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The Prospector, May 2, 2017

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

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MAY 2, 2017

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

MAY 2, 2017

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DESIGN BY ANA RAMOS / THE PROSPECTOR
The Spring 2017 Prospector staff wishes you good luck on finals!

Okay with not knowing what comes next

BY ARMANDO ZAMORA

As graduation approaches, the questions that many people keep asking me are, “What are you doing after you graduate?” and “Oh my God, are you excited?” I can answer the second question with, “yes!” After six years of my college career, I have to be realistic and open to the possibility of things not going according to plan. But why wouldn’t they? I’ve mapped out alternative school plans in case the original one doesn’t work, and they all have me graduating in four years. I have to be realistic and open to the possibility of things not going according to plan. But why wouldn’t they? I’ve mapped out alternative school plans in case the original one doesn’t work, and they all have me graduating in four years.

From the beginning of my college career, I’ve always taken more than what is considered full time every semester so that I can complete all of my degree credit requirements in under four years. As much as I love school, I don’t want to prolong my time here. I refuse to let college be the place I peak. Staying longer than four years will not make it feel like that. I’m only half way there and I’m already itching to be out in the field reporting full time for a living. Getting a degree just isn’t enough, you need to have a whole background of experience in order to even be considered for a job. Being able to get through school quicker leaves room for trying to accumulate that experience in case I couldn’t do so while in school. I don’t want to spend five years at school and possibly still have to wait another year until I’m hired. It seems as though I’ll never get there. Rain won’t walk—that’s my mentality when it comes to graduating. I want to be able to get my degree as soon as possible so I can start pursuing my career at a more serious level. Being in school for only four years is also cheaper. Sure, I’m paying for the same amount of courses, but if I’m in school longer, I will spend more money on supplies, food, gas, etc.

Graduating in under four years is not unrealistic, just a bit more difficult. I have my plan and I don’t plan to dwell from it. Anyone who doesn’t believe me can ask me about my graduate status in two years.

By Leslie Sarriñana

The four-year plan

BY LESLIE SARRIÑAN

The Spring 2017 Prospector staff wishes you good luck on finals!

The Prospector appears in print once per week during the fall, spring and summer semesters. The newspaper is not printed during the holidays and when classes are not in session. The Prospector does not provide news online at www.theprospectordaily.com.

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2017 Spring Commencement schedule

All ceremonies will take place May 13 at the Don Haskins Center.

Morning Ceremony - 9 a.m.
College of Liberal Arts

Afternoon Ceremony - 2 p.m.
College of Business Administration
College of Education
School of Nursing

Evening Ceremony - 7 p.m.
College of Engineering
College of Health Sciences
College of Science

If you’re walking you should arrive at Memorial Gym at least an hour prior to the ceremony. Upon arriving have your green screen Commencement portrait taken in Memorial Gym. Leave all personal items (backpacks, mobile devices, purses, coats, etc) at home or in your automobile.

Tips for graduates:
- Make appropriate plans for the care of your children, since there will not be child care provided by the university.
- Wear comfortable shoes.
- Remain for the duration of the ceremony out of courtesy for your fellow graduates.

Tips for grad students provided by University Relations.

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Tips for grad students provided by University Relations.

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WINGS.
FRIES.
SIDES.
REPEAT.
Is there anything you regret not doing before graduation?

Claudia Hernandez
Senior English education major
“"If I could go back and go to college all over again, I would get more involved in the extracurricular stuff.”

Rafael Sanchez
Senior biology major
“I had a really good time in college, but I think I would’ve liked to study abroad.”

Rachel Castillo
Senior biological sciences major
“I’ve enjoyed my entire experience here at UTEP! I’ve been involved in student organizations and activities across campus. I’ve loved it.”

Morgan Chambers
Senior history major
“I regret not being more involved with campus events, like going to the Minerpalooza and stuff like that.”

Michael Ellis
Senior computer science major
“I wish I had gone out and done more things related to my major such as hackathons, which are events where you solve and create coding.”

Eliajha Perales
Senior kinesiology major
“No, I took part in everything I could and wanted to.”

Dalia Hernandez
Senior education major
“I regret not being more involved in school in regards to being part of more organizations and doing more volunteer work.”

Claudia Diaz
Senior interdisciplinary studies major
“I regret not being involved in school curricular activities that have to do with my major, that’s one of my biggest regrets.”

Camilo Solis
Senior business major
“The thing I regret not doing would probably be not knowing what I wanted to do when I started here.”

Amanda Saenz
Senior linguistics major
“I regret not attending more school events and not being more active in class.”

Alan Ventura
Senior history major
“The only thing I regret is not being as vocal in class. As a history major we have a lot of opportunities to get into a discussion and I tend to be the shy student who doesn’t voice their opinion.”

Alejandro Marquez
Senior mechanical engineering major
“I would say I don’t really regret anything, I had the opportunity to study abroad, make lots of friends and attend various school events.”

Alfonso Barraza
Senior music major
“Not really, I feel like I did all the things I wanted to do, so I don’t really regret anything.”

Priscilla De Los Santos
Senior electrical engineering major
“Not getting into organizations since my freshman year and not looking as much into internships, I’m doing better now, but I wish I would had those two extra years to do it.”

Carlos Lopez
Senior electrical engineering major
“Not getting into organizations and participating in school activities because I knew that they offer a lot and I didn’t get a full college experience.”

Alexa Bain
Senior business marketing major
“When I was an underclassman, I didn’t take advantage of going to my teacher’s office hours and asking them questions. I had any or just letting them know that I was invested in my work, making sure I was showing my face.”

Carlos Vasquez
Senior anthropology major
“I gave the same regrets as in high school, wish I actually wasn’t so lazy and actually study a little bit more.”

Mariana Gallegos
Senior pre-pharmacy major
“Getting more involved in research, there’s a lot of opportunities on campus and I haven’t really participated in that.”

Omar Ali
Senior mechanical engineering major
“Not getting involved in a lot of extracurricular activities that have to do with my major, that’s one of my biggest regrets.”

Sonia Cardenas
Senior biology major
“What I regret as a student was that I didn’t get involved in student governance.”
What if I'm 30, doing my job and a certain age, whether they're from society or from yourself—to know who you are by 18 and what life-long career is lined-up by 21. I graduated from high school at 17 years old and I thought I was set. I thought I knew what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. The idea of not having to worry about where I will be in life was like a weight off of my mind. But, just one semester in life was like a weight off of not having to worry about where I go to community college and sign up. So I don't mind that it's taken me so long to get my degree. It bothers other people, and I've seen more than one shocked face when I tell them my age. But I don't regret it and would do it all over again if given the chance. I like that I'm always surprised where I end up. I like that every year I would not have guessed that I am where I am and I'm doing whatever it is I'm doing. There's a phrase that gets used throughout everyone's formal education. They'll say things like "you know out there in the real world they won't do this or that". As if school is apart from the "real world." Please tell my bills that I cannot pay them, as I am currently not in the real world. It makes school seem like a separate part of life that you have to endure in order to get out there and experience "real life." School is just another part of life, and if you need it to get somewhere else, then don't treat it like a bad stretch of road that you want to speed through. Life is just one long road anyways. You might as well learn to enjoy it.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**UP ALL NIGHT AT THE UNION**
The traditional midnight breakfast is back to help students get through an all-nighter studying for finals with a free meal. The Office of Student Life is hosting a night of activities starting at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, at the Union East building.

**MINER NIGHT**
The Student Government Association is hosting an open mic, poetry slam, karaoke, game and free food night on Wednesday, May 3, at Boquillas Hall in Miner Canyon. The event is a break before finals week so students can enjoy themselves and interact with other students and those who live on campus. Admission is free.

**RESCUE MISSION OF EL PASO VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION**
If you would like to do community service or want to know about what it's like to be a volunteer you can attend the Rescue Mission orientation Sunday, May 7, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. The non-profit helps those in need by providing them with meals, a place to stay and job opportunities.

**ANNUAL JURIED UTEP STUDENT ART EXHIBITION**
The opening reception for this year's annual Juried UTEP Student Art Exhibit will take place Friday, May 5, at the Rubin Center. Overall Best of Show will be awarded $750 and best life drawing or painting will also be awarded $750.

**AN ARABIAN NIGHT AT EL PASO**
The Arab Student Association and Layali Al Sham will be hosting a night of Middle Eastern food, music, henna drawings, raffles and games on Saturday, May 20, from 7 to 11 p.m. at La Casita De Yommy, located at 645 Wallenberg Dr. Tickets are $22 for adults, $16 for kids up to age 12 and free for kids under 3.
BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ

While the Department of Homeland Security prepares to hire 15,000 new officers for Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection, Josiah Heyman, director of the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies and professor of anthropology, cautions that dramatic systematic reform is necessary to avoid corruption and abuse that has marred the last surge of hiring.

