The Prospector, February 1, 2022

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Utep Hall of Famer Jim Forbes dies at 69

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL
The Prospector

Jim Forbes, UTEP Hall of Famer and one of three Olympians in the history of UTEP's men's basketball, passed away Jan. 21 at the age of 69. Forbes graduated from Bel Air high school at a High School All-American in 1970. Forbes' jersey number, 50, was later retired at Bel Air in 2012. Forbes later decided to take his talents to UTEP from 1971-1974.

While at UTEP, Forbes appeared in 61 games where he averaged 10.6 points, 9.1 rebounds, shooting 49.8 percent from the field and 75.8 from the line. During his sophomore season with the Miners, 1971-72, Forbes averaged 10.7 rebounds, the most by a sophomore in school history. Forbes is tied for fifth in school history with 20 double-double games and sixth in rebounds.

Forbes was named second team All-Western Athletic Conference pick in 1972 and 1973. Forbes was selected into the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-District team in 1972 (second team) and 1973-74 (third team).

As the Miners' leading rebounder during his sophomore and senior year, Forbes recorded a career average of 9.1; he is the sixth best in school history. Forbes put up 290 rebounds during the 1971-72 season, which is the sixth-most in a season in school history. In 1972, Forbes was inducted into the UTEP Athletics Hall of Fame. Forbes was a member of the United States Olympic basketball team that faced a controversial loss to the Soviet Union in the gold medal match in 1972 that took place in Munich, Germany, 51-50. The officiating crew gave the Soviet Union three chances to win the game; the United States team was not happy and protested by not accepting its silver medal. Forbes was later drafted by the Chicago Bulls in the fourth round of the 1974 NBA Draft; due to a knee injury that kept him from playing, Forbes retired from the NBA although having not played.

Forbes decided to try his luck at coaching, where he was an assistant coach at UTEP under Don Haskins for three seasons, 1981-84. Forbes later went on to become one of the greatest high school head coach in El Paso. During his time at Riverside high school (1984-2004), Forbes led the Rangers to the Texas 5A final four in 1995 along with multiple appearances in the Sweet 16 and the Elite 8. In 2018 Riverside renamed their gym after Jim Forbes. While at Andress High School, Forbes led the Eagles to a 5A final four in 2015 along with multiple appearances in the Sweet 16 and Elite 8.

Over his career as a high school head coach, Forbes recorded 600 wins; this past year, Nov. 2021, Forbes amassed 700 wins. Forbes died in El Paso, Texas after a prolonged stay at the El Paso hospital due to health issues as confirmed by his former assistant coach Rodney Lewis. Forbes was an adoring coach to many and helped many players and coaches advance. Forbes is survived by his wife, Mary Jane; one daughter, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.


LGBTQ youth struggle within Latinx community

BY KRISTEN SCHEAFFER
The Prospector

Editor’s note: Latinx is a term referring to people of Latin American heritage who identify as gender-neutral.

El Paso is a city of culture, yet there are some among our community that have been struggling for far too long.

The Latinx LGBTQ youth has seen an increase of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation, according to an article by NPR. To make matters worse, the pandemic has had people quarantining for long periods of time, which may have increased the hostility these individuals face at home. Factors that can potentially play a role in the community are racial-ethnic bias, acculturation stress, and immigration concerns, according to research done by The Trevor Project in 2020.

Are there other factors that have a role to play? Irima Monte- longo, Ph.D., associate professor of practice for Chicano studies at the University of Texas at El Paso explains that many Latinx individuals believe in the Catholic faith and that a lot of traditional dogma can be found within the religion. “My grandma raised me; I was raised in Juarez in their home and my grandma raised me very Catholic in that household, and my grandfather is very Catholic in that household. And my grandma raised me very Catholic in that household, and my grandfather is very Catholic in that household.”

For more information, see LATINX YOUTH on Page 4.
Social media editor sets beginning of internet takeover

BY ITZEL GIRON

The Prospector

Social media has become a part of everyone’s daily lives whether it be scrolling Twitter to find the funniest memes or finding your news through Facebook. It has become vital to our routine more specifically to mine. For years, I have been using social media to not only highlight myself and what I do but to invite others into my life, never thinking it could one day be a job position. Social Media only became a ‘job’ for me in the summer of 2021, not knowing it would lead me to the position I am in now, your Audience Engagement Editor. Given the opportunity to run my own social media platform for local thrift stores across the borderland, has opened the door to a world beyond what you see on your daily feed. From analytics to understanding the power of social media, I knew this was something I wanted to tackle. I have never been one to back down from a challenge, no matter the difficulty I strive to do the best that I can do and I plan to do that here. Having already worked as a staff reporter last semester, I have learned and grown so much as both a writer and person. Opportunities such as interviewing Delegates Anguiano, meeting Beto O’Rourke, a KVIA internship and expanding my horizons here on campus, have allowed me to grow as an editor. Being the oldest of three children, I have always been a leader in my family and hold my standards high, so that my siblings can look up to me and be proud of who their older sister is. Not only trying to be the best version of myself for my siblings but to represent the people who raised me over the past 21 years. Without the constant love and encouragement from my parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles I would not be able to do what I do. From being my shoulder to cry on or giving me the best advice, my family has always been the foundation for my success, and I cannot find enough words to thank them for everything they have done for me. They have taught me great lessons and have pushed me to become a better version of myself and helped me get to this point in my journalistic career. Along with my family I want to thank my friends near and dear to my heart, who have been a great support system in my journey here at The Prospector. Thank you to the educators I have had over the course of my time in public school and have been a part of my support system even now. Being in a position of Audience Engagement Editor, I hope to highlight everything about UTEP, about the trivial things, the important things, and the things you didn’t think you needed to know. UTEP is our own little community and every little thing about it deserves to be seen, with that the only way to do so properly is to have everyone on campus involved. I plan to make sure every voice on campus is heard by being more present and allowing everyone to have their voice heard. Making sure you find all your student news quickly on all our platforms and allowing The Prospector to be your number one news source on campus. I cannot wait to see all your follows and shares on all platforms.

