“Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter,”

Thomas Jefferson
Be more attentive if you get your news from Facebook

BY RENÉ DELGADO

The future generations of journalists might be in serious trouble if they continue to show their inability to distinguish real news from fake news. A 2016 study from Stanford’s Graduate School of Education found less than a third of college students from three different universities were able to tell how the policy agendas of progressive public advocacy groups influence the content of social media posts. This suggests some college students are not aware of the authenticity of news on social media when in comes to political issues.

A couple of days ago rumors about possible checkpoints near UTEP and international crossings of enforcement agents were circulating around a Facebook group, causing concern for some students. UTEP officials said in a statement, “UTEP’s exercise science and the University Police have no information to support these rumors.”

This trend could lead to a generation whose political beliefs and decisions are based on biased and fake news articles and in today’s political climate, the last thing this country needs is more uninformed citizens who believe everything coming out on their Facebook feed is real.

How many times have you been scrolling down your news feed to find another ridiculous headline about Trump or about the policies he wants to implement? It becomes common to see how many of our Facebook friends don’t even take the time to actually read the entire article before sharing it on several social media platforms. Some stories shared on Facebook have caused panic among people in the U.S. Rumors about visa removals and enforcement actions for having relatives of President Donald Trump on their phone while crossing the border have been spreading without the confirmation of any authorities or victims. But people keep on sharing posts without knowing the fear it may bring to other immigrants.

Getting your news entirely from Facebook is useful if you want to be among those media members who should be penalized for writing something that is factually correct is contradictory to all our inherent beliefs. Even worse, being a citizen of a country where a resident could be punished for reading or watching news world events has kept frightening a journalist’s job is to bring forth the news, spread awareness, give insight and inform readers about the happenings in the world. Without us and without our freedoms to publish, our country will become uninformed, confused and unaware of its surroundings.

Whether it is President Donald Trump or the repeal of freedom of the press, there will be little that stops the modern day journalist from their liberties. Everyday at The Prospector, we value our constitution-given rights as journalists, and no man or force could take away the beliefs that are instilled in our day-to-day principles.

America is in need of strong journalists in this age and day, and we are proud to have publications that contribute to this movement.

When the White House began deciding which media outlets could attend briefings last week, which limited the First Amendment rights of all Americans by proxy, a new era of the Trump administration began. One lot further from democracy, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights containing the amendments allowing us the freedom to monitor the government and hold them accountable, and a Little closer to a dictatorship or other form of government in which Thomas Jefferson and the nations forefathers were hoping to avoid.

A government built on checks and balances cannot be truly ‘checked’ without a free press. This is why we stand with the numerous media outlets that were barred from attending the White House media ‘gaggle’ last week.
10 signs you’re being scammed

**1. Requesting Personal Information**
Scammers might persuade students to divulge personal information such as email or login credentials to different websites by pretending to be an administrator working for such sites. For example, according to UTEP’s Information Security Office, a phishing scam in 2015 urged students to update their email account by clicking on a link that could lead to a fake login screen.

**2. Unsolicited Offers**
Students may receive emails with job or internship opportunities they did not apply for. “If someone is going to offer you a job, there is most likely going to be some face-to-face or web conferencing, but if you haven’t solicited an application, then you should not communicate with them,” said Castro-Duarte.

**3. Forwarding, Wiring, or Money**
Students may be persuaded to cash checks and transfer money to another account or give away personal information for fear of missing out on certain opportunities. “These scammers are people who are very strategically picking on universities to target students because of financial situations,” said Betsy Castro-Duarte, the director of career services. Here’s 10 things the career center suggests you should look out for.

**4. Grammatical Errors**
The email or document received from the scammer can be plagued with misspellings and grammatical errors. Students can make use of the Career Center or Job Miner to validate the legitimacy of a job offer. “We call employers, we verify, we Google their address, and we do our due diligence to make sure the jobs we post are legitimate,” said Castro-Duarte.

**5. Untraceable Payment Methods**
Scammers might ask for untraceable methods of payment such as a MoneyGram to cover their tracks. PayPal, Google Checkout and payment methods endorsed by large corporations are a safer option.

**6. Loss of Opportunities**
Students may be given an ultimatum or a red flag after failing to respond. “Spam” folders or “junk” files are some examples of the attachments sent as email or document delivery, receipt, or response.

