García, estudiante en ciencias políticas, asegura que cada minuto cuenta en un mundial.

“No puedes despejar la vista ni por un segundo porque corre el riesgo de perder una jugada importante”, dice García.

Más allá de lo que se vive en las escuelas y universidades, el mundial también forma parte en los trabajos. Es que no todos tienen el privilegio de descansar para ver los partidos. Hay compañías que hacen reuniones para que sus trabajadores puedan ver los partidos. Una de ellas DEELPHI, compañía de manufactura automotriz. El equipo de recursos humanos ahí, y en otras 3 maquiladoras bajo la misma compañía, ha hecho tres reuniones para los partidos de México.

Llevaron pantallas gigantes y comida para sus trabajadores. Además tuvieron concursos para ganarse la plantilla oficial de la selección. Entre las 4 maquiladoras, 1,800 trabajadores asistieron a estas reuniones.

“No somos señores que quieren ver a su selección, y no queremos que el trabajo se los impida”, dice el ingeniero Héctor Martínez.

Ya como es de costumbre, los bares y restaurantes se ven afectados, de buena manera, por el mundial. El último partido de México en el mundial, contra Holanda, causó un cierre en la calle Robinson, cerca de UTEP. Los trabajadores de Palomino Taver decidieron cerrar la calle para poner una pantalla de 12 pies y así transmitir de la mejor manera el duelo de octavos de final.

Hicieron lo mismo para el partido de Estados Unidos contra Bélgica. Es así como se vive el mundial en la frontera. Difícilmente uno se perderá un partido aquí ya que el apoyo para este evento es enorme en ambas ciudades.

Héctor Bernal puede ser contactado por theprospectordailynews@gmail.com.

La Copa Mundial en la frontera

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WASHINGTON – After years of administrative pressure and legislative meetings, one of the nation’s reddest rectangles approved a tax increase. Wyoming raised its gas tax by a dime, to 24.4 cents – effective July 1.

“Some people say the strings that come with federal funds are hard to pull to the city,” Keck said. “But we just can’t not use federal funds with high construction costs.”

“The national gas tax was last raised in 1993,” Cox said. “Now we are raising it to 24 cents. It is an increase, but it is nothing compared to the $4.7 million to design the downtown trolley system.”

Speaking on July 2 in front of the Key Bridge, which connects downtown and West Arlington, President Barack Obama calls on Congress to continue funding the Highway Trust Fund. The bridge is one of many infrastructure projects that have been funded through the trust fund.

Because of the state’s conservatism, Cox said many Wyomings would rather use state funding to maintain the roads. “Some people say the strings that come with federal funds are hard to pull up with,” Cox said. “But we just can’t not use federal funds with high construction costs.”

Wyoming’s roads comes from the federal government’s Highway Trust Fund. Unless Congress funds a way to fund the program before the August recess, the nation’s roads will remain in a state of disrepair. The House is on recess, the nation’s roads will remain in a state of disrepair. The House is on recess, the nation’s roads will remain in a state of disrepair.

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Building young readers, one book at a time

BY KIMBERLY VALLE AND ANDREA ACOSTA

The Prospector

The Little Free Library, a movement that was first started in Wisconsin, has expanded over the past five years. As a result of its success, El Paso has joined the cause to increase literacy rates and has built a new one just outside Tipp Teas. Louise Rodriguez, senior business major, who built the new library along with the help of a non-profit organization known as the WoodWorkers Club of El Paso, said this project is focused around the idea to increase children's literacy rates in El Paso, which is listed as the third least literate city in the U.S.

"El Paso has extremely low literacy rates and with the help of Lisa Lopez, city ambassador for these projects, this movement has continued to spread throughout the city and has allowed for kids of all ages to enjoy the benefit of reading," he said.

Little Free Library became a formal, independent organization in 2011 with nearly 400 libraries. Now, approximately 15,000 libraries have been built all around the U.S. Its previous name was Habitat for the Humanities and was later known as Houses of Stories, but the name Little Free Library has stuck among children. Rodriguez became interested in the project and appreciates the concept behind it. He decided that it would be a cool weekend project to work on.

"We collaborated with Tipp Teas, a locally owned business, that already provides free children's books inside their shop to have his approval to give a home to the library," Rodriguez said. "Construction began with my father and I working on it until we got a good solid product after many attempts. The El Paso Woodworkers helped in building the base, doors, and providing me with the official plaque with its own unique charter number."

Also contributing to the façade of the library was Roman Martinez, a local artist who helped with the artwork.