The American Immigration Council released a report on April 24 by Heyman titled “Why Caution is Needed Before Hiring Additional Border Patrol Agents and ICE Officers.”

Earlier this year, through two executive orders, President Trump called for an increase of Customs and Border Patrol officers by 5,000 and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents by 10,000.

In the report, Heyman gives an easy to digest account of the increase in agents that corresponds with an increase of abuse and corruption. From 1999 to 2016, Border Patrol expanded from 4,297 agents to 19,828, and between 2006 and 2009, the department nearly doubled. Consequently, arrests of Border Patrol employees for civil rights violations, misconduct and off-duty crimes had a 44 percent increase from 2007 and 2012, according to the Associated Press.

The pattern of abuses by both CBP and ICE has been well documented. In a 2013 survey of 1,095 deported Mexicans by the Immigration Policy Center, which Heyman was one of three authors, found that 11 percent reported physical abuse and 23 percent reported verbal abuses by U.S. authorities. While ICE only made up for 11 percent of both physical and verbal abuse, CBP made up 67 percent and 73 percent, respectively.

The ACLU of New Mexico Regional Center for Border Rights, and ACLU of Texas, alongside the Southern Border Communities Coalition, filed an administrative complaint to CBP on behalf of 13 individuals, who upon crossing from Mexico into the United States at ports of entry, were subjected to verbal and physical abuse, including an 11-year-old boy who got a hairline fracture of his arm.

Heyman points out that a 2011 study of the CBP workforce by the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute found that there existed a “code of silence—an unwritten rule not to report another colleague’s errors, misconducts or crimes.”

James Tomescheck, chief of internal affairs at CBP until he was ousted in June of 2014, told the Center for Investigative Reporting that Border Patrol suffers from “institutional narcissism,” with a “self-identity of a paramilitary border security force and not that of a law enforcement organization.”

Heyman argues that while CBP is discussed more than ICE, the latter has the same systematic problems of abuse since ICE regularly recruits from CBP. The New York Times reported that ICE agents and contract guards, who are responsible for detaining and deporting undocumented immigrants, have been “arrested and charged with beating people, smuggling drugs into detention centers, having sex with detainees and accepting bribes.”

Much of the issues of corruption and abuse of power can be partly attributed to inadequate hiring methods, Heyman argues.

Heyman gives the example of Border Patrol agent Justin Tackett in San Diego, who shot and killed U.S. citizen Valerie Tachiquin, but did not report the incident until almost a week later. Tackett pre-

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Marina Vega
Andrea gestures
Austen David White
Arredondo Laura
Graciela Zamora
Fazil Armanpour

Bachelor of Fine Arts
Maria Ballesteros Acevedo
Andrew Berrones
Nancy Y Battres
Jennifer Michelle Burton
Crystal Carroll
Hannah Desiree Allen
Maritza Estrin
Shane White
Austen David White
Arredondo Laura
Graciela Zamora
Fazil Armanpour

Bachelor of Business Administration
Christina M. Bonilla
Grillo Elise Cotes
Ramirez M. M. Gaitan
Anthony Antonio Acosta
Brandon H. Aragon
Melissa Marie Bartee

College of Science
Bachelor of Science
Steve Adams
Ines Aleman
Mauricio Sosa
Antonio Ornelas
Hope K. Nelson
Stevie Sol Mimbela
Joshua Richard Martinez
Edmond David Martinez Jr
Yesenia Lugo Saldivar
Shannon Luevano
Peter J Leyva
Rusty Lewis
Monica Holguin
Laura Vianey Hernandez

College of Education
Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
Androje Alperovic
Angela Marie Armendariz
Martha Dominguez
Sabra Lee Eyles
Crystal Terri Quinonez
Armando Arredondo
Estela Esquivel
Maegan R. Federico
Kevin A. Fritz
Rodrigo Rojas
Brooke Anthony
Joseph Acosta
Marco Gines
Jessica Gerald
Alexandra Gonzalez
Ivelisse Vasquez-Gonzalez
Karen Gutierrez
Rebecca Jeramillo
Brittany M. Jerchag

College of Business Administration
Anthony Antonio Acosta
Grillo Elise Cotes
Ramirez M. M. Gaitan
Anthony Antonio Acosta
Brandon H. Aragon
Melissa Marie Bartee

College of Education
Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
Androje Alperovic
Angela Marie Armendariz
Martha Dominguez
Sabra Lee Eyles
Crystal Terri Quinonez
Armando Arredondo
Estela Esquivel
Maegan R. Federico
Kevin A. Fritz
Rodrigo Rojas
Brooke Anthony
Joseph Acosta
Marco Gines
Jessica Gerald
Alexandra Gonzalez
Ivelisse Vasquez-Gonzalez
Karen Gutierrez
Rebecca Jeramillo
Brittany M. Jerchag

College of Business Administration
Anthony Antonio Acosta
Grillo Elise Cotes
Ramirez M. M. Gaitan
Anthony Antonio Acosta
Brandon H. Aragon
Melissa Marie Bartee

College of Business Administration
Hooding and Certificate Ceremony
Master and PhD Graduates
Friday, May 12, 2017
Doors open: 5 p.m. Event Begins: 6 p.m.
Location: Abraham Chávez Theatre, Downtown El Paso
For more information: Lorenie Orozco 747-7726

College of Education Ceremony
Friday, May 12, 2017 at 6 p.m.
Location: Magoffin Auditorium, UTEP Campus
For more information: Susana Aguirre 747-5783 saguirre2@utep.edu

College of Engineering
Hooding Ceremony
Thursday, May 11, 2017
Check-in Begins: 5 p.m.
Event Begins: 6 p.m.
Location: Undergraduate Learning Center (UGLC), UTEP Campus
For more information: engineer@utep.edu

Order of the Engineer Ceremony
Saturday, May 13, 2017
Check-in and Group Photos Begin: 10 a.m.
Event Begins: 11 a.m.
Location: Magoffin Auditorium, UTEP Campus
For more information: engineer@utep.edu

College of Health Sciences
Celebration and Hooding Ceremony
Saturday, May 13, 2017
Check-in Begins: 2:30 p.m.
Event Begins: 3:30 p.m.
Location: Magoffin Auditorium, UTEP Campus
For more information: chsgraduation@utep.edu

College of Liberal Arts
Awards & Hooding Ceremony
Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 7 p.m.
Location: Magoffin Auditorium, UTEP Campus
For more information: Yvonne Carranza Rolph ycarranz@utep.edu

School of Nursing
Graduate Recognition Ceremony
Friday, May 12, 2017 at 1 p.m.
Location: El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center, UTEP Campus
For more information: 747-8172

School of Nursing
Undergraduate Pinning Ceremony
Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 6 p.m.
Location: Magoffin Auditorium
For more information: Rosie Saucedo 747-8337

College of Science Ceremony
Tuesday, May 9, 2017
Check-in Begins: 5 p.m.
Event Begins: 6 p.m.
Location: Magoffin Auditorium
For more information: Kristine Garza 747-8027

CASS would like to congratulate all the graduates of Spring 2017. May you all be successful in all of your future endeavors.

“Concentrate on the things your disability doesn’t prevent you doing well, and don’t regret the things it interferes with. Don’t be disabled in spirit, as well as physically.”

- Stephen Hawking
MAY 2, 2017

THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP’s 2017 top 10 seniors

BY KERIANN BROADDUS AND RENE DELGADILLO

The Prospector

Mayra Rodarte - theater

Rodarte was an officer in the liberal arts honors program and is among one of the first liberal arts ambassadors that UTEP has had. She interned with Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, where she was able to help low-income immigrant receive legal aid. “I’m learning theater and I will be going into public administration to help the community and El Paso, which is something I learned while being an undergrad,” Rodarte said. “Through my internship and my professors, I realized it’s our job to make the world a better place and I want to contribute the best I can.”

Lizette Gutierrez - biological sciences

Gutierrez was part of the Medical Professions Organization and the A-Prime Time organization at UTEP. She was also part of a church program where she helped high school students. “I did a project with La Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey and essentially I was a mentor and tutor to at-risk children, and our goal was to get those students to graduate from high school,” Gutierrez said. Gutierrez is still waiting for a response from a medical school, but despite the wait, Gutierrez said she knows what she would like to do in the future. “My plan in the future is to become a traveling physician, I want to help people in developing countries,” Gutierrez said.

