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THE PROSPECTOR

Assayer of Student Opinion

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

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Battle of I-10 at the Don Haskins

BY EMMANUEL RIVAS VALENZUELA
The Prospector



Guard Shamar Givance looks to pass the ball during the last few seconds of the Battle of I-10 game. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

As 11,315 fans filled the Don Haskins for the UTEP men's basketball team's (0-1) home opener and "915" game, New Mexico State University (NMSU) (1-0) came in ready to compete. The UTEP Miners are coming off a loss against No. 12 Texas, Nov. 7 at the brand-new Moody Center. Meanwhile, the NMSU Aggies obliterated the New Mexico Highlands University 101-52 to start its season.

With the tip off officially starting at 7:03, Head Coach Joe Golding's starting five consisted of, junior guard Tae Hardy, senior forward Shamar Givance, junior forward Calvin Solomon, sophomore forward Ze'Rik Onyema and sophomore forward Otis Frazier III. The Miners looked like a new team playing against a much more even opponent in NMSU, who went 27-7 and 14-4 in the Western

Athletic Conference (WAC) last season. The UTEP defense forced four turnovers with 15:30 left in the first half and ended the period with 13. The Miners would gain the lead back at 17:27 and would never relinquish it going into the half.

Hardy ended the half with an explosive jump shot that came from a midcourt steal putting the Miners up 39-31 at the half. Hardy led the Miners with 10 points followed closely by Onyema. UTEP strength in the first half came from the paint (20 points), the bench (12 points) and points off turnovers (12). The Miners also drew six fouls along with two technical fouls from NMSU junior forward Mike Peake and junior guard Deshawndre Washington.

It did appear, at times, that the team came off as uncoordinated. It is very likely the new team is still

building its chemistry. The season is still quite young given that, at several points throughout the half, the team flashed on both sides of the ball.

The Miners stumbled out of the locker room to start the half after being outscored 10-8 by the Aggies five minutes into the half. NMSU scored eight second chance points, recovered four offensive rebounds and three defensive rebounds. NMSU managed to close the lead for UTEP 49-41 before a Miner timeout. After the timeout at minute 13:34, UTEP found its footing extending its lead to 55-43 with 11:47 left in the half.

Hardy led the team in points with 14 to end the game with Onyema coming in a close second with 13 points. Frazier III and junior guard Malik Zachery both led the Miners in assists with 3. The only techni-

cal fouls came off the bench after a member of Golding's coaching staff stepped onto the court with 2:37 left in the first half.

The Miners ended the game with 16 points off turnovers, 12 points off second chances, 24 points off the bench and 34 points from the paint. UTEP managed to complete 44.6 percent of field goals by going 25 of 56. The Miners committed 13 personal fouls but ultimately drew a total of 18 personal fouls from the Aggies. UTEP never played from behind for more than 38:39 of the game, whereas NMSU only had the lead for 33 seconds.

The Aggies relied heavily on its starters, only managing 10 points from the bench. Both Washington and senior guard Xavier Pinson combined for 38 of NMSU's 64

see **BATTLE OF I-10** on page 8

Christmas throughout the world

BY EDUARDO A. FLORES
The Prospector

Holidays are a great way to introduce ourselves to a foreign cultural experience. Christmas is one of the most popular traditions families across the world celebrate.

Christmas is both a religious and a cultural holiday that commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ but also involves nonreligious traditions such as gift-giving.

Many aspects look similar worldwide during the nights of Dec. 24-25. Each country differs when it comes to how families come together and spend time with their loved ones. The differences include time, decoration and activities.

