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THE PROSPECTOR

Assayer of Student Opinion

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

theprospectordaily.com

VOL. 108, NO. 11
FEBRUARY 14, 2023



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Multimedia Editor

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Opinion

Itzel Giron, editor-in-chief

I am just 'Introducing Me' 'To Be So Lonely'

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL
The Prospector

Multimedia can be used and seen in everyday life, whether it is in the form of podcasts or videos. Listening to your favorite podcast or watching your favorite video can always lift your mood. Whether you are looking for a motivational podcast or a vlog from your favorite vlogger there is a topic for everyone to choose from.

Going into my last semester here at UTEP I was excited when I found out that I was going to be the new multimedia editor, but nervous at the same time because this is something so far out of my comfort zone.

As a multimedia journalism major with a minor in theatre, I was not sure where to look or how to gain journalistic experience, then I found The Prospector. I began as a contributor and moved up to staff reporter, which was when I realized I liked writing. The Prospector allowed me to get my foot in the door of writing about my favorite thing, sports. My love for sports was inspired by my brother. Every Sunday, Monday and Thursday we would lie down on the floor of our parents' room watching his favorite team back then, the Arizona Cardi-



nals on his phone. I would ask him all these questions like what a first down is and what are the plays and it just sparked from there.

Despite my love of sports, I never thought of pursuing a career in commentating or writing about sports. I wanted to be a nurse or a teacher until my mom gave me the idea to pursue sideline reporting because she knew how much I loved football. It was difficult trying to figure out what school would help me pursue this dream, I went from UTSA to Oklahoma until I finally returned home and it is probably the best decision I ever made. I have been blessed with so many amazing opportunities here, especially The Prospector.

I have always been a really shy

person, so if you knew me in high school or middle school you would think it is crazy to hear me say I am going to pursue a career that involves me talking on live television, let alone hear me say that I am taking over the "Prosproy" podcast. The Prospector has helped me grow and get out of my comfort zone even more.

The "Prosproy" podcast was iconic last year thanks to our now editor-in-chief Itzel Giron and my plan to keep the podcast as amazing as she did. I am going to keep all the things and topics that you all love, along with a few new segments and topics. I love to read books, so I was excited to bring our new "Book Talk," a segment along with arts and culture editor, Meagan Garcia, and web and copy editor, Maria Guerrero. Of course, as a big fan of sports, I plan to add to our sports section with the inclusion of Formula 1.

With already two episodes of the podcast done, I cannot wait to see what the rest of the semester brings. I want to thank everyone at The Prospector for their endless support as I continue to find my way as multimedia editor, I am so glad to have you all by my side.

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

BY ITZEL GIRON
The Prospector

In my time I have always heard "If you do not look for love that is when it will come to you. Right when you least expect it."

Well, I have been single for almost three years now and I still think it is just a lie people have convinced me to believe.

Granted I am happy with where I am in life, in fact, I do not even have the time to deal with a partner of any sort, on top of running The Prospector, a full-time job and being a full-time student.

However, there is peace in being alone, loving and living life by myself. Since leaving said relationship in December 2020, I have done so much soul searching alongside finding self-love. It may sound corny or cringey, but after dating someone for years, I believe you lose pieces of you that you used to value. As much as I hate to admit it, I lost myself at times trying to be the 'perfect' partner and there is no shame in putting in so much effort into one person, in fact I applaud but I realize now, how you cannot forget who you are and how much you love yourself.

After a couple of months being single, I did the one thing I hoped to do with a partner; travel to New

York City. I knew going would help revitalize my happiness and make myself realize, I can do things on my own.

So, on my plane ride home I realized I could be happy alone. Looking at myself almost two years since that trip, I feel happy with life. I do not need someone to tell me how talented I am. I do not need someone to tell me how pretty I am.

I do not need anyone to love me for me to love myself. Of course, the emotional connection of having someone kiss you, hold your hand or compliment everything you do is nice to hear but I feel at peace knowing I can survive without it.

I know at a certain point love might come and who knows it could be when I least expect it.

Right now, however, I am enjoying my life now and, in this moment, no matter what stresses of life I have I know I would not be where I am at if it were not for me realizing how little I invested in someone else and not into myself.

So, take this, love yourself and love yourself well, you deserve it after all the hell you have been through. Even if it means going on an unnecessary vacation if need be.

Itzel Giron is the editor-in-chief and may be reached at prospector@utep.edu; @by.itzel.giron on Instagram; @itzel_anahi_16 on Twitter.

The Pick N' Shovel: A loved hidden gem

BY H. CATCHING MARGINOT
The Prospector

If you ever have been a college student or currently attending college, there is usually a dilemma looming before the start of the day, "What am I going to eat today?"

This question may be hard for many students, as there can be many hidden factors involved. For example, if you are on a strict budget, have diet constrictions or maybe no time before heading out.

This is where Pick N' Shovel comes to the rescue. Pick N' Shovel is an on-campus buffet style restaurant located on the second floor of the Union Building. Here are a few reasons why this spot is a must-go on the whole university campus.