Eden Klein – economics

Although her time at UTEP was significantly shorter than most, Klein made the most out of her UTEP experience. Now at only 19 years old, Klein entered college with over 60 credits from her early college high school. She was a part of various organizations such as the Law School Preparatory Institute, where she actively pursued her dream of getting into law school. In the fall Klein will attend the University of Texas at Austin’s law school and plans to one day be a public defender. “I’m very excited to receive this award,” Klein said. “I’ve only been at UTEP for two years, and UTEP offered a lot of opportunities for me and I’m very grateful for it. I’m only 19 and I believe that all the experiences here have helped me a lot.”

Caitlin Harmon – biological sciences

Harmon did almost everything a pre-med student could do during her four-year tenure at UTEP. She was selected to participate in the A Prime Time program, which prepares medical school hopefuls, and she participated in lab research at UTEP. During the summer of 2016, Harmon interned at MD Anderson Cancer Center, where she shadowed doctors and spent the summer learning new cancer research. She plans on studying for the MCAT during the next year and then hopes to attend a top medical school. “I am humbly honored and blessed to be chosen as a Top 10 Senior. We are painted as the image of UTEP’s finest students, where it’s unequivocal that we continuously represent in its highest honor. I couldn’t have done it without my friends and family,” Harmon said.

Ryan Saenz - biological sciences

Saenz was a member of UTEP’s Medical Professions Organization, where he participated in various projects and community service events. He also received two scholarships from the Hospitals of Providence and a scholarship from the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. Saenz was a part of the cross country team during his first semester, but he decided to quit the sport to become a better doctoral applicant. Saenz said that as he enrolled at UTEP, one of his goals was to make his parents proud. “I wouldn’t be here without my family, we’ve gone through a lot in the last few years, financially. This is a reflection of all the hard work we’ve done as a family,” Saenz said.

Samuel Alvidrez - finance

Alvidrez was on the Dean’s List during most of his time at UTEP, and was named to Who’s Who, Men and Women of Mines as well as two internships in Texas and New York. Although he had a successful academic career, Alvidrez plans to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a professional soccer player after he graduates. If that doesn’t work out, however, he plans to become a business analyst for a major company. “It means a lot to receive this award; it’s one of the greatest honors UTEP offers,” Alvidrez said. “My advice for someone would be to find a true passion and work towards it every day.”

Andrea Norte – English & American literature

Throughout her years as a Miner, Norte had a goal of becoming more involved through extra-curricular activities while maintaining a strong GPA. She actively participated in organizations such as Alpha Sigma Alpha, Chicanos Law Study, Liberal Arts Honors Program and was a SGA collegiate senator for Liberal Arts. “This feels surreal,” Norte said. “I actually attended (the Top 10 Seniors banquet) as a sophomore in Miner Ambassadors. I remembered all the speeches and I wanted to work towards being one of them someday.” Norte said she first chose to go to college in Dallas before attending UTEP. “When I first came to UTEP, I didn’t want to come. I left to Dallas for school and then I came back and gave UTEP a shot. I started doing well in school, joined leadership clubs and organizations—it went on from there,” Norte said. “I had a humbling experience that I was wrong about UTEP.”

Rauldel Avila - mechanical engineering

Carrying with her a storied academic career of prospering in various fields, Gomez is now at the end of her collegiate career and has high hopes for the future. She was actively involved with SGA and participated in internships with the UT Archer Fellowship, state Senate Jose Rodriguez and Congressmen Beto O’Rourke. Gomez plans to study for the LSAT through the next year and hopes to attend law school in the fall of 2018. When asked about her school of preference, Gomez said she is striving for Harvard Law. “Words can’t explain how humbled I am to receive this award,” Gomez said. “I couldn’t have done it without UTEP—all my professors, friends and family who supported me through this.”

Ilana Gomez – philosophy

Gonzalez has been on UTEP’s Dean’s List throughout her time at UTEP, and she received a national scholarship from the International Association for Identification, the largest and oldest Forensics organization in the world. Besides being a member of a student organization, Gonzalez took the initiative to become the treasurer of the National Society of Collegiate Students chapter at UTEP, while being a peer leader in UTEP’s entering student program. Just a few days before graduation, Gonzalez said she found her future educational path. “I just got word that I got accepted to my master’s program at UNC Health Science Center and I will be attending UNC for the next two years,” Gonzalez said.

Kimberly Gonzalez — forensic biology

Gonzalez was a member of UTEP’s Medical Professions Organization, where he participated in various projects and community service events. He also received two scholarships from the Hospitals of Providence and a scholarship from the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. Saenz was a part of the cross country team during his first semester, but he decided to quit the sport to become a better doctoral applicant. Saenz said that as he enrolled at UTEP, one of his goals was to make his parents proud. “I wouldn’t be here without my family, we’ve gone through a lot in the last few years, financially. This is a reflection of all the hard work we’ve done as a family,” Saenz said.
Spring was full of protests on the border

1. 50 demonstrators locked arms across the Paso del Norte International Bridge in protest of President Trump’s proposed border wall on Sunday, Feb 12. Governor Greg Abbott’s visit to El Paso for the El Paso Republican Party’s Lincoln Day Dinner fundraiser drew approximately 150 protestors on Saturday, Feb. 18, outside the Blackstone Event Center. 3. Thousands marched from Arroyo Park to San Jacinto Plaza in downtown El Paso in the Women’s March on the Border. 4. On March 11, UTEP students, staff, faculty and the El Paso Community came together at Centennial Plaza in honor of Srinivas Kuchibhotla, who was shot and killed as a result of hate crime. UTEP students and faculty quietly walked from the Mike Loya Academic Services Building holding signs against hate crimes. 5. On April 27, as part of Earth Day week, demonstrators marched the streets of downtown El Paso in a science march for climate change awareness.
The university also focuses on getting the students out of here as fast as possible,” Perez said. “I constantly get asked by my advisor or professors why I am not graduating in four years.”

For junior biological sciences major, Evelyn Chavez, the increasing tuition rates are a concerning factor that influences the time it takes to graduate.

“I feel as though if I don’t graduate on time, I am going to start slacking off and start losing more interest and money,” Chavez said.

According to CNN Money, the College Board reported that it takes an average of 12 years to recoup the cost of getting a bachelor’s degree.

Additionally, student readiness is important in the job market to match the cost of universities.

“I do not feel like I will be prepared at the end of my degree,” Chavez said. “I feel like the teachers pass more students than the ones that are actually ready.”

According to a study by CIERP, students from the graduating class of fall 2015 were surveyed—39 percent out of 3,181 students responded—and 60 percent had their sights set on entering the workforce within a year of having graduated, followed by 25 percent who would want to pursue a post-graduate education.

Payscale reported on a recent analysis that looked at 1,248 four-year colleges and universities—including Ivy league institutions—across the country. The study showed 28 percent of those four-year schools offered a negative return on investment (ROI), putting more pressure on students during the college application process.

The CIERP study also shows that from an entering cohort of 2,016 freshmen students in 2008, only 251 or 12.5 percent had graduated in four years. Of that cohort, 798 or 38.3 percent had graduated within six years.

“I wanted to graduate in four years, but realistically I knew it was going to be around five and a half,” Perez said.
SGA host El Paso mayor candidates on campus

This Saturday, May 6, the City’s regular election will be held. Office for mayor and City Council representative spots for districts 2, 3, 4 and 7 will be open. On Monday, May 1, five of the mayoral candidates spoke at a town hall hosted by SGA at the Tomás Rivera Conference Center in Union East. Elisa Morales, Jaime Perez, Jorge Artalejo, Charlie Stapler and Dee Margo answered questions from students. The candidates answered questions from students in the audience such as how they’ll protect tax payer money, what they think of solar panels and how they plan on getting youth involved. Dee Margo won the student poll where they anonymously picked who they would vote for at the end of the night.
The best and worst top 10 jobs of 2017

A recent report by CareerCast, a database for job industries, found the worst and best jobs of 2017. The study looked at 200 jobs and broke down key metrics of growth outlook, income, environmental conditions and stress. The study also says the worst jobs are still great for those who can work under stressful and dangerous environments.

