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El Paso Times

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El Paso Children's Hospital

TEXAS AG CRITICIZES RESTRUCTURING PLAN

State tells court not to waste time

MARTY SCHLADEN
 EL PASO TIMES

AUSTIN — The state on Tuesday slammed a restructuring plan filed last week by El Paso Children's Hospital. Filing on behalf of the Health and Human Services Commission, the Texas Attorney General's Office told the U.S.

Bankruptcy Court that the plan filed by Children's Hospital "is patently unconfirmable as a matter of law. Accordingly, the court should not waste its time or estate resources to approve the disclosure statement as the plan can never be confirmed."

The court filing took issue with two aspects of the Children's Hospital plan. First, the hospital — which is expected to run out of cash in December — says it is still working to strike a deal with a strategic partner that would infuse cash and help Children's straighten out its finances. However, the plan does not name

a potential partner.

University Medical Center of El Paso, the hospital's chief creditor, says Children's owes it more than \$106 million, with a myriad of other creditors claiming unpaid debts as high as \$9 million. Children's is asking those creditors to approve a plan that depends, in part, on some unnamed entity helping to save the hospital.

Children's "should be required to provide sufficient information on the proposed 'strategic partner' transac-

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The pope in the US



ANDREW HARNIK/AP
 President Barack Obama walks with Pope Francis Tuesday.

Pope Francis welcomed to a polarized America

'Slum pope' speaks on conservative criticism

NICOLE WINFIELD AND RACHEL ZOLL
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Pope Francis arrived Tuesday on the first visit of his life to the United States, bringing his humble manner and his "church of the poor" to a rich and powerful nation polarized over economic inequality, immigration and equal justice.

According to a rare honor to the pontiff, President Barack Obama and his wife and daughters met Francis at the bottom of the stairs on the red-carpeted tarmac at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland after the pope's chartered plane touched down from Cuba. Presidents usually make important visitors come to them at the White House.

Emerging from the plane to boisterous cheers from a crowd of hundreds, the smiling 78-year-old pontiff removed his skullcap in the windy weather and made his way down the steps in his white robes.

He was welcomed by a military honor guard, chanting schoolchildren, politicians, and Roman Catholic clerics in black robes and vivid sashes of scarlet and purple. Joe Biden, the nation's first Catholic vice president, and his wife were among those who greeted him.

Eschewing a limousine, the pope climbed into the back of a small charcoal-gray Fiat and promptly rolled down the windows, enabling the cheering, whooping crowds to see him as his motorcade took him to the Vatican diplomatic mission in Washington, where he will stay while in the nation's capital. The choice of car was in keeping with his simple habits and his anti-consumerism message.

During his six-day, three-city visit to the U.S., the pope will meet with the president on Wednesday, address Congress on Thursday, speak at the United Nations in New York on Friday and take part in a Vatican-sponsored conference on the family in Philadelphia over the weekend.

The Argentine known as the "slum pope" for ministering to the downtrodden in his native Buenos Aires is expected to urge America to take better care of the environment and the poor and return to its founding ideals of religious liberty and open arms toward immigrants.

During the flight, Francis defended himself against conservative criticism of his economic views. He told reporters on the plane that some explanations of his writings may have given the im-

