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## The Prospector, January 17, 2023

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# THE PROSPECTOR

VOL. 108, NO. 9  
JANUARY 17, 2023

Assayer of Student Opinion

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

theprospectordaily.com

## Behind the faces at the Border

## Mexico is starting the new year on a bad note



BY MARIA L. GUERRERO DURAN  
The Prospector

Only a few hours into the new year, the Centro de Reinsercion Social No. 3 (CERESO) was raided, resulting in the successful escape of the Mexicles gang leader, Ernesto Alberto Piñon de la Cruz, also known as "El Neto." Several sources estimate between 24 to 30 other prisoners took advantage of the chaos and escaped. The riot took the lives of 10 prison guards and seven prisoners.

As a response and prevention of further altercations, 191 prisoners were transferred to different prisons. Those transferred were prisoners charged with high impact crimes, such as homicide, kidnapping, rape, organized crime and gun possession, according to Milenio Noticias.

People in Juarez expressed their fear on social media as the city became paralyzed from the shock.

Claudia Hernandez, a 23-year-old student in Ciudad Juarez shared her experience, where a shooting took place outside of the building she works at.

"Several bullets hit the windows of the buildings next to us," Hernandez said. "It was stressful since we didn't know at what time we would be able to get out and go home. It wasn't until the evening that the gunshots stopped that we were able to leave, and you could see how everything was closed and the streets were empty."

She also shares how scary it is to see the police and the SWAT team driving around the city.

"You're obviously always with that fear that at any moment a shooting can start," Hernandez said.

As the situation progressed, the governor of Chihuahua, Maru Campos released a statement on social media Jan. 5, informing the public of the capture and alleged death of "El Neto."

see CERESO on page 3

An immigrant from Haiti helps a child walk over the mud as they cross to the United States border seeking asylum. Photos by Jose Ivan Favala/  
The Prospector

BY ERIK ACOSTA  
The Prospector

Within the past few months, the city of El Paso has been experiencing a significant migration influx. Historical numbers of migrants have crossed the southwest border with no place to go, generating a humanitarian crisis and a debate over border control security and Title 42.

The Trump-era public health policy, Title 42, was first implemented in 2020 to expel asylum seekers from the country and was due to expire last year but won a temporary ruling from the Supreme Court. Given the circumstances, El Paso has turned into a hotspot for the decision on this policy. With the anticipated removal of Title 42, the migration influx across the Bor-

derland has continued to add more pressure on local shelters, churches and immigration authorities as migrants continue to cross.

Like many migrants arriving in El Paso, alongside his seven month-pregnant wife, is Mauricio Ramos who has been in the U.S. for the past four months without a job.

"The reason I came here is because of the living situation in Venezuela and I wanted to provide a better life for my wife and family," Ramos said. "Now that we are here, I am the one supporting my family but I'm struggling because there is no work and I'm having a hard time adjusting to this life. My hands feel tight because I have no job, I can't advance or speak the language here, but I feel grateful for all the help and support that I have been get-

ting from the people in El Paso."

Staying at the Opportunity Center located at 1208 Myrtle Ave, they have been providing Ramos with medication and exams for his pregnant wife.

"I feel frustrated because I don't have the means to provide for my wife," Ramos said. "(I can't provide) a better living situation and better food that she needs and deserves."

Though unable to provide, Ramos mentions his wife's pregnancy is going well.

As the unknown looms over Title 42, many have criticized it as a violation and an illegal restriction on human rights, a barrier preventing unauthorized immigration and simply not serving its purpose.

Others have countered that the immigration system is the root of the

overall problem.

As migrants sleep on a mattress with only a single pillow, covered in dirt and stains, they cover themselves up with a single piece of torn up newspaper piece or blanket. Covered in worn out clothing, many of migrants say they come in search of better life for themselves and their families.

"It was hard going through the jungle, the cold, the hunger but I am grateful, and I thank God that I am here, I want to get a job and establish my life here in the United States," said Jesús Rafael another migrant coming from Venezuela. "I have been having food and shelter that I need for every day but went through a lot of cold at night-time which was very frustrating. I thought I was going to die."

see MIGRATION on page 4



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# Opinion

Itzel Giron, editor-in-chief

## The Prospector (Itzel's version)

BY ITZEL GIRON  
The Prospector

Ever since I can remember I have always wanted to be a writer, reporter or news anchor and I never thought I would get the chance to do any of that professionally during my college years. As I enter my senior year at UTEP, I realize the opportunity I have as editor-in-chief of The Prospector and everything that has come with it.

Joining back in the fall of 2021, I did not think I would get to this point so quickly. Having started as a staff reporter to audience and engagement editor to multimedia editor to now editor-in-chief, it seemed to fly by. I swear, it was only yesterday that I was just sitting in my high school yearbook class realizing how much I loved the world of journalism and how I was going to change the future of it.

Being appointed to this role and taking on the challenge of leading a group of fellow multi-talented students was enough to feel like crying in the corner; which was tempting but, thanks to the great support system and staff I have, I know this is a rollercoaster ride I never want to get off.



Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

Being here at "The Propy" has been a joy and I know it will continue to be so but, in this new era I hope to guide my staff as so many

have helped guide me. Majoring in multimedia journalism with a minor in creative writing, I know my skills do not make me perfect

but, they make me someone who is ready to lead, learn and succeed.

I hope to bring The Prospector into a new light with more breaking news, stories that have never been told before and media pieces you will not forget about. Being a major news source for the student body, it is a goal of mine to make sure The Prospector remains to be that while also becoming the number one news source for others in the UTEP community.

In my time here with my past positions I have helped establish a stronger name for us, whether that be updating our social media accounts to our Prospector Podcast or writing stories the community loves to read, I hope to continue that momentum. However, getting to this point would not have been possible without my predecessors and I cannot write this piece without saying thank you for giving me the chance to start and grow into a better journalist.

Along with them, I thank every single person who has walked in and out of the doors of the Student Media Publications office; as many of you all have gone to fulfill your dreams post-graduation, you all

have been such a vital part of me getting to where I am now and where I hope to be. Thank you, Anahy, Victoria, Emily, Victoria (Nicole), Annabella, Hugo and Maria for being the first people to listen to me when I walked through these doors, for reminding me I can run a newsroom and for being some of the best friends anyone could ask for.

