Union Plaza residents fight to save neighborhood

The El Paso Historical Landmark Commission suggests the city reconsiders arena location

There’s plenty of people in opposition in my neighborhood to actually say we’re not for sale

-Michael Patino, Owner of Rock House Café and Gallery

BY MICHAELA ROMÁN

Editor’s note: This is the second part of a three-part series on the Save the Union Plaza efforts.

The El Paso Historic Landmark Commission met again on Tuesday, Nov. 7 to hear both city officials and residents from the Union Plaza neighborhood to arrive at a formal stance on the city’s proposed arena location.

This followed a previous meeting on Monday, Oct. 24 where a few HLC commissioners felt they did not know enough about the history of the area and would postpone making any decision.

Commissioner Charles Stabler made a motion to recommend that city council to reconsider the project and Commissioner Joseph Longo seconded the decision. Commissioners William Helm, Edgar Lopez and Don Luciano recused themselves from the vote. The motion was passed with no opposition followed by cheers from supporters in the crowd.

City Attorney Sylvia Borunda Firth and City Manager Tommy Gonzalez, along with Deputy City Attorney Theresa Cullen spoke and explained why they chose this specific location.

After considering four different locations, each failed for reasons such as closures of major streets and exceeding the established budget. In the end, the El Paso City Council approved, in a 7-0 vote, on Oct. 18 that the $180 million downtown arena—supported by the Quality of Life Bond voters approved in 2012—would be built in the Union Plaza district.

In her presentation to the HLC, Borunda Firth discussed the 1998 Archaeological Technical Report for the Sun Metro Transit Authority, where author John Peterson amongst others found 18 sites and structures in the Union Plaza that they claimed should be deemed historic. Seven of these can be found in the area approved for demolition.

Borunda Firth is unsure why a survey was never conducted after this study came out.

“For the record—I’m gonna say it again—I didn’t say there was nothing historical. I said there was nothing in there with a historic designation,” Borunda Firth said.

Members against the demolition of the neighborhood murmured disapprovingly following Firths remarks.

Owner of the Rock House Café and Gallery that sits on the 400 block of Overland Street, Michael Patino, was amongst those satisfied with the HLC’s decision. His business and residence sits just outside the arena footprint.

Patino spoke to both city council and the HLC to defend his neighborhood.

“I’m glad we are recognized as a historic community,” Patino said. “We’ve shown that it’s a victory for people that do live in the area to give them some kind of calmness to their nerves.”

Patino considers his neighbors he would lose from the arena as family.

“They wouldn’t call the police. They would call me ‘Ay some creep is on the porch.’ That’s the unity we have in our neighborhood,” said Patino.

Advocates against the arena got together Friday, Nov. 4 at the Rock House Café to listen to stories from residents as they fight to stay in their homes. The event was hosted by see PLAZA on page 3
Ending the stigma associated with therapy and counseling

BY RENÉ DELGADILLO

I was lost and no one was there to understand what I was going through. No one knew about those nights when I cried alone in my car, nor did they know that my stress was destroying my physical and mental health.

I was having the biggest mental breakdown of my entire life, and I was crying so much for so many days that I felt quitting was the best option. I was going through depression once again in my life, and I had no idea what to do.

Everything that I was doing was wrong and bad stuff happened to me without a reason. I had no time to sleep or finish my homework, family fights were happening and my mom, who died 14 years ago, was always on my mind making me cry even more.

I had to face the fact that I needed help. I needed to break the stigma that I had toward going to therapy.

But it was not easy; when I was about to open the door to the counseling center at UTEP, I started crying. People were looking at me as if I was crazy. I had a stress attack, and I couldn’t open that door because I felt ashamed and weak.

With tears running down my face, I left the building, but midway down the stairs I stopped. I decided to open the door and talk about my problems with someone who would understand. It’s been two months since my first visit and I have to say it has been a life-changing experience.

I have learned that I’m not a weak person. I’m capable of overcoming everything that I’m experiencing. I’ve learned that crying is perfectly fine, and that I shouldn’t be ashamed by it. I got to know myself better, I finally understood who I was and who I could become in the future.

Counseling allowed me to recognize my fears, goals, mistakes and skills. I was finally able to express my emotions.

But I want to end the stigma and the stereotypes that people have toward people like me.

I’m not crazy dude, I’m not on medication. therapy does not consist of talking about my childhood, and yes my family does love me and my friends support me all the time.

It’s counseling for weak people? No its not. It’s counseling just for people with depression.

Why do people keep on believing the stereotypes that you see on television? Why see us as crazy lunatics who need medication to overcome our personal problems?

People who visit a therapist are not weak. Deciding to see a therapist is a courageous act and you shouldn’t judge any one’s decision. People who go to therapy have a lot of courage because counseling means exposing yourself to a stranger and expressing your deepest problems, emotions and thoughts.

