A look at 2018 on the border: government, construction and more

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

Growth and development have been no stranger to the city of El Paso in recent years. With construction expansions, political races and so much more being planned out, 2018 could be a monumental year in the city’s evolution. Here are just some of the most important topics arising in 2018:

1. O’Rourke vs. Cruz: Who will Texas vote for?
   Beto O’Rourke, the El Paso native, is Texas Democratic Party’s big hope to unseat Ted Cruz in the 2018 U.S. senate race. O’Rourke will end his biggest challenge yet against Cruz. The Tea Party icon has been senator since winning in 2012.
   Cruz, who also sold Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election, could see a reflection of his success following the results of this race.
   “Tonight, the eyes of the nation were on Alabama. Tomorrow, Texas,” O’Rourke told thousands of email subscribers and donors after Alabama Republican-nominee Roy Moore lost the senate race to Democrat Doug Jones.
   O’Rourke prides himself on a grassroots campaign and does not accept corporate donors to fund his campaign. His areas of political preference include immigration reform, giving back a voice to smaller communities across Texas and his opposition to the war on drugs.
   Nonetheless, come Nov. 6, we will know whether Texas has swayed toward the left or if it will reign red.

2. Streetcar project runs its first cars
   The El Paso Streetcar plan broke ground in 2017, ripping up streets linking downtown to the UTEP campus. The team’s focus is on utility relocation, developing a storage facility, repairing sidewalks, placing the rails, planning 27 stops and resurfacing streets.
   The route has two separate loops. The Downtown Loop will run along Santa Fe Street, Franklin Avenue, Kansas Street and Father Rahm Avenue, while the Uptown Loop will go on Franklin Avenue, Stanton Street, Baltimore Drive, Glory Road and Oregon Street, according to the site’s website.
   It will connect the international bridges, retail areas, government buildings, convention center and se 2018 on page 3

El Paso’s world champion ready to return to the ring

BY DANIEL MÉNDEZ

International Boxing Federation’s world female featherweight titleholder Jennifer Han (16-3-3) was ready to defend her title against the mandatory challenger Lizbeth Crespo (12-3) early in December, but the fight was postponed due to an ankle sprain.
   “The fight was moved to Jan. 27, and was again postponed further due to an opportunity by Primetime to include the fight as the co-main event for El Paso’s first-ever prime-time boxing event on a major television network (FOX),” as Devon Alexander faces Victor Ortiz at the Don Haskins Center on Feb. 17.
   “The last two months of training have been interesting,” Han said. “Training was difficult after that (ankle sprain)—I couldn’t really run or spar. My coach and Roman Robbins (a member of Han’s media team) had me doing alternative forms of conditioning. I was swimming, I was doing bicycle. I was doing what I could to keep my condition up, because as a fighter you have to be able to last 10 rounds.”
   The fight card is scheduled to have a total of four former world champions in the ring: former world champion and El Paso’s own Austin Trout will be on the card as well. Trout’s opponent has yet to be determined.
   Han, the reigning defending champion, is the only current champion featured for this bout. The former champions Alexander and Ortiz will be the only televised battle of the night, which will be on FOX.
   The Han family has a history of combat sports, as fighting runs in the family. Master Bau Han has his own martial arts studio in Northeast El Paso. Her little brother Abraham is also a professional boxer. The rest of the Han siblings—Israel and her two sisters Heather and Stephania—help Han out when it comes to her training schedule.

“A boxing is difficult,” Han said. “My brother and I go to Las Cruces in the mornings and we drive 45 minutes to train with my coach Lou Burke and my teammates, like Austin Trout. We stay there two-three hours training. I don’t have the gym until 12:30 at night and then my routine starts back all over again. I’m busy and it’s hard, but it’s worth it right now.”