For starters, your whole experience will cost just eleven dollars or



under. This is significant because of this new world we live in; you will usually spend more money on smaller portions.

For example, a favorite on campus, Chick-fil-A, is more expensive than at first glance. A typical Chicken Sandwich meal will cost around eight or nine dollars and it is just for the portion the meal comes with, while at the Pick N' Shovel

there are dozens of options for just a bit more. Although it is debatable, which option of the two wins in flavor, some students just need a quick energy boost.

The next reason is simple and is where Pick N' Shovel truly shines, the power of convenience and variety. Some students have a busy schedule when it comes to their lives on campus and some have goals of eating healthier.

Eduardo Hiram Ceballos Faour is a full-time sophomore majoring in computer science at UTEP and discusses his opinion of Pick N' Shovel as a busy student.

"I consider Pick N' Shovel to be one of the best alternatives to eat on a day," Faour said. "Its price is very affordable and offers a varied menu day by day. One of my biggest

problems was my poor diet and the amount of money I was spending on food."

The restaurant not only offers popular foods like personalized pizza or buttermilk pancakes, but it provides vegan/vegetarian options like a full salad bar with many vegetables, or low-calorie soups. If you are a student who falls in this category, it is quite easy to fit this choice in your schedule.

"However, at Pick N' Shovel, they have different dishes every day and offer food that really nourishes my body and most of all keeps me healthy," Faour said.

Faour mentions how the variety of meals provided at Pick N' Shovel help him throughout the day, due to the nurturing meals that satisfy him for the whole day.

"Their schedule allows you to have a very good meal that makes you perform very well for the rest of the day," he said. "Overall, I am fascinated with this alternative."

Now this leads me to my last reason, it is also just a calm place to work or catch up with acquaintances and the other fun choices they provide. Sometimes many other locations are packed or structured in a way that is hard to hang in but, if you just want to enjoy some comfort food, they have that as well.

So, whether you are looking for a new place to eat that has healthy dietary options, a work friendly environment or just a spot to chill with your squad the Pick N' Shovel has you covered.

H. Catching Marginot is a contributor and may be reached at hcmarginot@miners.utep.edu

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A chef adds food to the plate as part of the dish at El Charlatan. Socorro, Texas. Thursday Feb. 2 2023 Photo by Gabriel Guzman/The Prospector

For the love of food

BY ELISHA NUNEZ
The Propsector

Texas is a state almost every American knows for its food and cities like El Paso are no exception. The city’s authentic Tex-Mex food and fusions of different cuisines have resonated with people from across the country. Now, it seems to have caught the eye of a notable culinary arts organization based in New York City; none other than the James Beard Foundation.

Named after James Andrew Beard; a famous American chef and pioneer of cooking television, the non-profit foundation serves a

purpose to celebrate and support the people behind America’s food culture. This year, the foundation released their 2023 Restaurant and Chef Awards semifinalists and for the Best Chef: Texas category, two chefs from West Texas were nominated. Emiliano Marentes, founder of ELEMI in downtown El Paso and Enrique Lozano, founder of El Charlatan in Socorro, both found themselves as semifinalists.

“It was about eight in the morning when I opened my Facebook Messenger, and I had a message

(from) Emiliano, the other James Beard semifinalist,” Lozano said. “I was still half-asleep, and it was a message that just said ‘congratulations’ I jumped out of bed to go to my wife and when I stepped on the floor, I got a cramp. So, I had to lay down there for a little bit until the pain went away.”

After a childhood that involved cooking, Lozano decided to pursue it as a career during his time at Socorro High School, where he joined the culinary program. While working for Zino’s Greek &

Mediterranean Cuisine during his adolescence, Lozano decided to do some home deliveries on the side after trying a dish most of us would heat up in a microwave: ramen.

“I tried ramen for the first time here in El Paso, this was more than ten years ago, and it was a life changing experience when I traveled around the country,” Lozano said. “So, I started making my own ramen. I was doing Greek and then doing the ramen on the side (with) home delivery services and stuff like that. So, I decided to do my own

thing and I started doing ramen again. I never stopped working on my ramen recipes, and really Asian cuisine in general.”

With his love for Asian cuisine and lifelong experience in cooking Mexican food, El Charlatan was born in October 2021. A diverse menu featuring blends of Latin and Asian foods, El Charlatan offers its customers plenty of combinations that can make your mouth water.

Lozano’s passion for cooking has not gone without notice, as other publications, local and statewide, have also noticed his creativity in the kitchen. When it comes to the James Beard Foundation, Lozano’s mission will not be subject to change and will remain the same: for El Paso and Socorro to become culinary destinations.

“It still is my mission, for us to become a food destination worldwide,” Lozano said. “The history here in El Paso, and Socorro was extremely rich for one of the oldest cities in America. I feel like we have a lot to offer. It just takes somebody like Emiliano, like me, to take the next step forward and open a restaurant, and just let people come and try with what we can do. We can offer things here that are being offered in other cities.”