Of course, going to college and joining The Prospector would not have been possible if it were not for the love and support of my family. To my mom, dad, grandmas, grandpas, and everyone in between, I hope to make you proud even from up above. *Espero estén orgullosos de mí, los quiero siempre.*

To my staff, this will be a great ride, and I am honored to be there with you all and to guide each one of you into becoming better journalists than when you joined.

Now, I know there are a few concerned that the paper would become a Harry Styles publication, but rest assured, The Prospector will stay "Golden."

Itzel Giron is the editor-in-chief and may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu); @byitzel.giron on Instagram; @itzel\_anahi\_16 on Twitter.

## Student Media and Publications welcomes its new adviser

BY CRYSTAL HINGA  
The Prospector

The UTEP Student Media and Publications Department is happily announcing that they have filled their assistant director position. The new Assistant Director, Crystal Hinga is elated to serve as the new editorial advisor for the student media team and assist the students in reaching new heights.

I was born and grew up in Columbus, Mississippi, a city known as "The Friendly City." One of my favorite elements of the small town where I grew up is going back home sometimes, going to the local Walmart with my grandmother and bumping into classmates I grew up with or seeing a couple of cousins.

I left Mississippi after high school and pursued my degree in communications at the University of Memphis where I enjoyed a lot of



barbecues, met lifelong friends, and made Memphis my second home. I began my broadcast career in the same city at WMC-TV. I started behind the scenes as a production assistant, advanced my way

into a full-time photographer and videographer for about two years, and finally made my debut on air as a weekend reporter.

Memphis is also the city where I realized, eventually in my media career, that I would love to work with students someday to make sure they are well prepared for the media industry when they graduate college. When I graduated and started in the industry, I felt like I was not thoroughly prepared and had to learn quickly as I went in order to stay afloat.

I decided to leave Memphis after a few years to continue my career as a breaking news reporter in Savannah, Georgia. I covered a wide range of news from political stories, crime, hurricanes, sports and even light-hearted fun stories. One of my biggest and most memorable stories in Savannah was team coverage of the C-130 military plane crash in

2018.

Savannah, Georgia is also the city I will always remember as it is where I met my husband when we were both at the beginning of our careers. We married in Savannah and have two beautiful, busy children. We also recently added another family member to our home; a New Zealand White bunny named Copper.

While my career in broadcast news began to take a lot of time away from my family, I realized I was ready to progress from news and tap into the leadership realm of media.

In 2019, I was granted the opportunity to lead college media students as the Assistant Director of Student Media at Georgia Southern University. I immediately fell in love with the field, helped launch media programs and led students to award-winning work. I am

super excited to be living out my purpose and manifesting my dream of leading students into the media industry with much experience.

My husband's career as a Black Hawk Pilot landed my family in El Paso in 2021. While the borderland is a different living experience than the places we have lived, we have grown to love the city, the people, the culture and all the experiences.

While my husband continues his pilot career at Fort Bliss, I could not be more grateful to finally be a part of the University of Texas El Paso community and have a new student media family to lead and produce content with.

When I am not marathon training, I will likely be spotted in the student media office editing, planning, teaching, or creating content with the new team.

Crystal Hinga is the editorial advisor and may be reached at [clhinga@utep.edu](mailto:clhinga@utep.edu)

## THE PROSPECTOR VOL. 108, No. 9 January 17, 2023

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# Blue Origin helps UTEP prepare for lift off



BY AVERY ESCAMILLA-WENDELL  
The Prospector

UTEP's very own Sun City Summit Rocket Team announced its new sponsorship by Blue Origin on Jan. 3. Blue Origin was founded by Amazon owner, Jeffrey Bezos. Here is what the Blue Origin sponsorship will bring to the team.

The rocket team started up in 2021 and is composed of students who are majoring in engineering or have an interest in aerospace engineering who work on building and testing rockets to allow aspiring engineers to gain experience working with advanced technology.

Jonathan Cucciniello, senior mechanical engineering student, is the team lead for the group.

The team competed at the 2022 Spaceport America Cup, a nationwide collegiate competition where university students design, build and launch rockets.

Although not taking home any awards, Sun City Rocket stood out by being one of 100 valley universities to compete.

"You start about nine months out and you just develop a project and submit an entry and based off those designs and plans they select you to compete," Cucciniello said. "We took a lot of lessons learned back

and those are things we (like myself) and other leaders on the team have incorporated throughout the year so we don't make the same mistakes we did last year. It may not have been the ideal plan but the experience was more beneficial being a learning experience."

The new sponsorship has provided the team with new opportunities such as projects and high-quality mentorship. In addition to that, Blue Origin has provided a monetary prize to the rocket team.

"(With) those opportunities that they provide, you could go anywhere with things and it's something the other teams don't have per se," Cucciniello said.

According to the Blue Origins' website, it states the mission is to "Increase access to space through reusable rockets."

The company says it is working today to create that future by developing reusable launch vehicles in-space systems that are safe, low cost and serve the needs of all civil, commercial and defense customers.

Jesus Leon, a junior mechanical engineering major at UTEP, is a member of the rocket team. At the time, he was working on his rocket in hopes of earning his level-one certification on the team.

"(It's) really fun because you get to (get) hands-on experience, and you get to think about (and) like wonder when you're building it. How does certain stuff get into place and how everything works together," Leon said.

"Being able to get that connection with people from Blue Origin who are (a) company who a lot of the people from El Paso work (with) is a great opportunity."

As for future projects, the team and Blue Origin have a few coming up including "Daedalus" which is exploring farther out in areas where rocketry has not been discovered.

According to Cucciniello a part of the sponsorship received, would be going to getting in touch with actual technical advisors that would be coming by the end of the month.

Anyone interested in joining does not need to be an engineering student at UTEP but should be interested and passionate about Aerospace.

To get in contact with the Sun City Rocket Team email them at [rocketteam@utep.edu](mailto:rocketteam@utep.edu).

Avery Escamilla-Wendell is a staff reporter and may be reached at [amescamilla@miners.utep.edu](mailto:amescamilla@miners.utep.edu)

## CERESO from COVER

Campos said he was captured and killed after he tried to flee in a vehicle and later crashed at a gas station. Officials say he was severely wounded in that shootout and died while being transported to Chihuahua district attorney facilities.

