It was at that job that she learned how to present herself before being hired as a sales person. A few months, learning everything she was taught, she knew what she had to do. She got her start when she was 19 at Tres Mari­posas, a high-end women’s clothing and jewelry store and West­side institution, which recently closed its doors.

“They didn’t want to hire me because I didn’t have a degree or any fashion experience,” Legaspy said. “But the moment I walked into the store, I knew that was me. I was in my element, my environment, so I requested an internship.” She worked as an unpaid intern for a few months, learning everything she could before being hired as a sales person. It was at that job that she learned how boutiques and specialty stores operate.

According to Legaspy, department stores and most other clothing stores will sell clothing based on reports and trends. But when it comes to boutiques, there is a bigger process. When she found out that there are markets where buyers go to pick clothing to sell at their boutiques, her excitement grew. Curious about how the process worked, she convinced her employer to allow her to accompany them to New York City to attend a fashion market and observe what they do. She even paid her own way to assure them that she was serious about the business.

“That was when my eyes opened and I was so inspired,” Legaspy said. “I said to myself, this is what I want to do with my life, this is the career that I choose to take.”

She continued working for Tres Marie­posas for six years, transitioning her position as a sales person into a buyer. Although she began by being unpaid, she knew that her hard work would pay off eventually and it did.

Two years ago, Legaspy was finally able to open up her own high-end contemporary boutique, GAL Fashion. GAL Fashion is a women’s clothing store and is known as “a mix of known and emerging designers in El Paso.” GAL, which stands for Gesuina Arianna Legaspy, is also a play on the word “gal.”

GAL features multiple name brands, including Versus by Versace, Frame, Mason by Michelle Mason and Veron­ika Beard, among others.

Legaspy prides her store on being different than many of the other boutiques out there. She wanted to separate her store from being in a competi­tive atmosphere, where commissions are important.

“We’re not going to sell people things just to make sales,” Legaspy said. “We’re really going to do things with integrity and style people and make them feel beautiful, because that’s the ultimate sat­isfaction and gratification is to see your clients in pictures or out at social events looking fabulous because we helped them do that, to build their confidence.”

She believes that creating a culture in her store of being team-oriented is what has made her business a success. “I made sure everybody was like a team, no one had their own clients, we all share, we all help each other—that’s the secret,” Legaspy said.

Paulina Seyffert, sophomore media advertising major, has been working at GAL as a photographer for seven months and loves coming to work ev­ery day.

“Honestly, the environment is super friendly, super fun and everyone is so per­sonable. I never complain about coming to work, I love it,” Seyffert said.

Seyffert has been able to learn a lot working at GAL and under the direc­tion of Legaspy. You can see her pictures featured on GAL’s Instagram and Face­book accounts.

GAL and Legaspy’s craft for styling have done so well that she has even gained a list of celebrity clients. Those clients include Shiva Hadid, cast member on the E! television show “Second Wives Club,” and who is also stepmother to fashion supermodels Gigi and Bella Hadid. Meghan King Ed­monds from the “Real Housewives of Orange County” has also made an ap­pearance at the store and has become a frequent shopper at GAL.

Although Legaspy has built a solid reputation outside of El Paso, it’s her cli­ents in the city that truly matter to her. Women aren’t the only ones asking for special pieces. She says that every day she gets asked if she will ever sell clothing for men. At first, she didn’t believe there was a market for men, but she has started researching and will begin to incorporate men’s clothing later this year.

Legaspy strives to make sure that all her clients feel special, not only when they shop in the store. GAL offers per­sonal styling for anyone who walks in the door. She says that her favorite clients are those that walk in asking for styling help. The store also offers a shopping service that is delivered free of charge.

The store recently expanded and now offers an evening department, with one­of-a-kind dresses for formal occasions.

The expansion also inspired other ideas that Legaspy has turned into real­ity. She began the Cinderella Founda­tion, a non-profit organization dedi­cated to helping young girls find dresses for prom and other occasions, but are unable to afford them. She asks her cli­ents to donate their gently worn formal dresses to the foundation.

Always wanting to give back, Le­gaspy also started a fun event called GAL brunches. “Each brunch has a special theme, and it’s fun to see my clients dress up and mingle and enjoy themselves,” Legaspy said.

Legaspy’s go-getter attitude and pas­sion for the business has really been a factor in her success and it only contin­ues to grow with each idea.