**7. Misleading Addresses**
Some addresses might be suspicious, and in some cases, scammers can mislead victims into a fake situation. A legitimate business should be registered and traceable. “We have had instances when we have inspected a location of a potential employer and it turned out to be an empty lot,” said Castro-Duarte.

**8. Student Loan Scams**
Too-good-to-be-true student loan opportunities with low interest are common ways of targeting students and requesting financial information. “We know you need money to go to school, we know a quick buck is nice, but if it is a questionable method, it is not something you should pursue immediately,” said Castro-Duarte.

**9. Junk Email and Suspicious Attachments**
In some cases, students will receive emails with questionable information or attachments directly to their “junk” or “spam” folders.

**10. Questionable Honorary Organizations**
Scammers might receive emails from supposed honorary societies asking for membership fees upfront. These organizations might claim national recognition, but they may not be backed by UTEP. “School-endorsed honorary societies are not going to charge you more than a minimum fee, but these are people you get a direct benefit from,” said Castro-Duarte.

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**A DISCUSSION ON LESLIE MARMON SILKO’S ‘CEREMONY’**

The first Mining Books of the year will be led by Deane Mansfield-Kelley on Leslie Marmom Silko’s “Ceremony,” a novel based on the traditions of the Navajo and pueblo people. The talk will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, at the Blumberg Auditorium in the UTEP Library. Refreshments will be provided.

**DESIGN ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS THAT MATTER**

Meagan Kendall will be speaking at 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, at the Physical Sciences Building, room 208. The talk will focus on engineering solutions based on design thinking. Refreshments will be provided.

**‘HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE FAST LANE: LOOKING OUT FOR THE POTHOLES’**

Belle Wheelan, president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, will deliver a lecture as part of the Centennial Lecture Series. The lecture will be at 4 p.m. on March 2, at the UGLC, room 106.

**LET’S TALK ABOUT PRIVILEGE AND OPPRESSION**

The Brown Bag series’ next talk on contemporary social issues will be at 3 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. on March 7, at the Union West, room 111. Free food will be provided.

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**NO WORRIES. DONATE PLASMA.**

Bring this to your 1st visit and receive a $10 bonus.*

Pay for college expenses on your own is tough. You can earn money while helping to create life-saving treatments by donating plasma. A $305 in your 1st five visits!

New donors earn up to $305 in your 1st 5 visits!

Visit one of the 6 Talecris Plasma Resource centers near you.

*In addition to meeting donation criteria, you must provide a valid photo ID, proof of address, and your Social Security or immigration card to donate. Must be 18 years of age or older and weigh at least 110 pounds to donate. grifolsplasma.com

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**February 28, 2017**

**482**

**10**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2017**

**THE PROSPECTOR**

**NEWS | 3 | THE PROSPECTOR**

**By Eddie Velaquez**

**The Prospector**

As technology and digital networking become more ubiquitous in college environments, the risk of job and financial swindles have also increased.

From popular fund transfer scams like the Nigerian Prince series to financial aid fraud rings and fraudulent job opportunities, the student demographic is constantly targeted as a part of these practices.

“The scammers are people who are very strategically picking on universities to target students because of financial situations,” said Betsy Castro-Duarte, the director of the University Career Center.

Here’s 10 things the career center suggests you should look out for.

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Sin miedo al cruzar la frontera

Carlos Fierro, estudiante de ingeniería mecánica en la Universidad de Texas en El Paso, es uno de los estudiantes internacionales que cruzan diariamente la frontera de México para obtener una educación en los Estados Unidos.


Desde siempre, Fierro ha cruzado a pie por el puente Santa Fe, ubicado en el centro de su ciudad natal en la avenida Benito Juárez. Logísticamente, este puente es el más cercano a UTEP.

"A pie tomas unos 25 a 30 minutos. De regreso (no tardas) nada, más tardas lo que pagas y si; Fierro dijo.

Según Fierro, varía el tiempo de cruce dependiendo de si es día festivo. Dijo que algunos días tarda de 25 a 40 minutos, dependiendo de si es día festivo. Dijo que los oficiales de UTEP, el equipo ejecutivo de UTEP y la policía de la universidad, no tienen información que sepa si los rumores están circulando a través de un variedad de plataformas de medios de comunicación informando que los agentes de inmigración y Control de Aduanas están planeando instalar puntos de chequeo cerca de las entradas al campus de UTEP.