see HAN on page 6

Dreamers continue the fight to preserve DACA

BY RENE DELGADILLO

Norie Labardo wakes up every morning uncertain what his future holds, with the fear that he could potentially be deported and not able to complete his degree in May.
   Labardo is one of the nearly 9,000 Dreamers in El Paso County, according to the Migration Policy Institute, that could be deported if the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, also known as DACA, is eliminated.
   He said that without DACA, he would have to hide in the shadows simply for not having a paper document that allows him to work.
   “At the end of the day, this turns into a game. A political game that’s messing with hundreds of thousands of lives and their families,” he said.
   Labardo, a senior physics major and member of United We Dream, which is the largest immigrant youth-led community in the country, has been a DACA recipient since the program first started in 2012.
   He said that the Jan. 9 injunction from a federal judge in California to stop President Trump’s plans to rescind work permits for young undocumented immigrants was not the victory he hoped for.
   “It was a partial victory for something that we really didn’t expect, however, our eyes are set in a permanent solution, in a real victory—not just for us, but for our parents,” Labardo said.
   In a statement, Judge William Alsup, the judge that issued the injunction, said that the Trump administration’s decision to rescind DACA recipients’ work permits was easily overturned.
   “It was an illegal decision that was based on a legal error that is not unusual,” Judge Alsup wrote. "Such a decision was made based on a misreading of the law."
I’m not afraid to call an orange an orange

BY JASON GREEN
THE PROSPECTOR

I recently finished reading the bombshell new book by Michael Wolff, “Fire and Fury,” which reportedly has the West Wing at each other's throats.

Wolff reported numerous people inside the White House saying Trump is not very smart. Additionally, the rest of the American public, who are being honest with themselves, can watch the news almost daily and can conclude that he may not be the sharpest tool in the shed.

But, I would still hesitate to write that President Trump is an idiot. I would feel more comfortable saying he is "idly-"ed an idiot.

Wolff also talks about the meetings that the Trump transition team had in Trump Tower with Russian operatives and the fact that Steve Bannon, former chief strategist for Trump, who Trump claims to barely know nos, said that the meetings were treasonous.

When you add in the fact that several members of the Trump administration have already been indicted for various offenses involving money laundering related to Russia and are cooperating with Robert Mueller's investigation due to their ties with Russia, a clear picture of collusion between the Trump White House and Russia is as plain as day.

Without an admission or clear verbal statement. I am not worried about the Trump team and Russia that won the House and Russia is as plain as day.

The chief strategist for Trump, who Trump nominated to their cabinet, Trump referred to their ties with Russia, a clear picture of collusion between the Trump White House and Russia is as plain as day.

To the shame of our formally great nation, we have a racist for our command-in-chief and it is an absolute disgrace.

Even before Trump recently called Haiti, El Salvador and other African nations "shithole countries," his feelings toward any non-white immigrants were already clear.

In a previous meeting in the Oval Office with his cabinet, Trump referred to Haitians as having AIDS. He also stated that once Nigerians had come to America, they would never go back to their "huts." All of these statements were reported to the New York Times. Today by a Trump acolyte who was actually shocked enough to report him.

This is the same Donald Trump who signed a "deportation" along with his father Fred Trump, who was arrested against President Trump.

Well, for gods sake, it's 2018 in the United States of America. This isn't the 1950s in the racist South, when even the politicians couldn't be counted on to do the right thing...though it often appears that way.

At the end of the day, the politicians are either scared to help America get rid of "His Royal Orange-ness" or would rather just not seek re-election in 2018 as 43 congressmen have already stated—somehow finding an even more cowardly way out.

But we are going to show the rest of the world that we respect brethren of every color and creed, we are going to have to prove we have a spine.

We have to force a change and have our voices heard. We have fought racism in this country for too long to let it become the "norm" again.

We need to bring people with a spine back into Congress and let the world know that our country is not a "shithole." We made one small mistake eating a piece of shit for president and we should rectify it as soon as we can.

Follow Jason Green on Twitter @greenevansj

The Prospector stands with Dreamers.

El Paso athletics: where will they stand when 2018 is over?

BY ADRIAN BROADUS

A new year means a new opportunity for growth.

UTEP athletics, growth is necessary after a 6-6 overall record last season.

Meanwhile the Chihuahuas have seen their programs soar to the top. Here are the top questions to ask for UTEP football: How much can Dana Dimel do in his first year of coaching?

Since his hiring in December, new football head coach Dana Dimel has been putting a lot of work with the Miners. In just over a month, he hired a complete new staff with big names like Mike Canales and Mike Cox, he worked heavily on recruiting and gave over 25 players offers to play.

From now until opening the season in September, there are three days to really key in on during the off-season for UTEP football.

First will be signing day in February, which will give a glimpse on what level he can recruit. If Dimel can sign some transfers or JUCO transfers, that would be eye candy for the next season, being that the coaching staff is recruiting so late in the year.