Another goal of hers is to one day branch out and create specialty stores in larger cities, but for now she is focused on El Paso.
March For Our Lives rally takes over downtown El Paso

By Adrian Broaddus

Hundreds of marchers pass Southwest University Park as they march around Downtown El Paso during the March For Our Lives movement on Saturday, March 24.

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
IN BRIEF

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH CONFERENCE
More than 100 experts will participate in talks and presentations during the 8th annual Women’s History Conference on Tuesday, March 27 and Wednesday, March 28 in Union Building East. This year’s theme is “She Persisted: Celebrating Herstory.” The free conference is from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. on Tuesday and 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday. The first day will end with the second annual Femme Frontera film festival from 6-8:30 p.m. in the Union Cinema.

SUMMER AND FALL 2018 REGISTRATION DATES
Military Affiliated students can register for classes on March 26. Graduate, post-baccalaureate and seniors can register starting April 2, while juniors and sophomores may register April 9 and April 16, respectively.

STUDENT FARMWORKER DAY
UTEP will host a day of embracing student voice, creating a safe space for farmworker students to share their stories on campus. The event is on Tuesday, March 27, at the Union Breezeway from 12:3 p.m.

DÍA DE LA MUJER CAMPESINA
A panel of young women that have left the fields to pursue a higher education and are proud daughters of migrant farmworkers will be held at Union East Building at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 28.

CESAR CHAVEZ DAY
A day to unite the community in a peaceful march around the historic Paso Del Norte to remember Cesar Chavez and all those who have fought for our people will be held at 1 p.m.

Is the way you dress for school important to you?

CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ, SERGIO MUÑOZ / THE PROSPECTOR

BEATRIZ PENA
Sophomore biology major
“Just dress however makes you feel happy and confident. It should matter to you.”

CORTES DUCKSWORTH
Sophomore mechanical engineering major
“As you can see, no. Because I don’t come for looks, I come to learn and improve on life, so no.”

BROOKE CRISP
Senior graphic design major
“I think for me personally it doesn’t really matter that much as long you’re not looking very crusty or anything.”

GAEL FUENTES
Sophomore engineering major
“For me it does because what I wear is more for the day that goes on like if I’m cold, I’m obviously going to wear something that is warm. But in terms of society, no.”

STEPHANIE FLORES
Freshman biology major
“It’s not that important, unless of course you are doing something important for class, like a presentation or such. But I’m more of a relaxed kind of person.”

TRISTAN GRIEGO
Sophomore physics major
“I think it does matter because I believe in professionalism within the school setting. My fashion sense is like 19th century colonial era, so I kind of wish someone came dressed like that, but that doesn’t happen.”

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Summer Term One: June 4-July 5
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Visit tccd.edu/online to learn more.

*Tuition for Tarrant County residents

TCC Tarrant County College SUCCESS WITHIN REACH.
UTEP to light up blue for autism awareness month

BY RENE DELGADILLO
The Prospector

Music has a significant meaning in the lives of many, but for a teenager with autism, it can mean everything. "He didn't speak at all, but he was always humming to music. Music was the way to help him connect to the world," Fuentes said. "It was the way he was able to show his feelings, emotions, rants—whatever he felt." With a guitar in his hands, Darío has been able to overcome bullying and common stereotypes against people with autism. He said autism is not important because all he needs is music.

"I remember a lot of parents telling their kids to not play with my son and to stay away from him, so there is a lot of misunderstanding of what autism is," Fuentes said. "We just tend to label everything, but we should focus on what the best resources are and to educate people." Fuentes said that the support from her husband and family was a key factor to helping Darío to become a successful student.

"My son has this ability to speak seven or eight languages. You always see him with a different book learning a new language," Fuentes said. "My son is very smart and people shouldn't think that autism is going to stop people from having a good and productive life." Fuentes also said that she had to talk to people to try to educate them about autism because there are common misconceptions about what this disability holds.

This is why she, who is also the vice president of Students for Public Health at UTEP, decided to create a one-day event to help break the stereotypes and misinformation about autism. "Of course my Darío was my inspiration," she said. "I wish I could have that type of dedication that he has in his music." Fuentes said that she wants to send a message of inclusion and of acceptance to people who fall on the spectrum of autism disorders and their families. She said that one of the main goals is to spread education among everyone at UTEP and El Paso.