--Itzel Giron may be reached at iagiron@miners.utep.edu; @alyson_rod1127 on Twitter.

Pandemic Love: a love story for the times

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ

The Prospector

The pandemic may have changed the dating scene forever. It has put many young adults’ love lives on hold. Without enough feelings of love and intimacy during the pandemic, it has potentially made many students feel depressed and lonely.

For young people, it seems to be a challenge to meet prospective suitors. Technology and social media have played a big part in dating during the pandemic since everyone has been in quarantine. Apps such as Tinder, Bumble, Hinge, and many more have been an immense help to young people.

“Dating during the pandemic has become very difficult and has brought up a lot of major issues in my opinion,” said UTEP sophomore Angel Segura. “People have virtual dates but through family many failed talking stages at first can agree that they have felt lonely love we have. My opinion, “ said UTEP sophomore Rebeca Zarate. “Even though dating was not my big passion in the beginning” Zarate said. “Even though dating was not my biggest priority at the time, I started to feel lonely when the pandemic was first established. Through my loneliness I started creating many online dating profiles in hopes of finding someone. I encountered many failed dating stages at first and because of COVID was not able to go on any in person dates. I was beginning to lose hope, until I met someone who sparked my interests. We went on a first date, taking COVID precautions into consideration. After five months of getting to know each other, we finally made it official.” For some students, instead of a feeds start to a love story, their love story ended amid the pandemic. Destiny Nava, a sophomore majoring in biochemistry said “Dating during the pandemic has honestly been challenging. I feel that the pandemic played a part in the course of my last relationship. My boyfriend at the time was working in a doctor’s office during the peak of covid, and I could barely see him because of all of the precautions he needed to take in order to ensure that he wasn’t infected with COVID.” The pandemic has been a challenging factor in the lives of people from all levels of society. Everyone can agree that they have felt lonely or unlucky in love at least some point of their life. Quarantine has just made these feelings more relevant, especially for single people. “Dating during the entirety of 2020, my dating life was nonexistent,” said UTEP mechanical engineering major Derrick Castillo. “Since nobody was allowed to leave their house during quarantine, so I couldn’t meet any new people in person. When school came back in person, I thought things would be back to normal, but I was wrong. I feel like everyone lost their social skills after quarantining for so long and now everyone is antisocial. I haven’t had any luck in the dating field yet, but hopefully once people become comfortable with being around people again I will.” Even through the trials and tribulations of the pandemic, love triumphs all. Everyone learned through experiencing covid how important human connection and interaction is. We now know not to take it for granted and to really appreciate the love we have.

Alyson Rodriguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu; @alyson_rod1127 on Twitter.
Fall in love with classical music

BY REBECCA REZA
The Prospector

Whether you know it or not, your life has been surrounded by classical music. It’s everywhere - from the latest Marvel blockbuster to the Simpsons, to video games, to rock bands, to hip-hop samples and pop number 1 hits. It is ingrained at every turn in our culture. Sure, it may not elicit the same head-banging, screaming your lungs out, fiery response that popular music does today, but it is cool. It is not branded and presented to us the way we have come to expect today from our entertainment. There are no major light shows, no slew of back-up dancers behind an attractive, sexy artist selling the music to us. It is not the industrial product that we have been ingrained to love. Perhaps that’s why so many describe it as boring or old hat. Yet it endures. This column is a new venture by yours truly, thanks to the editors here at The Prospector, to explore why it’s not just your grandparents who think classical music is so cool; why people may shy away from it, what is so significant about it, and what it takes to make a career out of it. Most important of all, this column will strive to celebrate, promote, and honor the many talented musicians and artists we have studying in and around UTEP and our Sun City. There are many facets of our music and theatre program here at UTEP, and local organizations that are at your disposal to enjoy! No need to spend the buck bucks for an off-Broadway feature or live performance. Most live performances here at UTEP are free to UTEP students and faculty. Full disclosure – I am biased. After working professionally as a sports journalist for the past decade, music kept calling my name. And so I have found myself once again at UTEP, fulfilling a lifelong quest to pursue a music degree. Mastering a musical instrument, voice, or composition is no different than what an athlete undertakes in pursuing excellence in their sport. Hours of training, mental strength and focus are needed, muscle agility and stamina, and the ability to perform under pressure is a must. Symphony concertgoers appreciate this, just as much as the avid sports fan appreciates a wide receiver catching a touchdown pass, a striker scoring a goal, or a sprinter breaking a world record. Likewise, aspiring pianists and violinists idolize Lang Lang and Hilary Hahn, just as an aspiring basketball player would pine after LeBron James. We are one in the same. On any given week we are fortunate to have esteemed musicians and artists visiting our campus. Last week for example, we had one of the principle musicians from the Broadway musical “Wicked” and the Santa Fe Opera, Margaret Dyer, here teaching a master class in viola and performing a solo piece with our UTEP symphony? The influence of classical music is undeniable, and its continued relevancy allows it to continue and endure through the ages. It is my hope that throughout these next few months, more students will give it a chance, and help support the performing arts here on campus.