As a response to "El Neto's capture, several riots were reported around the city, such as vehicles and local businesses on fire, shootings and car crashes, according to a report from Milenio Noticias.

As riots were in progress in Chihuahua, the city of Culiacan dealt with their own uproar as a result of the arrest of Sinaloa cartel leader, El Chapo Guzman's son, Ovidio Guzman. Mexican officials say this is the second time the Mexican military and National Guard have tried to capture the cartel leader, the first being in 2019, in which they failed, having to set him free in order to prevent future attacks against the civilians, according to Milenio Noticias.

Culiacan was then blocked not only by land but by air too. The main access roads were blocked by the military and airlines cancelled flights from and to Culiacan, leaving civilians trapped in the middle of fire and gunfire.

Ovidio was eventually found and arrested, Jan. 5, in a small town called Jesús María. Despite this being considered a win for the Mexican military forces, the town of Jesús María, has reported that its citizens are suffering from PTSD.

"We noticed that there was a lot of PTSD in the community," said Health Secretary of Sinaloa, Cuicahuac Gonzalez. "We decided to organize a brigade with 90 people from our health system, including doctors, psychologists and nurses."

As both stories unfold, it has been advised that civilians stay cautious and informed in case of a new state of emergency arises and curfews are imposed to the public.

María L. Guerrero Duran is the web and copy editor and may be reached at [mlguerrero@miners.utep.edu](mailto:mlguerrero@miners.utep.edu).

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# Do UTEP residents feel safe on campus?

BY AVERY ESCAMILLA-WENDELL  
The Prospector

After the recent deaths of four Idaho College students that occurred Nov. 13, 2022, the safety of student residents in housing comes into question. Housing and Residence Life, the Dean of Students Office and the UTEP Police Department are three of the many resources UTEP provides for students; there are three different properties: Miner Heights, Miner Village and Miner Canyon. Having such a vast space to cover, what specific safety procedures and measures are put in place to protect student residents? Do students who live on campus feel safe?

UTEP Housing and Residence Life ensures the safety of student residents living on campus. A recent interview with Director of Housing and Residence Life, Ray Gordon and Associate Vice President and Dean of Students Catie McCorry-Andalis stated how both departments have their own ways of conducting safety protocols and helping students feel secure.

"I'm very proud of how safe our institution is and how safe our residence halls are, but they're safe because we have a caring commu-



(Right to left) Madison Mogen, Kaylee Goncalves, Ethan Chapin and Xana Kernodle were the victims of the Idaho murders that occurred Nov. 13, 2022. Photos from of Zana Kernodle and Kaylee Goncalve's Instagrams

nity who looks out for each other," McCorry-Andalis said.

"Students are living together in a community and they take a high level of ownership to the safety and their own wellbeing. They do speak up," Gordon said. "We have had students and staff say that there's somebody in the community that doesn't belong there. It's something that you don't think about until you're in that situation."

Approximately six hundred to eight hundred students live at each property. However, the total fluctu-

ates every semester. For this year, all properties are at one hundred percent capacity.

"That's so important when you're living, you know, in a different area of town, you're not living with all college students so that experience is very different, but living on campus, (if) there's an on-call situation, the RAs are there from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. When the traditional offices are closed, and we have a whole other structure behind that," Gordon said.

Daniella LaBier, a sophomore

studying communication studies who lives at Miner Canyon, is one student who feels safe with the safety protocols in place.

"Yeah, I have thought about it actually and I do feel safe here," LaBier said. "I think, Miner Canyon does have safety precautions with having a specific key being in our ID and you can't come in or out without it and even when the gates broken, they do it in a timely matter to fix it."

Someone with a different take is Maya Martinez, a sophomore

studying biological science, who is a current resident at Miner Village.

"Well, I try not to do laundry at night or things like that, just because I don't go out at night," Martinez said. "It's for the cars mostly but you have to use your Miner ID to open up the barricade that lets the car in, but most of the time its broken, and people just break it off, so it's kind of like anybody could really drive in here."

LaBier and Martinez both feel moderately safe at their properties, however, Martinez feels like some things could be better.

To stay safe, some suggested safety measures residents can take are locking your door, being aware of your surroundings, walking with someone you know or having people in your surroundings such as other students.

Housing and Residence life, Dean of Students and other campus departments protect the safety of students on campus are available and accessible 24 hours a day.

Students who need to address any concerns may reach the Dean of Students at [DOS@utep.edu](mailto:DOS@utep.edu) or housing at [housing@utep.edu](mailto:housing@utep.edu).

Avery Escamilla-Wendell is the staff reporter and may be reached at [amescamilla@miners.utep.edu](mailto:amescamilla@miners.utep.edu)

## MIGRATION from cover

Despite the weighty matter of migration, migrants say those who are migrating to this country lack a voice to express or be heard.

"I'm asking not just El Paso but everyone else in the United States to support and not reject us," Rafael said. "We have professions that we studied in our countries, and we want to provide for this country and become better people who help the community."

Joalis Romero said she faced emotional turmoil after fleeing her country, as she went days without food, sleep and clean clothes. She says she and many migrants continue to struggle as they face new challenges inside the U.S.

"The journey from Venezuela to here was hard because we didn't have resources or anywhere to go eat, we didn't have any clothes or anywhere to do our necessities, it was very hard," Romero said. "I have been feeling sad cause I'm

away from my family, so it's been hard this whole situation."

As migrants continue to come in and out of El Paso, they share gratitude for what they have received when staying in the borderland. However, when it comes to finding a job, many say it has been difficult.

**"IT'S OVERWHELMING BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH SPACE. IT IS HEARTBREAKING WHEN YOU GET A FAMILY COMING IN AND YOU HAVE TO DENY SHELTER BECAUSE YOU ARE AT CAPACITY."**

**NICOLE TORRES**

OUTREACH COORDINATOR AT THE DELTA CENTER

"The shelter here has been well but in reality, we haven't been able to find jobs, for people to

find employment or give us the opportunity to at least get a visa to start working here," Romero said. "I want to succeed and live a better life, I don't want to be a burden to the government. I just want to succeed here."