Don’t treat us differently just because were seeing a therapist. I’m just a guy who is trying to do better in school and in life, and I’m sure that is the case in many other people around you. Don’t be afraid of having a conversation with a stranger, don’t make us feel different, because if you do avoid us, you’re just contributing to the stigma that already exists. We’re not going to harm anyone. We can actually be very helpful because we understand how difficult life can be.

Your counselor will never fix your problems. It will always be up to you to do better. He or she will respect your thoughts, decisions, mistakes and efforts. You don’t have to fake who you are while you’re in counseling. There is no necessity for masks during your visit. Being in counseling can help you be in contact with yourself, it can be a tool that helps you be aware of your feelings.

It can teach you that what you feel is perfectly okay and that you shouldn’t be ashamed because of it.

I accept that there are bad counselors out there, but if you have a bad experience, don’t be afraid of trying again. I know it can be difficult, but always remember to have this as an option that can help you out.

I don’t intend to say that all people have to visit or need a counselor. But if you feel punished down in a corner, you should look for healthy and positive ways in which you can benefit.

I know how it feels to be alone. I understand your anger, sadness, frustration and fear, but please do not give up. I believe in you. I know you’re capable of doing great things with your life, I know it sucks to be in your shoes right now, but don’t be afraid of opening your emotions to a stranger. Don’t let yourself down, if counseling is not for you talk to people who you believe will help you.

You’re not weak, you’re not crazy, you’re not awkward. You are just going through a difficult time. If you ever need someone to talk to or need to set an appointment visit the University Counseling Center at located at room 205 on Union West or at 747-5302.

Ending the stigma associated with therapy and counseling

Oh! The Places you can go if Trump becomes President

1. Alberta, Canada
2. Baja California, Mexico
3. Saskatchewan, Canada
4. Veracruz, Mexico
5. Texas, USA
6. Mexico City

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SPEAK YOUR MIND

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.

Submit a letter to the editor!

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PLAZA from page 1
Paso Del Sur, which is a 10-year-old organization that works for the rights of residents and workers of El Paso’s barrios against displacement and demolition.

Last Tuesday, Nov. 1, Mike Leibbrand showed up to City Council’s meeting where his neighborhood was on their agenda.

“I would like it is to have all the addresses of all the people that are here so that we can very quickly confirm to them whether they are within or without the footprint area,” Borunda Firth said. “We may be able to put some minds at ease.”

Leibbrand wrote down his phone number to find out if his apartment was within the boundaries but never heard back from anyone.

“I never received a phone call. I haven’t heard anything. I’ve heard that my apartment complex is in the boundaries, and that it’s not, and that I don’t really have to move but then I hear that eminent domain and everything else is going to happen but I’m handicapped and so is my roommate,” Leibbrand said.

Another supporter for saving the neighborhood at the event was Max Grossman, vice chair of the El Paso County Historic Commission. He assured the group gathered at the Rock House Café that his commission would do everything they can to make city council change their mind.

“There’s absolutely no compelling reason why it must be right here,” Grossman said. “There’s no compelling reason why 27 historic buildings have to be demolished so that we can be entertained here instead of over there.”

City representatives will hold their first community meeting to answer any questions or concerns from the community and address arena plans at 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 14 at the old fire station at the corner of Santa Fe Street and Paisano Street.

Patino is planning to protest at the meeting.

“We’re not negotiating, plain and simple. There’s plenty of people in opposition in my neighborhood to actually say we’re not for sale—and I’m one of those people,” said Patino.

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GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR
(Left) City Manager Tommy Gonzales argues in defense of the arena's location in front of the El Paso Historic Landmark Commission on Monday, Nov. 7. (Right) Michael Patino, owner of Rock House Café and Gallery speaks to the commission.
Student doesn’t give up on goal of working for NASA

BY MARIANA RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

After the Apollo moon landing in the 60s, space enthusiasts set their eyes on the next target: Mars. But four decades of unsuccessful human landings has pushed back the estimated landing date. For one UTEP student, the year 2030 could not come fast enough.

Hired by NASA on his first day of graduate school, Jesus Trillo is ready to start his career as a mechanical engineer at Florida’s Kennedy Space Center.

“I always knew I wanted to be an astronaut,” Trillo said. “That was always the end goal!”

After a visit to NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, Trillo left starstruck by both the equipment and possibilities. Unlike most children who abandon the idea of becoming an astronaut as they grow older, Trillo remained passionate about space and continued to visit the center during a class trip.

With a renewed inspiration to become an astronaut, Trillo wasted no time as a UTEP freshman and spent his first summer as an intern for General Motors in Arlington, Texas. From there on, there was no summer he did not spend working on his goal of being contracted by NASA.

He interned in Alabama, Mississippi, and Houston, until he was admitted into NASA’s Pathway Intern Employment Program—a highly competitive program for recent graduates who wish to be considered for federal employment. But, he said, the journey was not easy.

Trillo’s first internship with NASA marked the summer he knew what he wanted to do with his career. He worked in the Propulsion Systems Department of the Marshall Center’s Engineering Directorate, where he helped engineers test the components of F-1 engines.

