By SaBrina nuñez

It was past midnight and as music pul-
sated through the air, there was a banging
at the door followed by instant quiet. The
worried silence of partygoers stems from
the arrival of campus police investigating a
noise complaint.

“The police came in, they saw the alco-
hol and they separated the party into two
groups: over 21 and under 21, “ said Alan
Garcia, junior electrical and computer en-
gineering major. “I believe they made
the (apartment’s) residents throw away the
alcohol. They also took down the informa-
tion of everyone. After that, they released
all the 21 year olds.”

On Dec. 29, 2012, Garcia was invited to
a party at Miner Heights where alcohol was
provided. According to a police report, off-
cers found approximately 13 individuals
(both UTEP students and visitors) inside
an apartment. The party was shut down
and the two residents, under the age of 21,
were issued Class C citations for possession
of alcohol by a minor.

Incidents involving students and alcohol
use on campus property are reported to
the conduct office. The student meets with
a conduct officer, who explains the allega-
tions, finds out the details of the situation
and begins an investigation.

“It’s the discretion of the hearing officer to
determine, based on policies, the level of offense and
to render some sort of sanction. That sanction can be
anything from a warning on up,” said Gary Edens, vice
president of student affairs.

Policy 1.2.15 under Student Conduct
and Discipline in the UTEP Hand-
book of Operating Procedures states,
“The University enforces all state and
federal laws or regulations which
regulate and control the sale or use
of alcohol on campus, including
those pertaining to the possession
of alcohol by minors…residents
of University Housing are autho-
rized to possess and consume
beer and wine in the privacy of
their living quarters, if they are
of legal age under State law.
Students in violation of these
policies will be subject to Uni-
versity discipline in addition
to possible criminal prosecu-
tion by civil authorities.”

PHOTO & ILLUSTRATION BY DIEGO BURCIAGA / The Prospector
Will I still receive my Netflix on time?

BY ALEJANDRO ALBA

The United States Postal Service announced on Feb. 6 that it would stop delivering letters and other mail on Saturdays. The end of six-day delivery is meant to save the Postal Service about $2 billion annually.

Upon hearing this 1 immediately thought, “will my Netflix delivery be affected?” I know that is such a first-world problem, but it is a problem—one of the most minimal to come. By cutting back on mail delivery days, there will also be a cut back on jobs.

There is an estimated 22,500 jobs that will be affected, according to Patrick Donahoe, CEO of the U.S. Postal Service.

Unions are already gathering and speculating the effect of the cut back. According to Cliff Guffey, president of the American Postal Workers Union, the decision will not alleviate the postal service, it will only make the financial crisis worse.

Although the USPS may see cutting Saturdays as an efficient cost cut, it will simply serve as a Band-Aid. Many experts, like associate professor in the department of policy analysis and management at Cornell University, Rick Godles, have mentioned how the cut will not help the postal service pay back debt, and the only way is to de-monopolize and follow the examples of other countries that have already been successful by privatizing.

If the USPS were to learn from other countries such as Germany, which privatized their postal service in 2005, they would be able to become a leading global mailer. By de-monopolizing, the postal service can also find ways to work with courier companies and create profit.

We are no longer in the era in which we travel by horse, so the postal service should catch up. Focus less on small mail and learn how to succeed in the Internet era. If they were to focus on packages instead of first-class mail, their profit would increase. Everyone shops online nowadays, might as well take advantage.

Print media will also be affected. As if the Internet has not affected print media enough, they will now take another hit as production and delivery gets held back.

Many magazines and newspapers that deliver first-class mail on Saturdays are now thinking of hiring a private delivery system. Chris Huckle, publisher of the Cadillac News, is one of them.

Time Magazine will also be looking into alternatives as they have been anticipating the change, but they will continue to get their magazine delivered on time to subscribers.

Now, back to the Netflix issue. My DVDs will still come and go based on when I send them, but I will be making Netflix more profitable since I will be receiving and seeing fewer DVDs for the same monthly price.

The change in delivery won’t go into effect until Aug. 10, 2013. Until then, print companies have six months to find an alternative, postal service employees have six months to find other potential jobs and I have six months to cram in as many DVDs per month while paying a worthy fee.