Rebecca Reza is a contributor and may be reached at rebecca@givingtree-media.com; @RebeccaRza on Instagram.

Pastor courtesy of Rebecca Reza
UTEP celebrates National Hijab Day

**By Kristin Scheaffer**

The Prospector

National Hijab Day is Tuesday, Feb. 1, and the Student Engagement and Leadership Center (SELC) has teamed up with the Muslim Student League to celebrate UTEP’s first Hijab Day and educate students on campus. “The Muslim Student League (MSL) is an organization at the University of Texas at El Paso that creates a safe space for students to gather to practice Islam. They also wish to educate about Islam and diminish mainstream stereotypes people see in the media, according to Ferdi Hamdan, president of the MSL.

“We are a welcoming space for anyone that wants to learn more about Islam,” stated Hamdan. The definition of hijab is a barrier or a cover, Hamdan said. The hijab symbolizes faith in God and a reminder to heed his command. Women use this, as well, to maintain their modesty, just as men maintain modesty with their beards and respecting women by lowering their eyes.

“In a society in which women are often over-sexualized and encouraged to wear revealing clothing, it is an empowering right and feeling control to get to see you and protecting yourself from that over-sexualization that is directed towards women,” Hamdan said. He also stresses that wearing the hijab is, most importantly, a self-made decision and that forcing a woman to wear one goes against Islam.

National Hijab Day was born in 2013 when Nazma Khan, a Muslim woman, decided to use this as an opportunity to educate non-Hijabi Muslim and non-Muslim women by encouraging them to wear hijabs for a day. In doing so, they hope to bridge the gap between Muslims and non-Muslims and break stereotypes associated with the hijab. In lieu of this, in 2021, Khan founded International Muslim History Month for the month of May as a way to promote religious acceptance and to celebrate historic Muslims.

From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 1, UTEP will celebrate this day by educating students on their purpose and showing students how to wear them with the help and support of the MSL.

“We have some hijabs here that we will be using, and people can try them on themselves,” said Daisy Marquez, leadership, inclusion and advocacy coordinator for the SELC. Students are encouraged to join in this educational event at the University Suite of Union East (SELC) to celebrate UTEP’s first Hijab Day and their eyes. Types associated with the hijab are often sexualized and women are often over-sexualized, which women have to deal with and control their feelings about it. This is a learning opportunity for non-Hijabi and Hijabi women and non-Muslims and Muslims to better understand each other.

“We want to tell his friends about me.”

“I would say, like I hear most people say, take your time. Do your research and really read upon what you think you might be, or not might be, and having a good circle of friends for you to feel comfortable where you might want to come out little by little,” De La Hoz said.

Students looking for information or have any questions can reach out to the Queer Student Alliance, or QSA, on campus. UTEP also has the Rainbow Miner Initiative that was started by the Student Engagement and Leadership Center. Montelongo states that the UTEP Counseling and Psychological Services is a great resource for students, as well.

Kristin Scheaffer is a staff reporter and can be reached at kristin.scheaffer@utep.edu.

UTEP creates new ADA advisory committee

**By Kristin Scheaffer**

The Prospector

The newly formed Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA, Advisory Committee at UTEP will meet monthly to discuss accommodation needs on campus. The ADA went into law in 1990 and was signed by President George H.W. Bush. It was created to outlaw discrimination and provide individuals with disabilities with the means to access the community, “said Angela Martinez, when explaining the impact needs, the advisory committee will look at a broader spectrum to meet the needs of many, according to Martinez. EO has a similar role to CASS, but instead with faculty and staff and meeting their work needs.

“The committee held their first meeting on Friday, Jan. 21, to introduce its members and discuss what the UTEP community can expect from them going forward. Some examples of the projects that the committee has addressed so far are the malfunction of a sensor on one of the doors at the Academic Admin Center and referring to Facilities the lack of an ADA but- ton for the inner and outer doors of the library.