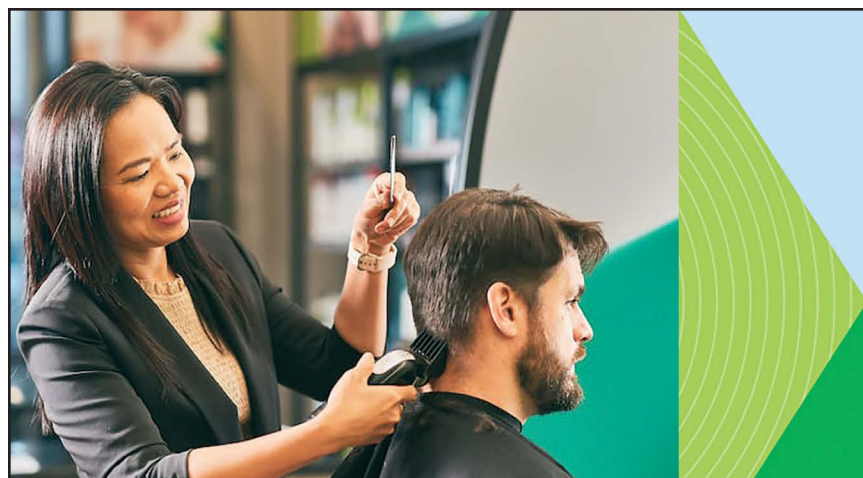
In Germany, the exchange of gifts happens Christmas Eve rather than Christmas Day. Additionally, the Christmas tree is usually brought into the home Christmas Eve and decorated by the mother after the children fall asleep.

Meanwhile, Christmas Eve in Poland is a day of fasting with a festive meal at the end of the fast. Traditionally, 12 courses are served as meals, representing Jesus' 12 disciples. Finally, Christmas Eve ends with "Pasterka," which is a midnight mass at the local church.

In Japan, Christmas is not celebrated as a religious holiday, nor is it recognized as an official holiday. However, many people order Kentucky Fried Chicken for Christmas dinner or make a reservation because families in Japan view KFC on Christmas as a symbol of a family reunion. They must order weeks in advance or risk standing in line for hours. According to BBC News, an estimated 3.6 million Japanese families celebrate Christmas with KFC.

Another example is India, where people choose a mango tree to perfect their holiday, while in

see **X-MAS** on page 3



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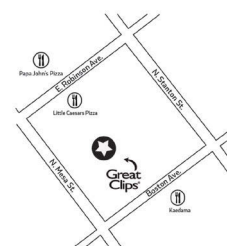
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Opinion

Emily Autumn Velasquez, editor-in-chief



Christmas has a charm that Halloween lacks

BY ELISHA NUÑEZ
The Prospector

As tree leaves fall, people's favorite holidays begin. Halloween marks the beginning of the busiest time of the year and prepares people for the holidays most love to celebrate.

Only in a span of two months, Halloween and Christmas, which are arguably the two most recognized and celebrated holidays of the year, are constantly compared and debated. Some say Halloween is better than Christmas, and some say it is the other way around.

There is a lot to consider for both holidays, from good costumes to opening gifts, but with that and much more taken into consideration, I have concluded that Christmas is better than Halloween.

First, let us start with some customs. On Halloween, many people take the opportunity to dress up as their favorite fictional character, real-life person, or something else. The truth is, why wait for one day out of the year to dress up as something you can do it anytime you want? Costume parties and cosplay are just a few examples of



dressing up outside of Halloween.

Now for Christmas, iconic clothing like ugly Christmas sweaters, Santa hats, red and green outfits, and clothes with reindeer antlers or mistletoe on them, can only be worn during this time of year. If you were to wear these during any other time of year, all you would get are confused looks. Besides, there are hardly any other opportunities for you to wear these holiday clothes outside of the Christmas season.

Next, we move on to some more familiar traditions, which both involve giving. For Halloween, trick-or-treating is a common practice when kids, and even teens or adults, go around neighborhoods

and get candy from people. Now, sure it is fun to go get free candy from people you may or may not know, but there is always a possibility of something dangerous being put into your bag, and I am not referring to the razor myth.

It is very possible for people to sneak another substance into someone's bucket or bag during trick-or-treating, and it can also give creeps the opportunity to lure unsuspecting people into their house, just listen to Mr. Nightmare's Halloween videos. Not only that, but you can go and buy candy from the store any time of the year, brand new.

Now, everyone is familiar with the concept of giving presents on Christmas, and while it is true that you can do this during other times of the year, like birthdays or other special days, this truly is one of the only times of year where people gift things to each other. You can also ask for what you want, and have gift exchanges with friends or family.