During this crisis, many groups and other shelters across El Paso are helping these migrants, just like the Opportunity Center. However, with the massive influx many shelters across the region are at capacity.

The Delta Welcome Center, located at 4451 Delta Dr. near the El Paso Coliseum, is one of many other shelters across the city working with migrants and offering shelter. With all the help offered, the facility is now overflowing and the workers and crew are beginning to feel the weight.

"It's overwhelming because we don't have enough space, it is heartbreaking when you get a family coming in and you have to deny shelter because you are at capacity," said Outreach Coordinator, Nicole Torres. "All of the shelters here are in contact with one another and we are all trying our best to help them, but we are definitely all at capacity."

In the downtown area, men, women and even children are seeking asylum, near the Sacred Heart Church at 602 S Oregon St., where hundreds of migrants are camping out. The church, which has been housing and feeding migrants since the start of the crisis has also reached capacity, that many migrants are forced to sleep on the sidewalks outside.

Even though the border is being guarded and secured by authorities, reports indicate that more than 100 migrant families cross it every day and on average around a thousand have done so in recent months.

"I do not see things getting better, although they are doing an amazing



A group of immigrants from Haiti receives face masks after turning themselves into an official of the Customs and Border Protection. Photo by Jose Iván Favela/The Prospector

job at stopping people from coming over the border," Torres said. "There is still an abundance of people that are still crossing over."

While housing the migrants has presented itself as a challenge, it has not stopped the Sacred Heart Church and the community from offering services and donations. Having El Paso be at the center of a humanitarian crisis, the church and locals have shown the world how resilient El Paso is by showing kindness and humility to these refugees.

"The community has been more involved in the sense that they have been giving more food, bringing more water and clothes, that is what the community has been doing," said Director of Religious Formation at Sacred Heart Church, Efrén Loya-Gomez. "Our shelter started from zero we didn't have a lot of stuff and asking the community what we needed, they started moving. That is how El Paso is. Anyone here would help anyone."

City officials urged President Joe Biden to visit the city of El Paso

to see firsthand the humanitarian crisis that is currently ongoing; which resulted in his presence this past Sunday Jan. 8.

Along with President Biden, bipartisan senators came a day after to see this crisis firsthand. Even New York mayor, Eric Adams; who is dealing with his own version of this crisis, has visited the borderland to see the problem firsthand, to hopefully get federal help for both New York and border cities.

As many migrants are being transported to other cities like New York, Denver, Chicago and Washington D.C., they face the continuation of the problem at the border especially, uncertainty.

Which is why so many across the country and especially here in El Paso remain uncertain if there will ever be a quick resolution to the long standing problem, or when a solution will come at all, but for now the city of El Paso continues to stay afloat while drowning in a sea of immigration problems.

Erik Acosta is a staff reporter and may be reached at [emacosta6@miners.utep.edu](mailto:emacosta6@miners.utep.edu)



Two people sleep under a makeshift hut made from donated blankets from the American Red Cross Association.

Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

# Arts & Culture

Meagan Garcia, editor

## Get scoops and smiles at Howdy Homemade

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ  
The Prospector



(Left to right) Manager, Poppy Martll and heroes Evan Vourazeris and Andrea Ortego working hard at Howdy Homemade ice cream parlor. Photo by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospector

El Paso's newest ice cream parlor has finally opened its doors to the community. Howdy Homemade Ice Cream Parlor's grand opening was Dec. 3, 2022, and since then the "Heroes" have been serving every scoop with a smile.

"The best part about working at Howdy Homemade is seeing how our heroes are making an impact in our community without knowing it," said chief manager of Howdy Homemade, Poppy Martll. "And seeing how they excel every day because they love what they do. They inspire me on a daily basis."

Unlike any other ice cream shop, Howdy Homemade serves unique flavors, but also inspires young people who have disabilities to follow their dreams and gives them the confidence to apply for jobs and acquire skills to succeed in them.

The company originated in Dallas and was created by a man named Tom Landis in December of 2015. The company's mission is to create more jobs for people with intellectual and developmental differences

using the power of smiles and delicious ice cream.

"We came to Howdy Homemade because we had heard about it from Fitfam on Instagram and we thought it was such a good idea," said customer Marissa Rascon-Arriaga. "The ice cream is really good, and the ice cream shop has great customer service too."

The ice cream shop has lots to offer, such as tasty flavors that include Dr. Pepper chocolate chip, dark chocolate chipotle and birthday cake, which they make themselves in a suite next door to the shop. Customers can get their ice cream with various toppings and cones.

"So far business has been going pretty good," Martll said. "We are very excited because we see how people enjoy the environment and they love the ice cream. Our heroes are capable of anything, they just needed an opportunity to actually make it. I'm very proud of our heroes and I am very blessed to be working with them. It's been an amazing journey so far."

Available merchandise includes hats and shirts to help you match the Howdy Heroes. Howdy Homemade also caters for various events as well.

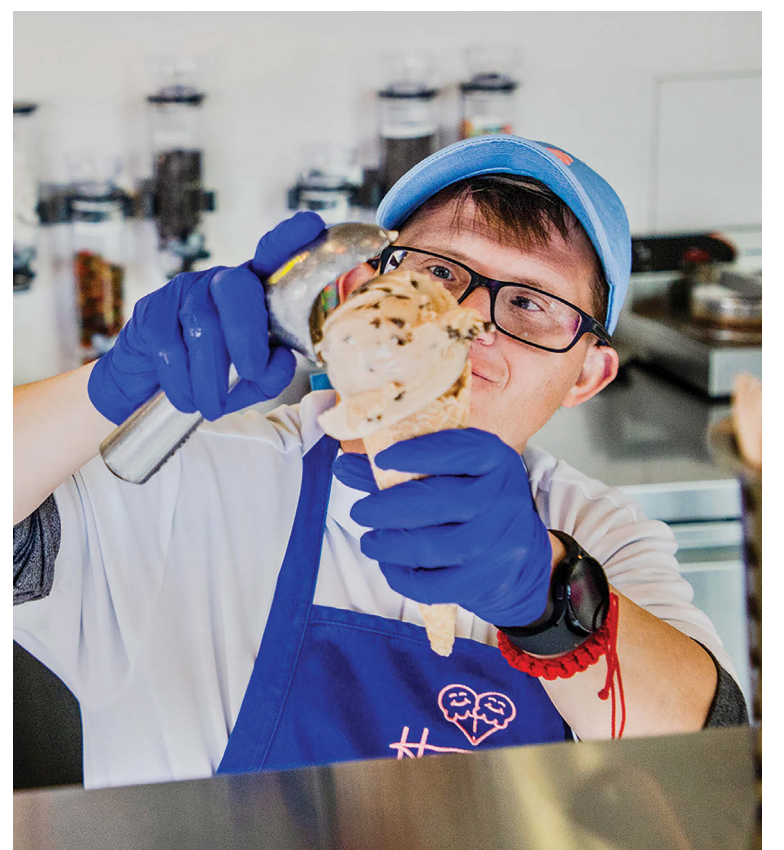
"My favorite part of working at Howdy Homemade is serving ice cream and becoming good friends with the people I work with," said Howdy Homemade Hero, Evan Vourazeris. "People should come to Howdy Homemade because it will inspire them, and it will fill their heart with joy with all of the different flavors of ice cream. Whatever you like, we will serve you."