SPH is now getting ready for UTEP Lights Up Blue for Autism Awareness. Lois said that the last hour of the event will be used as a networking space between the parents, students, faculty and the agencies that will attend the event. "Sometimes that communication, as simple as it seems, can spark solutions and new ideas and new approaches," Lois said. The CDC estimated that the total cost per year for children with autism in the U.S. is between $11.5 billion — $60.9 billion.

Fuentes said that families should not give up on the lives of people with autism because they have great abilities that others simply don’t understand. "Autism is not a disability to achieve great things and that's the message that we want to give everyone," Fuentes said. "We want our students to have acceptance for these people."
Lalo Élan encourages locals to revitalize their sense of style

By Paulette villa

March 27, 2018

Elena Ruiz creates unique jewelry pieces that are on sale at her store, Lalo Élan, located at 200 S. Santa Fe St. in El Paso.

The Prospector

Located at 200 S. Santa Fe St., Lalo Élan is a bumper café/boutique, specializing in original new-age jewelry. The space is a representation of Elena Ruiz’s personality—a 23-year-old self-taught jeweler designer, who strives to keep her passion alive every day.

Ruiz graduated with an associated degree in graphic design at El Paso Community College and decided to study anthropology and linguistics at UTEP after transferring from EPCC. Ruiz was in a political science class taught by professor Richard Gutierrez around 2013.

“They were all younger kids on their phones and I felt old, and they would not listen then,” Ruiz said about why Gutierrez gave a speech during class for students to consider if college is really for them. It opened her eyes and she never went back.

“He has no idea who I am, but I was going to write him and tell him he has no idea what he did to me. It was the best thing and I’m pretty happy about it,” Ruiz said.

Ruiz was born in Las Cruces and moved to El Paso at the age of 12, which was the same time that she started making jewelry.

“On Christmas, my stepdad gave me smoke shop next door, it’s closing, and I cut them up and used it to make jewelry,” Arenas said. “I used to get my mom’s curtains and pin it, it started from a young age, “ Arenas said. “Every time I was already older. When I was 17, I started going back and rethinking that it started from a young age,” Arenas said.

“I used to have a lot of old jewelry pieces and put them on my sister and just made dresses out of it, and little by little I started picking up that’s what I wanted to focus on and I ended up enrolling at the El Paso Community College for the fashion program, and it was worth it.”

Arenas said that the reason behind the name of her brand is due to the moments of obscurity everybody has experienced. She wanted to sport a meaningful name, as well as represent her designs.

“My signature and my aesthetic is a form where I find darkness within everybody. It’s something I try to project in the way that people always think, that when it is obscure or dark, its negative,” Arenas said. “That darkness within them—I want to mutate it and transform it into something that’s more of a light, which is showing and expressing with me. It’s something that my design is inconstant, elegance, and uniqueness.”

Arenas says the best way to form a collection is to draw a lot of sketches, which inspire what the collections means for her by always keeping the aesthetic and focus on the obscurity within it. Building a collection is not just about fashion to Arenas, but also about growth. “I see myself growing more than ever since the obscurity is there. I see myself growing more and more as a person and not only growing, learning within myself while I’m making my designs, and I’ve seen that happening from day one to now. I’ve changed, I’ve learned a lot about my techniques,” Arenas said. “Every collection that I do, I think of what happened on my emotions and transform it into garments, and I guess the only motivation that I have is when I’m making something on something. I was a little kid until I’m creating something.”

Some pieces take around 10 minutes, others need 30 minutes to dry because I use glue, or if I’m casting jewelry, I could take like a week of process,” Ruiz said. “I’ve gotten really good with using the tools. They’re like my second hands. So when I do something, I just do it like reall fast, such as fixing people’s jewelry.”

Some people call me ‘Lalo Élan’ because I take like a week of process, “ Ruiz said. “I put it in shadow box in a necklace, with flowers and a lace, and she gave it to her mom on Christmas. It’s really cool someone trusts you with something they treasure.”

Ruiz’s best-selling pieces are custom hand-stamped pieces, most with Spanish pet names, insults or poems. She got the idea after somebody called her a “bruja” (darg for “lazy” in Spanish) and decided to have it written on a necklace.