For a little addition to the list, I would like to incorporate a food factor. Okay, so Halloween is a time for parties and small get-

together, which means it is time for the usual chips, pizza, and maybe some other snacks or fast foods, along with the candy. For Christmas though, it is an amazing time for food, well, at least in El Paso with my family. From tamales to turkey, macaroni and pozole, this is truly an amazing time to eat foods that do not usually make an appearance during other times of the year. Furthermore, there are also way better desserts and drinks as opposed to the usual sugar cookies and other generic treats or drinks on Halloween. Being Latino, I am used to bizcochitos, champurrado, buñuelos, ponche and more, all of which are fascinating by the way, that you can only enjoy during the Christmas season.

Lastly, I want to include some statistics and other information which lead me to believe Christmas is a better holiday than Halloween. The first thing to consider is pedestrian safety. A 2019 study looked at four decades of data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and revealed that pedestrian fatalities,

especially those of children, are 43 percent higher on Halloween. Not only that, Halloween is one of the third most dangerous nights of the year for drunk driving or DUIs. Property and violent crime are also characteristics of Halloween and have been for many years as well, due to people being away from their homes, and the whole idea of pranking on Halloween.

For Christmas, most of the dangers to people are health-related, and involve the weather, work-stress, along with other seasonal factors. However, these causes are perpetrated by individuals to themselves, whereas the dangers on Halloween are between people.

Overall, Christmas is a unique time of year that has many traditions you will not get to see for the next couple of months, while Halloween traditions can be done anytime. Not only that, but Christmas also has variety when it comes to food, and is a time where less crime is committed, which is why Christmas is ultimately better.

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COMIC BY MAYA ALVARADO

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Ye dropped by brands and agent amid controversy

BY FATIMA ALVARADO
The Prospector

After making recent antisemitic remarks, rapper Ye is not only being dropped by many of his sponsors but his agents as well, causing his working documentary to be canceled.

Some of the brands include Balenciaga, Creative Artists Agency, Cohen Clair Lans Greifer Thorpe and Rottenstreich, GAP, JPMorgan Chase, MRC, TJ Maxx, The Real Real, Peloton, Foot Locker and one of his longest-supporting partnerships, Adidas. Ye was also banned from social media platforms amid the controversial tweet.

“I’m a bit sleepy tonight but when I wake up, I’m going death con 3 On JEWISH PEOPLE,” Ye tweeted Oct. 8.

This caused a reaction from many of his fans and former supporters.

According to the Washington post, following the tweet and after weeks of consideration Adidas decided to drop the rapper Oct. 25 releasing the following statement.

“Adidas does not tolerate antisemitism and any other sort of hate speech. Ye’s recent comments

and actions have been unacceptable, hateful, and dangerous, and they violate the company’s values of diversity and inclusion, mutual respect, and fairness.”

The separation between Adidas and Yeezy will cause the net income to see a loss of \$248 million.

This was not the first incident where Ye had made remarks that led to controversy.

During the Yeezy Season 9 premiere at Paris Fashion week, Ye appeared wearing a “White Lives Matter” shirt with Candace Owens.

During the show, models were spotted with the same shirt on, causing yet more discomfort to the crowd including actor Jaden Smith, who had tweeted during the occasion “I had to dip lol” and “Black Lives Matter.”

Ye tends to have controversial fashion statements that favor his political views, including his “Make America Great Again” hat worn at his SNL performance in support of former President Donald Trump.

Having a noticeably large audience has influenced many people to agree with the antisemitic remarks including a situation in Los Ange-

les, California, where fans hung a banner along the freeway stating, “Kanye was right about the Jews.”

The Holocaust Museum in LA got hate mail shortly after the damage Ye had created began.

What had been a once in a lifetime occurrence became a daily occurrence with around 10 hate emails or comments the museum would receive.

The museum reached out to Ye to offer a tour so he would be able to “learn from firsthand witness where hate and prejudice can lead when bigotry goes unchecked,” according to NPR.

Students on-campus have made it a habit to stop promoting Ye by no longer listening to him, including sophomore Andrea Ramirez.