Alejandro Alba may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Citizenship main topic at first immigration hearing

BY JASMINE AGUILERA

WASHINGTON—A pathway to citizenship was the main topic of discussion Feb. 5 at a House hearing, the first to take place since proposals for immigration reform were introduced in the new Congress.

San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro pushed for citizenship for undocumented immigrants currently in the United States.

“I believe that is the best way and it is as our nation’s best interest,” Castro said.

“We’re a nation of immigrants. We’ve progressed because we are pragmatic. Complete citizenship is in our national interest, our economic interest.”

Several committee members opposed Castro’s view, including Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., who said full-fledged citizenship was not a form of compromise and that immigrants with criminal backgrounds should not be granted full citizenship.

Neither the committee members nor witnesses defined what partial citizenship would entail.

Castro said that allowing for partial citizenship would create a second-class of non-citizens and would lead to discrimination.

Midway through the hearing a group of DREAMers, young people who were brought to the U.S. illegally by their parents, interrupted and marched out of the building chanting “undocumented and unafraid.”

Committee members and witnesses seemed to agree that immigrants with expertise in science, technology, engineering and mathematics should be granted citizenship after they graduate from an American university.

Puneet Arora, vice president of Immigration Voice, a non-profit, fit into that category. He was born in India and moved to the U.S. for a post-graduate medical residency at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. He lives in the Minneapolis area and has a visa that allows him to work.

“We create opportunities for employment and invest valuable products for U.S. companies to sell in America and around the world,” Arora said. “We are not asking for thanks. We simply want a real place in America.”

Some committee members said immigration reform has to be strict with employers who knowingly hire undocumented immigrants, including a change in the E-Verify system, which allows employers to check the status of prospective employees.

Julie Myers Wood, former assistant secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it should be the government’s responsibility to see immigration on page 4.
U TE P lags behind with recycling in UT System

BY SABRINA NÚÑEZ
The Prospector

Compared to other UT schools, UTEP lags behind in their recycling efforts, however, some believe that a student-driven program could fulfill the campus’ recycling needs.

“The recycling program here at UTEP could be much better, much more robust, but it’s going to take a lot of student participation,” said Jorge Villalobos, director of Facilities Services at UTEP. “The really successful recycling programs I’ve seen are driven by students.”

According to Villalobos, Facilities Services is planning to create an organization in which students run the operations of a recycling plant. Students would try to maximize the profits of the plant, get more people involved in the operations, diversify and market the product, just like they do at other universities.

“That would be a very interesting way of handling this, because as an educational institution we want to create opportunities for students to learn some cool stuff,” Villalobos said. “The program would have students think about commodities fluctuating, how they sell and when they sell, creating an opportunity for people to watch the markets and see how to maximize profits, using the money as an organization fund to try to help more green initiatives.

UTEP currently operates on a single-stream system, utilizing recycling bins for paper, aluminum cans and plastic bottles. The university also collects and stores cardboard, which generates a revenue of $300 each time it is picked up by a recycling company, Villalobos said.

“The 18-wheelers you see on the road, it takes us a month and a half to literally fill them up from the front, all the way to the back, to the top,” said Jenny Fraire-Varela, assistant director of Facilities Services. “We flatten all the boxes and then we stack them all the way up. Once that truck is full, (a recycling company) comes and hauls it off, weighs it and then they send us a check.”

The UT Austin recycling program is larger and handles paper, cardboard, aluminum, plastics (except bags), electronics and they take surplus office products or furniture.

According to Karen Blaney, Sustainability Operations assistant manager at UT Austin, the university uses two models of recycling bins across campus: one model used in public areas is silver with color-coded stickers that have shaped lids corresponding to the items each bin accepts, the other is bright blue and used within buildings.

UT Austin also began an e-waste campaign on Feb. 4, which will provide e-waste recycling at the front desks of every dorm.

“[We’re] trying to make it really easy for students in the dorm to get rid of e-waste, which means their personal computers, cell phones and any plugs, chargers, keyboards, mice,” Blaney said. “It’s a partnership between the housing and food division and a student group.”