“I told him I was working on making special pieces, but also for special occasions with custom. I told him I was working on making special pieces, but also for special occasions with custom. I told him I was working on making special pieces, but also for special occasions with custom. I told him I was working on making special pieces, but also for special occasions with custom.”

Her jewelry ranges from earrings costing $12 to necklaces up to $38, depending on the materials. The purpose of each piece at Lalo Élan is to create a kind of custom handmade piece, rarely made twice.

“I made one for my friends mom, whose home passed away, and my friend gave me some of the Homemade hair to make a memento mom jewelry piece,” Ruiz said. “I put it in shadow box in a necklace, with flowers and a lace, and she gave it to her mom on Christmas. It’s really cool someone trusts you with something they treasure.”

Her jewels were selling well at DCC, so she decided to open Lalo Élan on Nov. 5, 2016. Since Ruiz did not have enough merchandise to sell at the time, she decided to also include vintage thrift clothes from her own closet, garage sales, estate sales and clothes on consignment or donations from friends and customers. The idea stuck around ever since.

The name Lalo Élan comes from a favorite book “Puente Al Desierto” by Tom Robbins, a best-seller fantasy comedic-drama published in 1985. Lalo is the name of a character who is a fairy nymph, and Élan comes from the word the Pan uses to describe two characters fighting.

“I was like, well that’s a cool word, what does it mean?” Ruiz said. “I looked it up and it means energy, style, and enthusiasm.”

Ruiz describes her jewelry’s style as “boho,” “vintage,” and “bohemian.” Some of it is also inspired by the tones of the desert. The jewelry consists of real materials, such as quartz, crystals, stones, metal and more. The making of her jewelry has evolved with the growth of style throughout the years.

“In high school, I was this happy chick and started making hemp necklaces. Then I did rave bead jewelry with my friend,” Ruiz said. “I later got obsessed with making unique jewelry, and also did beading with glass beads and tiny seeds, but I got tired of that.”

The process of making her jewelry consists of cleaning her workspace, gathering materials, creating pieces and making a mess again.

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Lalo Elan also sells coffee for a mobile-café company from Ohio named Chicken Switch. The menu consists of café de olla, iced coffee, hot coffee and includes basic flavors such as hazelnut and vanilla.

“I always wanted a coffee shop because I’m a barista, I love working at cafes,” Ruiz said, who previously worked at Joe Vinny & Ronnel’s Bohemian Café and Nomu Café. “Those things make me super happy, it’s the same satisfying feeling as when I make jewelry.”

Besides her own experiences, taking a studio casting class and looking for information online, Ruiz has also learned from the creative friends she has surrounded herself with. One of them is Cynthia Evans, who studied printmaking and metals at UTEP.

“Her studio is amazing and she’s so accessible, she’s been so amazing to share her time and knowledge, such as showing me techniques and what kind of supplies to get,” Ruiz said. “I own some of her stuff and she believes in my work, which I think it’s cool to have friends like that.”

Ruiz said she has grown a lot for just a year and half of owning Lalo Elan. Her advice for people starting their own business is to always be nice to customers and never lower themselves.

“We all put a lot of work, care and love into what we make, I want people to like at least look at it,” Ruiz said. “Even if you’re not buying anything, just appreciate what we do in your city because there’s a lot of treasures around, so take your time.”

Claudia Flores may be reached at gigibertaflores43@gmail.com.
Magee’s style translates to his game on the court

By Mike Flores

For freshman guard Kobe Magee, his appearance plays a crucial part to how well he performs on the basketball court.

The San Antonio native owns close to 40 pairs of basketball shoes. “RIP Smooth” is written on every pair of shoes he owns. These words that Magee carries with him throughout every game of his career mean something to him.

Magee had a close childhood friend who went by the nickname “Smooth.” The two grew a deep bond over basketball, but unfortunately, Smooth passed away in high school.

Magee will always remember how Smooth helped him get to where he is now—a Division I basketball player.

“My dad would tell me to work hard for everything because not everything is given.”

Another thing Magee wears every day, game day or not, are his tattoos.

Magee’s tattoos are also a huge part to who he is. All the ink on his body has meaning behind it.

“Most of my tattoos are for my mom, but there’s other things I believe and follow. I’m Christian, so I have a lot of scriptures on my arm.” Magee said. “I have a lot of stars on me because my mom’s last name is Star. My mom and I are really close.”