### WORST JOBS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Job Description</th>
<th>Salary</th>
<th>Expected Job Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Taxi Driver</td>
<td>$23,510</td>
<td>13 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Retail salesperson</td>
<td>$22,040</td>
<td>7 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Firefighter</td>
<td>$46,870</td>
<td>5 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Advertising salesperson</td>
<td>$48,490</td>
<td>-3 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>DJ</td>
<td>$30,080</td>
<td>-11 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Pest control worker</td>
<td>$32,160</td>
<td>-1 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Enlisted military personnel</td>
<td>$27,936</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Logger</td>
<td>$36,210</td>
<td>-4 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Broadcaster</td>
<td>$37,720</td>
<td>-13 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Newspaper reporter</td>
<td>$36,360</td>
<td>-9 percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BEST JOBS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Job Description</th>
<th>Salary</th>
<th>Expected Job Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Speech pathologist</td>
<td>$73,410</td>
<td>21 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Occupational therapist</td>
<td>$80,150</td>
<td>27 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Software engineer</td>
<td>$100,690</td>
<td>17 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Mathematician</td>
<td>$111,100</td>
<td>21 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>University professor</td>
<td>$72,470</td>
<td>13 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Data scientist</td>
<td>$111,267</td>
<td>16 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Information security analyst</td>
<td>$90,120</td>
<td>18 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Operations research analyst</td>
<td>$78,630</td>
<td>30 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Medical services manager</td>
<td>$94,500</td>
<td>17 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Statistician</td>
<td>$80,110</td>
<td>34 percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OUR VIEW

A look back at this semesters local acts

1. Nico & the Silent Films performed for the Sun City Craft Beer Fest Pre-Party. 2. Khalid at Americas High School as part of Spotify Sessions. 3. Ribo Flavin performed at the Lowbrow Palace. 4. Stan Z opening his album release party March 4 at the Lowbrow Palace. 5. The Fifth Estate performed at his first headlining show at the Lowbrow on Friday, April 14.

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Free Comic Book Day (FCBD) is celebrated every first Saturday of May. It was first created in 2002 by the North American comic book industry in an effort to help get more readers into independent comic book stores. The date was set after Jim Valentino, an Image Comics publisher, suggested having the first FCBD the same weekend as the opening of the Spider-Man film in order to take advantage of the promotion surrounding the film.

The first FCBD was celebrated May 4, 2002. Since its beginning, almost every FCBD has lined up with the release of a film based on a comic book. This year, FCBD aligns with the release of Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 on May 5. Thousands of comic book stores across the country participate in the event. Here are some of the ones celebrating FCBD in El Paso.

1. **Asylum Comics**
   - Asylum will be having a guest artist Jorge Baeza, and have exclusive items on sale just for that day such as exclusive metal pins. They are located on 5360 N Mesa St., Ste. L12, and will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

2. **Old Major Comics**
   - Old Major Comics will be having raffles and prizes as well as free comics on FCBD. They will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. that day at 10780 Pebble Hills Blvd.

3. **Rebels Comics**
   - Every year, Rebels Comics has celebrated FCBD. They have a selection of free comics and even have raffles and host games. Last year they raffled the first Deadpool comic book. Rebels is located at 13400 Montwood Dr. and open on FCBD from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

4. **Sunrise Games & Comics**
   - Sunrise Games & Comics will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on FCBD. Located at 8500 Dyer St., Sunrise typically hosts game days on Saturdays, but FCBD will be the exception, as they take the day to celebrate and give away free comics.

5. **Allstar Comics & Games**
   - Open FCBD from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Allstar has been in business for over 30 years. They are the largest comic book store in El Paso, with more than 100,000 comics available. They are located at 4406 Dyer St.

6. **Black Sheep Comics**
   - Located at 1491 N. Lee Trevino Dr., Black Sheep Comics will be having free comic books from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or until supplies last. They will also be having local artists and food vendors for the celebration.
Get to know locals performing at NDMF

BY LESLIE SARIÑANA & ADRIAN BROADDUS

Neon Desert Music Festival is usually filled with local artists. Get to know a bit about the local talent playing the festival this year. Here are only a few of the many local acts who will be performing at the festival.

**If We Were Turtles**
Genre: Indie rock
The four-man band ventures through softer alternative rock and uses strong vocals to accommodate it.

**Rare Individuals**
Genre: Hip-hop
Comprised of a group of hip-hop heavy heads, Rare Individuals has truly grown in the local music scene and pioneered a new wave of hip-hop. They utilize live instruments in their act and deliver a unique alternative rap style.

**Our Friend the Mountain**
Genre: Indie-folk
This six-member band has already garnered attention around town, having played at Street Fest, Chalk the Block, Robinson Block Party, Plaza Film Festival and Cool Canyon Nights. They have been working on new music set to be released in late 2017.

**Frontera Bugalu**
Genre: Cumbia
Founded by accordionist, Kiko Rodriguez, Frontera Bugalu is a group that sounds like no other. Their sounds mix folk and cumbias. The group of nine just released their second album “Alma de Jaguar” (soul of a jaguar) last year.

**The Other Half**
Genre: Indie rock
The Other Half combines alternative rock with an indie flavor, and never shy away from a thrashing sound. They are inspired by bands like The Arctic Monkeys and Kings of Leon, whom they showcase time and time again.

**Frythm**
Genre: Future Beats
Genres do not define hip-hop influenced producer Matthew Pena, or as he’s known by his stage name, Frythm. Rather, he draws inspiration from all bits of genres and progresses through his sounds. He has gained much fame through his Soundcloud page and has accumulated a good count of listeners.

**Trost House**
Genre: Garage Rock
Popular among the El Paso bar scene, Trost House has been playing variations of garage rock since 2013. They have most recently been part of the 306 Live Sessions.

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**Mijas**
Genre: Surf punk
Surf punk rockers, Mijas, take inspiration from The Ramones and The Ventures. They have toured along the west coast a few times and have even performed at SXSW. Their last musical release was in 2016. You’ll have to wait to see if they bring any new music to Neon Desert.

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The UTEP Department of Residence Life - 2401 North Oregon
915.747.5352 housing@utep.edu sa.utep.edu/housing
Gorillaz and guests take on American politics in ‘Humannz’

The Prospector

By Eddie Velazquez

The newest album from Damon Albarn and Jamie Hewlett’s Go-

rellaz, “Humannz,” features a rich roster of stellar guest appearances

and an interesting doomsday take on the current political climate in

America. However, a feeling of self-containment for every track, and

a musical approach that leaves the listener questioning the band’s

same style has stayed with the band to this date as heard on their

newest singles, “Incurably Inno-

cent” and “Stapage Stamps.”

Their first single leading up to

their new album, “Incurably Inno-

cent,” immediately thrashes hard

with exceptional vocals by Bixler.

He said in a press release that the

song was about “sexual abuse and

being able to finally speak out.”

The same upbeat energy trans-

lated over to their second single, “Stapage Stamps.” What starts as

a slow track quickly develops into

another true rock anthem for the

band. This song does not entirely

focus on vocals, but it shows the

instrumental talents of the band as

the track is drum and guitar based.

Traveling back in time to the

‘90s, the band moved beyond lo-

cality popularity with their debut

full-length project, “Ac-

tive mix of developing the band

to this date as heard on their

production aspects of the record

and impress their own style, draw-

ing out Gorillaz’ own musical style.

For the majority of it, the album

feels like a compilation of other art-

ists’ work that leaves Albarn and

company with very little to do. This

makes the 26 tracks included feel
tired, incohesive and repetitive.

However, the most intimate

lyrically, “Humannz” focuses pri-

ority to the background melody,

while also discussing the topic of

human innovations in science and

technology going at an unprece-
tented pace and whether or not we

should stop and think about these
discoveries with more caution.

Yet, the funker “Andromeda”

and “She’s My Collar” might be the

stars of the album.

Originally one of the two singles

revealed to British radio station

BBC 1 this past March, “Androm-

da” mixes a syncopated soul bass

line, nightclub beat and jaunty

synthesizer work, making it one of

the band’s new hits.

“She’s My Collar” shows a funker

side to Gorillaz with the help of Co-

lombian singer Kali Uchis incorpo-

rating a more experimental melody and lyrics regarding the secrecy

found in interpersonal relationships.

Lyrically, “Humannz” focuses pri-

arily on President Trump’s sur-

prise election and the artists’ take

on it.

“I told everyone to imagine you’re in America after the inau-

guration and it’s the worst-case

scenario: how would you feel that

scenario: how would you feel that

you’re in America after the inau-

guration of President Trump?”

Albarn wrote, “I am a mirror, I am a

broken screen, I am a mad routine

that’s just patterned out” in refer-

ence to Trump’s tendency to tweet

and the singer’s belief that Trump

would be a reflection of society.

The album also addresses other

worldly issues directly and ef-

fectively. For example, in “Ascen-

sion,” rapper Vince Staples says,

“This is the land of the free, where

you can get a glock and a gram

for the cheap, where you can live

your dreams long as you don’t look

like me,” alluding to the color of

his skin and the challenges black

people experience.

For a band that is always trying to

innovate, Gorillaz could have used

a more focused approach to the

music component of the project. Its

long track list poses the question,

would a more quality-over-quantu-

mity approach be the new direction

the band should return to?