Sure enough, ELEMI’s founder, Emiliano Marentes, has the same feeling. Like Lozano, Marentes was also raised in a household where cooking was front and center. After watching his dad cook holiday meals, Marentes felt motivated to

see **FOOD** on page 4



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Cupid's safety tips for this Valentine's Day

BY ERIK ACOSTA
The Prospector

Valentine's Day week is upon us. A romantic time when some couples prefer going on dates to upscale restaurants or relaxing and unwinding at home while cuddling up to watch movies.

During this week of love and hope, as you prepare to go out with your significant other or go on a first date, it is wise to think about how you can be safe and take those necessary precautions.

Some people go on first dates or blind dates during the week of Valentine's Day, whether they were matched online, through a friend, or many other ways.

Even though this traditional holiday activity is quite popular, you never truly know who you are meeting up with and their true

intentions for the date.

As individuals prepare to go on dates this year, UTEP student Khaliah Hunter offered some guidance and suggestions.

"For both male and females, I would just say maybe have some protection on them, maybe pepper spray or something like that," Hunter said. "Some people like tasers but also just being careful who you are around and even your friends."

Even though going on a blind date or even a first date can be nerve-racking for some, it is still important to be careful about what you share while also paying close attention to body language such as your dates' facial expressions or how they are speaking to you.

"For first dates be yourself, don't overshare too much and I think it will be okay," Hunter said. "Just

watch your back and make sure you're really paying attention to body language and stuff like that."

Some say for a first date, going out in a public setting with people around is safe and important.

In case something does not feel right, it is recommended to not go home alone with that person. It is also recommended to bring some friends along when out on the first date to ensure your safety.

"I would say try to be safe and don't go out with someone you don't really know and be in a public place," said UTEP student Xiadany Calderon. "And try to hang out with your friends if you meet someone for the first time."

If any person does find themselves in this difficult circumstance or have been a victim of an assault, the El Paso Police Department does

offer victim services.

The Victims Services Response Team (VSRT) offers immediate and compassionate services to victims, providing assistance and information about sexual assaults or any type of violence.

A VSRT representative is available at each EPPD Regional Command Center; if you have been or know anyone that is a victim of assault, you can contact their headquarters office at (915)-212-4011 or visit their website elpasotexas.gov.

For UTEP students, it is helpful to be aware that the university does provide some resources if you or someone you know has experienced such crime.

The UTEP Police Department does offer campus escorts when out on a first date around campus or in general. You can also report

and submit offenses on campus in confidentiality and they can be contacted at 915-212-4000.

UTEP does supply counseling; the Center Against Sexual and Family Violence is one of the many resources that offer counseling, support groups, and further aid to UTEP students.

They also provide a 24/7 Crisis Hope Line for anyone in need.

So even though Valentine's Day may be a time for chocolate-covered candies and hearts, crimes and attacks of this nature can sometimes occur.

Being more informed about resources the city and university offer can and will help you protect yourself and others.

Erik Acosta is a staff reporter and may be reached at emacosta6@miners.utep.edu

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be involved with all his family's meals. While going to school for a political science degree later in life, he did not see himself with a future in that field.

Having experience with restaurants, Marentes decided to pursue cooking as a full-time career.

Taking inspiration from the tortilleria he worked at when he was younger, Marentes decided to incorporate his experiences there with his dream of owning a restaurant.

After moving back to El Paso from San Antonio in 2017, he would start trying to bring his dream to life until the following year when in 2019, ELEMI was established.

"The name is actually my wife's idea. I was trying to find a name that was closely related to maiz, whether it was through stories or folklore, which I just wasn't able to find," Marentes said.

"When I was little as a kid, they would call me Emi instead of Emiliano, then my wife, when she would post food that I would make,

she would always post #ELEMI, #TACOSELEMI, or whatever ELEMI. So, when we were building out the restaurant (we thought), why couldn't we just call it ELEMI, and that's how it got the name."

Following three years of ELEMI's opening, its performance and that of Marentes were discovered by the James Beard Foundation.

Like Lozano, Marentes was also shocked and excited he was the recipient of semifinalist status from such a prestigious organization.

When it comes to the award,

neither chef is going to let the outcome stop them from doing what they love the most and doing it for their community.

"I want people to be proud to live here and to want to be here. I want kids who live here to want to live here, to want to be here, (and) as much as I love this accolade, I don't want the accolade to define who I am," Marentes said. "I have a vision of what I'm doing, and I want to stick to that vision. I don't want to change who I am because that vision got me here. If I win, I hope it's

more so for our community and for everyone else that's involved, not just for ELEMI."

Nominees for the final round of this year's James Beard Foundation Awards will be announced Wednesday, March 29, and the winners will be announced Monday, June 5, during a ceremony in Chicago, Ill.

To stay updated, tune in to the James Beard Foundation's official website for results.

Elisha Nunez may be reached at egnunez2@miners.utep.edu

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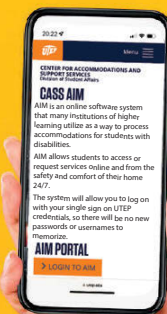
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Arts & Culture

Meagan Garcia, editor

Through the film lens of UTEP students



Kevin Jabalera is studying engineering leadership and innovation, but as a hobby he enjoys photographing on film. He shoots on an Olympus OM-1 and shoots a lot of black and white 35 mm film. **Photo by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospector**

BY JASMIN CAMPOYA
The Prospector

Editor's Note: This is the first part in a three-part series.