“I think it’s going to give a fast track to some people to be able to email one area, the ADA advisory committee, and get that concern or issue in front of people who either have the expertise or are able to fast track it to leadership,” said Marti- nez, when explaining the impact she expected the committee to have on the student body.

“We are made up of various committee members who work in key positions across UTEP,” said Marti- nez. “We are in a unique position to identify a topic, or a concern, has a quick resolution, and to bring up topics or concerns directly to the departments or staff that can immediately resolve these issues or concerns.”

Martinez and Beatriz Tapia, the director for EO, are currently co-chairs for the new committee.

Other members include:

- Ray Gordon, Executive Director
- Luis Morales, Associate Director
- Alexander Friedrich, Project Manager
- Ricardo Flores, Sexual Specialist III
- Jerri Herrera, Director
- Angela Frederick Ph.D., Assistant Professor

Anu Díaz, Administrative Services Coordinator
- Mary Rodarte, Program Coordinator/Manager
- Chau-Ling Lo Ph.D., Clinical Assistant Professor and Program Director Master of Rehabilitation Counseling
- Cindy Castro, Institutional Technologist/EIR Accessibility Coordinator
- Manuel Arrieta and Carlos Chavez of the Student Government Association

For any questions, needs, or concerns, students are encouraged to check out the advisory committee’s page at www.utep.edu/ada-advisorycommittee. The committee can also be reached at ADAAdvisory Committee@utep.edu.

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The Prospector

Early voting dates for upcoming elections

**Prospector Staff Report**

Early voting in Texas starts on Feb 1 and ends Feb 25 with election day Mac. 1. This election will decide who gets the nominations for the political party Nov. 8. This election will be the first with the newly drawn district maps. The seats up for election are:

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- U.S. House of Representatives seats
- Texas Senate seats
- 3 Texas Supreme Court seats and other available positions.

Photo by Annabella Mireles

LATINX YOUTH from Page 1

Conservative and very closed off,” said UTEP senior Sofia Herrera. “He’s not religious, but he is very conservative and very old school.” Machismo is a strong sense of masculinity pride, specifically embedded in the Latinx culture, according to Rochester Institute of Technology. How can machismo affect the family dynamic for Latinx LGBTQ+ persons?

“It was a pretty good experience with my mom, yet again, with my dad it was a whole different story. He told me, ‘I didn’t want a gay son.’ He said a lot of hurtful things,” said UTEP freshman Carlos Gonzalez. “It was a really hard time. When that happened, he told me that he was going to send me to therapy, saying that he didn’t even want to tell his friends about me.” Montelongo emphasized the potential use of a good intern as a positive solution for families when asked if there is a way to bridge the gap between queer individuals and their family.

“I think it is really about getting their families involved, and for their families to participate in their children’s lives,” Montelongo said. UTEP senior Javier De La Hoz has words of wisdom for LGBTQ+ youth who want to come out.

“I would say, like I hear most people say, take your time. Do your research and really read upon what you think you might be, or not might be, and having a good circle of friends for you to feel comfortable where you might want to come out little by little,” De La Hoz said. Students looking for information or have any questions can reach out to the Queer Student Alliance, or QSA, on campus. UTEP also has the Rainbow Miner Initiative that was started by the Student Engagement and Leadership Center. Montelongo states that the UTEP Counseling and Psychological Services is a great resource for students, as well.

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The UTEP Dinner Theatre will host “The Wedding Singer” from Jan. 28-Feb. 13 at the Dinner Theater, inside Union Bldg. West, Room 207. Photos courtesy of UTEP’s Dinner Theatre.

**The Wedding Singer** brings ’80s love

**Artists & Culture**

Victoria Rivas, editor

“The ’80s was the era where music videos were born. This brought us so many iconic dance moments that have become a huge part of pop culture,” Pickett said in a UTEP Dinner Theatre statement Jan. 26.

“It has been a blast bringing some of this iconic choreography to the storytelling of “The Wedding Singer.” I hope audiences feel the urge to get up and dance with us.”

Although the show encountered minor set malfunctions, like fallen props, wobbly dance stages and stuck backgrounds, the cast and theater team recovered with clever improvisation.

“Teater team recovered with clever improvisation. The show’s most impressive designs are able to freely add humor and variety to the characters’ personalities. It is coming with the help from El Paso’s own talent. Robbie, played by UTEP senior John Levick, is as funny and charming as Sandler’s movie character, delivering the punchline just on cue each time. Supporting characters played by Derrick Cintron, Fernando Barba, Lauren Urrabarrí and Bryant Webb only add to the romantic humor of the show with witty remarks, heartfelt voice and rhythmic dance moves. The show would not be complete without the memorable performance of Morgan Baily, a Coronado High School senior whose portrayal of Julia and voice are fit for a Broadway level performance. Her acting and young personality is not only a resemblance of Drew Barrymore’s character, but what UTEP could only hope would be an excellent addition to the fine arts department. The cast followed choreographer Josey Pickett’s break out moves in true ’80s style as they revisited snake-likesways and moonwalks. "The ’80s was the era where music videos were born. This brought us so many iconic dance moments that have become a huge part of pop culture,” Pickett said in a UTEP Dinner Theatre statement Jan. 26. “It has been a blast bringing some of this iconic choreography to the storytelling of “The Wedding Singer.” I hope audiences feel the urge to get up and dance with us.”