Howdy Homemade is located at 601 N. Oregon St. in the Roderick Artspace lofts.

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For more information, visit [howdyhomemade.com/ElPaso/](http://howdyhomemade.com/ElPaso/) or visit Howdy Homemade on Instagram [@howdyhomemadeelp](https://www.instagram.com/howdyhomemadeelp).

Alyson Rodriguez is a guest contributor and may be reached at [aerodriguez20@miners.utep.edu](mailto:aerodriguez20@miners.utep.edu); [@alyson\\_rod1127](https://www.instagram.com/alyson_rod1127) on Twitter.



Hero, Evan Vourazeris scoops the Howdy Homemade signature flavor, Dr. Pepper Chocolate Chip. Photo by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospector



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# Light up your life at the ‘illuminated’ exhibit

BY ELISHA NUNEZ  
The Prospector

Unique patterns on plexiglass and mylar cut-outs cover the walls, decorated in bright colors from the overhead lights. Proximity-based speakers make noises when you get close to the artwork and bright neon colors emanating from the paint are just a few things to look forward to at “illuminated.”

It is an exhibition entirely put together by Las Cruces-based artist, Isadora Stowe.

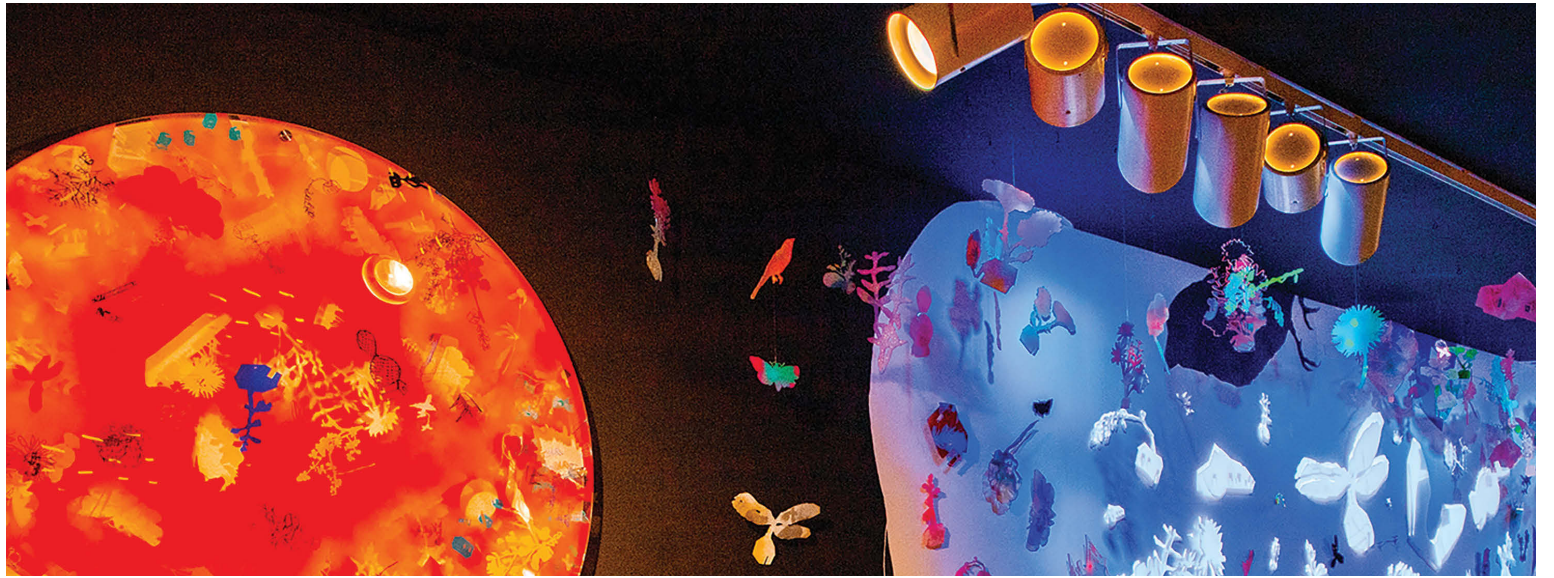
“So ‘illuminated’ is an on-site specific installation by artist Isadora Stowe. It kind of combines painting silkscreens, floating mylar, plexiglass silhouettes, and video projections and hydroponic sounds to kind of create a very immersive experience for visitors,” said Claudia Preza, an assistant curator at the El Paso Museum of Art (EPMA). “You can see her work; the sounds and see movement. So, it’s a very kinetic sort of an exhibition.”

Raised in a household with an artist father, Stowe was always surrounded by art.

“He always had me in the studio, always with the sketchbook or art supplies,” Stowe said.

During her years in high school, Stowe created all sorts of artwork. From an art residency overseas to obtaining both a BFA and MFA in Art at New Mexico State University, Stowe explained how she did not choose art, but that “art chose (her).” Stowe’s latest exhibition is more than enough to show her 20-plus years of experience in professional art.