Digital photographers everywhere have argued analog is pretty much over.

Now with digital cameras, what more could you ask for? While many may have this mindset, two UTEP students began and have continued the tradition of film photography alive.

Junior, Kevin Jabalera, studying engineering leadership and innovation, shoots on an Olympus OM-1 35mm camera. While he still shoots digital, his specialty is in shooting black and white film.

"I started shooting film in my

senior year of high school," Jabalera said. "I was really into photography back then and I only had my digital camera, but I really wanted to get into film."

Jabalera's love for film began in high school and continued from there. He takes inspiration from photographers from all over social media platforms.

From developing his photos to experimenting on different film rolls, the excitement he feels while shooting analog is a different sensation than that of shooting with a digital camera.

"I see that there is a fine line between all the pictures that everyone is trying to imitate," Jabalera said. "Putting filters on Photoshop and

trying to simulate the 'back in the day' style, but nothing compares to the grain that shooting on film provides you."

Although everyone can edit photos, the film look Jabalera gets on camera through analog versus digital makes a difference in his overall photography style.

"Everyone is going to agree that you shouldn't even bother to shoot film if you already have all of the convenience of a digital camera," Jabalera said. "But it's just that edge that shooting film gives you, it's a different aesthetic."

Junior, Michael Ruiz, who studies computer engineering, shoots on a Mamiya M645 Super Medium Format camera and while his focus



Junior, Michael Ruiz is studying computer engineering, but his passion of film photography continues as a UTEP student. **Photo by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospector**

is digital photography, he shoots on a variety of film.

"I prefer shooting film because it's more of an intimate process, you are more intentional with what you are doing," Ruiz said. "The images that you yield from it are more organic and reciprocal of what the real world is like."

Being a digital and film photographer, Ruiz describes shooting film like no other.

His dedication to film continues to inspire him despite the antique aspect of it.

"I found a roll of expired 35mm film, it was really expired, like ten to fifteen years out of date and I wanted to shoot it so badly, so I bought a really cheap camera on

eBay," Ruiz said. "I shot it, and the pictures came out horrible and so underexposed and grainy, and I loved it, and it just made me fall in love with the whole process behind it."

Ruiz has been photographing film for about seven years, despite being in computer engineering, his passion for photography is a big part of his life.

Photography is one of many creative outlets for students to flex their storytelling abilities. Film photography allowed Jabalera and Ruiz to bring back trends that have long since passed, especially in a community of college students.

Jasmin Campoya is a staff photographer and can be reached at jncampoya@miners.utep.edu

Dear El Paso,

BY ITZEL GIRON
The Prospector

For years, El Paso has been overshadowed by the bigger cities in Texas like Austin, San Antonio, Dallas or Houston, but El Paso is not one to overlook. From the Franklin Mountains to the heart of

downtown to the hidden gems in Socorro and Ysleta, El Paso continues to be home for many, regardless of if they have lived here their entire lives or if they moved out of town and visit on occasion.

El Paso can seem like a bore to some but when taking a deeper see **DEAR EP** on page 6



The San Jacinto Plaza located on 114 W Mills Ave. **Photo by Joel Molina/The Prospector**



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DEAR EP from page 5



The Ascarate Park lake located at 6900 Delta Dr. **Photo by Joel Molina/The Prospector**

look, the city has much to offer including culture, love and experiences unlike any other.

Ascarate Park

It might not be at the top of the list for many, but Ascarate Park is a memory-filled place, especially for those who remember when Western Playland resided there up until 2006. With multiple additions to the park including the El Paso Healing Gardens, a dedication to the Aug. 3 victims, addition of fish in the lake and a center pavilion, Ascarate has grown vastly in only a matter of years. It is that growth which has allowed for different events to take place inside the park reminding the city of what beauty it holds.

Star on the Mountain

From hidden beauty to the beauty El Pasoans know and love, the beloved star on the mountain is perhaps the most iconic piece of El Paso culture. Representing many things, the star has shown its bright light since 1940, although it started off on the southside of the Franklin Mountains. Now lit almost every day by donation or purchase, the star truly embodies one of the many nicknames El Paso has; "The Star City" in the "Lone Star" State.

The Missions

El Paso is known for many things but one of the city's more historic aspects is its three historic missions. The Ysleta Mission, The Socorro Mission and The San Elizario Mission were all built in the late 1600s by Spanish colonizers and serve as living symbols of the heritage of

Hispanics and Native Americans in Texas and the Southwest.

San Jacinto Plaza

At the center of downtown El Paso, San Jacinto Plaza, located at 114 W. Mills Ave., has been a part of El Paso history for years and has seen many changes as well. From housing real life alligators to now hosting get togethers for the entire city, San Jacinto Plaza embodies the love for the city in one spot. Getting a full remodel, the plaza welcomes the entire city to visit and embrace the culture not just there but in the surrounding buildings of downtown.