His participation with the department sparked an interest in him that steered him in the direction of mechanical engineering. “Propulsion is what I’m passionate about,” Trillo said.

Trillo’s mentor at the Marshall Center and propulsion system engineer, Nick Case, agrees with him.

“I expect to hear a lot more about him in the near future, and hopefully he’ll help lead us in accomplishing the bold goals NASA is pursuing,” Case stated in an interview with NASA in 2012.

With two NASA internships under his belt, Trillo prepared himself to graduate with a bachelor’s in mechanical engineering and apply for a position at NASA.

When NASA rejected his application, he decided to stay for his master’s at UTEP. A move he chose because NASA typically only hires students still enrolled in school. His decision to continue his studies was supported by the chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Absan R. Choudhury, whose work motivated and inspired Trillo to not become disheartened by the lack of response.

Working alongside Choudhury, Trillo was able to pay for graduate school and gain more experience with his field of study. He says his internships, research work and graduate school all pushed him to apply one last time.

Trillo was able to pay for graduate school all pushed him to apply one last time. His participation with the department sparked an interest in him that steered him in the direction of mechanical engineering.

“I want to be as involved as possible in the journey to Mars as I can be,” Trillo said. “I want to help make history.”

“Now that he’s been accepted, I’m really excited for him,” said Jacklyn Govea, a close friend of Trillo and a graduate student in mechanical engineering. “He always helps other students so they won’t fall behind in school.”

In the time between starting at NASA and becoming an astronaut, Trillo is ready to become a permanent member of the NASA team.

“It’s amazing,” he says. “I still can’t believe it.”

With his perseverant attitude, Trillo might just make it all the way to Mars.

Radical Soup: a recipe for discussion

BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ

Radical Soup is a collection of leftists, who combine their love of community discussion and vegetarian soup. It’s a mashup of scholars, activists, students and professionals, who aim to stir up discussion about the problems of the world and how to solve them.

Susana Contreras, one of the organizers and co-founder, said that Radical Soup started as a group of friends who wanted to create a safe space for discussion and turned into a gathering of roundtable discussions, soup lovers and keynote speakers about a variety of topics.

“Personally, the reason I wanted Radical Soup to exist is because I felt that sometimes college campuses, where I participated in many leftist groups and discussions, are not accessible unless you are a student, or involved with the university in some way,” said Contreras.

While the organization does not have any specific political ideology, they are explicitly anti-capitalist and focus on finding the root causes of problems in the world.

Gabriel Solís, a UTEP student getting his master’s degree in history, is one of the organizers and also a co-founder.

“One of the reasons we use radical is the main definition of radical, which is to get to the root of something,” Solís said. “So we want to look at the root causes, the material root causes of things. Why is there racism in this country, why is there sexism in this country, why is it this city is trying to dispossess a Mexican-American neighborhood right now?”

The next gathering that Radical Soup will host will be about the history of Las Sierras, a group of women who live in El Paso’s Union Plaza neighborhood.

“We have a core collective group of five people, then we invite someone to present on that topic, and what is going on, and what people can do about it,” Solís said.

“Then we talk about the big accomplishments of the day, we talk about the border wall and the history of the border wall, we talked about the maquiladoras issue,” Solís said.

“I think that maintaining his work ethic and attitude he’s had since he was hired by NASA, he said, but he thinks that maintaining his work ethic and attitude he’s had since his first couple of years at UTEP will carry him through the application process one more time.

“[S]he’s a great leader,” said Jacklyn Mena, a close friend of Trillo and a graduate student in mechanical engineering. “He always helps other students so they won’t fall behind in school.”

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Radical Soup started that it included free soup at every event. Radical Soup makes sure that the soup is always vegetarian so anybody can eat it, and the cost of the soup is so low that seems to far seems to be vegetarian possible, which always seems to run out.

“We believe that soup is revolutionary, that the power to come together and share a meal can lead to revolutionary action,” Contreras said. “We do not call ourselves an activist group, but rather hope to serve as an open space for dialogue from which activism can occur.”

Radical Soup meets every last Friday of the month at different locations. For more information, visit their Facebook page or at radicalessoup915.com.
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Mastermind hooded PU leather bomber jacket, $125.
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Patricia Flores, doctoral student in rhetoric and composition studies, recently defended her dissertation this past Monday, Oct. 31, in which she associates yoga to an increase in interpersonal communication.

According to Flores, besides health benefits for mental illnesses that come with practicing yoga, it can also improve communication. She said this study will benefit the 55 million people in the U.S. currently practicing yoga.

The study used qualitative research methods where 19 interviews were conducted throughout El Paso for data collection purposes. Those interviewed were required to have practiced yoga regularly for a minimum of three months.

“Through the methodology and the analysis, I discovered that yoga has a positive impact on interpersonal communication or how we communicate with each other,” Flores said. “Once that data was collected and I was analyzing the response of the participants, I came up with five categories that correlate to a positive increase in interpersonal communication.”