At UT Arlington, the academic buildings have recycling containers that handle plastic and aluminum, while the residence halls have single-stream recycling. The university also holds collections for printer cartridges and batteries.

“(Recycling on campus) is pretty successful because we’ve been doing it since 1995, so people are aware of it and used to it,” said Becky Valentinich, recycling coordinator and safety specialist at UT Arlington. “We have bins inside and outside, always there for students to see, so we just try to keep them visible for everyone.”

UTEP joined the recycling project in 1998 and currently processes 40,000 pounds of paper products monthly. Despite UTEP’s success in recycling paper, Villalobos said other trash is still a problem for UTEP.

“Would be surprised how many bags I find from Albertsons and McDonald’s. Every single day, the wind will bring it to one of our little nooks or corners,” Villalobos said. “On the outside, we have folks that have to go around making sure they’re picking up the trash every day and keep the campus going. We keep it as pristine as possible.”

Both UTEP and the University of North Texas are participants in Recyclemania, an eight-week national competition for colleges and universities within the country. Schools take weekly measurements of their campus’ recycled material, trash and compost if applicable, and post their results. The results are compared between participants.

UT Arlington also participates in Recyclemania, but takes a different approach due to issues with weighing and the placement of recycling containers.

“The small size of UTEP’s recycling plant keeps the university from participating in Recyclemania, Fraire-Varela said. “Students will be very enthusiastic (and) they’ll bring their recycling from home. We can barely meet the demands on campus now, but we really are working on it. If we get this entrepreneurship going, and we have a really well-established program, there’s no reason we won’t be able to participate at that point.”

For student housing, bins are provided inside each residence hall and have to be taken to a centralized location that is then transported to the Physical Plant.

“A couple years ago, there was a big push at Miner Village to do more recycling because Miner Village is in charge of paying their own waste, so they have to pay a company to come haul all of their waste,” Fraire-Varela said. “They thought, ‘If we can decrease the amount of waste, our cost will go down,’ (which) is true. There was a huge push to do that and there was a lot of recycling and it’s continued ever since.”

Villalobos said the future of recycling at UTEP could be impacted by focusing on transitioning from single-stream to separate bins for plastics, paper and aluminum, as well as finding other sources of waste within the campus.

“We have capacity to get better (and) that’s what we always want to do. There’s just a lot of opportunities we’re missing,” Villalobos said. “We have equipment needs in (the form) of compactors if we want to manage the waste a little bit better. But at the end of the day, everything, even a trash can, costs a lot of money, at least when you’re talking about outfitting an entire university. The opportunities are there, we’re working towards trying to capitalize on them.”

“Right now, our recycling program is manned by one full-time person and four students. If we were to participate in Recyclemania, unfortunately, there’s a good chance that we won’t be able to keep up with the amount of recycling that’s brought in,” Fraire-Varela said. “Students will be very enthusiastic (and) they’ll bring their recycling from home. We can barely meet the demands on campus now, but we really are working on it. If we get this entrepreneurship going, and we have a really well-established program, there’s no reason we won’t be able to participate at that point.”

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Sabrina Nuñez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Market offers mix of local artwork

by Oscar Garza
The Prospector

The Downtown Artist Market has become a unique venue for local artists to sell their work in a relaxing atmosphere every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Union Plaza District on Anthony Street.

Rebecca Muñoz, coordinator of the Downtown Artist Market, was an artist and a vendor at the market prior to applying for the position. She said that the market has grown and celebrated its one-year anniversary last October.

"In terms of artists and potential vendors, it's one of the only markets in the region that's open year round," Muñoz said. "Our spaces are relatively affordable. It's $2 to set up every weekend for people who want to sell at the market."

Muñoz explained that as 2013 progresses, the market will develop some new changes and feature all new material in preparation of the market's evolving format.

"As we move along into this new year, we're going to be having more programming at the market," Muñoz said. "Audiences can see local handmade products that are original and unique." The Downtown Artist Market offers a wide range of handmade items to be viewed and bought.