The Franklin Mountains

Almost 27,000 acres and over 100 miles of trails, the Franklin Mountains, located at Tom Mays Unit 2900 Tom Mays Access Rd., are one of the most natural ways to see the hidden beauty El Paso is home too.

Many might not be into nature, but the state park displays moments of beauty you will not be able to find anywhere else. From the blooming of the beloved poppies or the beauty of the desert animals, the Franklin Mountains are yet another beloved place.

Scenic Drive

There are many reasons to love the city of El Paso, but the best reason would be Scenic Drive. Up by the star on the mountain, Scenic Drive is home to the best view of El Paso, allowing for so many to appreciate the beauty of the city.

Itzel Giron is the editor-in-chief and may be reached at prospector@utep.edu; @by.itzel.giron on Instagram; @itzel_anahi_16 on Twitter.

Bring a date to 'The Prom'



"The Prom" stars Sidnee Coder as Emma Nolan and Alyssa Bustillos as Alyssa Greene, two lesbian students who are banned from going to prom together. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**

BY ITZEL GIRON
The Prospector

Love is in the air and even more so inside the UTEP Dinner Theatre as "The Prom" takes center stage for audiences to enjoy. The Tony-nominated musical's first showing took place Feb. 3 as a part of the UTEP Dinner Theatre's 40th anniversary.

According to the Dinner Theatre website, the story centers around four fading Broadway stars who are in desperate need of a new stage. When they hear that trouble is brewing around a small-town Indiana prom, it is time to kickball-change the world. The town's parents want to keep the dance on the straight and narrow—but when one student just wants to bring her girlfriend to prom, the entire town has a date with destiny.

During the show, audiences are treated to laughs, belted vocals and possibly a few tears thanks to great casting in every role. However, the show has four fading stars; Dee Dee Allen (Keri Baggs), Barry (Ivan Cano), Trent (Zaid Ricarte) and Angie (Isabella Candelaria). Have no fear though, the performer's talents shine brightly through.

All four did an amazing job, especially Ricarte's rendition of "Love Thy Neighbor" as it was one highlight of the entire production. The humor in the mannerisms and passion in the singing and dancing wowed me alongside my

fellow tableside guests. Candelaria, who might not have had a solo act as her character Angie, certainly had moments where she stole the show. From Angie's sly, sexual and comedic remarks to her duet with Emma Nolan (Sidnee Coder), her dedication to the character was on full display, making it exciting to see what she has up her sleeve for any future productions.

Both Nolan and Alyssa Greene (Alyssa Bustillos) share sweet moments as the hidden lesbian couple at the center of this all, making all the heartbreaking parts of the show hurt just a bit more. Renditions of "Dance with You" or "Alyssa Greene" are heartfelt and tug at the heart strings leaving no opportunity for a dry eye in the audience.

Coder performing "Unruly Heart" is another song audiences can anticipate. Being one of the most emotional points in the production, it is reason enough to have tissues handy. The song ties in the company with Coder's vocals, giving a deeper meaning behind the moment of peace. This is also the moment Coder's character accepts who she is and how she wants to live her life.

Other cast members to applaud are Sheldon (Angel Rodriguez), Mr. Hawkins (Fernando Romero) and Mrs. Greene (Elise Herndon), who might not have had an opportunity to do a solo act, but still lived

up to the high standards of musical production.

From playing their character to switching things up and joining the company for a dance break, all three stood out.

However, it was Baggs and Cano who stole the show every time they got on stage. Both played eccentric characters meaning both actors had shoes to fill, which they filled. Cano's humor filled the theater with laughter and Baggs' over the top and sarcastic humor could have replaced James Corden and Meryl Streep in the film adaptation.

Overall, the production was top tier in costuming, musicality, dancing and acting. Each song displayed the talent each actor has, and it is more so seen in "Tonight Belongs to You." If you are planning on attending, be prepared to laugh and bring a tissue or two as the production can get emotional at times.

It being my first time at the Dinner Theatre, they have made me a fan and I cannot wait to attend the next production.

I give it a 10 out of 10 as "The Prom" is the perfect post-Valentine's Day date especially with showings ending Feb. 19. For more information on purchasing tickets, you can visit the UTEP Dinner Theatre website for show times, prices and the menu.

Itzel Giron is editor-in-chief and may be reached at prospector@utep.edu; @by.itzel.giron on Instagram; @itzel_anahi_16 on Twitter.

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Sports

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela, editor

Love and basketball for the 915: Soleil Montrose



UTEP freshman guard Soleil Montrose dribbles the ball against the Western New Mexico University Mustangs Saturday Nov. 5, 2022 contributing to a 95-72 Miners exhibition win. **Photo by Joel Molina/The Prospector**

BY H. CATCHING MARGINOT
The Prospector

As the middle of February approaches, college basketball season rages on across the country including here on campus at UTEP. Love is fluttering around as well for Valentine's Day, and many might know the feeling all too well. Someone feeling the love is UTEP freshman guard, Soleil Montrose.

Montrose, originally from Irvine, California, is studying biological science with a concentration in biomedical science and is an important figure to the UTEP women's basketball program.