“illuminated” is full of various pieces combined into one exhibit, artworks that one probably would not have thought art could be made from. Mylar, a material typically used from packaging for architectural drawings, can be seen hanging on the walls cut out into shapes that cast various shadows and designs due to the overhead lights. Plexiglass, or acrylic; which is used in plane windows and car lenses, decorates the walls of the exhibi-



The “illuminated” exhibit brings paintings, screens, lights, and sounds to display an interactive experience to guests. It also features the use of various non-artistic materials like mylar and plexiglass, or acrylic. **Photo by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospector**

tion as big circles with dozens of tiny, colorful designs.

One may ask themselves, “Why would you make art from something that is not meant for art?”

In response to such a question, Stowe has an answer. “I took it and made it into something to (show) art. I like doing that. Taking things that are meant for something else,” she said.

Accompanying the many colorful designs on the plexiglass is a little surprise waiting for visitors carrying a black light flashlight, color sensitive paint.

If you thought the designs were colorful before, wait until the blacklight shines on the designs.

Neon colors come to life, reminiscent of a phenomenon found in nature called bioluminescence.

“Just like in nature, bioluminescence is something that animals have,” Stowe said. “So, the idea that things are revealed in different kinds of ways when you look at them, creates another kind of relationship with these objects and how generative they are.”

Another main part of the exhibition is something Stowe has been focusing on for approximately a decade, iconography, which is the interpretation of images or symbols used in art.

The designs and even the mylar cutouts, all of which were based on local flora, fauna and various cityscapes, are there to create a sense of familiarity with the visitors.

To go with said designs, there are overhead speakers that go off when you are near the artwork. They play sounds recorded by Stowe on her various trips, from casual hiking outings to her time in Mexico City. “There’s a ton of (sound) collections, and then they’re all placed together to create this kind of universe,” Stowe said.

“Kind of like when sound was blasted out into the universe, to come out about what we are, who we are. So, it’s this sample of humanity echoing back at us. Also, the imagery in the show is also universal imagery that’s been made surrealistic. It’s all these things that we see in our everyday lives, but they’re kind of placed together in more of a chaotic sense.”

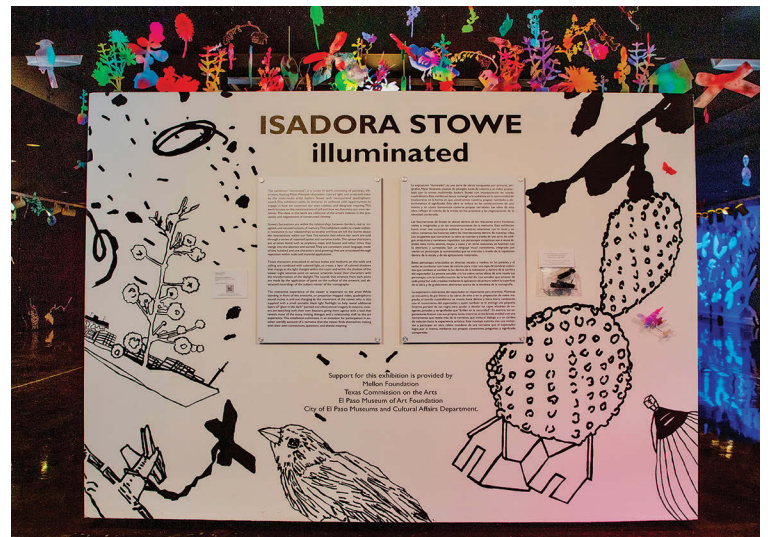
The exhibition first made its way to the EPMA last October and will remain there until March of 2023.

For more information about the exhibition and hours of operation, visit [epma.art](http://epma.art). Stowe will be hosting talks and workshops as well.

Elisha Nunez may be reached at [egnunez2@miners.utep.edu](mailto:egnunez2@miners.utep.edu).



“illuminated” has a special bioluminescent surprise for guests who have a blacklight. **Photo by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospector**



“illuminated” is an exhibit created by Isadora Stowe and is up for display at the El Paso Museum of Art. **Photo by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospector**

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In the second installation of Director Rian Johnson’s “Knives Out” series, “Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery” offers a dramatic change in tone from the first film. Though this movie is not a direct sequel to its predecessor, the one commonality they share is the inclusion of “World’s Greatest Detective,” Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig). The series follows Blanc using his skills as a renowned private investigator to unravel the truth behind the cases he has been hired to cover. “Knives Out” follows the untimely death of crime author Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer), where his entire dysfunctional family becomes suspect to his passing... **Photo courtesy of Netflix media releases**

[theprospectordaily.com](http://theprospectordaily.com)

# Sports

Emmanuel Rivas, editor

## UTEP wins seventh home game

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS VALENZUELA  
The Prospector

The UTEP Miners women's basketball team (12-4, C-USA 5-2) faced the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 49ers (7-9, C-USA 3-4) Monday, Jan. 16 at the Don Haskins Center.

The Miners entered this game second in Conference USA (C-USA) standing behind Middle Tennessee, who is undefeated in conference play with six wins. UTEP is coming off a home loss to the Rice Owls where the Miners fell 73-62.

This would break UTEP's home winning streak of six games. Before that loss, UTEP had won four of its last five games placing the team only two games behind Middle Tennessee in C-USA.

The opposing 49ers have not had the most successful conference play going 3-3 prior to Monday's game. Charlotte is coming off a 64-50 loss to UTSA, a game where not a single player managed to earn double-digit points.

Charlotte is currently in the middle of the C-USA standings and tied with Florida International and Florida Atlantic.

This game's starting lineup consisted of junior guard N'Yah Boyd, junior guard Jazion Jackson, junior guard Avery Crouse, sophomore forward Adhel Tac and sophomore forward Elina Arike.

The Miners started out strong going up 10-4 midway through the first period thanks to a jumper by junior forward Thaniya Marks. The 49ers managed to comeback by scoring 12 unanswered points, changing the lead late into the first quarter of the game.

After two scores from junior guard Erin Wilson, the Miners closed the scoring gap but could not reclaim its lead at the end of the first quarter with a score of 19-15.

Both teams started out competitively, keeping the score within five points. The Miners' offense continued to push the 49ers after Boyd completed a hook shot that placed the Miners within one point of Charlotte, 26-25, with just over five minutes left to play.