The next time to evaluate how well Dimel has done during his first practices with the team for spring ball. We will need to evaluate each position, coach up some of the struggling positions and define playmakers. Here we might not get very clear who will be the starting quarterback, but maybe we will tell by what direction the offense is heading.

His final task will be the final week of summer camp. At this point, Dimel will have all the playmaking positions intact. In place—quarterback, running back and all—and we will see how this team plans to win games.

UTEP men's basketball: What direction will men's basketball take?

To keep interim head coach Phil Johnson on or not will be the pressing decision that athletic director Jim Senter will have to evaluate at the end of this year.

Johnson, who took over after Tim Floyd announced his retirement in December, has posted a

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

Submit to 105 E. Union, e-mail to editor michaelaroman@gmail.com, call 915-747-5161 or fax 747-8031.

El Paso Chihuahuas: Can the team make a better move toward the future?

Chihuahua entering season five: how big has development been in Triple-A for the Padres?

Throughout the past years, the city of El Paso has seen top level baseball talent come and go through the El Paso Chihuahuas.

More importantly, the city has seen the Triple-A squad bring up highly acclaimed prospects, breed them through the Chihuahua system and send them to the San Diego Padres in the MLB.

For example, outfielder Hunter Renfroe has had a strong rookie outing with the Chihuahuas in 2016, which then earned him a spot on the Padres for the 2017 season. The Chihuahuas saw local stars like Carlos Asuaje, Manuel Margot, Alex Dickerson, Austin Hedges and Cory Spangenberg develop through Triple-A and make their way up to the big league.

This year it will be interesting to see if the Chihuahuas' front office staff decides they need to keep the young talent or trade them away for veteran weapons.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus

ACCUlRACY WATCH

The Prospector is committed to the accuracy, if you think we have made an error of fact, e-mail the editor at michaelaroman@gmail.com

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January 16, 2018

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Women’s basketball looks to end homestand on a high note

BY JEREMY CARRANCO

The UTEP women’s basketball team will face FAU this Thursday, Jan. 18, to close out a three-game homestand.

The Owls (8-6, 2-1 C-USA) defeated the Miners (11-6, 2-2 C-USA) in their first matchup this season in Boca Raton, Fla., 72-66, on Jan 7.

Aside from a strong performance from Robinson, UTEP was both out-hustled and limited with sharing the basketball. FAU won the second-chance battle 21-6 and took better advantage of scoring off UTEP’s 19 turnovers than the Miners did with the Owls’ 18, notching a 24-10 advantage. Looking at assists, UTEP racked up just five 3-pointers in the first matchup. UTEP will look to contain FAU’s Tyana Robinson in the rematch with the Owls, as the freshman guard scored a game-high 19 points with five 3-pointers in the first matchup.

Looking at UTEP, senior and team captain Tamara Seda leads in points and rebounds with a near double-double average of 14.9 points and 9.8 rebounds. Seda has tallied eight double-double performances so far this season through 17 games, including five straight from Nov. 24 to Dec. 5.

Behind her in the scoring column is Naslia Howell. The junior is averaging 13.9 points and leads the team in 3-point shooting percentage (42.9 percent) and 3-pointers made (27). The two leaders have scored in double figures in 13 of their teams’ 18 games so far this season.

The Miners are coming off a loss in their last contest against Middle Tennessee, 54-45, on Jan. 13. Seda and Howell combined for just six of their team’s 45 points in the loss, being shut down from a strong defensive effort by the Blue Raiders. Sophomore Zuzanna Puc carried the team with 16 points led by an 8-11 (72.8 percent) shooting day from the floor.

After a 15-point come-from-behind victory against Charlotte (67-58) on Jan. 11, UTEP found themselves in a tough defensive battle against the C-USA preseason favorite Blue Raiders. The Miners shot 8 percent from behind the arc (1-13) to the Blue Raiders’ 40 percent (12-30), with MTSU’s Anna Jones hitting eight of those 12.

UTEP will have to improve upon guarding the 3-point shot, with two players from two different teams (FAU’s Robinson and MTSU’s Jones) recently finding success against the Miners’ limited focus from the perimeter.