Basketball is no stranger to the Montrose family as her brother and father have been playing the sport for a while. So much so, that Montrose's father was an official player for the Central Connecticut State University Blue Devils during his time in college.

"I always just saw my brother play-

ing and he kind of inspired me to play," Montrose said. "Same thing with my dad, he played in college, so I was always kind of around it."

Being the main introduction and inspiration for Montrose, it was just the beginning of the spark for her love of the game.

"Watching his games, I was on the sides dribbling the ball and that kind of made me fall in love with (basketball)," Montrose said.

Although Montrose dabbled in other sports like soccer in her youth and track and field during her high school career, she always seemed to be attracted to the sport of basketball. Witnessing her family's passion was the moment in which she knew it could possibly be the sport she was waiting for and was waiting for her.

"Just seeing the love that both my dad and brother had for (basketball) made me love it too," Montrose said.

Montrose currently plays guard, specifically a small power forward. However, you will mostly find Montrose everywhere and anywhere on the court when her coaches ask her to be.

In her shift from high school to college basketball, Montrose has had to adjust to a much faster pace as well as an entirely new and different atmosphere.

"Definitely coming into UTEP, I have had to get used to it, but I do like it," Montrose said. "It's been better. In the beginning it was a little bit hard coming straight out of high school because things are slower there, and everyone is good, so you kind of have to pick up (the pace) and learn a little bit faster (here at UTEP)."

However, the change of pace and difficulty has not stopped Montrose's motivation or joy in playing at a college level or in general.

see **MONTROSE** on page 8

The Kansas City Chiefs comeback in Super Bowl

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL
The Prospector

The Kansas City Chiefs won its third Super Bowl against the Philadelphia Eagles Sunday, Feb. 12 at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, AZ. The Chiefs came back from a 10-point deficit at the half but pulled away with an exciting final score of 38-35.

This was the first Super Bowl featuring both No.1 seeds since the 2018 Super Bowl against the Eagles and the New England Patriots.

The Chiefs won the coin toss and elected to defer, giving the Eagles the ball to start. After multiple first-down conversions, the Eagles got on the board first with a one-yard rushing touchdown by Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts. The score was 7-0 with 10:09 left in the first quarter. The Chiefs answered quickly with a touchdown pass by quarterback Patrick Mahomes to tight end Travis Kelce.

The Eagles took a 14-7 lead, but the Chiefs defense was able to force a fumble for a touchdown by linebacker Nick Bolton to tie the game at 14 with 9:39 left in the half. After the fumble, the Eagles regained the lead with another rushing touchdown by Hurts. The Eagles closed the half with a 35-yard field goal by kicker Jake Elliott.

At the half, the score was 24-14 with the Eagles still holding onto the lead.

The Chiefs received the ball to start the second half, getting off to a fast start to put points on the board with a touchdown by running back Isiah Pacheco.

In the Eagles first possession of the half, running back Miles Sanders fumbled the ball at the 24-yard line which was recovered by Bolton for a touchdown. The referees reviewed the play and reversed the call to an incomplete pass. After a delay of game call on the Eagles, Philly converted on a 3rd and 14 with a 17-yard pass to tight end Dallas Goedert. The Eagles were unable to get downfield and extended its lead to 27 with a field goal.

The Chiefs took its first lead of

the game after a touchdown by running back Isiah Pacheco. At the end of the third quarter, the score was 28-27.

At the start of the fourth, the Chiefs forced the Eagles to punt after a three and out by the defense. The Chiefs were able to get downfield quickly thanks to a 65-yard punt return by wide receiver Kadarius Toney. The Chiefs scored again with a touchdown by wide receiver Skyy Moore making the score 35-27 with 9:22 left in the fourth.

Philly answered the Chiefs touchdown with a rushing touchdown by Hurts and tied the game after a successful two-point conversion.

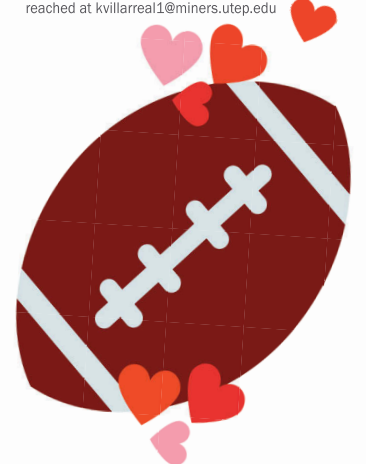
With 1:54 left in the fourth the Chiefs received a fresh set of downs after a holding penalty by Eagles cornerback James Bradberry. The Chiefs closed out the game with a 27-yard field goal by kicker Harrison Butker.

The final score was 38-35, Chiefs.

Super Bowl LVII was full of history in the making as this was the first Super Bowl that featured two Black quarterbacks in NFL history. Hurts set a Super Bowl record with 70 yards rushing and three rushing touchdowns. Mahomes became the third player to win his second NFL MVP award before the age of 28 and the youngest quarterback to start in three Super Bowls. Mahomes has finally broken the MVP curse, as he was the first player to win a Super Bowl in the same season.

All statistics courtesy of ESPN, [espn.com](https://www.espn.com).