These five categories are mindfulness, the self, acceptance, personal growth and patience. Flores said these categories work together through yoga and help improve interpersonal communication.

Sarah Upton, assistant professor in communication, was the advisor in charge of helping Flores with framing the study and the methodology used for a solid conclusion.

“Mindfulness is this idea of being able to be present about what’s happening. If you can practice it, let’s say you are having a conversation with another person and they say something that bothers you, instead of reacting immediately and getting frustrated, you might have a moment to think about it or pause,” Upton said. “When we are mindful, then we are more present in conversations with other people and we can really practice these other skills.”

Upton also emphasized the category of acceptance by mentioning invitational theory: the idea of speaking to people with the purpose of trying to persuade them. She said by accepting ourselves and others, we can have more authentic conversations.

“With the increase of technology we are losing our communication skills, meaning that individuals and the society have become exclusive and isolated and this is why I think it is really important to find new ways in which we can develop these skills in communicating with each other,” Flores said.

Upton also described how this study is different from the rest of the literature in communication.

“When people make the choice of practicing yoga, they can really find out the personal growth in which the literature focuses on heavily, but Patty’s study shows that while you are working on that, you are also strengthening your connection with people around you and increasing those positive interactions,” Upton said.

Upton also stressed the importance of yoga on the border by recalling the teaching of Anton Mackey at El Paso’s most recent yoga festival in October.

“He was saying the border is the place where we need yoga the most. Here, we get to decide if we are going to continue building connections, seeking community in El Paso and Juárez, or if we are going to listen to what we are hearing in the conversations around us about how border

Samantha Turley, junior communication studies major, has been practicing yoga for nine years and recently began teaching it around a year ago. She said yoga definitely improves communication.

Turley sees yoga as therapy. She said yoga has allowed her to get out of frustrations while working out as well as having a clear perspective of things and becoming more open-minded about the world that surrounds her.

“When you are practicing yoga, you have to listen to the instructor and what happens in your body. The same way happens when we are communicating with another person, you have to listen to what the other person is saying to you,” said Turley.
The state of men’s style: No-Shave November

BY ERIC VASQUEZ

For men, the month of November has become a half pass to experiment with their grooming patterns. Cancer awareness groups like Movember and No-Shave November even made the effort to encourage men to grow facial hair, whether in patches or by shaving the whole face. Unruly beards are leaving, “Matthews said. “It’s crazy what just shaping your beard can do for your face. It’s like makeup for guys.”

According to the video, full beards were popular in the 70s and 2010s, but for a few decades, namely the 50s and 2000s, being clean-shaven was the way to go. However, for several periods of time, including the first 30 years of the 20th century, mustaches were very popular. These days, however, most beards are seen as a joke, a parody of men’s grooming that is meant for self-effacing humor.

“I know a lot of girls who can’t stand a mustache,” Matthews said. “I just don’t look in the mirror to have your face in it all, especially when it starts curling into the lip like little spider fingers.”

According to Matthews, the reason why it is so hard to pull off a mustache is because the fullness of the hair is vital. It is hard for a man with sparse hair on his lip to not look like Kip Dynamite. Combine this with a man first experience with a mustache—the ghost of one that signals another victim of puberty—and to wear a mustache with confidence is a feat in and of itself.

The paradox of a mustache is that the few men who have pulled them off had the style named after them. The style almost defined the man. The Shakespeare, Charlie Chaplin all have become iconic mustaches.

There’s an appeal to the style of facial hair, but a complicated code to find it. Facial hair is a fact of life. So much so that major religions like Christianity and Islam have specific rules on beard care. The World Beard and Mustache Championships—which is a thing by the way—hold an annual competition for the world’s most talented facial hair growers and groomers.

The truth of the matter is that men grow facial hair, whether in patches or by shaving, and if an opportunity allows us a chance to grow facial hair, why not?

Follow Eric Vasquez on Twitter @ericbaskets

By Eric Vasquez

November 8, 2016

Are you participating in No-Shave November?

ONXY GALLEGOS
Junior graphic design major
“I will participate in No-Shave November because after all these years, I can finally grow a beard.”

EUGRADO LUNA
Firefighter business major
“I didn’t grow a beard so I won’t even try to do it.”

ABDUL CORONADO
Senior pre-nursing major
“Ha, I’m not participating in No-Shave November. It’s just that I have been in the U.S. for eight years, and being back in school I want to let my beard grow.”

AJAY PAREEK
Graduate student in engineering
“Yes, I am taking No-Shave November as a challenge. This month I plan to make a difference in my small way by donating to a cancer foundation at the end of the month.”

LUIS RENTERIA
Sophomore mechanical engineering major
“Actually no, because at my work we have to shave every day. We can’t have a beard.”

ALONZO EVANS
Sophomore electrical engineering major
“Yes, because it’s very traditional between me and my friends. It’s fun to see the different kinds of beards people can grow.”