En cuanto a Fierro, él dice no tener miedo a cruzar la que piensa que si tienen su papeles en orden y te maneja por la vía legal, no tienes por qué tener miedo.

"Es un año y medio desde que cruzo de México a los Estados Unidos," Fierro dijo. "Estoy disfrutando de las ventajas de tiempo, dinero y también de las entradas al campus de UTEP."

De regreso, Fierro dijo haber notado que tiene ventajas de tiempo, dinero y hasta salud en muchas ocasiones.

"El cambio me ayudó a agilizar el viaje, dice Fierro.

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Are you afraid to cross the border?

Prescila Marrero
Senior anthropology major
"Personally, I am not afraid to cross the border just because I have family over there. I jump back and forth all the time."

Sebastian Nares
Freshman biology major
"I don’t really feel afraid anymore, but I used to. I go about two or three times a week to hang out over there."

Alan Munoz
Junior biomedical science major
"I don’t think anyone should be afraid to cross to Juárez as long as their intentions are pure."

Alan Tellez
Freshman finance major
"Sometimes I feel afraid because it’s been getting really violent, and I read that it’s getting really bad."

Luis Rivera-Figueroa
Junior biomedical sciences major
"I am a little afraid to cross the border because I haven’t updated my passport."

Julia Hernandez
Sophomore civil engineering major
"I am not afraid to cross. I go every once in a while and it’s not as bad as some people think it is."

Janeth Mora
Freshman kinesiology major
"I am not scared to cross the border. I go to Juárez almost every weekend to party."

Ely Cavanillas
Junior linguistics major
"I am not afraid to cross the border, because I used to live in Mexico."

Naomi Velasco
Sophomore clinical psychology major
"I am scared to cross the border sometimes, because you could be at the wrong place at the wrong time."

Marcela Erives
Senior sculpture major
"I am not afraid to cross over the bridge, but I have to admit that I do look over my shoulder while on the other side."

Claudia Hernandez, Alonzo Martinez, Andres Rios, Nina Titiceto / THE PROSPECTOR
The sticky path to legalization in Texas

BY JASON GREEN
The Prospector

A bill currently being introduced by Representative Joe Moody of El Paso, House Bill 81, would reduce marijuana possession up to one ounce to a civil penalty—a fine of up to $250 and court-ordered community service or drug education.

Moody’s stance is that too many young people are going to jail for minor possession, while the state is spending too much tax money on court and jail time for simple possession of marijuana.

“There’s nothing funny about college kids going to jail for something so minor, and nothing worth aing about when we spend well over $1 billion dollars every year fighting and prosecuting those kids,” Moody said in a recent editorial in the El Paso Times. “Even as we can’t fully fund our schools or fix our roads.”

Moody has the support of several other representatives, some from across the aisle, as well as several law enforcement organizations. The problem, however, may be gaining a signature if the bill reaches the top level of the state house.

When the Compassionate Use Act originally passed, Governor Greg Abbott made sure to state that he would never sign a bill to legalize marijuana for recreational or medical purposes. All that remains to be seen if Abbott is willing to sign a bill that will not technically legalize marijuana.

In mid-2015, Governor Greg Abbott signed a bill into law intended to allow epilepsy patients access to low-THC cannabis oil. THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol, is the chemical in marijuana which produces the highs for the drug.

Cannabis oil, commonly referred to as CBD oil, has been shown in studies to help with numerous medical conditions, from PTSD to migraines to preventing epileptic seizures.

In this case, the evidence was strong enough for Abbott to legalize the marijuana derivative.

However, proponents of CBD legislation said that Texas stopped short of helping anyone with Senate Bill 339, also known as the Texas Compassionate Use Act.

“On a certain level, the legislature should be commended for acknowledging the medical value of marijuana, and it is a historic vote in that sense,” said Heather Fazio, the political director for the Texas Marijuana Policy Project, in an interview with CBS News. “Lawmakers missed several opportunities to amend the bill in ways that could have provided real relief to countless Texans. Not a single patient will be helped by this legislation.”

The bill requires doctors to prescribe medical marijuana products to patients, which would place them in violation of federal law, causing them to lose their medical license. The bill also does not address any other medical conditions besides epilepsy.