“He is a very controversial person, and I believe that he, as a person of color, should not be going after another community that has had its hardships as well. He should instead be using his platform as a place where he can make peace not cause hatred,” Ramirez said. “He should be held accountable because he is a very well-known person, and he can rub people off in the wrong



After tweeting antisemitic remarks, rapper Ye has been dropped by several sponsors and brands such as Balenciaga, TJ Maxx, The Real Real, and Adidas among several others. Photo courtesy of Jason Perse/Wikipedia Commons

way. Just because he is a role model to some, could lead to his fans in ‘thinking’ the same way.”

This has brought up a very long-awaited question of, why Ye has not been held responsible for a long time up until now?

The rapper has apologized to the Jewish community and families he may have hurt for his remarks in an interview with Pierce Morgan.

“I’m sorry for the people that I

hurt with the death-con, the confusion that I caused,” Ye said.

Ye continued by, explaining that his attitude was caused due to his trauma, stating that “hurt people hurt people.”

After the controversy, his net worth dropped from \$2 billion to \$400 million in loss of brand partnerships, according to Forbes.

Fatima Alvarado is the layout editor and may be reached at fnavalvarado1@miners.utep.edu

Same-sex marriage becomes legal across Mexico

BY KRISTEN SCHEAFFER
The Prospector

The state of Tamaulipas voted for same-sex marriage legalization in Mexico, Wednesday, Oct. 26. There were 23 votes in favor of legalization while there were 12 who voted against it and two abstentions.

With the approval of the city’s Congress of the Civil Code, this marked Tamaulipas as Mexico’s final state to legalize such a union.

Mexico City was the first to lead the way in 2009. There were only so many countries that had recognized same-sex marriage before 2010, according to Reuters. It was only 2015 when the United States Supreme Court ruled that LGBTQ+ citizens should be afforded the

same rights as their heterosexual counterparts with marriage.

This marks a big step for Central America, considering that same-sex marriage is still illegal in some countries there. UTEP students weigh in on how this could affect Mexico and their community.

Biology major, Julia Castillo and Computer Science major, Oscar Navarro think that it is a step in the right direction.

“I’m happy for the people who can finally marry who they want,” Castillo said.

For some students though, it goes against their religious beliefs. Civil Engineering major, Clinton Chijoke says people are free to do what they want, but he cannot

support it due to being a Christian. There is still some backlash due to social and religious conservatives not supporting the cause in Central American countries.

“Everybody loves differently, and everybody has their own preferences. So, it’s pretty crazy that they’re finally able to comfortably get married,” Nelson said.

There are 24 countries in Latin America where consensual same-sex sexual acts have been decriminalized. There are nine countries, mostly in the Caribbean, where consensual sexual acts are still illegal, according to the Wilson Center.

Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador and Mexico constitutionally protect members of the LGBTQ+ com-

munity from criminalization based on their orientation, according to the Wilson Center.

“Now it’s a law, so you don’t have a choice to agree, or just walk away and mind your business. I’m excited and I’m happy that they’re able to do what they want to do, (which)

is get married to their loved ones,” said Nelson.

For anyone experiencing crisis, The Trevor Lifeline can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 866-488-7386.

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X-MAS from Cover

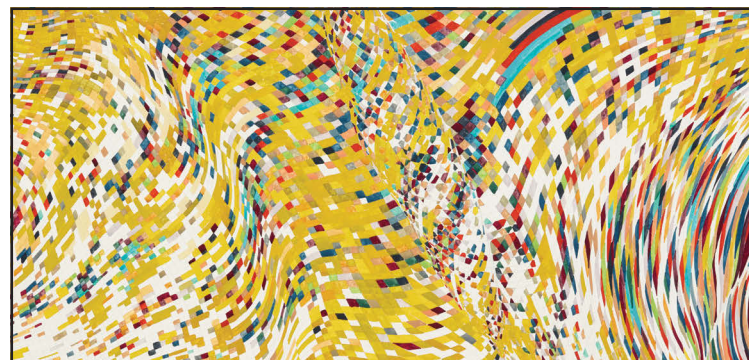
Italy, children are given their gifts Jan. 6. Instead of Santa Claus with a big toy, La Befana is an old woman witch who delivers gifts to good kids on the morning of the Epiphany, and uses a broomstick rather than a sleigh to move.