Although the show encountered minor set malfunctions, like fallen props, wobbly dance stages and stuck backgrounds, the cast and theater team recovered with clever and smooth improvisation. The dinner performance can be enjoyed with a three-course dinner one hour before the show begins. The dinner includes a Caesar salad, barbeque brisket of beef, baked potato, green beans almondine, snowflake dinner Rolls, coffee, iced tea, and red velvet wedding cake. Tickets are available until Feb. 13 at the UTEP Ticket Center and online at ticketmaster.com. Prices range from $22.50 to $53.50, and students can use their valid UTEP ID to receive a student discount.

Whether it is to revisit a beloved Sandler classic or enjoy local art, UTEP Dinner Theatre’s “The Wedding Singer” will leave audiences craving a ‘grow old with you’ kind of love.

If one is looking to revisit a time when oversized hair, shoulder pads and upbeat music were the perfect mix for falling in love, the UTEP Dinner Theatre’s rendition of “The Wedding Singer” is the perfect musical to watch. Based on the 1998 Adam Sandler hit movie, “The Wedding Singer” (1998), the musical takes place in the ’80s, where wedding singer Robbie Hart lives his best life playing music along with his bandmates until his girlfriend leaves him at the altar. A heartbroken Robbie wanders miserably through wedding gigs until he meets Julia, a sweet waitress who makes him realize love is still alive. However, with Julia set to marry Wall Street shark Glenn Galia, Robbie sets off to win the waitress’ heart with the help of his friends and his guitar.

Director and costume designer Jaime Barba transports the audience back to 1985 New Jersey with the help of El Paso’s own talent. Robbie, played by UTEP senior John Levick, is as funny and charming as Sandler’s movie character, delivering the punchline just on cue each time. Supporting characters played by Derrick Cintron, Fernando Barba, Lauren Urrabarrí and Bryant Webb only add to the romantic humor of the show with witty remarks, heartfelt voice and rhythmic dance moves. The show would not be complete without the memorable performance of Morgan Baily, a Coronado High School senior whose portrayal of Julia and voice are fit for a Broadway level performance. Her acting and young personality is not only a resemblance of Drew Barrymore’s character, but what UTEP could only hope would be an excellent addition to the fine arts department. The cast followed choreographer Josey Pickett’s break out moves in true ’80s style as they revisited snake-like sways and moonwalks. “The ’80s was the era where music videos were born. This brought us so many iconic dance moments that have become a huge part of pop culture,” Pickett said in a UTEP Dinner Theatre statement Jan. 26. “It has been a blast bringing some of this iconic choreography to the storytelling of “The Wedding Singer.” I hope audiences feel the urge to get up and dance with us.”

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Love is in the air at UTEP as Valentine’s Day approaches in the coming days. Most people are preparing to celebrate the holiday by ordering chocolate-covered strawberries, dozens of roses, or buying teddy bears, but there are multiple ways of expressing love.

Whether it’s buying materialistic gifts or not, love can be translated into kisses and hugs or even words of affection, however, music can be referred to as the most popular love language. From dedicating songs on the radio or burning pirated songs onto a CD, music has been a main source for people to share their emotions across without talking.

Asking students across campus, The Prospector found the top five albums for people to enjoy with a partner or listen to alone for some self-love time:

- **“The Divine Feminine”** by Mac Miller
- **“Lover”** by Taylor Swift
- **“Hozier”** by Hozier
- **“Divide”** by Ed Sheeran
- **“Multiply”** by Ed Sheeran

Released in September 2016, the title itself expressed the romance displayed in the music, from self-love to loving a partner unconditionally. “Lover” was released in August 2019, where Swift created one of the most romantic albums, according to UTEP senior Silvia Hernandez. “It’s one of the most romantic albums ever. You can’t get more romantic than calling an album ‘Lover,’” Hernandez said. “Even with some songs being about loving yourself, all around it’s about love and how love is all around us.”

Self-titled album “Hozier” was released in September 2014, and expresses a passionate form of love and devotion. For UTEP student Isabela Perez, this album perfectly conveys the emotions of both heartbreak and falling in love. “It’s romantic to me because the way the lyrics express such a profound, almost sacred, love and admiration for women and how divine we (women) are,” Perez said. “Personally, it means that there is love out there that is so passionate, made up of devotion and tenderness, realizing no one should settle for less.”

Love is in the air at the El Paso Zoo

**EDUARDO A. FLORES**

Love season is right around the corner, and the El Paso Zoo and El Paso Zoological Society invite the community to spend time with their loved one at Wild at the Heart: Valentine’s Day with a wild twist!