SHANTANU ROJATKAR
Graduate student in philosophy
“I didn’t know about it and how it supports a social cause, but now I’m definitely going to keep my beard for the rest of the month.”

ALFRED LIGGINS
Senior mechanical engineering major
“No, I do plan on doing it. I want to see how much I can grow out in a month.”

GENESIS LOPEZ
Senior education major
“I haven’t been shaving for many months now, so I guess you can say I’m taking part in No-Shave November too.”

OMAR CORDOVA
Junior music education major
“Yes, I do plan on taking part. It’s a good cause and it’s a nice way to relax and not worry about having to shave.”

The Pros

Claudia Hernandez / The Prospector

Claudia Hernandez is a hair stylist at Corrin’s Style. She has been styling hair for several periods of time, including the first 30 years of the 20th century, mustaches were very popular. These days, however, most beards are seen as a joke, a parody of men’s grooming that is meant for self-effacing humor.

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Follow Eric Vasquez on Twitter @ericbaskets
The best, worst and memorable tattoos from the artists themselves

BY JASON GREEN
The Prospector

The popularity of television shows such as “Miami Ink,” “Inked” and “Ink Master” brought tattooing into the mainstream media. They have made tattoos less taboo and more recognized as a true art form. El Paso has seen a boom in tattoo studios in recent years, but becoming a legitimate tattoo artist is still not something that is easy to do.

Former UTEP student Brian Stephens is an artist at Dapper Ink Tattoo and a former contestant on “Ink Master.” He says that becoming a tattoo artist is more than just having the ability to draw.

“I started out cleaning and mopping, setting everybody up, bringing them food, taking them out, being their designated driver—everything. We did that for about a year and a couple of months,” Stephens said.

After that period of time, Stephens said that he was allowed to start tattooing his friends who volunteered.

“The dumbest friends I had,” said Stephens with a smile.

Mitchell Dean, a tattoo artist at Gold- en Goose Tattoo, said that he paid his dues by sweeping floors and practicing on pigeons and even himself.

“But, it’s really hard to cry and tattoo at the same time so, I couldn’t really finish those!” Dean said.

The owner of West Texas Tattoo, Eric Ward, is a 25-year veteran of tattooing and said that the first few years of tattooing are a constant learning process.

“I lost (the nerves) maybe a year or two into it,” said Ward. “Until I was comfortable, it was probably 15 years into it. But even now, I still feel like I need to learn. I’m still not comfortable with my stuff at all, there’s just so much to learn. You’ve got to keep growing and growing.”

In some states, the apprenticeship in a tattoo studio is an actual certifiable necessity for a young tattoo artist.

In Texas, it is more of a requirement demanded of want-to-be young tattoo artists by seasoned tattoo artists. There are, however, some requirements by the state in order to protect citizens who decide to get tattooed.

“You have to get a bloodborne pathogens certificate, and that’s saying that you know all about pathogens and diseases and how to keep everything clean,” said Stephens. “Once you get that, then you have to pay an annual fee to the city and state to be licensed as a tattoo artist. At that point, they check your studio and everything!”

For people who tattoo every day of their lives, one would think that these three have seen it all. Tattoos are often used as memorials for people to remember loved ones for the rest of their life. So, what tattoos have meant the most to these three are the Pinterest trends.

“The infinity symbols, all that good sentimental tattoos. That’s rough,” said Stephens. “I started out cleaning and mopping, setting everybody up, bringing them food, taking them out, being their designated driver—everything. We did that for about a year and a couple of months,” Stephens said.

“Once you get that, then you have to pay an annual fee to the city and state to be licensed as a tattoo artist. At that point, they check your studio and everything!”

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As tattoos—and tattoo television shows—become more popular, the corps of artists and customer base continues to grow. Apart from going with a tattoo artist, at Dapper Ink Tattoo, Dean has one key piece of advice when picking out a tattoo for the first time.

“Your should already have a style in mind for how you want it to look. This way, when looking through an artist’s work, you can see if he does the style you’re looking for,” Dean said. “Always check out the shop in person. This way you can feel the overall vibe of the shop and meet the artist as well. Listen to the advice the artist gives you, they will tell you if your idea will work as a tattoo. They won’t feel good about price, cheap doesn’t mean good.

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Mac’s Place: Quality seafood for El Paso

BY JASON GREEN

The Prospector
When a place says Fish-Shrimp-Chicken on their sign in El Paso, I’ve learned to automatically steer clear for the sake of my arteries. I grew up near the beach and developed a strong love for seafood and an even stronger dislike of the Long John Silver’s type of deep-fried seafood.

I had not actually heard of Mac’s Place until a friend suggested that I fill the seafood emptiness in my soul by visiting the tiny little café off East Mills Avenue, right next to San Jacinto Plaza. Of course, my heart dropped when I saw the sign out front, as I really did not want any fried seafood—ever. My spirits were lifted, however, when I walked in and saw that the first table near the door had a giant plate of raw oysters on the half shell.