In contrast to the cold and snowy weather in most cities of the US, Christmas time in Australia is summer. As a result, families decorate their Christmas trees with summer themes, such as using a lot of seashells and other natural materials.

Furthermore, Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday celebrated in eight-day rituals in late November and December Jewish Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah celebrations involves the kindling of a nine-branched menorah, known in Hebrew as the hanukkiah. On each of the eight nights, another candle is added to the menorah after sundown. The ninth candle, called the shamash “helper,” is used to light the others.

Eduardo A. Flores is a contributor and may be reached at eaflores17@miners.utep.edu; @eduardo_aa_flores on Instagram; @efloreseduardo on Twitter.



Sam Reveles, Untitled #11, pencil and gouache on paper, 21 1/4 x 55 in., 2022.

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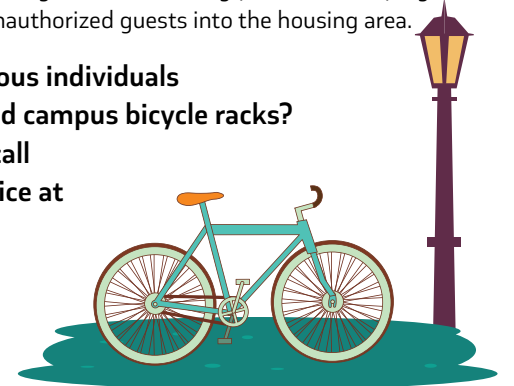


PROTECT YOUR BIKES & SCOOTERS

After responding to an increase in bicycle/electric scooter thefts, the UTEP Police Department would like to remind students, faculty, and staff of steps they can take to help protect their property.

- Always lock your bicycle/electric scooter: Thieves look for unlocked bicycles or scooters. Always lock yours, even if you only plan to leave it unattended for a few minutes.
- Use a high-quality lock: A heavy-duty U-lock connected through the frame and wheels provides more protection than a chain lock.
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- Register your bicycle or scooter with the UTEP Police Department: This free service allows UTEP Police and other law enforcement agencies to locate you if your stolen bicycle or scooter is recovered. Visit this page to download the registration form: www.utep.edu/police/police-services/bike-registration.html
- Engrave your bicycle or scooter: Engraving your bicycle or scooter with a set of identifiable letters can be an anti-theft deterrent. UTEP Police offers a free engraving service. Call 915-747-6640 for details.
- On-Campus Housing: When accessing your dorm, stay vigilant and don’t allow unauthorized guests into the housing area.

Notice suspicious individuals hanging around campus bicycle racks? Immediately, call University Police at 915-747-5611.



Art historian reacts to the attacks on art museums

BY MARIA L. GUERRERO DURAN
The Prospector

Editor's note: This is the second of a three-part series on the reasoning and the impact of climate change protests through attacks on art.

News has spread around the world regarding a series of attacks on several invaluable art pieces by the Just Stop Oil coalition and other climate activists, such as Van Gogh's "Sunflowers," Johannes Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring," and most recently Edvard Munch's "The Scream."

Although protests at art museums are not something new, they still spark a discussion amongst people and raise the question, "are these protests actually effective?"

Art history professor, Anne Perry expresses her opinion about the situation, saying she is completely for protests and supports the cause, yet she feels that they are attacking the wrong target. Acknowledging the point these coalitions are trying to show, about how in the future if our planet is dead this artwork will not matter, she explains how it might be more effective to target art that belongs to those who profit from the destruction of the planet.

"Why go after these works of art that are famous, to get attention?" Perry said. "If they really wanted it to be about art why not go to the Metropolitan and go to various collections that were purchased by robber barons? I'm talking about

the Rockerfellers, actually. They made huge donations of art (to the MET)."

The situation has become a political statement and Perry points out the fact that when campaigns come around, candidates pay more attention to gas prices and not so much about climate change, wishing they would do more about it.