The event will take place from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12. Attendance for the experience is limited to 200 couples. “This exciting evening experience will transform the Zoo into a unique romantic atmosphere filled with photo opportunities, themed lighting, and so much more,” according to a statement released by the El Paso Zoological Society. During the event, couples would enjoy dinner, craft beer from Dead-Beach Brewery with a commemorative event cup, a flower, animal encounters, access to the Africa section of the zoo, and many more. The dinner will consist of a delicious burger and chips, while guests have the option to change the craft beer for another drink.

Education specialists will also be present at the event to instruct guests about some of the interesting wildlife. Education specialists will also be present at the event to instruct guests about some of the interesting wildlife. **See ZOO on Page 7**
Flower shops are ready to celebrate Valentine’s Day

With Valentine’s Day around the corner, El Paso flower shops share their experience with the holiday, as they prepare custom orders and flower arrangements to celebrate the love season and offer customers some tips and tricks for the love season.

El Paso TX Flowers administrator and UTEP business student Cristina Sanchez, an El Paso resident, stated she believes Valentine’s Day and make feel special your loved one at this love adventure. “Portillo said. “I would say to just place their order two weeks ahead or even three weeks ahead.”

“Top five movies to watch on Valentine’s Day”

Elisha Nuñez
The Prospector

We are starting off this list with an iconic 90s movie many know and love. “10 Things I Hate About You” is a romcom, taking place in Seattle, starring Julia Stiles and Heath Ledger. The film retells William Shakespeare’s late 16th-century comedy “The Taming of the Shrew,” making thisangsty and classic a perfect choice for Valentine’s Day. If you’re into indie rock music, Shakespeare references, advanced vocabulary and teen drama played out in a way that would probably never happen, then this movie is for you.

Straying away from the typical rom coms and dramas, this movie celebrates Valentine’s Day with scares and screams. Taking place in the fictional town of Gatlin Bluffs, locals fear that a madman who caused a massacre at a Valentine’s party years ago has returned. If you’re not into mushy romance movies and want to watch something different this Valentine’s Day, “My Bloody Valentine” is a perfect choice.

Another movie voted as their favorite Valentine’s Day movie was “Pride and Prejudice.” Adapted from Jane Austen’s novel by the same name, this film explores the life of Elizabeth Bennet, an Englishwoman living in the countryside with her parents and sisters. Facing pressure to marry by her parents, Elizabeth is introduced to Mr. Darcy, a suave upper-class member of society. Starring Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen, this romantic novel adaptation will have you on the edge of your seat.

“Julia Lucero
The Prospector

With Valentine’s Day closing in on the calendar, some may be preparing to spend the day eating chocolate, handing out candy, the top five movies to watch during Valentine’s Day:

2. “10 Things I Hate About You” (1999)
5. “Julie and Julia” (2009)

This movie follows the lives of the world-renowned chef Julia Child, and former Lower Manhattan Development Corporation worker Julie Powell. Although these women grew up in very different ways and eras, they had one thing in common: cooking. Child’s life in Paris, adventure through cooking and writing was played brilliantly by Meryl Streep, along with Amy Adams, who played the food-blogging sensation Julie Powell.

“It’s a challenge, so much monetary investment, time and effort is put into the holiday for a single day. Almost four days of limited or no sleep. Still, we manage to enjoy every minute of the workload,” Portillo said.

Valentine’s Day shoppers should not wait till the last minute to buy flowers since this is the busiest time of year for any florist, Pegeros said. “I would say to just place their order two weeks ahead or even a week before. It’s not too early,” Pegeros said.

Julia Lucero is a contributor and may be reached at julia@miners.utep.edu.
El Paso’s Segundo Barrio creating history

Segundo Barrio, a Hispanic neighborhood rich in history, art and culture was named a National Historic District by the National Register of Historic Places.

JULIA LUCERO
The Prospector

“People are finally recognizing the contributions that people from the Segundo have made,” UTEP Professor of History Yolanda Leyva said.

Leyva said, the Segundo Barrio became the place where Mexican immigrants first lived when they came to the United States. “By the 1910s, it became the most densely populated area in El Paso,” Leyva said. “Lots of historians talk about it as being the Ellis Island of Mexicans.”

Since Segundo Barrio was a popular place to migrate for undocumented people, there are many people from around the United States who can trace their roots back to El Paso, Leyva said.

“Because there (are) always immigrants coming in, Mexican culture is really kept alive right there. Music, language, food – it’s all kept alive right there,” Leyva said.

The Segundo Barrio also welcomes creativity as some of the neighborhood walls are plastered with colorful artworks created by the artists that grew up there. Muralist and artist Francisco Delgado said Segundo Barrio is a starting point for many artists, and noted that art is highly respected in Chicano communities.

One of Delgado’s favorite art pieces in the Segundo Barrio is one he designed, a mural outside of Sacred Heart Church, called “Sacred Heart.” “Growing up there, you don’t notice that you’re part of the working class until you’re actually out of there,” Delgado said.

Delgado said overall there was a strong community growing up in Segundo Barrio and the experience made him strong.

Not only are the walls of the Segundo Barrio covered in art, the community is home to a variety of creative people, according to Leyva. “So you have poets, you have novelists growing up there,” Leyva said.