I sat down at the bar next to the window with a great view of Mills Avenue for people watching and was quickly welcomed by an attentive waiter. I ordered a dozen oysters without hesitation.

The restaurant is small, but at lunchtime on a Thursday the place was jumping. The customer base seems loyal, as there was often no need for the one-page menu—though one of the owners, Gelaine Apuan, was quick to offer the daily specials to each visitor. On this day, there was an Ahi tuna steak with an Asian glaze served rare over a bed of rice with a side salad. Definitely not what one would expect from this tiny bistro, as the desert. My aversion to fried fish does not mean that there is not necessarily tasty; I just did not try it.

The restaurant also serves blackened fish, shrimp cocktails and, on some days, a great-tasting shrimp and fish ceviche. On this day, I also tried the very reasonably priced $4.50 clam chowder, as fall has finally begun to bring a nip to the air in El Paso.

The chowder was hearty, with large chunks of potato and a very generous portion of clams. The flavor was sweet and milky, not overly fishy. When the oysters arrived I was in seafood heaven.

I have eaten oysters in El Paso before, and I can honestly say that this is the first time that no shell made its way into the oyster for me to swallow. Additionally, not many oyster shuckers outside of New Orleans bother to detach the foot of the oyster from the shell prior to serving, but Wayne did, which was something I appreciated.

Upon inquiry, I found out that the oysters arrive fresh to the restaurant every Thursday from Louisiana so that they will be most fresh for weekend customers. For those who may not be as obsessed with bivalves as this reporter, I also might add that October to February is oyster season.

The Ahi tuna was absolutely amazing. The Asian-inspired sauce was sweet, salty and citrusy at the same time and was sprinkled on top of a massive Ahi steak, which was perfectly grilled to a crisp on each side. The steak was rare—but not cold—in the middle. I honestly could have eaten two more of the tuna steaks and at least two dozen more oysters, really the price was not that much of an issue. The entire meal came out to less than $30.

For most plates on the menu—most of which come with fries—the price is $7.50. The seafood is bought locally and only frozen when it comes to fried food.

El Paso can be a hard place to find good seafood, but if you are in the mood and have not found just the right place, give Mac’s Place a shot.

Follow Jason Green on Twitter @rgreenevansj

Mac’s Place is located East Mills Avenue, right next to San Jacinto Plaza.

Mac’s Place is a small, no-frills seafood restaurant in El Paso, Texas, that offers a variety of seafood dishes, including raw oysters, blackened fish, shrimp cocktails, and a wide range of seafood specials. The restaurant is small, but its loyal customer base often results in no need for the one-page menu. The owner, Gelaine Apuan, offers daily specials to each visitor, and the restaurant is known for its fresh seafood. The prices are reasonable, with most plates on the menu coming in at $7.50. The restaurant is located right next to San Jacinto Plaza on East Mills Avenue in El Paso. The Ahi tuna steak served rare over a bed of rice with a side salad is a must-try dish, as is the giant plate of raw oysters on the half shell. The restaurant is especially known for its oysters, which are fresh and not served in their shell, a rare find in El Paso. The restaurant is open for lunch on Thursdays, and its menu includes a variety of seafood dishes, including clams, clams, and shrimp cocktails. The restaurant is a great place to visit if you are looking for good seafood in El Paso.
Guide to the best/worst restrooms on campus

BY MIKE FLORES

Worst Restrooms:

5) UGLC, first floor

Yes, the Undergraduate Learning Center is relatively new, but the number of students that go in and out of that building makes their bathrooms number five. Every UTEP student has had to attend classes in the UGLC, which pretty much means every student has probably used those bathrooms. There is never a time when those rooms are unoccupied. Since so many undergraduates are dealing with the loads of work that they were not used to in high school, these restrooms are used too much. This means there is a lot of maintenance that these restrooms need, and since the custodians are just doing maintenance at the worst times. There is never a time when those rooms are used too much. Since so many undergraduates are dealing with the loads of work that they were not used to in high school, these restrooms are used too much. This means there is a lot of maintenance that these restrooms need, and since the custodians are just doing maintenance at the worst times.

4) Union East, first floor

Like the UGLC, these Union restrooms are in the middle of everyday life for college students. The Union consists of all the cool things on campus, vending machines and restaurants, places to relax and study. Considering all the items at hand for scholars, needing to go is bound to happen. There is constant in-and-out flow in these restrooms, and to make matters worse, the Wi-Fi is not always working. The odors that are produced in the Union restrooms are unpleasant, and that’s putting it nicely. Overall, if you don’t mind waiting for a potty and can hold your breath for more than five minutes, then the Union might be for you.

3) Psychology building

There are three levels in the psychology building, so you would assume the architects would put more than one restroom in the whole thing, right? Wrong. There is only one place for students to relieve themselves. To top it off, the rooms are extremely crowded. With only a couple of stalls to use, waiting is mandatory most of the time. Waiting your turn is not ideal when you really need to go, and once you are fortunate enough to receive your very own stall there is some of UTEP’s best vandalism for your viewing pleasure. Students could miss a lot of valuable information in class just because they couldn’t hold it any longer, and maybe they have to travel all the way downstairs from the third floor to the first to get there. Overall, only use the psychology restrooms if Mother Nature needs to be answered at that exact moment.