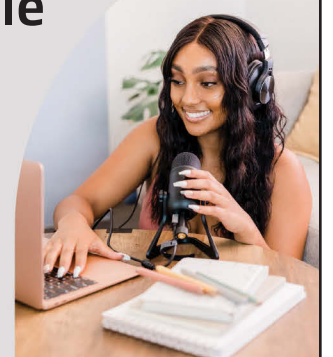
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 COMMENTARY

Training for the El Paso Half Marathon

BY NICHOLAS MAES
The Prospector

The El Paso Marathon has been one of El Paso's biggest events for the past 17 years, as it is a qualifier for major U.S. and World Marathons, including the Boston Marathon, the New York Marathon and the London Marathon.

Some veteran runners take on intense training plans rather than taking workouts one day at a time, but becoming a runner is no easy feat. I began my training in the summer of 2016, for the cross-country team at Cathedral High School.

My best memories from high school came from my cross-country team, who pushed me harder than I thought I could go. Up until my senior year, I did not take the sport seriously, but more as an excuse to work out and get in better shape with my friends.

Senior year was most memorable for me, because I became someone the younger guys looked up to. I pushed myself harder than before, even running a race with



one spike on after the other came undone from the terrible laces that came with them. Needless to say, I replaced the laces with those from an old pair of spikes and had a good season, running three out of town races that year.

The Nike Desert Twilight XC Meet in 2019 was my fastest of the season, at 17:23.77 for the 5K. The 2019 TAPPS State Meet was my best, because although it was not my fastest time, it was good

considering it took place on a hilly golf course in Waco, Texas. I ran 17:36.7, placing 17th overall and leading the Cathedral cross-country team to a 4th place finish. The final major cross-country race was Nike South in 2019, where I placed 206 out of 833, with a time of 17:47.57.

Track season was great as well, as I was running sub-five minutes for the mile, and sub-eleven for the two-mile run. I was projected to run these events at both the TAPPS regional and state meets, until the U.S. was ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the few weeks following spring break, I kept running on my own until regionals and state were officially cancelled.

I took a break from running for a while during the pandemic and fell out of shape. I would only go on runs for a few miles, but rarely did anything more than six, never maintaining a daily routine. I had a change of heart in these past few months, realizing that I had been running more for my mental health than physical.

Now that the El Paso marathon loomed, training for the half marathon involved getting back in decent running shape. After my classes, although not daily, I would park at the UTEP Recreational Center, leave my things inside in a locker and run in the neighborhoods around Mission Hills and Madeline Parks, making my way up the Billy Rogers Arroyo and down Rim Road back to the recreational center. I knew my arms had thinned out too, so I would do upper body weights as well. This became my routine, as I would end up with about six or seven miles.

Running the half marathon Feb. 12 was a big step up for me, but spirits were high and my nerves were nonexistent. My original goal was to finish in under two hours and my loose mentality helped me achieve the goal, running a time of 1:34:21, winning first in the 20-24 age group. I performed a lot better than expected, as I easily settled in with the playlist I had made during training, containing mainly 90s

grunge bands like Pearl Jam and Soundgarden.

Post-race was not easy, as I am currently still recovering from the brutality of running that distance, which was almost double what I had been running in the past few months. I ignored my legs during the run, as the last three miles were physically the hardest. My goal was to run eight-minute miles minimum, but I ended up running 7:15, pushing myself a lot harder than I thought was possible.

Any form of running is not meant for everyone, but for those who are willing to try it, it takes more than physical strength. Mental strength is important and the sport itself gives strength to the mind and heart. What worked for me was listening to music during the run, as it kept my mind occupied, erasing any doubts from my mind.

Although I will likely never be as fast as I was in high school, I am always going to strive to be faster and stronger than I am today.

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Riding the 2023 NFL quarterback carousel

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS VALENZUELA
The Prospector

The 2022-2023 NFL season was one full of ups and downs for fans across the league. The record-breaking season culminated in a historic Super Bowl where two Black quarterbacks faced off for the first time since the NFL's inception.

Not all quarterbacks are cut from the same cloth though. Some are possibly subjected to losing their starting position before training camp starts up in the late summer months. Others might lose their job in the preseason while some may fizzle out during the upcoming regular season.

That being said, there will not be some quarterbacking purge in the league. Quarterbacks like Justin Herbert, Joe Burrow, Trevor Lawrence, Ryan Tannehill, Josh Allen, Patrick Mahomes, Jalen Hurts, Daniel Jones, Tua Tagovailoa, Kyler Murray, Jarrod Goff and Justin Fields are all spared from the chopping block as they have put their teams in favorable positions in recent history and have also played well. Other quarterbacks that are locked in, not by play but by contract, are Russell Wilson, Deshaun Watson and Matthew Stafford.

Other teams are left in an interesting position where the quarterback position is left unclear. The New England Patriots, New York Jets, Las Vegas Raiders, Pittsburgh Steelers, Indianapolis Colts, Houston Texans, Washington Commanders, Seattle Seahawks, Minnesota Vikings, Carolina Panthers, New Orleans Saints and the Atlanta Falcons all have a decision to make: cut or push forward.