However, the law might have opened the eyes of local proprietors to the fact that there is a need in the community for CBD oil sales without a prescription.

The bill helped to set the limit of THC in medical CBD at 0.5 percent while setting the limit of commercial CBD oil THC levels at 0.2 percent.

Having a set limit has allowed local stores to begin selling CBD oil without prescriptions.

One such store is Smoke’s Paradise, located at 3233 Mesa St. Dante Hamel, the manager, said that customer testimonials alone have him convinced of CBD’s effectiveness.

Hamel said that his store has seen CBD sales rise consistently and now one-third to one-half of e-cigarette/vaporizer sales are CBD oil. The store carries CBD e-liquid for vaporizers, time to apply to food or drink or under the tongue, sale for the body and inhalants.

In states where medical marijuana is fully legalized, a dramatic decrease in the use of prescription medicines has been seen as consumers begin to switch to more natural remedies.

In a 2016 study published in the journal Addictive Behaviors, researchers from the University of Georgia showed that in the 17 states with a medical marijuana law on the books, prescriptions for anti-depressants, seizure medications, anti-nausea medicines and anti-anxiety medicines fell drastically in a three-year span (2010-2013).

According to the American Society of Addiction Medicine, “drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, with 52,404 lethal drug overdoses in 2015.” The ASAM says that opioid addiction is the leading factor in this outbreak of drug overdoses with 20,031 overdose deaths being related to prescription pill takings.

In 2012, 259 million prescriptions for opioids were written in the US, according to the ASAM. “This would be enough to give an adult their own bottle of pills,” stated the ASAM.

Anti-drug war activists—and retired police officer—Howard Woodridge, told the Republic in 2012 that his biggest competitor on Capitol Hill is lobbying politicians to legalize marijuana was Pharmaceutical Research and Manufactures of America (PhRMA).

“Marijuana is an excellent medicine for many things, taking the place of everything from Advil to Vioxx and other expensive pills,” said Woodridge in a 2012 interview with the Conservative Party Annual Convention.

PhRMA spent $18.7 million on lobbying against the legalization of both recreational and medical marijuana in 2016, according to the Senate Office of Public Records.

In a recent press conference, the Trump administration press secretary Sean Spicer pointed to the opioid addiction problem in America.

“If you see something like the opioid addiction crisis blossoming in so many states around this country, the last thing we should be doing is encouraging people,” Spicer said. “There’s a federal law that we need to abide by when it comes to recreational marijuana and other drugs of that nature.”

Spicer’s words were the first from the new administration as far as any stance on medical or recreational marijuana, for most, it signals an intent to strictly enforce national laws referencing marijuana, even in states that have legalized marijuana in one form or another.

The executive director of the National Cannabis Industry Association is concerned about Spicer’s characterization of marijuana.

“Science has discredited the idea that marijuana serves as any kind of gateway drug, and the addiction and death rates associated with opioids simply do not occur in any way with cannabis,” said Smith.

However, Spicer did state that the president does see some benefit to medical marijuana.

“The president understands the pain and suffering that many people go through, who are facing especially terminal diseases, and the comfort that some of these drugs, including medical marijuana, can bring to them,” Spicer said.

With the Drug Enforcement Agency still classifying marijuana as a Schedule I drug—the same as heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine—scientists are unable to fully explore the medical properties of marijuana in the treatment of diseases.
Local and national artists fill the Sun City with music

The weekend Feb. 24-26 was filled with concerts in the borderland. 1. Josh Abbott of the Josh Abbott Band headlined the Texas Country Music Festival at the Coliseum on Feb. 25. 2. Allan Z opened up for Rose Golden at the Lowbrow on Feb. 24. 3. Wade Bowen’s guitarist at the first annual TCNF. 4. Isaiah Rashad sold out the Lowbrow on Feb. 26 on his first solo tour. 5. Local band Rose Golden performed at the Lowbrow on Feb. 24. 6. Robo Flavin taking stage at the Lowbrow on Feb. 25.

Limit 5 Tender Rolls per visit. Offer good at all BUSHs locations in El Paso. Offer good through April 1, 2017.
Local artist Stan Z defies music barriers

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

At just 20-years-old, Stan Zubia, or better known by his stage name, Stan Z, has made waves throughout El Paso’s local music scene with his genre-defying music and his impeccable stage swagger. His most comfortable when stepping in front of the crowd with his classic Epiphone Casino guitar in his hand and his band backing him up.