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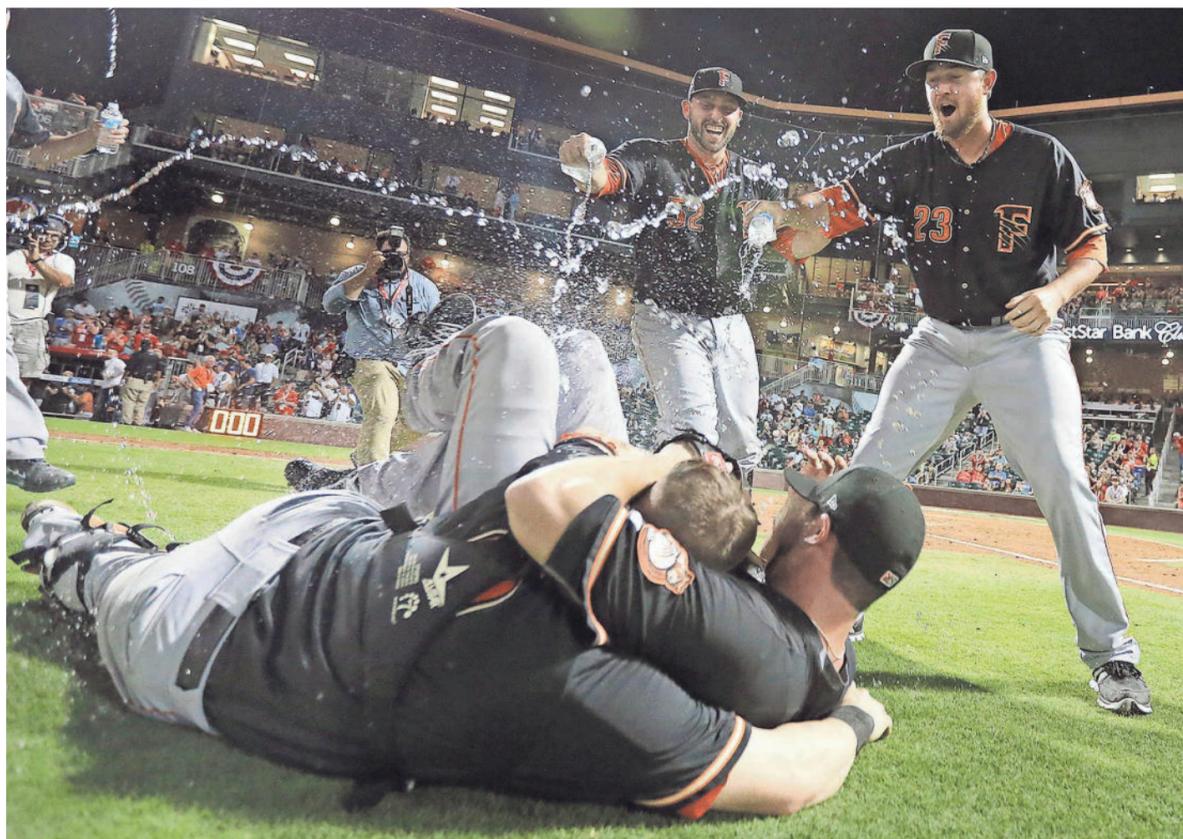
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Online

See a photo gallery. elpasotimes.com

Grizzlies 7, Clippers 0

ONE LAST NIGHT OF BASEBALL



Empty seats disappoint as Fresno wins

KRISTOPHER RIVERA | EL PASO TIMES

El Paso had a calm send-off to another summer of Triple-A baseball, but it missed its Chihuahuas.

On Tuesday night, Southwest University Park hosted the Gildan Triple-A Baseball National Championship game between the International League champion, the Clippers, from Columbus, Ohio, and the Pacific Coast League champion, the Grizzlies, from Fresno, Calif.

"They say go for the Grizzlies because they're part of our division, but my wife said to go for the Clippers because the (Grizzlies) beat our Chihuahuas," said Ernesto Rodriguez, 45, of West El Paso.

In mid-September, the Grizzlies beat the Chihuahuas in a best-of-five playoff series to advance to the Pacific Coast League championship.

And Tuesday night, Fresno ousted Columbus 7-0 to clinch the national title in front of 9,332 spectators.

The ballpark wasn't as electric as many other nights during the successful Chihuahuas season that ended with a 78-66 record to claim the Pacific Coast League Pacific Southern Division, but everyone was there to enjoy the atmosphere with good company and a fresh breeze throughout the game.

The national championship game opened with a grand entrance by a Team Fastrax Parachute Demonstration member, who dropped into the ballpark with a giant U.S. flag in tow and the first-pitch baseball in hand.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott threw out the first pitch. "It feels different, but it feels great to be out here, relax and enjoy the ball game," Salvador Tellez, 39, said with a beer in hand as he admired the ballpark. "It's weird not seeing the field with red or white

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Online

See a photo gallery from the championship game. elpasotimes.com

Inside

Fresno pitcher Chris Devenski was almost perfect in victory. **Page C1.**

"It's weird not seeing the field with red or white (jerseys)."

SALVADOR TELLEZ
 BALLPARK PATRON

MARK LAMBIE/EL PASO TIMES
 The Fresno Grizzlies celebrate their Gildan Triple-A Baseball National Championship after defeating Columbus 7-0 at Southwest University Park on Tuesday in Downtown El Paso.