She said Mexican author Mariano Azuela wrote the first great novel of the Mexican revolution in a building on South Oregon Street.

Don Tosti, the first Latino composer to sell a million records, was born and raised in South Oregon Street, Leyva said. “You have these amazing shining lights of creativity throughout the 20th century to now,” Leyva said.

Digital artist and muralist Bobby Lerma says artists that grew up in Segundo consider the neighborhood a safe haven.

Lerma created a nonprofit company called “Segundo Barrio Apparel Company” where 75% of the proceeds go directly to the community.

Lerma said that artists that left the Segundo Barrio, although in different parts of the city, formed their foundations for their art in the neighborhood.

Julia Lucero is a contributor and may be reached at julia.lucero@miners.utep.edu.

686 properties in the Segundo Barrio area are now part of the historic district. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector
**Sports**

**Softball team preps for season**

**Emily Autumn Velasquez, editor**

**BY KATRINA VILLARREAL**

UTEP tennis player Eve Daniels has been playing tennis since she was a kid and decided to bring her talents from England all the way to the Sun City.

Daniels is a junior studying biology with a biomedical concentration; she is not sure what she wants to do with her degree, but she loves that biology is a very broad degree.

"There’s quite a lot of avenues that I can go down, but I am looking at biomedical engineering and something along that route," Daniels said.

Daniels is originally from Manchester, England. She explained that she decided to bring her talent to El Paso because Tennis Head Coach Ivan Fernandez explained the culture and the weather, which she loves, along with what the program is like and its contents.

"The tennis program was like just the one I wanted, so that’s why I chose to come here," Daniels said. For Daniels, her dream was always to attend an American university and follow in the footsteps of some of her friends from England.

"Quite a lot of my friends from England also went down that route (attend an American university) and they’re older than me so I looked up to them and decided to go down the same route," Daniels said.

Daniels has been playing tennis for 10 years now, since she was about 7 or 8 years old. She said the first time she realized she wanted to play was when her family took her to the tennis court for the very first time and she enjoyed it.

"My mom used to play tennis, not competitively, but she loved the sport and my Nana always used to watch it, so I guess they just took me to a tennis court, and I enjoyed it," Daniels said. "So, I carried on playing with my friends at first and then only like a year or so later I started trying to do it competitively."

Daniels explains how her mother is truly an inspirational figure and when she was younger, she loved professional tennis player Rafa Nadal.

"She’s always supporting me and is always showing me how to work hard, she inspires me with her attitude," Daniels said. "I met him (Rafa Nadal) actually, he’s a really nice guy and he was such a good athlete, the way he worked really hard and grinded on the court was always inspiring." In tennis and outside of tennis, Daniels has had many achievements. She is the only Miner to win a tennis tournament and four in singles. Back home, Daniels earned international titles in doubles.

"I love doubles. It’s nice to have a teammate there to support you and I can support my teammate," Daniels said. "That was like a great achievement and coming here on scholarship is a great achievement for me."

Bring back on the court after the 2020 season was canceled, Daniels explained that it has been hectic, but it was great to go back to normalcy.

"It just makes you appreciate it more you know because it was just like we couldn’t play, we couldn’t do what we came here to do. So now it’s nice that finally we’re back up and running again," Daniels said.

When it comes to the sport of tennis, Daniels loves the challenges that the sport brings along with being a part of a team, being there to support each other and cheer each other on, as well as all the exercises that come with it.

"I feel like it made me a stronger character as a person because it’s an individual sport, but also, I really love playing on a team, and it just creates loads of opportunities and I just enjoy it," Daniels said. "There’s always improvements you can make and as a sport there’s always something that you can work on and that’s nice to have that focus." Daniels is not sure if she wants to pursue tennis professionally but plans to keep tennis a part of her life.

"I’m definitely still going to play after college or if it’s just a hobby, I don’t know it’s a long way to go," Daniels said.

Daniels and her teammates prepare to take on PAC-12 affiliate at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 31 at University of Arizona and at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 4, at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

There is a lot of talent throughout all the sports programs, and they are always looking for more support from the El Paso and UTEP communities. Tickets are always available throughout the seasons. Tickets for athletics events can be purchased through the Eisenberg Family Ticket Office by calling 915-747-UTEP, emailing tickets@utep.edu, visiting www.UTEP-Miners.com/Tickets, or in person at 201 Glory Road (Brumelow Building, open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday).

Strats provided courtesy of UTEP Athletics.

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**BY EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ**

**The Prospector**

With the 2022 spring semester kicking off, there are plenty of sports coming into play. Basketball is in conference play, and rifle is looking to wrap up their season.

However, there are some sports at the beginning of their seasons such as tennis and track and field. Meanwhile, softball is looking to kick off its season Feb. 10.

The men’s basketball team is currently on a five-game winning streak after their hot start where they went 6-0. They are 12-7 on the season, but 4-5 in conference play. Even with its struggles as of late, it is currently third in C-USA behind only UAB and Southern Miss. It is looking to bounce back Feb. 3 as they face North Texas at the Don Haskins Center.