2) Liberal Arts

The College of Liberal Arts is the largest college on the UTEP campus. The building was opened up in 1961, so in other words, the building is old and their restrooms follow the same pattern. They are the most ancient restrooms that UTEP has to offer. When a student walks in, they are greeted with the smell of the rotten eggs and sewage. People tend to not flush the toilets very often, but at least the students use toilet paper—even though most of it ends up on the floor. In the corners of the stalls there is always someone’s gum from who knows how long ago. My advice? Hold it.

1) Geology Building, except for the first floor

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Best Restrooms:

4) Miners Hall

Miners Hall is one of the few buildings that is overlooked by the average student. I feel like many people do not know where it is if you ask them, so this is the perfect place to use the restroom in peace. The restroom is very easy to find once you enter the building, and there is no commotion like the rest of the busy college campus. One of the best aspects about this Miners Hall restroom is how spacious it is. There is little to no crowding going on. The stalls have no vandalism done to its walls, and the cleanliness stands out, especially when you walk in. Some of the worst restrooms have overflowing trashcans, making the floors splattered with dirty paper towels, but not in Miners Hall—the trash can is bigger than most, and it seems like an impossible task to mess it up.

3) Psychology building

Psychology building is the closest thing to perfect as a restroom. Although the administration building is in the middle of the school and right across the Centennial Plaza, students tend not to walk through the doors. If there were a contest for the cleanest restroom on the UTEP campus, this would win 9 out of 10 times. When a student walks in, they are embraced by blue walls and the scent of Febreze. Since there are many faculty members who roam the Administration Building, they keep their restrooms looking nicer than some classrooms. Privacy is a huge key to these restrooms, especially on the first floor. There is no hurry to get done, and the Wi-Fi is top notch.

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1) Health Sciences and Nursing Building

One word describes this creation—an amazing! Eight years ago, this building was brought to life and it feels like no one has used it since. This is the closest thing to perfect as a restroom could get. The color schemes are brilliant and really bring joy to the room, a feeling I didn’t think existed in a restroom. They are one of the newest restrooms, so they have all the best-looking toilets, sinks, air dryers and stalls. It’s like a bathroom from a magazine. There are many stalls and urinals for use and they sparkle. Overall, this is as close to home as you can find at UTEP.
Sports

By Mike Flores

UTEP men’s basketball will tip off their season at the Don Haskins Center against the Louisiana College Wildcats on Saturday, Nov. 12. In the 2015-2016 season, the Miners went 19-14 and defended their home court strongly, going 14-4. UTEP opened on a six-game winning streak to start last year’s season, and this year the Miners look to do the same, starting with the Wildcats.

On the other side, the Division III LCU battled their way to a 14-13 overall record last season but did not travel well—going 4-9 away from their home court.

New and upcoming years are a time for teams to clean their slate and start off fresh—that’s what the Miners will do with six incoming freshmen on the roster and nine players not returning from the previous season. Nonetheless, some of the biggest downfalls last year for UTEP basketball were their ability to protect the paint and secure rebounds. Most of their struggles had to do with injuries in the front court, with the Miners’ starting center Matt Willms missing all but two games last season.

That Miner’s unit was outside of the top 50 in rebounding last year, averaging 36 rebounds per game as a team, and found themselves ranked 160th in blocks per game, with only 3.5 per contest—all without the big man from the Canadian side.

Floyd decided to recruit smaller for the new season and picked guards for five out of the six new recruits. True freshman Kelvin Jones is the lone center among the new faces.

“Freshman Kelvin Jones is the lone center among the new faces. His ability to protect the paint and secure rebounds will be key roles.”

“The most important thing from Terry’s game was him only having one turnover. He had 12 in our or ange and white scrimmage,” Floyd said. “He’s beating himself up on his turnovers, most guys beat themselves up on missed shots, but he’s doing it when he throws the ball away. I know that’s it’s not good for our team.”

Arts continued his unusual scoring with 25 points, and eight of his points coming in overtime. Winn chipped in with 19, and Omega Harris had 10—all coming in the second half.

However, UTEP’s defense will need to add another item to the correct in the lab, and that is getting out on the three-point line. UAF connected on 13-3 point baskets, and three of the downtown shots came in overtime, almost ending the comeback attempt for the Miners. Floyd’s team only attempted eight 3-pointers in the first round of the C-USA tournament to advance to the elite eight of the NCAA tournament.

Women’s basketball debuts season against Northern Arizona

By Adrian Broadus

The UTEP women’s basketball team anticipates their 43rd season in program history when they take on Northern Arizona on Friday, Nov. 11, at the Don Haskins Center.