In the song “The Apprentice,”

Albarn wrote, “I am a mirror, I am a

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May the Fourth be with you

By Claudia Flores

Since 2012, the UTEP Symphony Orchestra has dedicated their last concert of the season to the cinematic music featured in films and original scores written for the movies. On May 4, they will be performing the “Sounds of Cinema” at UTEP’s Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m.

With the UTEP Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Lowell E. Graham, and a discussion about music in movies given by event host Charles Leinberger, the audience will have the opportunity to enjoy a great evening full of music.

“This is a great way to end the semester on a high note (and I don’t mean it pitch wise) but with something really, really fun. This is one of the greatest collaborations in concerts that we do at the end of each academic year,” Graham said. “This is about sharing with the audience music that they know, music that they’ve heard and music that they want to know and the involvement of how was the music written.”

According to Leinberger, the idea behind this concert is to educate the audience to be more engaged with film and music rather than just be a passive listener attending to simply be entertained.

“In a movie there is always music, and if you don’t notice it, the composer did a good job!” Leinberger said. “When you go to a movie you have to pay attention to everything you hear because in film half of it is visual and half of it is what you hear.”

This year, the UTEP orchestra will be performing two original scores from two recently acclaimed films. “Starting at 7 p.m., I will be giving a pre-concert talk called ‘Music, what music?’ to introduce the audience to some of the terminology used throughout the evening when we talk about film music,” Leinberger said. “We always feature two original scores written for a movie, and this year two of them are Hans Zimmer’s music for Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Chest, and John Williams’ Academy Award-nominated music for Star Wars Episode 7: The Force Awakens.”

Graham said he uses music pieces he believes in and is passionate about in order to give the orchestra and audience a great experience.

“I’ve been playing in this orchestra for 14 seasons, this is our sixth year doing the movie music concert and is a great way to end of the semester,” said graduate cello student Nathan Black. “This concert is a great introduction for the people who aren’t super comfortable attending classical music concerts, but when they come see the symphony orchestra, they can have a great time no matter what.”

With the “Sounds of Cinema” being the last concert the UTEP Symphony Orchestra will be offering, don’t forget to attend this event and “May the 4th be with you.”

Ticket Prices are $5 for adults, $3 for students or Military. Free for UTEP faculty, students and staff.

Claudia Flores can be reached at gigiberta43@gmail.com
The revival of Cincinnati Avenue

BY MIKE FLORES

Over the years, Cincinnati Avenue seemed to be the place where restaurants and bars went to die. A street that was once the place to be for El Paso nightlife was quickly brought to a halt as other places around the city grew in popularity and business in the Cincy area shrunk. However, a bundle of new bars, highlighted by College Dropout, Ditzy Duck and Fool's Gold, brought back the buzz to the once-dying street and have changed people’s plans for their nights.

These are the places to go celebrate after graduation, with most bars offering different graduation drink specials on top of their existing specials. Both College Dropout and Ditzy Duck have graduation specials on champagne for UTEP students, and for graduation, Spirit of 6 will be offering shots at their own call.

Cincinnati Avenue is back to its former glory, despite the recent failures of the many other businesses that have not survived the street, such as Palomino Tavern, Liquor Dicks, Corner Tavern and many other bars that have been a victim of the “Cincy Curse.”

On March 22, El Paso nightlife received a huge jump start from one of the newest college bars in town—the College Dropout, located on Cincinnati Avenue. College Dropout seems to be defying the odds against the so-called “Cincy Curse.”

Dickey Williams, the owner of College Dropout and an El Paso native, owns multiple bars aside from College Drop out. Williams runs Taps, Turtles, Murrys’ and Ditzy Duck, which happens to be right next to College Dropout.

Since 1999, Williams has been a member of the UTEP fraternity Alpha Kappa Lambda, and since then he realized El Paso was missing out on the college scene that many other schools possess—a college-style atmosphere.

“When I was going to UTEP, my fraternity didn’t have a frat house and I always knew that UTEP was missing that type of environment, and the nature Williams said. “I wanted to give College Dropout that kind of frat house, school feeling with all the wood and all, for all the kids.”

Having a place for students near their school was something Williams drove for. When the property opened up, he did not hesitate to open up another bar in the area, despite the history of other places not surviving the location.

“Do honest, I don’t think anyone is noticing that real college atmosphere here in El Paso, and that is what the Dropout has compared to others’ Williams said. “Catering to the right demographic is really important. In any kind of business, you have to know your demographic that you are going for.”

College Dropout offers Trap Thursdays, an event that lures in many UTEP, EPCC and NMSU students to get away from their stressful week at school and have a place to interact and have fun with everyone who attends.

At the entrance, they are greeted by a large bar where drinks can be ordered, with a list of room compared to the other bars in the area. There is a patio for anyone feeling the urge to be outside. With many chairs and seating available, and another small bar there, as well. Right near the restroom, a basketball arcade game is set up.

Williams’ other bar, Ditzy Duck, also brings a theme. Ditzy Duck’s name itself—ditzy. In an all-blue colorado bar, with music blasting from the entrance to the back, El Paseans are encouraged to let go and bring out their inner silliness with open space to dance the night away.

“The one thing I am not fond of about Ditzy is the struggle of getting around inside,” said Victor Vasquez, junior biological sciences major. A four-foot-wide hallway that connects one side of Ditzy to the other just is not fun when the place is flooded with people.”

Ditzy is place for many future Insta gram photos, because there are many memorable objects such as a lookalike Han Solo carbon-freeze frame, a mugshot height chart backdrop, a lot of pictures of people who have their noses replaced with a duck nose, and a large duck mask to prove you were at Ditzy Duck.

To the left of Ditzy Duck, there is a secret doorway that looks like a fridge that bounces guard. Behind the closed refrigerator doors, stands one of El Paso’s most popular bars—Fool’s Gold.

Since July of 2016, the Southwest desert dive bar, Fool’s Gold, has brought the largest outdoor patio place for visitors to enjoy their drinks with family and friends, as people can savor the weather and views of the El Paso skies.

There is no patio like ours in El Paso, nowhere from anywhere else on the Westside to the Eastside. We are the largest outdoor patio here,” said Octavio Gomez, one of Fool’s Gold owners. “It looks like a casual dive bar. We don’t have DJs, we just play what we want and people like that. Everyone is kind of hid den inside the patio, and they can see the stars and clouds anytime they’re there with the people they want to be with. We were meant to be outside.”

Gomez, a UTEP alumn, wanted to take on the challenge of bringing back the Cincinnati area instead of shying away from the idea. He knew it was time for the resurgence and Gomez opened what he feels El Paso wants in a bar.

“With a wide selection of TV’s surrounding the inside of the bar, every game or sporting event may be caught at Spirit. On top of the TV’s, a sports bar decked out in UTEP and El Paso Chihuahuas decor and professional sports teams from every sport. However, Spirit’s theme honors the 1966 Texas Western national basketball championship.

Fool’s Gold holds specials every day such as their $1 tacos and their $2 special on the Mexican beer Sol.

And just across the street is the dive bar and pub, Kern Place Tavern. At Kern Place, there is a different special every day of the week with great bartenders.

On Mondays, it’s $1 Rolling Rock. On Tuesdays, it’s $2 wells all night long. On Wednesdays, it’s Whiskey Wednesday with $2.50 shots. Thursdays are $1 Tecate’s all day, and $2 for a You Call it Friday.

Spirit of 6 is another bar also mak ing a name for themselves. They are a sports bar decked out in UTEP and El Paso Chihuahuas decor and professional sports teams from every sport. However, Spirit’s theme honors the 1966 Texas Western national basketball championship.

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Being a basketball fan, it was cool seeing how it was set up with the UTEP national championship decorations and it really shows off El Paso, and there’s not another bar like that here. At other schools. I know they show off their uni versity, and now we have that, too,” said Naomi Vela, a junior business manage ment major.

The Prospector's Twitter: @TheProspector

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*Restrictions apply. See RuthsChris.com for details.

THE PROSPECTOR
MAY 2, 2017

THE PROSPECTOR
[---]

[---]
Aaron Jones: mama’s boy, father’s man, Green Bay Packer

May 2, 2017

Aaron Jones (center) with agent Chris Cabott, father Alvin Jones Sr. and family and friends watches the draft on Friday evening.

JASON GREEN/ The Prospector

Day Two Disappointment

“The crowd had shown up on Friday night in the right house in Northeast El Paso, hopeful and exuberant.”

The second and third round of the draft would be televised and there was plenty of expectation in the air following a first round that saw surprise after surprise, as well as several running backs drafted.