One genre can not define the young artist. Stan Z ventures into all types of music. His sound ranges from hip-hop influences, to psychedelic rock and even combines electronic production to enhance the sound quality.

His influences stem from the freedom and lyricism that rappers like Kendrick Lamar and Isaiah Rashad preach, to the classic rock and roll vibe that developed bands like Led Zeppelin, The Red Hot Chili Peppers and The Beatles, while also using unique production inspirations from DJs like Flume.

“That’s what I want: this entity of just jamming,” said Zubia. “I just want to jam. When I started getting into music, my dad showed me bands like The Police and The Beatles, and then some of my friends and my brother got me into hip-hop. I started getting into dubstep and house too. It’s hard to put it (his music) into one genre, but I do like to flow on everything. It does come back to hip-hop influence, but it has a bit of everything: jazz, rock, and weird noises. I just want to go hard and have everyone vibing.”

His artistry started at the age of nine when he learned how to play the guitar and during his freshman year at El Paso High School, Zubia ventured through beat making and electronic production. As a senior in high school, he debuted his mixtape, “Ego Loss,” in February of 2015.

“During high school when I was a senior I really felt I was ready to drop something,” he said. “I remember sitting in class and hearing it on everyone’s phone. It really hit me like ‘whoa, hype is real and this energy exists.’

It was the same energy that prompted the young artist to perform locally, alongside his fellow stage hype rapper, Idea, and a DJ. During the first year of “Ego Loss,” Stan Z performed over 50 shows in the local region and started gaining a following. Spurred from the hype and recognition, Stan Z was signed by Electric Social Records, a local record label that helped project the artist into the El Paso spotlight.

What he had not anticipated was the direction his three-member posse would develop into.

“Kilo (Daniel Rivera of Kilo and The Dow) asked if we’ve ever performed with a live band before, and he said that we should play with a live band for their singing party,” Zubia said. “We tried it out and it was dope. I had been in bands with these guys and it was just dope.”

The addition of a drummer, a guitarist, a keyboard player and a bassist led to new possibilities for Stan Z’s presence. It encouraged more concerts and even spawned a mini-tour to the likes of Austin and San Antonio.

“It’s been interesting because I think we were coming up, just as a duo act, but when we had the band, that’s when people really started fucking with us,” Zubia said.

“We were getting loud and after that it was shows, shows, shows. After that we decided to go on a little mini tour to San Antonio and Austin, and people were vibing. On tours it’s hard to get people to come out. People that came out would come up to us and say, ‘you guys are really talented’ and that felt good.”

This is me taking in everything and making it something of my own.

- Stan Zubia

Now, in less than a week, Stan Z will release his second project, titled “The Z.” The 11-track record was entirely written and produced by Zubia and it will debut at his album release party on Saturday, March 4, at the Lowbrow Palace.

“On the last tape there wasn’t any live shit. On this one, there will be our live instruments mixed with the

see STAN Z on page 9

Green Day “Revolution Radio” tour 2017

BY CLAUDIA FLORES

Get ready because your favorite “American Idiot” are back on starting March 1. The punk-rock band will be making a stop at the El Paso County Coliseum on March 2 to bring their fans new material, as well as some of their number one hits such as “Boulevard of Broken Dreams,” “American Idiot” and “Holiday.”

Billie Joe Armstrong and Mike Dirnt grew up in California and at 14-years-old formed their first real band “Sweet Children.” Then, when they were 17-years-old, the pair recorded the 1989 EP “1,000 Hours.” At this point, they were known as Green Day and integrated a new drummer, John Kiffmeyer.

Kiffmeyer would participate in the next three studio albums before leaving the band, and Tre Cool took over the drums for their 1992 album “Kerplunk.” In 1994, the release of “Dookie” gave the band the recognition as the next generation of Punk music.

After winning their first Grammy Award for “Dookie,” the next five albums couldn’t repeat or surpass the success of their first production.

Finally, in 2004, it was “American Idiot” that brought Green Day back in the spotlight. Since “American Idiot,” the band released four more albums, “21st Century Breakdown” and a trilogy of series which was their last production until the release of their new album “Revolution Radio.”