Following the loss to MTSU, first-year head coach Kevin Baker said that he took the Blue Raiders chances from knocking down the 3-point ball in exchange for a good defensive presence inside.

“We picked our poison and it was to force them to shoot perimeter shots and they made us pay for it today,” Baker said after the loss.

The Miners did force 19 turnovers from the Blue Raiders to even the turnover margin, in exchange for eight points. However, a bigger issue was rebounding as MTSU won a six-plus win in the category (34-28), a surprising statistic coming from a UTEP team, who had won the rebounding margin in 14 of their last 16 contests.

At home under Baker, the Miners are 6-2 with a split (1-1) in their first two Conference USA games this season.

Tip-off against the Owls is slated for 7 p.m.

Follow Jeremy Carranco on Twitter @jacarranco_

GARY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP women’s basketball team will face FAU this Thursday, Jan. 18, to close out a three-game homestand.
Jennifer Han (right) battled Lilian Martinez (left) on Oct. 16, 2016 at the Don Haskins Center. Han will face the No.1 contender Lizbeth Crespo on Feb. 17, at the Don Haskins Center.

Han has boxed since she was 16. She fought for years as an amateur in her early days, winning five national championships and representing the United States in tournaments around the world, but nothing compares to fighting in her hometown, she says.

"For me, I've fought all over the world. I've had great experiences throughout my career, but nothing beats fighting in my hometown, where I can fight in front of my family, my friends, my students, my peers," Han said. "You know they bring so much energy and so much positive vibes to me that I perform my best in my hometown. So, I love that advantage."

This is El Paso's first big boxing event since former world champion Oscar De La Hoya fought in 1998. Han feels the love from fans and that is why she is excited about the future implications of what this fight can bring to El Paso.

"I'm so excited I get this opportunity to fight on the Ortiz-Alexander card and that my teammate Austin Trout will be fighting. That's a total of four world champions that are on the card," Han said. "El Paso is a huge boxing town and we don't get these kind of big fights that often, so to be a part of this truly historical event, I'm truly blessed and excited and were going to make bigger and better things come to El Paso because of this fight."

Crespo is in for a battle since this is her first bout outside of Argentina, where she's fought her entire career. The top contender was born in Bolivia, and at the age of 27 is entering the title fight on a six-fight win streak.

"Lizbeth Crespo is going to be a tough fight. She is number one rated in the world. She's my mandatory," Han said. "So this fight is very important for me and she's a strong, aggressive, young, aggressive fast fighter.

"But it's nothing that I haven't prepared for in the past. My team is amazing—Louie Burke, my coach, has already been implementing our game plan. I've already been practicing, enduring sparring and I'm excited to put on a good show for the city of El Paso."

The reigning champ is entering the fight on a six-fight win streak of her own.

Han, 34, will be making her fourth title defense in front of a home crowd at the Haskins Center. She is a pioneer in women's boxing already, but she is ready to break the boundaries of women's boxing once more.

"Women's boxing is growing," Han said. "We have a lot of talented female champions and this fight is going to be a great opportunity for me because I'm going to get so much exposure—people are going to get to know me, Jennifer Han. Not just my fans, but the boxing community and boxing world and hopefully I can continue to be a pioneer for women's boxing and push for championship fights to be on TV, including my own. I know women's boxing, if they give us an opportunity, it's going to explode."

Han has her eyes set on her master plan. This is only the beginning for her and her hometown city.

"I'm proud that I am able to do this accomplishment for El Paso, but it's just the beginning. I've just opened the doors. There's lot of talent here in El Paso, so I'm looking forward to seeing more world champions and I'm not done. I plan on, after successfully defending my title, I would really like the opportunity to unify the titles, clean up my division."

Tickets range from $25 to $200 and can be purchased at ticketmaster.com. Follow Daniel Mendez on Twitter @dmendez24

\[ Follow Daniel Mendez on Twitter @dmendez24 \]
New York’s Dirty Fences set to make a stop at local dive bar

By Claudia Flores

The Prospector

From New York City to El Paso, Dirty Fences is on their way to promote their third studio album “Goodbye Love.” The album was released in October of last year and has been the platform for their latest tour. As part of their “Live in the USA 2018 Tour,” Dirty Fences will be performing for free at Monarch on Jan. 16.

“We’ve been to El Paso a few times,” said Max Hiersteiner, drummer of Dirty Fences. “Shout out to Leo Lara and the rest of the boys in Nalgadas! They always show us a good time.”