"A wide variety selection of books will be provided for all kids who visit the different locations around El Paso," Rodriguez said. "We mainly accept book donations from other non-profit organizations, sometimes I like to personally go to a bookstore and pick something special out for the library or even donate a book out of my personal collection."

The main goal of this movement has always been to expand the knowledge that reading provides to readers. Therefore, no fees and no library card are required to check out a book. "Anyone is more than welcome to pick out a book and take a seat to read," he said. "This is a place where anyone is free to donate one of their books as well, all for the love of reading."
Chuco Burger is a great example of how a little hole in the wall mixed with great customer service can prove to be the best dining experience, but the burgers themselves leave a lot to be desired.

On the outside, its cinderblock exterior might give you some doubts, especially if you are unsure why this restaurant is settled in a secluded area of mostly sand. However, once you walk in, the atmosphere changes.

On one side, there is a bar, and on the other sits the restaurant. Although it’s not as well maintained as Chico’s Tacos or as neatly set up as McDonald’s—the customer service is excellent and even the owner himself came around to make sure everyone was taken care of.

Before going to Chucos, I had read some of the reviews on Urbanspoon.com, and I felt a split emotion about the place. Some of the reviews suggested that it wasn’t that great of a deal for the price, others proved that the façade of a building can be deceiving.

Overall, my family and I had mixed feelings. There wasn’t that much variety for my mother to pick from, and my father and sister said the burger and chili dog had some zest, but they all agreed it was like any other burger and chili dog.

Chuco Burger was voted as the “Best Burger in Town.” It is located at 1201 Lafayette Drive. (Above) Chucos is the owner of the restaurant.

By asHLey MUñoz

The Prospector

Cheese-
The Musical-

As a sophomore and a work-study student for UTEP, he assisted with making costumes and building sets for the show.

“It was quite an experience to be part of the whole process. The leads in the production were terrific mentors,” Montes de Oca III said. “I learned a great deal from them and I’m a better performer on stage today for working with them.”

Montes de Oca III hopes for the audience to be captivated by the renditions of this iconic production.

“The cast has worked hard to meet a difficult challenge that is this piece,” he said. “I’m not a user friendly and its fun for children of the community so that they too feel motivated to continue this movement and build more libraries across town. Little Free Library is open during normal business hours from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and is available year round. For more information about locations in El Paso, visit littlefreelibrary.org.

Estefania Perea, senior advertising major, said this concept allows for a younger audience to read more. She said that she would be more than happy to take her little nephews to read some of these books, as they are still not of age to get their library card yet.

Corral said that overall the library is user friendly and its fun for children to have easy access to books to read and expand their literacy.

Rodriguez said he hopes to bring new opportunities to kids who don’t have the means of buying a book and to increase their desire to learn.

“If it is a privilege to be able to read and is one of the oldest and most enjoyable forms of entertainment we have,” Rodriguez said. “No one is born with a love to read, it is learned. With projects such as this one we are able to put books in their hands and they are able to discover how much books have to offer.”

He hopes to spark interest in the community so that they too feel motivated to continue this movement and build more libraries across town. Little Free Library is open during normal business hours from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and is available year round. For more information about locations in El Paso, visit littlefreelibrary.org.
Meet the new guys in town

TREY TOUCHET

His name is Trey Winn, but his friends and family call him Trey. A native Monroe, Louisiana, Winn is coach Floyd’s only non-guard recruit. After finishing his senior season in Memphis, Winn played at Westwind Prep where he averaged 23 points per game and 13 rebounds per game. Already drawing comparisons to now sophomore forward Vince Hunter—Winn is a combo-forward that likes to play on the perimeter and inside.

Q: WHAT WAS IT LIKE GETTING THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY DIVISION I BASKETBALL?
A: It was a long process because I had to pass the ACT to become eligible. So when I got the call from coach Floyd, I was really happy.

Q: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR GAME?
A: I’m a high-energy guy. I like to get up and down the floor and rebound the ball. I can play around the rim but I can also play on the perimeter.

A: Whatever the teams needs me to do, I’ll do it. If they need me to play defense I’ll play defense, if they need me to shoot, I’ll shoot, if they need me to get to the free throw line, I’ll do that, anything the team needs.

Q: HOW DID YOUR PAST TWO SEASONS AT WESTWIND PREP PREPARE YOU FOR UTEP?
A: Westwind Prep was fun. I played under coach Jac Steedman—he coached in the D-League and overseas. He really developed my game a lot and he put a lot of confidence in me and made me feel like I was the man on the court.

Q: WHAT CAN YOU BRING TO THE TEAM?
A: I can post up smaller guards and I can take big men off the dribble.

Q: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR GAME?
A: It's really comfortable. When I first got here I thought I was back at high school because I already had a good relationship with some of the players.