Flanked by agent Chris Cabott, Aaron sat in the family’s large sofa in a spacious living room. The second round began promptly at 6 p.m. and the Packers were on the clock.

“We know the 49ers and Packers have him in the day two range. We want more running backs to get off the board,” Cabott said.

Cabott and Jones clapped and high-fived as several notable running backs were drafted such as Tennessee’s Alvin Kamara. Following the photo, Aaron got up and walked out the front door. The 49ers and Packers had their running backs. Lindsay followed him, while Vurgess and Alvin Sr. continued to pace.

“Just hanging out, the more anxiety,” said Jones Sr., following the relief of the draft ending for his son. “Initially I wasn’t mad. I just started to see a lot of these running backs being taken and I was like, ‘what? What’s going on here?!” But, that’s kind of the story of his life. Being overlooked and things like that. But, (Aaron) always takes that personal, putting that chip on his shoulder.”

As if having three TV cameras trained on you at all times was not enough, Aaron’s phone rang several times during the fifth round. When the phone would ring, cameras would begin clicking, floodlights would come on and all eyes would be trained on his face for any sign of a smile or frown.

Shortly after running back Jeremy McGahee was drafted by the Buccaneers, Aaron Jones spoke with Green Bay Packers head coach Mike McCarthy while Vurgess sat next to him.

Aaron Jones: Jones speaks with Green Bay Packers head coach Mike McCarthy while Vurgess sits next to him.

JASON GREEN/ The Prospector

“That chip on his shoulder just became a mountain.”

Alvin Jones Sr., on his son’s fall of the fifth round of the NFL Draft.

Then the Pittsburgh Steelers made pick number 105 of the draft.

“With the 105th pick, in the 2017 NFL draft, the Pittsburgh Steelers select James Conner, running back, Pittsburgh,” said the ESPN announcer.

There was no more noise in the room. With three more picks left on day two of the draft, the last team to appear to be in need of a running back, had taken the hometown kid.

“At the end of a long day, Jones Sr. could only shake his head and say quietly, “That chip on his shoulder, just became a mountain.”

Vurgess’ Little Boy

There is no doubt that Aaron Jones is a mama’s boy.

Even while on the phone with Green Bay Packers’ head coach Mike McCarthy, moments after being drafted in the fifth round of the 2017 NFL draft, Aaron held his mother Vurgess near his massive right arm as she sobbed on his chest.

Yes, there are two Jones twins. Yes, they do have a mother and a father.

Yes, they were both alongside the former UW star running back as his name was announced on the ESPN/NFL draft telecast on Saturday afternoon, April 29, to the roar of a house full of friends and family.

But, make no mistake about it, at that moment, Aaron was a mama’s boy.

The nights that a soldier/mother spent in Mosul, Iraq, seemed a lifetime away at that second, as Vurgess little boy held her tight. Everything that a mother watching her child play little league football (even for his first tackle football team, the Packers) could hope for had happened with that one phone call from Green Bay Wisconsin.

And what about him being in Green Bay?

“It doesn’t matter where he lives,” said Vurgess, when things finally settled down Saturday afternoon. “I’m going to be there.”

The Moment?

As day three of the draft – day two of the draft, all of the moments of the Jones’ family draft party – began, there was just the twins, Aaron and Alvin on the couch in front of the TV.

Aaron’s agent was not there for day three due to previous commitments.

For the fourth through seventh rounds of the draft, all of the members of the immediate Jones family were decked out in black and gold Nike t-shirts emblazoned with a silhouette of Aaron and the phrase “Wake Up Call!”

The Jones twins wore matching hats that read, “Dream Big.”

More NFL teammates trickled in, all stopping by the couch torender greetings to the man of the hour, who hardly took his eyes off the TV. While everyone enjoyed food and drink, Aaron hardly touched anything.

Then it began to happen again.

Samaje Perine to the Redskins. Al- vin whispered to his brother.

Tarik Cohen to the Bears. Nicole Lindsay, Aaron’s girlfriend, walks by and places a hand on his shoulder.

None of these are the 49ers or Pack- ers. Everything is alright. Aaron still knows that he is drafted by the 49ers and Packers like him a lot.

Pick 121, Joe Williams out of Utah.

Several former teammates gathered in front. Then Aaron looked at his brother and much of a blessing that is?”

Being around the Jones family, one is able to witness the love and resources dedicated to the football upbringing of Aaron and Alvin Jones and to see the effects of greatness parenting by Vurgess and Al- vin Sr. on all of the Jones’ children.

Aaron Jones: “I am a mother’s boy, father’s man.”

Aaron Jones speaks with Green Bay Packers’ head coach Mike McCarthy while Vurgess sits next to him.

JASON GREEN/ The Prospector

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Aaron Jones speaks with Green Bay Packers’ head coach Mike McCarthy while Vurgess sits next to him.

JASON GREEN/ The Prospector
Congratulations to the Class of The University of

[Handwritten notes and signatures]

Thank you to all my loved ones who supported me through this journey. I couldn't have done it without you. Keep going, stay strong, and keep dreaming big! You are amazing!
Congratulations

June 2017
JONES from page B7

Even as television crews set up television trucks in the front yard, Aaron was taking the trash out on the day he would be securing a half-million dollar pay day.

Aaron was at the door to welcome most people with a "sir," just like he has to anyone older than him for the last eight years of heavy media coverage in El Paso.

Several times during the draft watch party, even as things were not going to his liking, neighborhood kids – who until draft day had no idea that "THE Aaron Jones" lived in their neighborhood, were invited in to meet Aaron, receive autographs and take photos.

Alvin Jones Sr. was there to raise his sons like he promised himself, and he can be proud of Aaron, the man, long after the football playing is done.

The Moment.

As 18 more picks passed and another running back came off the board, Aaron grew less comfortable on the couch, which had become his home for the last two days. He leaned forward, fingers intertwined, staring at the TV and lost in his thoughts.

Then the phone rang again. It wasn't the Ravens, this was still the fifth round.

Aaron began filming again and Aaron began saying different things than he had on the other phone calls. This time he was rattling off numbers and letters. He said his email address. The crowd that leaned in knew this was the one, but who was it?

Alvin Sr. emerged from hiding and walked toward the TV, where a smattering of NFL hats had rested throughout the draft. As he reached for a hat, Aaron turned to his brother and mouthed the words "Green Bay."

At the same time that Packers general manager Ted Thompson was welcoming Aaron Jones to the team, his agent Chris Cabott had called Alvin Sr. to tell him that the Packers were definitely taking his son with the 182nd pick in the draft.

Alvin Sr. placed the hat on his son's head as a roar went up from the crowd gathered around the couch. Vurgess found her place alongside her son on the couch and could no longer contain her emotions.

"I talked to the GM, the head coach, the running backs coach, " Aaron said about the phone call he received. "I told them that I'm definitely excited to be playing for Green Bay, Wisconsin, possibly with Vurgess as the head coach, the running backs coach, " Aaron said about the phone call he received.

The team also informed him that the team, his agent Chris Cabott had called Alvin Sr. to tell him that the Packers were definitely taking his son with the 182nd pick in the draft.

"I went and outperformed most of the backs at the combine and just to see my name not get called as early as I wanted to, adds fuel to the fire. I've always been slept on. I'm definitely excited to be playing those teams."

Soon, Aaron's name appeared on screen and the crowd could no longer be contained. Despite him still being on the phone, the crowd let out two days worth of pent up emotion, as Aaron tried to hold in his tears, seeing his dreams fulfilled on a flat screen TV in his parents' living room.

The mama's boy held his mom throughout the phone call, then spent time hugging everyone and shaking hands – making extra time for specific people that his mom pointed out to him.

Alvin Sr. watched as his young man did interview after interview, making eye contact with journalists, saying "yes sir" and "no sir." Not shying away from tough questions about having to wait until the fifth round or being picked by a team that had just picked another running back.

The Jones' family has a son to be proud of – on and off the football field – and has given El Paso a favorite son for the whole city to be proud of.

Now he moves on to Green Bay, Wisconsin, possibly with Vurgess in tow.

Follow Jason Green on Twitter @jggreen20
Spring 2016 was supposed to be the season when Mack Leftwich returned to the gridiron and led the way for the Miners’ starting quarterback race. He was coming off a tough fall football season, where he suffered two concussions that limited him to eight games. This could have been his time.

However, fate had a different idea in store for the gunslinger. Leftwich left a spring practice with a shoulder injury that would require surgery. He was ruled out of playing in the fall before the season even started.

After rehabilitation, Leftwich gave throwing another shot, but never quite fully recovered from the injury.”I never got back to my full strength physically,” said Leftwich, who started seven games in 2015. “I couldn’t come back.”