"It's nice because all the vendors are friendly, we all get along and it's just nice to get out and talk to people," Rust said. "It's a nice venue but we need more people down here; I like getting out and meeting people."

Muñoz said the market is more than just a place to buy and support locally handcrafted art, it is also a way to have some fun time and see what the art market offers.

"It offers citizens, residents and tourists the opportunity to invest in the local economy and to strengthen our art market here in El Paso."

- Rebecca Muñoz, coordinator of the Downtown Artist Market

One of the remarkable things about the Downtown Artist Market is how different the art can be.

Jessica Peterson, junior psychology major, has set up his own section where customers can look and purchase his art, propelled paint and airbrushing.

"This is my fourth week and it's been pretty popular," Peterson said. "Once you're out here by 10:30 a.m. it feels great; people start coming out and we have a good turnout."

Peterson, who spray painted on the curbside at Chalk the Block, was given the opportunity to paint a mural by Rosie Bakery, near Cotton and 4th Street.

"I'm going to be here every weekend and this is just like a good hobby, it's cathartic, it's therapy almost, it's passion," Peterson said. "Kind of like how a basketball player likes to play basketball, I like to do that too, but nothing bad can come with time invested in what I like."

One of the many vendors that are part of the Downtown Artist Market is Patty Rust, who has been attending since the market began.

"I paint and my husband sells leather goods," Rust said. "When we were retired and traveling, these ladies were painting on rocks and said to come try it, I did and liked it, so my husband said you need to take lessons. I've been doing this for four years and I do it because I paint from my photographs and pictures that I've taken."

One of the things that the market presents is a sense of community and friendliness that all of the vendors display.

"It's nice because all the vendors are friendly, we all get along and it's just nice to get out and talk to people," Rust said. "It's a nice venue but we need more people down here; I like getting out and meeting people."

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"It offers citizens, residents and tourists the opportunity to invest in the local economy and to strengthen our art market here in El Paso," Muñoz said.

Oscar Garza may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Feb. 9, "Al Origen" Documentary at Purple Pop Up gallery, 7 p.m.
2. Feb. 11, NonPoint at Tricky Falls, 7 p.m.
Art student tallies ticking time

By OScAR GArZA

Time is one of those human mysteries that is fascinating to examine and to contemplate. Counting seconds became the theme Laura Turon, senior studio major, showcased in her exhibition, “Tempo: An Exploration of Time and Space.”

The Glass Gallery, which housed Turon’s exhibit through Jan. 31, provided an intimate and calm space for audiences to meditate on the perception of time.

“It’s a materialization of making every second count... spending time with loved ones or achieving our goals,” Turon said.

Turon’s piece explored the idea that seconds count. She counted them by using a metronome and for every second, she made a mark on the wall. Turon’s total number was 311,563 marks, which serve as a physical manifestation of time.

“I use the metronome as a counting system. With it, a beat marks time, so in a way the walls are positioned in the shape of a metronome,” Turon said. “So if a person walks in and looks around, it’s up to them if they decide if this is going to make an impression on them. Make every second count, may be they will start thinking about something else or maybe not.”

Having the audience participate in a place where seconds are counted and where they can meditate on time is something that Turon wanted to achieve.

“I created some sort of an environment, kind of like being inside of time, inside the seconds that count or not, because all those seconds were counted,” Turon said.

Doing this type of exhibition and demonstration is what Turon calls her commitment as an artist.

Turon said that the Glass Gallery experience has been great and it gives students the chance to have the responsibility of taking care of their students and they can exhibit and it’s something that Turon wanted to achieve.

Therese Bauer, art lecturer, said that Turon’s art showed a lot of initiative for the architecture, the way the walls can be manipulated, “It was nice because it took advantage of the actual space of the gallery, the architecture, the way the walls can be manipulated,” Bauer said. “It was more of an all-inclusive, more physical use of the space.”

Bauer also said that Turon’s art showed a great deal of commitment and, because of the more abstract nature, it makes the audience question time and how they spend it.

“Time is one of those human mysteries that is fascinating to examine and to contemplate,” Bauer said. “It’s about her work and the amount of passion for what she is doing and I think real thoughtfulness.