The last time the band visited El Paso was in 2013 for their “99 Revolutions” tour. Things have changed for the band since their last tour since Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dirnt and Tre Cool were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2015.

With this title in their pocket and a whole new album, Green Day shows that hard work truly pays off. After more than three decades dedicated to the music industry, the band is about to start their 2017 tour and the “Idiots” look forward to seeing their idols rock the stage one more time.

“Revolution Radio” is the band’s first album in four years and their 12th studio album in their 31-year career. This new album with 12 new original tracks reflects the years of musical wisdom and emotional maturity of the band. With their album debuting in October 2016, Green Day positioned at the no. 1 on the US Billboard Top Rock Albums list of 2016 and ranked no. 14 in the Rolling Stone’s “50 Best Albums of 2016,” which gives the band the perfect comeback after staying away from the spotlight after four years.

The inspiration behind the album are the day to day situations people face on the streets.

“Bang, Bang,” for example, makes a reference to mass shootings and their primary motivations, as the title track “Revolution Radio” was inspired by the Black Lives Matter demonstrations.

On their last stop at the borderland, Green Day proved that their music legacy is still worth listening to as well as see them performing on stage.

Tickets start at $60 and are on sale at ticketmaster.com or on greenday.com.
The Oscars: an American cry for help

BY EDIO VELAZQUEZ

The 89th Academy Awards ceremony will be remembered for two things the Harvey Weinstein sexual abuse scandal that occurred while the award for Best Picture was being presented and as a bastion of free speech and political discourse in a time of turmoil.

However, the Academy Awards are no stranger to the latter point. Marlon Brando did make the first real political statement on March 5, 1973, 44 minutes into the ceremony.

On the eve of the ceremony, Brando announced he wouldn’t accept his award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role going to “Moonlight” and he didn’t even speak. His vanguard movie that actually represents a small fraction of Muslims, a predominantly Muslim country.

In a sense, the ceremony felt like a cry from the 225 countries that are connected by an unbendable bond that is powerful and permanent. Artists are connected by one bond that overrules boundaries, said Cheryl Boone Isaacs, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Another theme of the night was the reflection of art as a mechanism of unity in the face of adversity. Many creative artists around the world have been barred from the White House and a state of social uncertainty is being witnessed. As a Mexican, I have my country and those of other six nations who have been disaffected by the prevailingly hard entry of immigrants to the U.S., said Farhadi in a statement read as his acceptance speech.

“Shine” by artist and performer Sley, an Oscar nominated ballad, “The Empty Chair,” which appears in a documentary about journalist James Foley, who was killed by ISIS in Syria, ended with a poignant announcement. “I don’t have the moral courage to challenge authority...” quote by the Foley: “If I don’t have the money to feed my family, the government is going to stop me from painting. That’s my protest.”

“Versus” Soto of Los Visionaries art work, which was created by Victor Giallanza, is another theme of the night. The album art and true spiritual findings, the album’s theme carries a deeper meaning. As a Mexican, I have my country and those of other six nations who have been disaffected by the prevailingly hard entry of immigrants to the U.S., said Farhadi in a statement read as his acceptance speech.

A Sting performance of his Oscar winning song “If I Can’t have You,” went unmentioned. The Voice, which adds character to a new level, was a senior. I made a beat on there and Elia Esparza to do it? ’’ Zubia said. “She’s cool and she’s great.”

The album’s release party will kick off at 9 p.m. at the Lowbrow with special guests including Prymth, Rose, Golden, Boomskak and Elia Esparza. I have stuff on this album since I was a senior and I made a beat on there and I just wanted to release it at the right time,” Zubia said. “It’s the album I’m not trying to pretent I’m something I’m not. I just want to jam. I’m here to take music in and let it influence me. I feel I can’t say enough about this album. I feel I can’t say enough about this album. I feel I can’t say enough about this album.”

**THERE’S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE THIS WEEKEND**

**FREEDOM CROSSING AT FORT BISS**

Mardi Gras events will take place at Ft. Bliss’ Freedom Crossing, located at 1611 Haan Road, featuring live music, DJs, a parade and drink and dining. It will take place from 5 p.m. to midnight on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at the shopping center inside Fort Bliss. There will be complimentary beats, masks and a photo booth available. Sambaz Brazilian dance group, Sol Studio capoeira and samba, Odd Lab fire show, craft-and-mask making, face painting, blues, jazz and funk music will also be included in the event. The event is also free and no pass will be required.