Q: HOW DI YOU PAST TWO SEASONS IN HIGH SCHOOL PREPARE FOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL?
A: In the playoffs it is win or go home, so I am used to the pressure and big crowds. I think going deep in the playoffs has really prepared me for college.

Q: WHAT DID IT MEAN TO YOU TO WIN THE LOUISIANA GATORADE PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD TWICE?
A: It was incredible and extremely humbling because I put in a lot of hard work to get to that point. When hard work pays off it’s really sweet.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HEAD COACH TIM FLOYD LIKE?
A: Coach Floyd is awesome. He knows his basketball, but he is also a good guy too. When I came out to visit I was so impressed with everything.

Q: ARE THERE ANY INDIVIDUAL GOALS THAT YOU HAVE HAVING COMING INTO YOUR FRESHMAN YEAR?
A: I don’t have any individual goals—just I want to be a good teammate. I don’t have a certain amount of points I want to score or anything I just want to be a good teammate.

Q: HOW MUCH DID COACH FLOYD’S BACKGROUND WITH LOUISIANA PLAY A ROLL IN YOU CHOOSING UTEP?
A: I knew a little bit about coach Floyd’s background, but it didn’t influence my decision that much.

Q: WHAT LED YOU TO CHOOSE UTEP?
A: The fact that coach Floyd has coached at the highest level, he has coached some of the best players in the world and that he was willing to offer me a scholarship, so that was good enough for me.

IN A RECRUITING CLASS FULL OF GUARDS?
A: At first I was kind of skeptical about coming because there were a lot of players signing. Then I talked to coach Floyd and he said I was the only forward and he has forwards leaving, so I might get a lot of playing time. So it’s cool.

Q: HOW DO YOU TRANSITION FROM BEING A STAR AT WEST WIND TO BEING A FRESHMAN IN COLLEGE?
A: I am going to be humble about the situation and I am going to wait my time. When it is my time I can shine, so I have no problem with taking the backburner right now. I just do what I have to do when coach Floyd calls my name.

Just In: Coach Floyd of 247-Sports.

TREY TOUCHET
Future for MLS in El Paso still bright

BY JAVIER CORTÉZ
The Prospector

On July 6, the exhibition match between Chivas Guadalajara and Cruzeiro E.C. added more fuel to the fire as El Pasoans are string out on the world’s most popular sport.

With limited time for marketing the game, costly ticket prices for fans across the border and rainy weather, the fan turnout was impressive. Only half of the Sun Bowl was opened for seating, leaving about 26,000 seats available for purchase.

In total, 15,171 fans attended the game. Considering the slow ticket sales all week, it turned out to be a success. On the day of the game, more than 6,500 tickets were sold, according to the UTEP ticket office.

With the Sun Bowl’s oval-shaped configuration, the setting for soccer match was perfect. Grass was even brought in for the game, the first time the Sun Bowl has had grass in 40 years.

The Sun Bowl itself has been host to soccer over the years—the now defunct El Paso Patriots of the Premier Development League (PDL) played in the Sun Bowl from 1989-2001. Chivas Guadalajara and Cruzeiro E.C. are a step up from the now-defunct Patriots.

The game itself was a disappointment for most fans—the vast majority of them were decked out in the red-and-white striped Chivas jerseys. Although the Chivas supporters went home empty-handed, the atmosphere they created was the story of the match.

Chants of “Chivas, Chivas, Chivas!” echoed through the stadium, despite half of it being empty. The pictures of the gloomy sky or empty seats may show otherwise, but the fans made the game a success.

KINT Univision reporter Harry Ruiz, who was the public announcer for the game, said more fans would have attended if ticket prices were lower for fans across the border.

“They could have done better if the ticket prices were a little bit lower,” Ruiz said. “They could have attracted an even bigger fan base from Juarez. When all the ticket fees from ticketmaster goes through, it comes out to about $24 and in Mexico that’s about 300 pesos. In Juarez it is a lot. If the prices were lower they could have fit in around 35,000 people.”

The 15,000 fans in attendance nearly matched the average MLS attendance. The average MLS attendance in 2013 was 18,608, according to mlsoccer.com.

“They could have marketed the game a little better, but with the time they had, they did their best effort,” Ruiz said. “But it’s a good step—15,000 fans in a three-week span, it was a good outcome and good for El Paso.”

It is still too early to tell, but if 15,000 fans turn out in less than a month and more than 6,000 fans purchase tickets the day of the event, the future might be bright for MLS in El Paso. The improvements that need to be made are not the fans’ support, but the organization, marketing and planning of forthcoming events.

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