What started as a hard decision to call it quits with football, turns out to be a blessing in disguise. During the winter break, Leftwich decided that he wanted to graduate and enter the coaching field.”It’s been a hard process in the sense that I really had NFL aspirations and I was always preparing for it to go into coaching afterwards.”

It was his father, UT-EP assistant coach and former Spencer Leftwich, who prompted Leftwich to go into coaching.”My dad is a coach and growing up I’ve always been around football,” said Leftwich. “I love football and I want to have a career in coaching and see them grow. Now it’s finally time for me to do this and I’ve never questioned it.”

While some may come off of a career-ending injury and cling to the “what if” scenarios, Leftwich does not have any bitterness for leaving the game.”It feels pretty good, I’m ready to move onto another chapter in my life,” he said. “When I graduate, I plan on being a math teacher and a coach. There’s a couple of opportunities around here and around the area.”

Like his older brother, Cutter Leftwich, Mack was used to the classroom and grew up in it. During his senior season, Mack was used to coaching the classroom—something Leftwich felt he had not been prepared for yet.”I didn’t really have to prepare for any coaching training. I’ve done a lot more preparation for teaching math. In a sense, I’ve been around great coaches for a long time by being around it so I think I’m more prepared for the football part, but the classroom is a whole different part of it.”

As a football coach at the high school level, he also promises that he will be the first to persuade players, who want to go to the higher level, to play for the Miners.”I definitely will be an advocate for coach Kings’ and his program. It’s the least I can do for every-thing he and the staff have done for me,” said Leftwich.

Leftwich has been described by his former teammates as a wizard of the game. In 2015, he led the Miners with 1,228 passing yards, nine touchdowns passes and only threw three interceptions all season.”When I found out he was going into coaching I told him he is going to be a great coach,” said Ryan Metz, UT-EP’s starting quar-terback.”That guy has a lot of football intelligence and the way he was able to help me, I can only imagine how he will be able to help out players preparing to go into college. And who knows, I think he will even find his way coaching into the college level. The coach- ing world picked up a good one in Mack Leftwich.”

His younger brother, Cutter Leftwich, who played for Franklin High School, committed to play for the Miners and will join the team during the summer.”My advice to (Cutter) would be to be confident,” Mack Leftwich said. “He’s there for a reason, so he can compete with them. Don’t waste time and work every day to be the best you can be.”

Reflecting on his time with the Miners, Mack Leftwich hopes that he paved the way for a steady pro-gression in the Miners’ program.”I hope I made an impact on the program and helped some of the guys grow as leaders. I hope the program is in a better position than when I first got here,” he said.

Mack Leftwich hopes to have the answer of where he will coach by the end of this week, but his goals are much more high for the future.”Eventually, I would like to move up to college football,” Mack said. “That would be something I’d be interested in because I’ve been around it for so long. But for now, I’ll take it one step at a time.”

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**By Adrian Broaddus**

The Prospector

May 2, 2017

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**Jeremy Carranco**

The Prospector

For the first time in 16 seasons, the UTEP women’s basketball program will be led by a new head coach. On April 24, UTEP Director of Athletics Bob Stull announced the hiring of former UT-Tyler and Angelo State head coach Kevin Baker.

Baker, born and raised in Texas, has also coached his entire career in the state, with UTEP being his first Division I gig.”Most people in America have to take a job and then make it their dream job, that’s what you have to do in most cases. Today I get to accept a dream job,” said Baker during his introductory press con- ference. “In 1994, I was 21 years old when I started coaching. I used to tell people I want to coach the biggest game at the highest level. I want to win a national championship at Division I.”

At Division II Angelo State, Baker led the Ramsbells to a combined record of 50-14 in two seasons (2015-16, 2016-17) with a trip to the NCAA Tourna- ment in the 2015-16 campaign. In the 2016-17 campaign, Baker led Angelo State to its first-ever NCAA Sweet 16 and a runner-up finish in the NCAA South Central Regional.

Prior to Angelo State, Baker coached just 366 miles east at Division III UT-Tyler. Baker went a combined 72-16 with UT- Tyler in three seasons (2012-15), helping the Patriots to their first NCAA Sweet 16 and a runner-up finish in the NCAA South Central Regional.

Baker started his career as an assistant at Holmes High School in his hometown of Lufkin, Texas, in 1994. Baker earned his first go at being a head coach when he took over the reins at Com- mercial High School in 1997, going 18-10 in his first season. Baker put together three seasons with 29 or more wins with a combined record of 222-101 in the high school prep ranks. Baker went 29-9 at Palestine High School in 1999-2000 and 30-4 at Nacogdoches High School in 2002-03, where he set school records for victories while earning district and bi-district titles at each.

“My goal was to help kids improve their game and win games,” said Baker. “I’m proud of a lot of things in my ca- reer, but the number one thing that I’m most proud of is that every school that I’ve ever coached at from 1994 until now, we’ve won championships, multiple championships.”

Baker has just one losing season since being a head coach of women’s basketball and that came in his first season as being a head coach at Nacogdoches (2000-01), where he posted a 5-22 mark.

“I’ll take it one step at a time.”

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**MACK LEFTWICH saw his UT-EP career cut short due to injury, but the former starting quarterback has found a new calling in the high school teaching and coaching ranks.**

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UTEP women’s basketball coach happy to have landed his ‘dream job’

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The University of Texas at El Paso
The best moments in Spring ‘17 sports

(Top Left) Sophomore Tobi Amusan, a native of Nigeria, ran the fastest time in the world in 2017 in the women’s 100 meter hurdles during the UTEP Springtime Track Meet. Amusan’s 12.63 also broke Kim Turner’s school record of 12.95, which had stood since 1983, a total of 34 years. Amusan has had a strong season all around in the 100-m hurdles, setting a meet record at the 90th Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays with a 12.72. Amusan has been named the C-USA Athlete of the Week multiple times throughout the season. (Top Right) The Miner men’s basketball team celebrates the end of a 12-game losing streak. UTEP defeated Florida International 88-87 in double overtime, and from that point on, the team was 12-3 and ended the season with a 15-17 record, securing a fourth seed in the C-USA tournament. The team lost to No. 1 seed Middle Tennessee, 82-56, in the semifinals of the tournament. (Middle Left) The UTEP softball team celebrates a home run by junior Kaithlin Ryder. With the season almost at an end, Ryder is tied for second on the team with four home runs to go along with her .36 batting average. Senior Kaki Pepi also has four home runs and a .333 average. Sophomore Cortney Smith may be the surprise of the season, leading the team in home runs (7) and batting average (.353). The UTEP softball team is currently 11-34 and 5-16 in C-USA play. (Middle Right) UTEP women’s basketball endured an unusual down year, going 8-23 overall, after having gone 29-5 just a season before. The team welcomed in seven newcomers and the adjustment was a difficult one. Following the season, head coach Keitha Adams, the winningest coach in UTEP history, left the program for a job as head coach of the Wichita State women’s basketball team. The job places her only 40 miles from Oxford, Kansas, where she was born and raised. Kevin Baker was hired on April 24 to replace Adams as women’s basketball head coach. (Bottom Left) The Patriot places a hold on Delilah during a Friday night performance of New Era Wrestling. In a few short years, NEW has grown from a family learning to wrestle together, to an organization with their own gym, putting on weekly shows in Northeast El Paso. NEW also trains people of all ages hoping to become professional wrestlers themselves. (Bottom Right) “El Paso’s Sweetheart” Jennifer Han defended her IBF women’s featherweight world championship against Shika Gesela on Feb. 17. Han pounded Gesela from start to finish, dropping her in the fifth round to score a 10-8 round. Han won the 10-round fight unanimously as all three judges scored it 100-89, giving Han her third successful title defense and running her professional record to 16-3-1.
Softball seniors prepare for final games in EP

BY MIKE FLORES

The UTEP softball team will be sending out five seniors come Sunday, March 6, when their final series of the season comes to an end against Florida Atlantic in El Paso.

The five seniors are pitchers Erika Harrawood, Kaitlin Fifield and Taylor Grohmann, along with outfielder Miranda Gutierrez and third baseman Kiki Paps.

UTEP (11-34 overall, 5-16 C-USA), a team that is currently riding an eight-game losing streak, will welcome in Florida Atlantic (33-18 overall, 13-8 C-USA), who holds a firm grip on the third spot in C-USA's east division.

With both teams playing for something different beginning Saturday, UTEP will not only be playing for their seniors, but for something to build on for next season. The conference tournament is out of reach for the Miners.

Florida Atlantic seeks to gain ground on Florida International for a chance at the second seed in their division.