Bauer said that the exhibit shows that Turon has the principles to commit and also the ideals as an artist to stand by her work.

“She didn’t talk herself out of it. I think the best artists, that’s what they do, you’re going to hit roadblocks,” Bauer said. “It’s about her work and she showed that she has the work ethic and the commitment to do it. To me, it shows that she’s really got what it takes to be an artist.”

Laura Turon, senior studio major for audiences to meditate on the perception of time.

“It’s a materialization of making every second count... spending time with loved ones or achieving our goals.”

- Laura Turon, senior studio major
New recruits revealed on National Signing Day

BY EDWIN DELGADO

The Prospector

February 7, 2013

KrisToPher RiverA / The Prospector

New football head coach Sean Kugler was able to recruit a class of 18 players on national signing day, Feb. 6.

Among the new faces for the Miners are 14 players coming out of high school and four more out of junior colleges. Kugler said that he intends to stop recruiting out of junior colleges in the near future to focus solely on high school prospects.

“We are excited for the entire class,” Kugler said. “I like the balance we have between high school and junior college players.”

Kugler said: “We want to be balanced for the future, we are not doing this for a one-year wonder and just try to win right now, we’re building this thing for the long haul.”

Four of the new recruits are local players. Derek Emlendorf, an offensive lineman from Franklin High School, Ryan Metz quarterback out of Andress, and twin brothers athlete, Aaron and safety, Alvin Jones from Burges. Coach Kugler showed enthusiasm about the Jones brothers committing to UTEP.

“The thing that attracts me about these two young men is that they compete in everything they do. They hate losing you can see it. They refuse to lose and that is a great quality when you are looking for in college players,” Kugler said. “Ultimately we want to focus our initial recruiting in the city of El Paso. We really feel we targeted the top four players in El Paso, we got every single one of them, and we want to do that year-in and year-out, whether that is us four or six players, that doesn’t matter to us.”

For Kugler, what he likes the most about this recruiting class is that all of them are play makers. He said all of them proved their worth during their high school careers and is hoping that translates into the college level.

“This is not all based on potential, these guys are great football players,” Kugler said. “These guys were productive high school players and ultimately that is what we are looking for, guys who produce in high school who will also produce in college.”

Among the other recruits is quarterback Mack Leftwich, son of the offensive line coach Spencer Leftwich. Kugler said that as soon as he got the job, the very first thing he did was offer him a scholarship, which he immediately accepted.

Kugler let his coaching staff play a big role in recruiting and is very pleased with the results.

“I try my hat to my entire coaching staff, which has a short turnaround this putting all this together, especially our three coaches that were retained,” Kugler said. “Brian Natkin who is our recruiting coordinator, Robert Rodriguez, who recruited a lot of the kids from here in El Paso and Gabi Franklin who brought kids from the Houston and Dallas areas.”

The Miners added depth to a secondary that lost all of its starters from a season ago. Six of the recruits came in to fill those openings, two quarterbacks, two offensive linemen, four defensive linemen, one athlete, one tight end and one wide receiver also filled those openings.

Kugler admitted that he prefers to red-shirt most of the freshman, and he will rely more on the junior college transfers to have an immediate impact.

Despite the hectic process of recruiting, Kugler is glad to be part of it.

“I love the game of football, I love everything about it, love the recruiting, going to the weight room with these guys, going into the field with these guys, it’s part of the process and it’s something that I really enjoy. It’s a challenge but in the end I think we got the best kids that fit our class the best.”

Miners start season with tournament at Fresno State

BY KRISToPHER RIVERA

The Prospector

The UTEP softball team is preparing for the start of this year’s season, Feb. 8, at the Fresno State kick-off tournament. The Miners will play a total of five games in a span of three days.

“Five games in a weekend is a lot,” said head coach Kathleen Rodriguez. “The first few weeks of ball are all tournaments. It’s good because it’s kind of giving us an opportunity to see where we’re at, what we need to work on and what we need to iron out before conference comes in.”