“Last season, the Miners hit a high point. They cracked the top-25 last season with their 11-game win streak from December through late January. They finished 29-5 and shared the conference title after their magical 94-91 victory over Charlotte. However, the Miners fell in the second round of the C-USA tournament to Old Dominion, which ruled them out of the women’s NCAA tournament.

But, their season was not over. They crawled up to the elite eight of the NCAA tournament to fall to Oregon in a tough 71-67 match.”

The pug has now turned. The group is ready to leave the past behind and start anew. With only one returning starter in guard Janelle Nash, the squad is tasked to adjust quickly to the game and re-formulate.

Also returning to the team from last year are guards Sparkle Taylor, Lahi McKinney, Najah Howell and forward Tamar Seda.

Prior to the season, seniors Nash and Taylor were voted to the C-USA Preseason Team, which was selected by the head coaches in the conference. Nash, the returning leading scorer for the Miners (13.8 points per game), is expected to have another breakout season. Taylor, who proved her talents off the bench and contributed with stellar minutes, is hungry for her breakthrough season as a true starter for the Miners.

Over the weekend, the Miners debuted their talent against another team for the first time. They rolled over St. Mary’s, Texas, 72-54, in their first and only exhibition game of the season. It was a chance for coach Adams to get a feel for her young talent and showcasing her players in their key roles.

It was not a bad first outing,” Adams said after the game. “We have a lot of young players and lot to learn. We had some moments where we did some good things that we’ve been working on in practice and then we obviously have some areas that we really need to work on. A lot of our new, young players were a little bit nervous for their first big outing under the lights, but I like our kids. We just have to settle in, and as they get more comfortable we’ll be better.”

The newcomers and bench players, as stated by Adams, had quite an outing during the game. Their bench out-scored the Rattlers 36-26 in the win.

Throughout the game, the Miners scored 39.1 percent from the floor and out-rebounded the Rattlers 35-35. Seda led the force on the boards with 10 for the day.

The Miners hope to shift their success they had during the exhibition game to their first regular season game against Northern Arizona. Tip off will begin at 7:05 p.m. on Friday at the Don Haskins Center.
Football hunts for second straight win against FAU

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

“Only three more. Only three more games to go”—this phrase echoed through the Miners’ locker room after they rolled over the Houston Baptist Huskies 42-10.

Head coach Sean Kugler and his troops are on a mission: to win the remainder of their games this year to have any hope at a bowl game.

The Miners capped off their easiest win against Houston Baptist on Saturday, Nov. 5.

Their three remaining games, away against Florida Atlantic (Nov. 12) and Rice (Nov. 19) and at home against North Texas (Nov. 26), are do-or-die for the group.

But what is the recipe that Kugler needs to cook up to lift up his team and win the remainder of the games?

According to him, it is all about swift translation week after week.

“You always use the positives you take out in games and translate it next week,” Kugler said after the victory against the Huskies. “We will try and correct the things we didn’t do well. We’re very aware where we are. We’re 3-6, not 6-3. We have to win the rest to have the opportunity at a bowl game.”

In a very patient tone, Kugler stressed the importance on focusing on simply the next game, against Florida Atlantic, rather than have a jumbled thought process on the rest of the season.

“(The opportunity at a bowl game) starts against Florida Atlantic,” Kugler said. “We know our history and how UTEP has not been the best going to the Eastern time zone. If history may be broken, we need to work hard and prepare for that.”

- Sean Kugler
UTEF football head coach

Last week, the Owls came off their first win since opening day against Rice, 45-25. In the win, they notched two notable records in program history—they broke their school record for total yards, 657, and their freshman tailback broke the team’s single-game rushing record with his 252 yards.

Although they are out of postseason contention, the Owls have not stopped themselves from pursuing victories and continuing on. Their next mission is to ruin the season that the Miners are trying to patch up.

“Honestly, I’m just proud of the resilience of our players,” said FAU head coach Charlie Partridge after their victory against Rice. “We’ve been through a lot this year. We’ve had our challenges. To see them finally get a chance to sing our fight song after a win in the locker room is a special moment.”

However, the Miners will bring that same resiliency that FAU promises on Saturday, Nov. 12, in the Sunshine state.

“These kids are going to continue to salvage and fight,” Kugler said. “There’s still a whole lot of season left.”

Chasing the record books
With his monstrous 228-yard field day against Houston Baptist, standout running back Aaron Jones is on track to surpass John Harvey’s 3,576 career yards as the school’s leading rusher.

Currently, Jones has 3,509 yards to his name through his three seasons with the Miners; therefore, 67 is the magical number for Jones to notch his name as the program’s all-time leading rusher.

Against Houston Baptist, Jones did not play past the first series of the third quarter, yet still racked up over 200 yards and two touchdowns. If Kugler had not decided to reserve him and shield him from possible injury, Jones might have broken numerous records during the evening.

“That’s always in my head, but I still had fun,” Jones said. “The line did a great job opening holes for me all night.”

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus

GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR