The Plaza Theatre opened its doors on Sept. 12, 1930. The Great Depression was in its earliest stages that year, but El Paso was booming and the Plaza Theatre, best known for its atmospheric architecture, would later become known as The Showcase of the Southwest.

It was the nicest movie palace between Dallas and Los Angeles, according to Doug Pullen, program director for the Plaza Community Foundation. Pullen said it was one of the first buildings in El Paso to have air conditioning and refrigerated water. The Plaza continued to thrive until the late 70s when multiple screen movie theaters began to pop up.

"When 'Star Wars' opened in 1977, the Plaza wasn't closed, but it was on life support," Pullen said. "The theater was run down, beat up and went through multiple ownership changes. It was almost demolished to make space for a parking ramp, but the president of the El Paso Community Foundation said it was one of the first buildings in El Paso to have air conditioning and refrigerated water. The Plaza continued to thrive until the late 70s when multiple screen movie theaters began to pop up."
The Prospector
By Michaela Román

March attendees hold signs at Centennial Plaza for a rally before marchers walked down Oregon Street to San Jacinto Plaza on Sunday, Jan. 21.

See more photos and a video from the march at theprospectordaily.com.

one standing up for them fighting for globe once again We're only one month into 2018 and  Last week, the sentencing hearing for...
Race for the 16th Congressional seat: get to know the candidates

Democrats

Veronica Escobar
-former county judge

Escobar is running on a progressive ticket, advocating for immigration reform and single-payer health care. Escobar also supports free-trade agreements such as NAFTA.

Escobar has the endorsements of progressive organizations such as EMILY’s List, Our Revolution, End Citizens United, and many others. She is also endorsed by the current holder of the seat, Beto O’Rourke, and House Minority Whip Steve M. D-MI.

Dori Fenenbock
-former EPISD board of trustees president

Fenenbock is running on a centrist platform, and says that in divisive times, El Paso needs a candidate who can bring the parties together. As the former president of the board of EPISD, Fenenbock has strong views on supporting public education. She also advocates for immigration reform and is against the border wall, but does say that the U.S. needs to better enforce existing laws, which call for stronger border controls.

Fenenbock has been endorsed by the El Paso Municipal Police Officers Association and the Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas.

Enrique Garcia
-immigration attorney

Like all of the Democratic tickets, Garcia advocates for immigration reform and a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers. However, Garcia also says that he is for the privatization of immigration detention centers and the county jail, according to the El Paso Times. Garcia says his experience as an immigration lawyer helps him really understand what immigration reform means. Garcia supports NAFTA and wants to make education more affordable, as well as reform the Affordable Care Act.

John Carrillo
-director of development for KTEP

Carrillo said that his top three priorities are immigration reform, education and taking better care of El Paso veterans. While Carrillo has never held office before, he says that he has spent a lifetime working in management positions, including being the project engineer for an NPR series that won the Peabody Award. Carrillo also advocates for environmental protections.

Norma Chávez
-former state Rep

After serving in the Texas House of Representatives for 14 years, Chávez claims that her experience will better help her serve El Paso in Congress, and said recently that Democratic legislators need to load bills with provisions to get Democratic legislation passed. Chávez advocates for immigration reform, such as giving DACA recipients a pathway to citizenship, as well as single-payer health care.

Republicans

Alia Garcia-Ureste
-Texas Holocaust and genocide commission

One of the two Republicans on the ballot, Garcia-Ureste was selected by Governor Rick Perry to become the first Hispanic woman to serve as Madam State Commissioner of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission.

In a campaign ad, she said that she wants to hear the untold story of El Pasoans on the border. She has said that her vision for El Paso is one that focuses on job creation in a recent congressional forum.

Rick Seeberger
-businessman

Seeberger is running on a solid Republican ticket. He advocates for lowering property taxes, pro-life, advocates for legal immigration only as he does not support the Dream Act. Seeberger says that he wants El Paso to be a “strong model for the nation.”

Voting

•Last day to register: Feb. 2
•Early voting begins Feb. 20 and ends March 2.
•Primary election voting day is March 6.

Follow Juan Gonzales on Twitter (@gonzalj).

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What would you want to vote for someone running in the Texas elections?

JESUS RUIZ
Sophomore forensic sciences major
“I want somebody who is in favor of keeping net neutrality. For example, server providers for Internet don’t have control to lower the Internet. I also want a person worried for technological issues.”

INGRID LOYA
Junior social work major
“Somebody with determination and ideas towards the community, and also someone who wants better for the community.”

JUAN ZEDILLO
Junior mechanical engineering major
“I would vote for someone who puts the values of Texas citizens first. We need to take care of our citizens before we can take care of citizens from other countries.”

RAMON MENDOZA
Sophomore nursing major
“Someone with integrity and open-minded, who isn’t hating and discriminating his own people. Someone who has experience with government work and knows what his doing. I want someone with character.”

SERGIO VELAZCO
Freshman accounting major
“I would vote for somebody who is aware of diversity and supports some controversial issues as marijuana legalization.”

Claudia Hernandez
Sergio Munoz / The Prospector
January 23, 2018

EPQBA works to engage voters in the LGBTQI community

By Michaela RoMán

The Prospector

Most nights at the Briar Patch, one of El Paso’s hottest gay bars, you can find people dancing on the patio, socializing and drinking. But once a month there’s a different mood at Brian’s, as openly gay attorneys join together to advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) rights.

The El Paso Queer Bar Association has evolved in the last few months as politicians have reached out to them for endorsements as they recognize the necessity of the LGBT community vote. El Paso native Cynthia Lopez, president and co-founder of EPQBA and immigration attorney, lived in Chicago for nine years and moved back in March 2011 to open her own practice. Lopez noticed the LGBTQI community was not as connected as it could be, especially in the legal field.

“There was a lawyer’s association and bar association, but nothing for the LGBT community,” Lopez said. “I reached out to some friends and we all were on board and excited to do it, so we just started meeting and organizing and started putting everything together. ”

In 2015, Lopez was motivated to form EPQBA—an association open to pretty much everyone in the legal profession. The group is also open to non-attorneys and has allies that are part of the organization.

The association is made up of a board and members who pay yearly dues. “I think that El Paso has very much been ignoring the LGBTQI community, especially politically,” Lopez said.

Lopez also said the community had failed to see them as an important demographic, which has caused neglect in a lot of ways when it comes to resources and when it comes to police protection. “It’s because we really don’t have a say politically because we haven’t organized before,” she said. EPQBA is now working to educate the public informing the LGBTQI community about candidates and to expressing publicly where they stand on issues that are important to them. “I think it’s important we, the community, force (candidates) to answer the tough questions about supporting marriage,” Lopez said. “Of the big things right now is Texas is still trying to not extend benefits to government employees who are in same sex marriages.”

The organization has hosted citizenship fairs to help pre-screen residents filing for their citizenship. They have also hosted health fairs, where medical organizations test for diabetes and other health issues.

EPQBA also helps the LGBTQI community and divourse informa­tion and they help transgender people get their gender legally changed. The association is always looking for volunteers who can help out at the fairs.

“Some of them have had tons of people and some of them have had a few. We need help with directing traffic, parades and help with the floats,” Lopez said.

EPQBA has grown in the last few months, turning from four or five members into 30.

El Paso has also seen city and state representatives take a stand toward LGBT laws. In fact, State Sen. Jose Rodriguez has been very outspoken on his support for the LGBT community.

Daniel Collins, a UTEP alumnus and a former officer for the Austin LGBT bar association, has worked for Sen. Rodriguez. The Austin LGBT bar association launched in 2011, which parallels the movement of the El Paso chapter. “Even in Austin, which I think has a reputation for being more progressive, is still fairly new,” Collins said. “I was finishing law school that year and we started a lot of the lasting programs like a robust mentor program that matches current queer and ally law students to give them mentorship.”

Collins, who identifies as queer, said that in law school he was eager to talk to other gay men who had dealt with issues like whether they should be out on their resume and how to navigate what a lot of people have seen as a generally conser­vative field.

The association started the first statewide scholarship for queer and ally law students. The scholarships have gone to students from UT-Austin, St. Mary’s Law School, North Texas Law School, Texas Tech Law School and other Texas schools.

“This goes to show there are gay law students everywhere and gay lawyers everywhere, and I think all of them increasingly are trying to find community and find efforts where they can talk about issues that are unique to our community,” Collins said. Collins also said it’s an interesting time to tackle legal issues today such as family law when it comes to the LGBTQI community. He said a lot of firms are waking up to the importance of these issues. He said that Texas can’t take for granted the strides that the LGBT community has made in the last 10 years.

“Not only in law, but I think in just general acceptance in larger culture,” Collins said. “I think it’s easy for people to become kind of complacent when they see there’s a general acceptance of the LGBT community, but we’ll need people to stand up and say no, discrimina­tion isn’t a Texas value and you, my elected officials, should support me and my support policies that keep me from living my fullest, most productive life.”

The EPQBA is currently working to organize a debate for the District 16 congressional candidates in early February at El Paso Community College. “We do want to be active politically, so I think it would be great to endorse or not endorse candidates,” Lopez said. “I think it’s really important to know our voices are heard. In an organized manner you can really be a lot more effective with having voices heard.”

Follow Michaela RoMán on Twitter @michaelaroman_

I think that El Paso has very much been ignoring the LGBTQI community, especially politically.

- Cynthia Lopez

El Paso Queer Bar Association president
Questions & answers with athletic director Jim Senter

Gary Velasquez / The Prospector

Editor’s note: The Prospector got a chance to sit down with new UTEP Athletic Director Jim Senter and have him talk with us about all he has to bring to UTEP. To hear more from him, listen to the full podcast interview on The Prospector Daily’s SoundCloud account.

Q: How does it feel to be in the Sun City?
A: Well, I’ve told people it’s like tak- ing a step back in time. There’s a lot of information coming at you, a lot of people to meet. I figure about 500 news stories a day, it’s overwhelming. But great, people have been so welcoming. I love this feeling that everyone has when meeting me, saying “welcome to El Paso, welcome to UTEP.” It really makes me feel like they care.”

Q: You’ve been in people and saying hi—I think they genuinely appreciate that. I don’t know a single human be- ing who doesn’t appreciate being recognized or appreciated. That’s one of the things I’m trying to do. What’s really cool about this is the fact that people always want to tell you. I’ve had these seats for 30 years. “I’ve had these seats for 40—50,” I watched the 1986 team when they were here.” What they’re really saying is they love the Min- ers and they’re proud to be here. It just reaffirms what I thought all along and when I interviewed that there’s a great fan base here.

Q: Any thoughts on upgrading the fa- cilities like the Sun Bowl or Don Haskins Center?
A: Any day you aren’t working on fa- cilities, you’re going behind the scenes because your competitors are. I think we have a good foundation for facilities. For example, the Larry K. Durham has been here for a while. That building was built when we had almost eight less people than now. We just added our 10th floor. We have to design facilities, build facilities that are going forward thinking. Some of the things obviously the Sun Bowl— it’s in dire need of some work. It’s a 60 to 70-year-old facility. We want to fix some of the things in March or April, where we’re going to be doing some enhancement on new technology, on new fan engagement.

Q: Thoughts on UTEP performing in the Mountain West Conference in the future? A: As much as I would like to see UTEP obviously in the Sun Bowl—it’s in dire need of some work. It’s a 60 to 70-year-old facility. We want to fix some of the things in March or April, where we’re going to be doing some enhancement on new technology, on new fan engagement.