This tournament will give the Miners a preview of where they stand, said head coach Kathleen Rodriguez. “We all had an overall record of 16-37, and 3-21 in conference.

“We all had our hearts broken last year because we were trying so hard, but couldn’t put all the pieces together,” said junior utility Kayla Black. “This year we feel like we have something…almost to the point of fundamentals and breaking down everything…almost to the point of beginning-athlete and trying to make sure that we’re perfect that way.”

Rodriguez said this season her coaching has gone back to basics, making sure every base is covered.

“They’re working hard, they’re excited!” Rodriguez said. “The approach is different, we worked on fundamentals and breaking down everything…almost to the point of beginning-athlete and trying to make sure that we’re perfect that way.”

Rodriguez said it has been a bit of a transition for her older players, as far as not being able to jump in right away. The team is working on getting to know each other, after the addition of three transfers.

Senior catcher/utility, Kayleigh Walts, said the team is building great chemistry.

“I’m so excited for this season,” Walts said. “I think it’s going to basically blow the last two (seasons) out of the water.”

Wolts is looking forward to see what the results of the team will be at the end of the tournament.

“I’m actually very excited, I’ve never been to that part of California,” Walts said. “But I think it’s going to be very exciting, we’re playing some very good teams. We’ll really be able to see how ready we are for our season.”

One of the team’s biggest challenges at the tournament will be Fresno State, which Rodriguez said has been a powerhouse since the program began.

Although Fresno State’s half of fame coach retired last year, Rodriguez said they have a fresh, new and strong coaching staff.

“It’s a good group of teams that we’re going to be jumping into right away. We’re going to have to hit the ground running,” Rodriguez said.

February 7, 2013

The UTEP softball team practices for their weekend tournament at Fresno State. They will play five games in a three day span.

Softball

“I’ve been with the Miners for two years and I really love this season,” Walts said. “I’ve never been through something like this before. We have a lot of home runs, and I really love that.”

“You lose two quality women at the same time. Am I going to miss them? Absolutely, but that’s what happens, that’s the nature of the beast.”

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Miner Maniacs fighting along side men’s basketball team

The Miner Maniacs fan group, a club for fans of miner athletics, is easy to spot at the rowdiest area in the student section of the Don Haskins during men’s basketball games.

“We really get into the player's heads,” former UTEP student Chris Ybarra said. “We've had opposing coaches that we've talked to after the game say that we do indeed get into the players heads and really do make a difference.”

Ybarra is one of the members in charge of getting the student section pumped up for each home game. “We made the Big Heads about a year or two years ago,” Ybarra said. “It was the NMSU game, senior kinesiology major and Miner Maniac member, Mike Gallegos said. “A player from the opposing team air-balled two shots and the fans took that opportunity to get under his skin.”

“We just kept chanting ‘air-ball’ … this happened for the whole first half,” Gallegos said. “In the second half, he finally hit a shot and when he hit the shot he grabbed his junk towards the student section.”

The student section is a stone throw away from UTEP’s opponent, mentally. “I think they take a lot of time into this,” Bohannon said. “Whether it is cheers or trash talking to fight him,” Gallegos said. “He ended up getting suspended for that, and he ended up leaving the team.”

Gallegos said they do a lot of research on their own to use against opponents. “We go and Google all the players and find out what they’ve done, if they’ve had an arrest record…any kind of bad history,” Gallegos said. “We really get into the player’s heads,” Ybarra said. “As a player who tries to put in a lot of work in the gym, to see our fans putting in a lot of work to what they say to the other guys is pretty entertaining to me and I respect that.”

“Nationally we are up there too, as far as the Miner Maniacs and all that they do,” Bohannon said. “It’s an important part not only to UTEP but to the city of El Paso.”

The students in Miner Maniacs and the basketball team have created a tight bond. “I can see them winning conference this year, the conference tournament for sure, but it all depends on how we play on the road to finish out this season,” Gallegos said. “This team has a lot of potential.”

Gallegos has optimistic expectations for the men’s basketball team this season. “I can see them winning conference this year, the conference tournament for sure, but it all depends on how we play on the road to finish out this season,” Gallegos said. “This team has a lot of potential.”