UTEP managed to regain the lead thanks to a trip to the free throw



Guard Erin Wilson shoots a basket against the Charlotte 49ers at the Don Haskins Center, Jan. 16. **Photo by Joel Molina/The Prospector**

line by Crouse which tied the game along with a three-point shot by senior guard Sabine Lipe to put the Miners up 31-28 with three minutes left in the half.

Layups by Arike and Tac extended the team's lead 35-31. Charlotte managed to tie the game thanks to a three-pointer and jumper in the last minute of the half and reclaimed the lead thanks to a layup by Charlotte sophomore guard Aylesha Wade to close out the half. The score at halftime was 38-36.

The Miners started sluggish going into the second half but bounced back to take the lead thanks to a Crouse three-pointer midway through the third quarter. The defense forced six turnovers during that stretch which led to the critical three-pointer.

Charlotte did not hold back as the

team took the lead back once again with 2:23 left in the third quarter. Two free throws from Jackson tied the game at 50 a piece. After a Charlotte trip to the free-point line, the 49ers managed to walk away with a 51-50-point lead to close out the third quarter.

The first two minutes of the fourth quarter were quiet for both sides as Charlotte only scored on a layup to give the 49ers a two-point advantage. The Miners responded by scoring two layups including one by Tac to place the Miners ahead 54-53 once again. UTEP continued to score as they pushed its lead to five points with a little over five minutes left in the game. Both teams continued to fight as the clock ticked down with neither team backing down even

see **CHARLOTTE** on page 8

## Road to Super Bowl LVII: Super Wildcard Weekend

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL  
The Prospector

*Editor's Note: At the time of writing this article, the Dallas Cowboys and Tampa Bay Buccaneers have not played.*

Super Wild Card weekend has ended, and the remaining teams are one step closer to holding the Lombardi trophy. The National Football League (NFL) Divisional Rounds are set, as the remaining teams continue to fight to advance to the Conference Championships.

Beginning with the American Football Conference, the stage has been set for the Divisional Rounds this upcoming weekend.

The first game will be played against the No. 1 seed Kansas City Chiefs and the No. 4 seed Jacksonville Jaguars.

The Chiefs had a first-round bye during Super Wild Card Weekend and will have home field advantage as the team looks to make a comeback to the championship game since the 2021 season.

The Jaguars are going into this game after a historic playoff win against the Los Angeles Chargers. The first half was all Chargers, but with some costly penalties on the defense, the Jaguars were able to comeback. The Jaguars had the largest postseason comeback in the NFL since the 1992 Buffalo Bills and the 2013 Colts.

Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence, who is undefeated in Saturday games, became the first quarterback with four interceptions in the first half of a postseason game since 1983. The Jaguars are looking to make a comeback to the Conference Championship.

The last time these two teams met was in week 10 of the regular season where the Chiefs topped the Jaguars at GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium with a score of 27-17. The Chiefs and Jaguars will meet again at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 21 on NBC.

Lastly, we have the No. 2 seed Buffalo Bills taking on the No. 3 seed Cincinnati Bengals where both teams are going into this game with a postseason win. The Bills are go-

ing into the Divisional Round with a win against the Miami Dolphins, where the final score was 34-31.

Against the Dolphins, Allen threw for 352 yards and completed 23 of 39 passes for three touchdowns and two interceptions.

The Bills are looking to return to the Conference Championships since 2020.

The Bengals are going into the Divisional Round with a win against the Baltimore Ravens, the final score was 24-17. The Bengals are looking to go back-to-back in Conference Championships appearance since the 2021 season.

This will be the first time these two teams will meet in the 2022 season. The Bills and Bengals were supposed to play in week 17, but the game was canceled after a medical emergency to Bills safety Damar Hamlin. The game will take place at 1 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 22 on CBS.

Now for the National Football Conference (NFC), the No. 1 seed Philadelphia Eagles will take on the No. 6 New York Giants. The Eagles, who had a first-round bye, will have home field advantage as the team looks to advance to its first championship game since 2017 when they won the Super Bowl.

On the Giants' side, the team will be coming off a 31-24 win over the Minnesota Vikings. The Giants are looking to advance to the championship game for the first time since the 2012 postseason.

These two teams met twice in week 14 and week 18 of the NFL season where the Giants lost to the Eagles both times. In week 14, the final score was 48-22, and in week 18, Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts returned after a shoulder injury against the Chicago Bears, where the final score was 22-16. The Eagles and Giants will face off in a post season NFC East at 6:15 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21 on FOX.

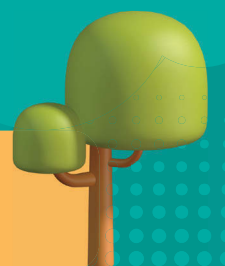
The San Francisco 49ers will play the winner of the Dallas Cowboys and Tampa Bay Buccaneers game, 4:30 p.m., Sunday Jan. 22.

Katrina Villarreal is the multimedia editor and may be reached at kvillarreal1@miners.utep.edu

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## COMMENTARY

## NFL safety discussion continues after Hamlin injury

BY MEAGAN GARCIA  
The Prospector

When it comes to the NFL, the question of player safety and adverse health effects has been circulating in the company space and various media platforms for years. There have been numerous studies that link playing American football to long-term neurological and physiological conditions.

According to one Harvard University article, the sport has been connected to things like mental illness, memory loss, Alzheimer's, anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tears, arthritis, heart conditions, musculoskeletal issues and, most notably, chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

The topic of player safety and the general significance of their wellbeing has once again been called to attention following a medical emergency that occurred Jan. 2, during a Monday Night Football game between the Buffalo Bills and Cincinnati Bengals.

Bills' safety, Damar Hamlin, was involved in a routine tackle that resulted in him collapsing and go-



ing into cardiac arrest. He received immediate medical attention on the field including CPR, the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) and intubation upon being placed in an ambulance. Hamlin was then rushed to UC Medical Center in Cincinnati and treated to stabilize his critical condition.

One main concern following his accident is how the NFL and NFLPA (NFL Players Association)

plan to prevent further serious injuries like this from occurring.