Q: Thoughts on UTEP performing in the Mountain West Conference in the future? A: As much as I would like to see UTEP obviously in the Sun Bowl—it’s in dire need of some work. It’s a 60 to 70-year-old facility. We want to fix some of the things in March or April, where we’re going to be doing some enhancement on new technology, on new fan engagement.

Q: Any reason why Osborne’s scoring has been crucial is that the Miners have seen in the past. The season leader in scoring with a season-high of four blocked shots. The Miners will face CSU’s 15th best team when they play the Blazers on Thursday. UTEP is just two games from first place as three teams are currently tied for the number one spot (ODU, MTSU, WKE).

Q: With the release of UTEP adopt- ing a new orange, what are your overall thoughts about the change?
A: I understand, the university had been working on one shade of or- ange and athletics had been working on another shade of orange. I don’t know where the disconnect was, but the institution said we are moving to a light- er shade of orange—kind of reminds me of the good of days with the Mountain West Conference because there’s 50- 60 years of history there. But for us to be attractive to anyone else, we need to be really good in the league we’re in. If you look all across America, when there conference realignment, the teams at the bottom of every conference are not the ones moving around. It’s the ones who are at the top. The Miners fans who want to be us, to move, we have to first dominate the one we’re in. I totally get it why people want to be in it. For expenses and bud- get, it would be better in that regard. At the end of the day, I know what conference realignment does, but we will get it after it.

Q: Thoughts on Potts being a versatile player? A: I think it’s all about the offensive game. Giddy Potts was the second-leading scorer that day against Florida Atlantic (Frazier’s first game back), which has been a nice surprise, but it also comes down to the struggles from

The UTEP men’s basketball team faces tough challenge on the road

Gary Velasquez / The Prospector

Men’s basketball team faces tough challenge on the road

By Daniel Mendez

January 23, 2018

Falling to the No. 12 spot in the Conference USA standings after a 6-14 loss to UTSA this past Saturday night, the men's basketball team will still be in search of their first road win of the season when they face UAB and Middle Tennessee this week.

The Miners (7-12, 2-5) will look to redress themselves as they face two of C-USA's top five teams on the road this week, starting with the UAB (13-7, 4-3 C-USA) on Thursday, Jan. 25.

UTEP has relied on sophomore guard Isaiah Osborne, who has been improving his game in recent weeks. Since earning a season-high 25 points against Louisiana Tech earlier this month, Osborne has dropped 20-point games in his teams last four outings. In the Miners’ last pair of games (FVU, UTSA), Osborne has been the Miners’ leading scorer.

Defensively, UTEP will have to contain senior guard Chris Cokley, the senior is averaging double-double stats with 18.3 points per game and 9.5 rebounds per game. Cokley has nine double-doubles on the season and is coming off a season-high of 28 points in the Blazers’ loss at Marshall in overtime on Saturday (Jan. 20).

Following UAB, UTEP will head to Murfreesboro, Tenn., where they will face one of the teams that is currently among the best in the country. The Blue Raiders are led by 16- year-old head coach Kermit Davis.

Middle Tennessee does not have the flashy offensive statistics like UAB, but the Blue Raiders get it done on the defensive end with a national rank of 50 in points allowed per game (66.4). Nick King leads the Blue Raiders with an average of 21.7 points per game and 7.9 rebounds per game. He has already torchled opposing defenses for three 30-point games and has nine 20-plus point games.

In a showdown last week against ri- val Western Kentucky, King scored 28 points to hand the Hilltoppers their first loss in conference play with a 66-62 win on the road. Senior guard Giddy Potts was the second-leading scorer in that game for the Blue Raid- ers. Potts is averaging 17.5 points per game as Middle Tennessee’s second-leading scorer behind King.

Tip-off for the Miners is set for 8 p.m. MST in Birmingham, Ala., and 5 p.m. will be the scheduled tip-off against the Blue Raiders in Murfreesboro.