The rifle team is currently looking to wrap up their season in the Puerto Rico Rifle Conference Championship Feb. 5-6 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The rifle team hosted its last match of the season where it went against Air Force. The team fell short, finishing with an aggregate score of 4546. Air Force put up 4715.

The women’s tennis team is off to a good start as they are currently 1-2. They lost 5-0 when they traveled to Texas Tech and against the University of Arizona but were able to successfully beat Western Mexico at the El Paso Tennis Club. They can be seen back in action on Feb. 4 when they travel to play University of Nevada Las Vegas. Track and field completed its second meet of the season Jan. 29 as they traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico for the New Mexico Team Open in the Albuquerque Convention Center. The Miners combined for eight top three finishes and had other Miners improve on their marks and times. The team can be seen back in action at the NM Collegiate Classic that will take place Feb. 4-5.

Softball is looking to kick off their season with the UTEP Invitational. It begins with a double header against Idaho State at 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex. During the offseason, new talent was added to the roster through new players and a new pitching coach.

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Super Bowl LVI: Burrow set to face Staford

BY EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ
The Prospector

On Sunday Jan. 30, both the Cincinnati Bengals and the Los Angeles Rams beat their opponents in the AFC and NFC Championship games to advance to Super Bowl LVI, which will be played at 4:30 p.m. Feb. 13 at SoFi stadium in Inglewood, California. Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow is the first quarterback that was selected as the first pick overall in the NFL draft to advance to the Super Bowl in only their second year to the Panthers’ lead, but the Miners trailed going into halftime with a score 38-20. The Miners struggled from the floor, shooting only 5-of-28. The Panthers, however, were scorching hot from the 3-point line shooting at 50%. In the third quarter of this contest, graduate student and forward Teal Battle got a lay-up and put the score at 22-42 after two straight baskets made from FIU. Once again, FIU continued to counter whatever the Miners threw at them in this contest. Gallegos and Arick tried to keep the Miners in this contest by scoring baskets. But again, FIU had an answer for every score. UTEP could not stop FIU on defense despite the Miners trying to keep up offensively. In the start of the fourth quarter, FIU pushed their lead to 60-36. The Miners pushed back with a scoring run that cut down the lead 40-68. However, FIU kept up tempo and never stopped scoring till the final buzzer in this contest. The Miners fell in this game to the Panthers with a final score of 72-45. FIU held a lead that never went below 17, while UTEP was held to a season low of 45 points. The Miners field goal percentage was also at a season low with it being 25%. UTEP also turned the ball over a season high 25 times. Four players for FIU scored in double figures, with junior guard Grace Hunter being the leading scorer with 14 points in this contest. As for the Miners, Gallegos finished this contest with a team high 23 points and went 5-of-11 shooting from the floor. Gallegos would also hit 10-of-12 free throws in this contest. Arick finished the day with seven points and grabbed a team high 10 rebounds for this contest.

The 27-point margin of defeat is the largest for the Miners since a 79-49 loss at home to Middle Ten- nessee on Jan. 19, 2019. The UTEP women’s basketball team can be seen back in action in their next game against the Univer- sity of North Texas Mean Green at 6 p.m. on Feb. 3 at the Don Haskins Center. All stats provided courtesy of UTEP Athletics.

Daniel Alder Lopez is a staff reporter and can be reached at dan45alopez@miners.utep.edu.

Super Bowl LVI: Burrow set to face Stafford

NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

FREE WOMEN IN SPORTS POSTERS
FREE BAG GIVEAWAYS

ALSO THIS WEEK:
MINERS WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TAKES ON NORTH TEXAS THURSDAY FEB. 3 7 PM

Sophomore guard Katia Gallegos looks to get around the Florida International University defender on Jan. 29 at the Ocean Convocation Center in Miami, Florida. Photo courtesy of Michael Berlfein.

Sophomore guard Katia Gallegos looks to get around the Florida International University defender on Jan. 29 at the Ocean Convocation Center in Miami, Florida. Photo courtesy of Michael Berlfein.
Miners beat FIU for 5th straight win

The UTEP Miners men's basketball team (13-8, 6-3 Conference-USA) won its fifth straight game against Florida International University (12-9, 3-4 C-USA) Jan. 29 at the Don Haskins Center.

By Daniel Alec Lopez

UTEP's Soley Boum plays offense against Florida International University at the Don Haskins Center Jan. 29. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector
Start exploring internship or professional positions. Make plans to attend.

**Thursday, February 3**
In-person

9am - 3pm | UNION EAST
TOMAS RIVERA CONFERENCE CENTER

**Friday, February 4**
Virtual

9am - 3pm | JOB MINE
SIGN UP IN ADVANCE FOR INTERVIEWS VIA JOB MINE!

Career Fair Tips:

- Review the employers attending in advance via Job Mine at utep.edu/careers
- Have at least five organization-specific questions for each employer you visit
- Brush up on your elevator pitch and have an updated résumé. Be ready for a meeting with an employer

Register today via Job Mine at: [utep.edu/careers](http://utep.edu/careers)