Of this bunch, the Steelers' Kenney Pickett, Seahawks' Geno Smith and Saints' Andy Dalton are the

safest. Pickett, along with a lot of defensive help, managed to keep Head Coach Mike Tomlin stay above .500 after a disastrous start to the season. Pickett was a top 20 pick in the 2022 NFL Draft. Smith helped Seattle clinch a Wild Card berth when no one expected the team to finish with a winning record. The case for Andy Dalton is tougher to argue but the franchise is in a difficult place financially and draft stock is not all too plentiful. Free agency might be an option for the team, but the Saints may not be willing to spend in the offseason. It is important to mention that Dalton led New Orleans to a road victory over the Eagles in week 17.

New England, New York, Carolina, Indianapolis and Minnesota could all be looking to replace their subpar quarterbacks in the offseason. Patriots' quarterback Mac Jones has struggled to fill the shoes Tom Brady left in New England. The Jets may have wasted a draft pick in Zach Wilson who has looked short of good. Indy may push Matt Ryan out as a new head coach may want to go in a different direction in that position.

Minnesota is almost certain to make a change. Year after year, Kirk Cousins has disappointed Vikings fans in the playoffs. Even with a new head coach in Kevin O'Connell, the team struggled against the New York Giants during the Wild Card rounds. The Vikings drafts stock is not too high in a narrow QB class, so expect a move in the free agency. Carolina is also in an interesting position. The team made a commitment with Sam Darnold a few years back but have since walked away from the former New York Jet and brought in Baker Mayfield for some time before he

was shipped off to Los Angeles.

Unlike Minnesota, the Panthers actually have a decent pick in the upcoming NFL Draft. C.J. Stroud, Bryce Young and Will Levis are all on the table for the Panthers. The Falcons are placed squarely in the draft to pick a quarterback given that Marcus Mariota was always going to be a placeholder until Atlanta could afford to find talent. For Washington, the carousel could not be any more confusing. Looking at the free agency market and the team's position in the draft, the Commanders may have another year of competition between Carson Wentz, Taylor Heinicke and a third passer the coaching staff decides to bring in.

The Raiders have moved on from Derek Carr midseason in favor of Jarrett Stidham. However, Stidham does not appear to be able to carry a team into the playoffs. The Ravens' refusal to pay Lamar Jackson looks to be pushing him away from Baltimore. This may benefit a team like the Raiders who do not have a first round pick. Houston has the clearest and most obvious answer to their quarterback issues: the coveted first overall pick. The Texans have first dibs on every back in the draft, this should, by all accounts, be the team's first franchise quarterback since Deshaun Watson.

Now for the more interesting conversations revolve around some of the league's most popular franchises. At the time of writing, it is unclear whether Packers' quarterback, Aaron Rodgers, is set to return to Green Bay. Naturally, Jordan Love would be the answer for the Cheeseheads, but moments the inexperienced passer has had to display his talent fall flat. The Packers have a top 10 pick, but the

uncertainty of Rodgers' departure places a wrench in any draft plans for the Packers.

San Francisco has a problem, all be it a good problem to have. They have too many quarterbacks. Trey Lance, Jimmy Garoppolo and Brock Purdy all contributed to the team's extraordinary season, but Garoppolo is becoming a free agent and Purdy is still young and injured. It is clear that as soon as he recovers, Trey Lance will be the 49ers starter come the fall, as too much was invested in the former first round pick to go with "Mr. Irrelevant" in the long term.

Another departure from the NFL is Tom Brady. After 20 plus years in the league, Brady finally announced his retirement from the sport thus, leaving Tampa Bay without a clear answer at quarterback and without a high draft pick. There may be a few dark years for the Bucs' before a clear answer at quarterback is made.

Finally, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott is one of the highest paid players at the position. Some argue that his production has not lived up to that \$40 million price tag. This past year placed Prescott in a prime position to succeed, and at times, he produced staggering results. His best game was against the Tom Brady led Buccaneers in the Wild Card round. His worst game of the season followed the next week at San Francisco where his offense struggled to put points on the board. This has been the story for Prescott his entire career; inconsistent play. With the change at offensive coordinator, the fourth round draft pick seems to have bought himself a year before he is truly on the hotseat.

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"I mean, I love it," Montrose said. "Every game is competitive, every game we fight and it just makes us better."

Due to her past training in California, Montrose credits her middle school coach Nigel, as well as a key high school coach for their level and expertise. She also says they helped her increase her knowledge of the sport.

"Nigel, was tough on me man, and same thing with my high school coach," Montrose said. "They got better players and you know, they were a little crazy, but it made me better."

Montrose also adds getting used to having a social, work and school life and finding balance of it all as an adjustment, but she is not alone in this as she is also joined with her team members on this fun journey.

"This year we had a lot of newcomers, including myself, but I think everyone gets along so well together," Montrose said. "We all fight, we all want the same goal, we are all determined, everyone's talented and works hard."

Being able to work with others and especially her team members is another reason why Montrose will forever have a love for basketball, especially in the Sun City.

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