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IN BRIEF

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL BACK ON THE ROAD
The UTEP women’s basketball team will be back on the road for the first time since Jan. 7, as they face Rice on Jan. 26 and North Texas on Jan. 28. The Miners (12-6, 3-2 C-USA) are coming off a 75-70 home win against Florida Atlantic this past Thursday. Jan. 18, at the Don Haskins Center.

MEN'S HOCKEY TO PLAY AT TSU, TEXAS
The UTEP men’s hockey club (15-8) will face Texas State (Jan. 25) and Texas (Jan. 26-27) on the road this weekend. The Miners have won eight straight and are coming off a two-game sweep of the Bobcats this past weekend in El Paso by a combined score of 26-0.

RHINOS HOST SNIPERS THIS WEEKEND
The El Paso Rhinos (34-2) return home this weekend (Jan. 26-28) to host the Dallas Snipers. El Paso is coming off a 5-1 road trip where they swept the Wichita Thunder and took two of three matches against the Oklahoma City Blazers.

Trust the process: UTEP athletics on the rise
On Nov. 22, the wishes of UTEP Athletics and its fans finally came true when new Athletic Director Jim Senter was announced to take over for Bob Stull. Some weren’t happy at first since the frontrunner before Senter, Lisa Campos, ended up taking the job at UTSA over UTEP. Eventually everything worked out and what a blessing in disguise Senter has been so far for UTEP.

Coming into the job for UTEP, Senter had his work cut out for him. He took over one of the worst situations in all Division I sports. Senter took over with a football team that had their first winless season in school history (0-12), former football coach Sean Kugler called it quits just five games into the season, and fans all around were growing tired of disappointment. The biggest snatch from the new core of coaches at UTEP was former Texas Longhorn quarterback Kai Locksley. Coming out of high school, Locksley was a four-star product and decided to head to Iowa Community College, where he became the fourth-best JUCO quarterback and former UNT offensive coordinator Mike Canales as the offensive coordinator. His resume speaks for itself.

Under Canales (2010-15), UNT averaged 31.8 points per game, they reached 4,000 yards in his first four seasons and were No. 1 in the nation in red zone efficiency. Canales also knows how to get the best out of his quarterbacks—a position UTEP struggled to find consistency in all of last season. Canales helped groom NFL All-Pro quarterback Phillip Rivers at North Carolina State and guided Derek Thompson to become UNT’s second-best single-season passer (2,896). Recruiting from Dimel, Canales, defensive coordinator Mike Cox, secondary coach Keith Burns has already raised eyebrows around the city, and UTEP athletics is connecting with their fans like never before.

While Senter has done a great job so far in his short tenure, Dimel has been just remarkable. Even though Dimel has only been on the UTEP campus for less than a month and was only granted 10 scholarships to offer this year, he’s already changed the culture and atmosphere when it comes to football. UTEP football had one of the worst offenses last year. They put up a nation-worst 118.1 points per game, were bottom 10 in both passing yards per game (134.9) and rushing yards per game (95.6).

So what does Dimel do? He hires former Tennessee quarterbacks and former UNT offensive coordinator Mike Canales as the offensive coordinator. His resume speaks for itself. Canales helped groom NFL All-Pro quarterback Phillip Rivers at North Carolina State and guided Derek Thompson to become UNT’s second-best single-season passer (2,896). Recruiting from Dimel, Canales, defensive coordinator Mike Cox, secondary coach Keith Burns has already raised eyebrows around the city, and UTEP athletics is connecting with their fans like never before.

During Dimel’s last two seasons as head coach at the University of Houston (2001-03), he brought Conference USA’s best recruiting class to the Cougars. One of Dimel’s greatest strengths is his relationship with Texas high school coaches and his ability to recruit—something Kugler struggled with. Other verbal commits for UTEP football include JUCO offensive lineman Ters Barbosa, wide receiver Justin Garrett, linebacker Hassan Behon and defensive lineman Savien Jenkins. The cool thing is the fact that Dimel and his staff have done this on his first weekend of hosting recruits. Senter and Dimel and his staff have also been very involved in the community. Social media is a huge part in today’s world and UTEP athletics is connecting with their fans like never before.