According to the NFL Player Health and Safety section of its website, there are safety protocols in place and protective gear assigned to athletes to mitigate the medical risks of playing football.

The website states, "the Player Safety Advisory Panel submits formal recommendations directly to the Competition Committee and the Commissioner. Their analysis covers all injuries impacting players, including concussions and ACL/MCL tears, and considers how protocols and rules changes are making an impact on player safety."

One of the first articles on the website now is about how to respond to sudden cardiac arrest on the field. There is even a competition called "NFL Contact Detection Challenge" led by the NFL and Amazon Web Services where the company invites experts to submit new ways for measuring the time, duration and frequency of player contact.

When the legal plays or designated uniforms are violated, the

players receive penalizations like fines depending on whether it is the first or second offense. Even if this creates an incentive for athletes to adhere to the safest methods of playing football, the environment of the sport itself leaves much room for incidents regardless.

In Hamlin's case, although there is still no personal update as to what caused his cardiac arrest, cardiologists are speculating that he suffered from a rare phenomenon known as commotio cordis.

This is when a person falls into cardiac arrest after being struck in the chest over the heart during a critical point in a heartbeat.

It may seem like a freak accident, but there have been plenty of injuries to this extent that have been suffered while playing football.

In 2016, then Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown suffered from a concussion after being tackled by Bengals linebacker Von-Taze Brufict. In 2017, Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker, Ryan Shazier, became paraplegic after making a headfirst tackle against Bengals linebacker Josh Malone.

Miami Dolphins quarterback, Tua Tagovailoa was ruled out of participating in their second playoff game in 14 years due to his most recent concussion in the 2022-2023 football season.

Despite having rules and gear set to protect each player's safety, the NFL and NFLPA still have a long way to go in research and care.

The company remains to be just that, a company. The doctors and scientists that make calls to the athletes' health have all been appointed by people within the NFL. The company has its own medical and engineering advisors as stated on its website.

How can an informed and unbiased decision about player safety be determined from the inside?

Finding a safe way to play the game is the ultimate goal for athletes and fans alike.

Where Hamlin's first words after waking up in the hospital were, "did we win?" The more pressing matter came from his medical team's response, "Damar you won. You won the game of life."

Meagan Garcia is the arts & culture editor and may be reached at megarcia19@miners.utep.edu.

## NBA midseason recap and MVP predictions

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS VALENZUELA  
The Prospector

This NBA season continues to push the limits of offense as several players have made headlines across the league with jaw-dropping statistics. Cleveland Cavaliers guard Donovan Mitchell blew past Dallas Mavericks forward Luka Dončić in points scored during a game where he dropped 71 points against the Chicago Bulls Jan. 3.

Dončić still holds the lead for points per game, averaging 34 points this season. Indiana Pacers guard Tyrese Haliburton currently leads the league with 10.2 assists per game. Holding down his legacy as a lockdown three-point shooter is Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry with five three-pointers made per game.

On defense, Sacramento Kings forward Domantas Sabonis has averaged 12.5 rebounds a game with Minnesota Timberwolves center Rudy Gobert trailing with 11.9 rebounds per game. Both Brooklyn Nets center Nic Claxton and Milwaukee Bucks center Brook Lopez are tied for first in blocks with 2.6 per game. Toronto Raptors forward O.G. Anunoby leads the league with 2.2 steals a game.

As far as the MVP race goes, names like Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant, Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid and of course Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry have been floated for the prestigious award.

The main standouts, and the most likely to receive the honor race, are Brooklyn Nets forward Kevin Durant, Denver Nuggets center Nikola "the Joker" Jokić and Dallas

Mavericks forward Luka Dončić.

Both Durant and Jokić have put up extraordinary numbers so far this season averaging 25.4 and 30 points per game respectively. Durant shot 60.1 percent overall, 39.4 percent on three-pointers and 95.5 percent on free throws over the course of 20 games. Jokić meanwhile leads the NBA in triple-doubles with nine, five of which came in December alone.

The issues for the two veterans may hold them back for the title. Durant has been an "X" factor for the Nets but has also benefited greatly from his teammate guard Kyrie Irving. Irving tends to average just shy of 26 points per game.

For Jokić, the problem arises off the courts as opposed to on the court as he is coming off two straight MVP seasons and is shooting for a third.

The true "dark horse" in this race is Dončić as he has put up incredible numbers so far this season.

The Swedish guard is averaging 34 points per game, leading the NBA, along with 8.7 assists per game, fourth in the NBA.

In the month of December, Dončić put up 526 points for the Dallas Mavericks. In that same stretch, Dončić had three games with 50 plus points including a record setting 60-point triple-double in an overtime win over the New York Knicks.

The MVP race will become clearer as the season progresses along with each team's progress moving toward the finish line.

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela is the sports editor and may be reached at erivas7@miners.utep.edu: @rivasesmanuel2 on Instagram

CHARLOTTE from page 7

as UTEP took a 62-56 lead with three minutes left to play. Thanks to a series of fouls against Charlotte, the Miners kept the 49ers at arm's length for the completion of the game allowing UTEP to win. The final score was 68-60, UTEP.

Leading scorers for the Miners were Boyd and Tac with 17 points each and Arike also reaching double figures after scoring 11 points.

The team completed 25 of 60 field goals which included 34 points from the paint. The bench had quite a game as it only scored 11 points compared to Charlotte's 18.

This is the Miners' seventh home win which helps place the team a game ahead of Western Kentucky University in the C-USA standings.

The Miners now head to Florida to play Florida International University (8-7, C-USA 3-3) at 5 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 19 at the Ocean Bank Convocation Center in Miami.

The Miners will be back in El Paso at 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28 in the Don Haskins Center for the team's "915 Night" against the University of North Texas (5-11, C-USA 2-4).

Stats provided by UTEP Athletics and Charlotte Athletics.

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela is the sports editor and may be reached at erivas7@miners.utep.edu: @rivasesmanuel2 on Instagram

TOP: Junior guard Jazion Jackson plays offense against Tamia Davis from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte at the Don Haskins Center Jan. 16.

BOTTOM: Sophomore forward Elina Arike reaches for the ball as a University of North Carolina-Charlotte player also goes for it at the Don Haskins Center Jan. 16.

Photos by Joel Molina/The Prospector