**PIANO RECITAL**

For those who prefer a toned-down Mardi Gras, UTEP will host guest pianist Linda Holzer of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, who will perform a concert featuring American composers at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Tickets start at $3 and are available at the UTEP Ticket Center or online at utepspecialevents.com.

**CRAWFISH BROIL**

At the German Pub, located on 9530 Viscount Blvd., there will be a special menu featuring a $10, 1-lb. crawfish buy-in meal. There will be live music and drink specials as well.

**301 NIGHTLIFE**

301 Nightlife will host their annual event, El Paso’s Largest Mardi Gras Party. There will be $1,000 in cash prizes and there will be a Miss Mardi Gras contest. Males get free in with an RSVP on their website, http://301nightlife.eventbrite.com, and ladies get free in before 11 p.m. There will be free beads, bead vendors and drink specials before 11 p.m.

**BARMEN KITCHEN & PATIO BAR**

Barmen Kitchen & Patio Bar, located at 4130 N Mesa St., will host their own Mardi Gras party with two for one tacos, live music, live DJs, Mardi Gras themed food and more. The event is for those 18 years old and up, and it’s free to attend. It will span from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Humane Society of El Paso hosts adopting event

When buying a dog or a cat as a pet, not many people consider adoption. Pet stores all over the country have stopped selling cats and dogs from breeders. Big chain pet stores such as Petco and Petsmart now partner with local animal shelters to encourage buyers to adopt shelter animals. This ‘adopt not buy’ policy has been implemented in most pet stores across the country in an effort to give a home to shelter animals.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, there were dog adoptions at the Humane Society of El Paso and El Paso Parks and Rec’s annual Pet Fair. The main purpose of the pet fair was to hold dog adoptions and provide as many of them as possible with homes. Many of the people in attendance took their dogs with them while many others left with a new furry friend. The Humane Society of El Paso routinely holds events to promote animal adoptions. Every Friday is Feline Fridays, where cat adoptions are only $50. The fee includes spay/neuter surgery, vaccinations and microchips with national and local registration. The humane society is a non-profit, no-kill shelter. PetSmart charities surveyed 3,000 people in 2014 and 34 percent of those who had added a pet in the previous 12 months, but chose not to adopt, said they went elsewhere because shelters do not have purebred animals. Of those, 12 percent said they didn’t know much about pet adoption.

Petco always has shelter cats at their stores ready to adopt. PetSmart doesn’t have shelter animals for adoption every day, but every Saturday the HSEP takes cats and dogs to local stores to put up for adoption. Next time you’re looking to get a pet, consider the benefits of adopting first.

The HSEP is located at 4991 Fred Wilson Ave. and is open every day of the week. You can also adopt cats and dogs at any El Paso Petco or Petsmart store. For more information, visit https://www.hselpaso.org/.

Leslie Sarinana may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.
Miner women seek first round bye in C-USA tournament

By Jeremy Carrano
The Prospector

After the Jan. 7 loss to Southern Methodist, UTEP Miner fans could have wondered the same thing. Would this UTEP team ever secure another victory during the season? That day, the tail end of a 12-game losing streak, was all but a faint memory for the Miners now. UTEP has turned over a new leaf, having won five straight and 11 of their last 13 games overall.

The turnaround has UTEP (13-15, 11-5 C-USA) currently sitting in a third-place tie with the Old Dominion Monarchs in the Conference USA standings. The turnaround started with a buzzer-beating victory on a fall away jumper by senior guard Dominic Artis over Florida International on Jan. 12 in double-overtime. While this could have been the spark UTEP needed, it has been an improved defense that has been the most notable change.

Two of the Miners’ 11 wins during this stretch have come against the top two scoring teams in Conference USA, Marshall and Rice.

Marshall was averaging 85.4 points per game, while Rice was averaging 81 points per game. The Miners held the Thundering Herd to 68 points on Jan. 15, making it their lone blemish in C-USA while holding them to 34 percent shooting, while each usually averaged more than 45 percent. UTEP’s scoring defense is fourth-best in Conference USA, allowing 68.4 points per game.