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @mikey__flores

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Korean Men's & Women's Basketball
3 Game in 3 Days

DON HASKINS CENTER
El músico francés, Adán Jodorowsky, quien a corta edad rechazó la vida académica, a pesar de haberse criado en una casa con librearte, estudiaría la música. Esta decisión se debió a que no le interesaba la academia y prefirió seguir su propio camino. A lo largo de su carrera, Jodorowsky ha demostrado su habilidad para combinar diferentes artes, incluyendo la música, la pintura y el teatro. A través de sus trabajos, ha logrado un gran reconocimiento y ha sido felicitado por su talento y capacidad para innovar y crear sin importar el género o la forma artística.

"Accomplishing that is the main goal of my art. If it's not writing, if it's painting, if it's acting, then all these things are part of it. If you do it all the time and don't stop doing it," Tavakoli said. "You're not going to become a master of your skill unless you do it all the time. I'm just trying to give birth to that, I don't want to die before I reach that point where I'm making my great art."

Tavakoli dijo que no cree que alguien pueda ser un artista sin estar haciendo cosas diferentes. "Lo que más me interesa de El Paso es tener una conexión con la gente esa noche y que vibre algo positivo."
VENUES from page 1

The Abraham Chavez Theatre, formerly known as the Civic Center Theatre, opened in the early ’70s. It was home to the El Paso Symphony, El Paso Opera and the Miss El Paso USA pageants.

The Don Haskins Center, opened in 1976. While its main purpose was to hold basketball games, concerts were also held at the center including a concert with the late Tom Petty.

When the Plaza was being renovated, the question of bringing back films was brought up, which is why in 2008 the El Paso Community Foundation started what is now known as the Plaza Classic Film Festival.

The festival shows about 90 films over the course of 11 days. Now in its 10th year, it brings in $1.5 million per year with an average of 40,000 attendees and has brought several celebrity guests including the late Debbie Reynolds, Rita Moreno, Al Pacino and many more. The foundation recently teamed up with El Paso Live to feature Christmas movies during the holiday season. Pullen said the festival keeps the history of the Plaza alive.

Annual downtown events such as Chalk the Block, Neon Desert and the film festival all started after 2006 as well as the completion of Southwest University Park in 2013.

These events and locations are encouraging for El Paño’s growth and would not be possible without the help of younger generations.

Newer venue managers such as Patrick McNeil, co-owner of Lowbrow Palace, said the younger generation of concertgoers would shape the future for this city.

McNeil bought the Lowbrow with the idea of building a hub that supports local music and national touring acts and aims to bring music for the masses.

“The reason for this business is based on passion and creating something great for El Paso,” McNeil said.

Caroline Vazquez, who oversees artist hospitality at the Lowbrow, has noticed the audience at the venue is getting bigger, but also younger.

“There’s a majority of younger than 21 demographic that come to shows, which we’ve learned to cater to by being a venue that’s all ages,” she said.

The Lowbrow has been doing so well that they are taking the legacy they have already built to the heart of the city. They are now moving to a new and bigger location in the Downtown area on Texas Avenue later this year.

“(The new location) is going to be new and improved. Not to take away from what we’ve built and established over the past seven years, but we’re doing it to carry over everything we’ve done and to make it one million times better,” McNeil said.

This spring, the Abraham Theatre will be hosting Paul Anka on Feb. 12, “Dancing With The Stars: Live!” on March 2 and Fleet Foxes on May 10.

The Plaza Theatre will be bringing several different acts and musicals such as “Dirty Dancing” and rock acts Pat Benatar and Chicago in March, but its biggest event of the year that will likely put it on the Pollstar list again in 2018 will be the “Disney Presents The Lion King,” which will make its way to El Paso in May.