Although Magee’s father is there for whatever he needs, whether it’s timely advice or just someone to talk to, Magee’s mother, Darci, raised him as a single mother.

“I love my dad. He’s always there for me, but my mom has raised me by herself for my whole life. She does everything for me. She had to work sometimes two to three jobs at a time just for me to play AAU (Amateur Athletic Union basketball),” Magee said. “I see the love she has for me, and she works to give me everything she can. When I have kids, I want to be able to do the things she did for me, with the little she had.”

Magee also has other tattoos, such as an hourglass on his arm, representing that “time is money.”

Growing up, Magee said he did not have a lot of money, but found out many ways to grow his shoe collection. Owning more pairs of shoes than the average person, Magee said he had to do a lot of two-for-one trades to get the shoes he wanted.

“Out of the nearly 40 pairs, there are some shoes he rarely ever touch because they’re too special to be worn on a daily basis, like his Michael Jordan sneakers.”

His favorite shoes to wear off the court are the Jordan 4s, in any color. Jordan’s Toro 4s are on Magee’s radar. He’s never owned a pair, but the Toro 4s are his favorite.

But when it comes to basketball shoes, Kevin Durant shoes are Magee’s go-to, having worn them since the seventh grade.

As an NBA fan, Magee likes the different styles of many NBA athletes. Although Magee looks up to the styles of Brooklyn Nets point guard D’Angelo Russell and Washington Wizards forward Kelly Oubre. Magee’s favorite player is Houston Rockets point guard Chris Paul because of his stellar guard play on both ends of the floor.

 Magee on page 8
Magee makes matching his number one priority with his style. For example, if he buys a Tommy Hilfiger shirt, then he'll match that by purchasing Tommy Hilfiger pants and maybe a hat to go along with it.

"It's tough to call, but I would say Urban Outfitters is my favorite place to shop. They have different and weird stuff that I like to put all together," he said.

While Magee believes he is on top of the leaderboard when it comes to fashion in the UTEP basketball team, he says that Deshaun Highler, Evan Gilyard and Corbin Stevens' styles are up there in the higher echelon of the Miners.

"For me, if I feel good, I feel like I play good. What we wear on the court, we feel better about ourselves and it adds to our confidence," he said. "But really, it's just how you rock what you're wearing."

Magee's style doesn't just add to his appearance, it has also translated to his game. In Magee's freshman season with UTEP, he finished the season with a team-high 42.5 percentage from 3-point land, second in total assists (53), top four in 3-pointers made (31).

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @mikey__flores

uTEP Athletics is expected to lighten their shade of orange in athletic gear beginning this fall.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

UTEP will transition its colors in the near future to a lighter orange. Different athletic programs will undergo the phasing out of uniforms to match with the new colors coming up within the next couple years, according to Athletic Director Jim Senter.

The current orange is a darkish red-orange that has been used by UTEP since the early 2000s. In the past, the orange color of the university was often confused in the early 2000s and had varying shades.

They will change to a new orange to ensure more "sophistication" for the brand, according to Senter and to implement a stable color that is unchanged.

At his recent town hall, Senter, who was wearing the new orange color that night, was asked by an attendee, "Why do you have that color of UTEP or is it because of the marketing?"

"Look around, everyone has different shades of UTEP orange. We are trying to change that so we have one universal color," Senter said.

He went on to talk about the "new era" in UTEP athletics and the importance of rebranding the colors. The color restoration process will undergo a transitional period with all athletic programs.

"We can't just spend $7 figures right off the bat on new uniforms for all our programs," Senter said. "It will be a process, where we bring in new uniforms as time goes on."

There has been no official word on which teams will get new uniforms with the new colors yet, but fans can expect to see new uniform changes as soon as next season.

Fans took to social media to voice their opinions on the new color changes. Some embraced the color change and called it a fresh look, while others argued it sways away from the school's original colors.

"I think these new colors will look good once they're implemented," Eduardo Cabrera, a sophomore accounting and finance major, thinks that this uniform change was smart and a good marketing move by the school.

"I work for the Chihuahuas, so I know how important it is to keep your brand and colors fresh," he said. "I think these new colors will look good once they're implemented."

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus

File Photo / The Prospector

uTEP Athletics is expected to lighten their shade of orange in athletic gear beginning this fall. The Prospector

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