Originally from Boston, drummer Hiersteiner, 29, bassist Max Comaskey, 30, rhythm guitarist Max Roseglass, 31, and lead vocalist and guitarist Jack Daves, 28, started the band in 2009. They came up with the idea of forming the band as teenagers, and thanks to a school talent show, the idea became a real project.

“We all started hanging out in high school. We had each wanted to start a band for a long time, so as soon as our little friend group had someone who played each instrument that a rock band needed, we started one,” Heirsteiner said. “We got a taste of playing live at our high school talent show and wanted to relive that feeling over and over again.”

The band moved from Boston to New York right after high school, and their journey truly began in Brooklyn.

Influenced by the sounds of The Ramones, The Beatles, Blondie and Jim Ford, among others, Dirty Fences’ alternative rock sound is clear in each track of their new album. In 2012, the band released their first self-titled EP via Valcom Entertainment. Since then, the band has released two more EPs, “Ladies Choice” in 2014 and “First EP Plus Two Xtra Songs” in 2017.

Prior to the release of “Goodbye Love,” the band released two full-length studio albums, “Too High to Kross” in 2013 and “Full Tramp” in 2015, which were under the production of Slovely Records.

In this album, Dirty Fences gives a nod to their influences, but manage to maintain an authenticity of their own. The album’s lead single “Teen Angel” pairs a catchy melody with wailing guitar solos and driving percussion.

Their second single “One More Step” is in collaboration with Sheer Mag’s vocalist Christina Halladay. Initially the song was written for Halladay, but it was the determined the song would work best as a duet. In “One More Step” the vintage style the band features in other tracks is present as the voices of Halladay and Dirty Fences’ Comaskey combine to sing to the dissolving romance of the lyrics.

Other tracks that capture the energy of rhythmic drum lines and driven melodies of the band are “All You Need is a Number,” “Dance,” “Message from Anyone” and “I Can’t Sleep at Night.”

Prior to “Goodbye Love,” Dirty Fences toured non-stop in Europe and it was the endless partying stories and road trips that inspired the band to write the lyrics for their new album.

“We wrote some songs on the road and some when we finally got to rest at home for a bit. We recorded them and now we’re back on the road,” Daves said. “This road life we’re living comes with a lot of stress and heartache and it is great material for rock songs.”

The band said some of the best parts about touring are the experiences of being on stage and sharing their music with the audience.

“We love playing live shows for all of our music-loving brothers and sisters all over the globe,” Hiersteiner said. “But the best part of touring is being on stage with each other.”

Daves said the band isn’t slowing down soon as the preparation for new albums, tours and videos are coming up.

Claudia Flores may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.
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- **February 3rd:** Ski Apache Skiing / Snowboarding
- **March 24th:** Ski Apache Skiing / Snowboarding
- **April 18th:** Taos Box Whitewater Rafting

**Fitness Programs Spring 2018**
- **January 22 to April 27:**
  - **12:00 - 4:30 PM:**
    - **Monday & Wednesday:**
      - 1:00 - 4:00 PM: SPIN & SCULPT®, Rm. 130
      - 1:00 - 4:00 PM: ABS & GLUTES, Rm. 130
  - **TUESDAY & THURSDAY:**
    - 5:30 - 8:00 PM: SPINNING®, Rm. 130
  - **Saturday:**
    - 12:00 - 4:00 PM: SPINNING®, Rm. 130

**Intramurals Spring 2018 Intramural Schedule**
- **Ultimate Frisbee:**
  - Registration Ends:
  - Season Starts:
  - 01/24/2018 01/30/2018
- **Basketball:**
  - 01/31/2018 02/05/2018
- **ZUMBA:**
  - 02/12/2018 02/27/2018
- **3 Point Shootout:**
  - 02/20/2018 02/27/2018
- **Free Throws:**
  - 02/20/2018 02/27/2018
- **Indoor Soccer Shootout:**
  - 02/23/2018 03/02/2018
- **Ping Pong:**
  - 02/28/2018 03/07/2018
- **Sniper:**
  - 03/01/2018 03/08/2018
- **Dodgeball:**
  - 04/01/2018 04/10/2018

**Special Events:**
- CPR Awareness Event (February 19)