UTEP took a step back from the previous season, the Miners achieved their first-ever winning record in conference play (13-11) and made it to the fourth-ever conference tournament in school history. The 2017 season played as a learning year for both the veterans and young student-athletes, according to Harrawood.

“This season definitely hasn’t been the easiest, there’s nothing we can do about the past, but learn from it and just get better every day we have left. I want to go into this last series with everything we got and end the season on a positive note,” Harrawood said. “It will be my last time stepping on our home field. UTEP softball blessed me with amazing friendships and with amazing coaches that have taught me so much, not just about the game but life too.”

During Harrawood’s career, her senior season stands out most as she picked up three wins and threw her first complete game victory of her career earlier this season against Southern Mississippi—a game the Miners won 12-2. Harrawood also struck out the most opposing batters this season (46 total).

Being an El Paso native, Harrawood is thankful for her time with her hometown Miners. An opportunity she never took for granted, even with school, as she was honored with C-USA’s Commissioner’s Honor Roll from 2014-2016.

“I was extremely blessed to be given the opportunity to play and stay at home. I’m very family oriented so it was a perfect fit from the beginning. There really are no words to explain how amazing that feeling is,” said Harrawood.

Another El Paso product, Kaitlin Fifield, has been a reliable pitcher since day one. Before this season, Fifield posted 22 wins (most games on the mound (56). Fifield posted 22 wins—fourth most in program history, third in school history with complete games (29), had two shutouts in her time with UTEP and has started the fourth most games on the mound (56).

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Another El Paso product, Kaitlin Fifield, has been a reliable pitch
Now, with three more games in her career, Grohmann will seek to grab another victory, if given the chance.

Outside of the senior pitchers, Kiki Pepi will also hit the field for her final time. Pepi has spent her final three seasons in El Paso after her freshman year at Oregon State.

With the Miners, Pepi ranks in the top 10 in UTEP's history with a batting average of over .315. She came into her senior year with the school's fifth most assists (238) and ninth in double-plays for the defense (15).

After this season, Pepi has made history for the Miners, as she is now top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi leads the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi leads the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi led the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and on the season—a team-best. She's also top 10 in RBi
UTEP to host C-USA Track and Field Championships beginning on May 11

By Mike Flores

After a successful outdoor track and field season for both the UTEP men and women’s team, it’s time for the Conference-USA Outdoor Championships, which begin May 11 and wrap up on May 14 in El Paso, Texas.

Athletes from the UTEP men’s team to watch going into the C-USA Outdoor Championships are the duo of two freshman runners, Emmanuel Korir and Michael Saruni, as well as sophomore Jonah Koech.

Other participants who will perform in El Paso for the post-season run will include runners that have had notable years throughout the season, such as Elidio Butto from MTSU, Calviontai Carson from Southern Mississippi, Tom Noble from Charlotte, Patrick Prince coming out of UTSA and many more track and field performers who have each earned C-USA Athlete of the Week honors this season.

Sophomore Tobi Amusan is one of the UTEP female runners to keep an eye on, as she was recently named UTEP’s Athlete of the Year alongside former running back Aaron Jones.

Some highlighted female runners coming to the Sun City will be Syl Holwell (UTSA) and Shakita Egbon (MTSU) who has two C-USA Athlete of the Week honors this season.

Lucia Mokusa, a sophomore last year, also placed first in two events, the overall winner of the women’s heptathlon and the women’s heptathlon shot put with a score of 741.

Vanie Bennett, a junior at UTEP last year, finished first in the 400 hurdles preliminaries with her time of 1:00.09.

At the last event for the Miners, the Brutus Hamilton Challenge in Berkeley, California, they finished their regular season with 11 first-place finishers in 25 events and almost saw Korir break an NCAA outdoor record in the 800-meter run, with a time of 1:50.69.

On day two at 10 a.m., the women’s hammer throw kicks off the Friday slate. The other competitions set to take place on Friday are the men’s hammer throw, both decathlon and heptathlon events, the men’s 800-meter heptathlon, 10,000-meter women’s competition and the 1,500-meter decathlon, and finally finishing day two with the 10,000-meter men’s event at 9 p.m.

When the irrenentional doors open on Thursday, May 4, the first event of the day will be the heptathlon at 2:45 p.m., quickly followed up with the decathlon event at 3:15 for the only two competitors on day one.

On May 13, the field events will start at 1 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. But running events will kick off at 5 p.m. and go all the way to the 3,000 steeplechase men’s final at 8:20 p.m.

To end the C-USA Championships on Sunday—all of the high jumps, triple jumps, vault events, shot put competitions, relays and hurdles will be completed.

At the conclusion of the weekend-long tournament, the top three finishers in each event will earn all-conference honors with first team accolades going to the winners. Also, the runners coming in second place in their respective events will receive second-team honors and the same goes for the third place athletes who will get third-team awards.

Every award will be announced and voted for, including Coach of the Year in C-USA for both the women’s and men’s teams. The first and second-place universities will be given a trophy, and the first-place squad will earn awards. Additionally, all of the C-USA coaches will get together and reward both a women’s and men’s competitor for Track Athlete of the Year and Field Athlete of the Year.

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Hot-hitting Chihuahuas return home to face rival Isotopes

BY JASON GREEN  
The Prospector

The El Paso Chihuahuas have vaulted into second place in the Pacific Coast League’s Pacific Southern Division following a double-header sweep of the first-place Salt Lake Bees on Sunday afternoon, April 29, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Bees had been running away with the division, with a 14-7 record prior to the last-place Chihuahuas taking Saturday’s game 8-7, and winning the Sunday pair 3-0 and 12-3. The Chihuahuas lost the series opener to the Bees on Thursday, April 27, 13-5, before Friday’s game was postponed.

The suddenly hot Chihuahuas will face the Bees one more time before heading back to the friendly confines of Southwest University Park, where the team is 7-6, to take on the Albuquerque Isotopes.

Following the promotion of offensive leader Cory Spangenberg to the Padres, the Chihuahuas’ offense could have taken a dip and most observers would have understood. Instead, the remaining Padres have stepped up in his absence, taking it to the best team in the PCL.

Contributing heavily to 28 runs in four games against the Bees have been first baseman Jamie Romak, and outfielders Jose Pirela and Nick Buss. Buss, only added to the Chihuahuas roster on April 24, spent two-thirds of last season with the Salt Lake Bees before joining the team’s parent club, the Angels.

Romak has been the PCL’s most prolific slugger so far this season and the chilly Salt Lake City weather did not slow him down at all. Romak has a league-leading 11 home runs and 25 runs batted in, which are good for second in the league. So far in the series, he has seven hits and seven runs batted in.

Pirela has scored five runs in the series, despite sitting out one game. He also launched his second home run of the season in the first inning of Sunday’s second game.

The 2017 version of the Chihuahuas, which many predicted to be anchored by their pitching, has been carried through the first weeks of the season by timely power hitting.

That is not to say that the pitching has not also been stellar at times. In game one of Sunday’s double-header, starting pitcher Matt Magill (2-1) pitched five innings of shutout ball, striking out three and allowing only two hits to the best offense in the PCL. This season, Magill has a 1.55 earned run average and 0.97 walks/hits per innings pitched.

On Monday, Dinelson Lamet (2-0) will close out the Salt Lake series for El Paso. The 24-year-old Dominican has an unbelievable 0.45 ERA and 28 strikeouts in 20 innings pitched.

Although other starters have struggled somewhat, Magill and Lamet have been bright spots for the Chihuahuas.

The Isotopes (11-12) could arrive in El Paso as the last-place team in the division or tied with the Chihuahuas; such is the nature of the Pacific Southern Division. The team has one more game to play in Las Vegas before the short flight to El Paso.

The Isotopes are led at the plate by Rockies No. 4 prospect Raimel Tapia, who has been on an absolute tear in his last four games. The 6-foot-2-inch left-handed Dominican has 10 hits during the span to go along with a seven-game hit streak.

The Chihuahuas will also have to contend with the Rockies No. 2 prospect in starting pitcher Jeff Hoffman sometime during the series. In his last start on April 28, Hoffman went seven innings, striking out eight Las Vegas 51’s batters without allowing any earned runs. Hoffman is holding opposing batters to a .229 batting average this season.

The Chihuahuas open the series with the Isotopes on Tuesday, May 2 at 6:35 p.m. Zach Lee (0-0) will be on the mound for El Paso after returning from a successful stint with the San Diego Padres.

Follow Jason Green on Twitter @GreenevansJ

Congratulations to All Our Winners!

Humberto Porras  
Isai Montero  
Luis Perez  
Chidimma Ikeakor  
Alyssa Reyes

Sergio Olivas Jr.  
Aaron Avitia  
Antton Robinson  
Vanessa Zamora