Winning on the road

At one point, UTEP was winless on the road, sitting at 0-6 overall (1-2 on USA, allowing 68.4 points per game. The Miners held the Owls to 34 percent shooting, while each usually averaged around 45 percent. UTEP’s scoring defense is fourth-best in Conference USA, allowing 68.4 points per game.

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Soccer kicks off spring exhibition schedule in Las Cruces

After a 13-win season—the most since 2009—and a tournament berth for the fourth time in school history, the UTEP soccer team will reconvene for the 2017 Spring Exhibition season. However, new momentum will need to be rediscovered by the Miners after losing seven seniors from last year’s squad.

The handful of seniors, who provided head coach Kevin Cross much of his success, have been replaced by inking 10 prep standouts for the upcoming season. Six of the 10 freshmen are from Texas, while the other four new faces have traveled from Canada.

“On paper, our freshman look great, but it’s kind of surprising because a lot of times there’s players that you don’t expect to do well and they do, and there are players that you think are going to be the greatest thing and they aren’t ready to make the next jump. Usually, if half of your signees pan out you’re in good shape,” Cross said. “They were all amazing high school and club players, so hopefully they can continue here at UTEP because we need them since we are a real strong senior class leave.”

Along with the freshmen will be some key student-athletes returning for the orange and blue, such as goalkeeper Alyssa Palacios, who has a C-USA All-Freshman team award and snatched an All-Conference third team last year. She could help guide the younger Miners by giving them a safety blanket if their defense is not up to par. Palacios’ save percentage from last season was nearly at 85 percent.

Another key returnee is soon-to-be senior midfielder, Kennadie Palacios. “Our returning players have to step up to lead this leadership this year because those are some of our leaders now, so they have to do a lot of out these girls and step up to the challenge. They don’t have those seniors to lean on now,” said Cross.

Just four months after the regular season came to an end, the Miners are set to square off against West Texas A&M on March 4, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Aside from practice, it will be the first time the new-look Miners will hit the field together.

Although WTAM competes in Division 2, the Buffaloes are usually one of the top teams in the nation in their division. Last season, WTAM went 11-6 overall and 9-3 in conference play. They outscored their opponents right from the get go, as they scored 14 first-half goals, compared to just six from their opponents in the opening stanza all year.

“West Texas is usually a top-20 Division 2 team and they can beat a lot of Division 1 schools on any given day, so if we aren’t ready, then it’s going to be really tough,” said Cross.

The game between the Miners and Buffaloes will be played in New Mexico State Aggie territory due to the fact that WTAM has a date with the New Mexico State University soccer team just days before.

After the meeting with WTAM, UTEP will have two weeks off and then head to Arizona for two games in two days, starting off with Arizona, followed by Arizona State. The two had a combined record of 15-20-3 last season. The Pac-12 teams will be a very early measuring stick for Cross, despite their records in Conference USA.

To end the 2017 exhibition season, the Miners will compete at home for their final two games, when Eastern New Mexico and New Mexico make stops in El Paso. ENMU went a dismal 3-14-1 (2-10 in conference) and 0-6-1 on the road. They finished off their season with a 10-game losing streak and got outscored 20-7 in the second half of their matchups. The Miners will kick off with ENMU on April 22, at 4 p.m.

Finally, before the summer starts and soccer season has to wait until mid-August, UTEP will welcome the Lobos on April 23. The Lobos, who had a winning record of 9-7-3, but 5-3-1 in the Mountain West Conference, will meet the Miners at the University Field at a time to be announced.

“The spring season gives the players a chance to really develop, and since we had such a big senior class last year, it gives the younger players the perfect opportunity to grow and expand their roles. These games can determine who our starters can be,” Cross said. “The spring season doesn’t necessarily predict your fall success because new players will step up when the regular season starts. But if we can get some players to take the next leap in those games—that’s what we are looking for.”

A long summer of working out on their own will be ahead for the Miners. “We, as coaches, just hope that the girls stay in good shape over the summer and that they have an awesome summer in their workouts,” said Cross. “The summer determines our fall, if they take the summer off and we can’t get them into game shape when school comes back, there is no way they’ll be ready for the season in time, especially in 90 or 100-degree weather. It’s all voluntary, but the girls over the summer, we can’t tell them anything, it’s all on them.”

Cross and his staff will be hoping that his players’ success in 2016 will motivate them to work on their own to arrive in the fall ready to improve on 2016 and the spring games and practices.