"We get so oblivious, right now everyone is worrying about the economy and couldn't care less about the climate," Perry said. "Everything is so political, we don't have each other's well-being in mind at all, it's just about politics. I think we honestly could bring about the destruction of this planet and are willing our way in doing it. The point these protests are trying to make is valid."

Despite the protests gaining media coverage after the attacks on museums, there is still no accurate data proving these are effective in making a difference in the decisions big oil companies take.

"Anybody in their right mind with any awareness at all is absolutely sympathetic to the cause, and yet my first impression is, are (their) actions really gaining enough support and interest for difference to be made? And I don't think we have enough data to really answer that question," Perry said.

Thankfully, for art aficionados, Perry said the activists do research the work they target and choose



Art history professor Anne Perry says she agrees with the notion of protests and supports the cause towards global warming but disagrees with them using art as the medium to do so. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**

those protected by glass, such as the "Mona Lisa" which is behind bulletproof glass, ensuring no major damage happens to these artworks.

If that was not the case, these attacks would push museums to protect these invaluable artworks

which have transcended history.

"In terms of the art I have mixed feelings, of course I support these people who are trying desperately to make a difference and I admire the fact that they are doing something," Perry said. "But as

an art historian I can't possibly condone what they chose to do. I am invested emotionally in these artworks."

Maria L. Guerrero Duran is the web and copy editor and may be reached at mlguerrero@miners.utep.edu; @bymariaguerrero on Twitter and Instagram.



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This holiday season, participate in the ‘Spirit of Giving’

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

This Christmas season, El Pasoans are invited to open their hearts and participate in the spirit of giving. The El Paso Community Foundation is partnering with several local nonprofits to give back to the community living in El Paso.

The Spirit of Giving Project was first created in 1988 by an El Paso Community Foundation donor. This will be the 34th year of the holiday season campaign that benefits children, individuals with special needs, survivors of domestic violence, senior citizens and other vulnerable people in the El Paso and Ciudad Juárez community.

“It was started by an El Paso Community Foundation donor 33 years ago,” said program officer, Stephanie Acosta. “We are so happy to continue this campaign even through the pandemic.”

People who are interested in participating can do so by visiting the Spirit of Giving website and selecting a tag off the virtual tree. The El Paso Community Foundation will then shop for the gift with your contribution.

The second option is to select a tag off the virtual tree, buy the gift yourself, and then drop off the donation at the Sunland Park Mall, at the designated space in front of the Greenery Restaurant. There are also live Christmas trees at Sunland Park Mall, Cielo Vista Mall and both Alamo Draffhouse locations for people to choose tags from. The dates to drop off the donation are Dec. 12-15.

The name of the individual as well as their age, interest, sizes, preferences and gifts are written on the tag. Another option is buying either one gift or both gifts listed on the tag. The last step on the tag

is to choose whether to purchase, wrap and deliver the gift yourself or to purchase the gift using a credit card, then the El Paso Community Foundation will buy the gift from a local vendor, wrap and deliver it. A 10 percent surcharge will be added.

Some of the tags include ten-year-old Ricardo who loves “Thomas and Friends” and would like toys or pajamas from the show.

Another tag has the name of a little girl named Tinker who is one-year-old and is described as the toughest little girl with the sincerest smile and love for others. She would like building blocks for Christmas and her favorite colors are pink and purple.

These are just a couple of the many people in need of help this holiday season.

“Each tag has a story of a person from El Paso or Juarez who is in need,” Acosta said. “It gives a little bit of background on that individual and tells their story of resilience and their wishes. The ages range from babies to older adults who need our help.”

The El Paso Community Foundation has partnered up with The Great Khalid Foundation, The Hospitals of Providence, Alamo Draffhouse and many others who are supporting this worthy cause.

“We couldn’t do this project without our community partners that really help to make this possible,” Acosta said. “Without them it wouldn’t be possible to donate over 2,000 gifts each year. You can really make a difference in someone’s life anonymously; this is a great way to connect with a person in need during the holiday season.”

To learn more about the project visit spiritofgiving.epcf.org/.

Alyson Rodriguez is a staff reporter and may be reached at aerodriguez20@miners.utep.edu; [@alyson_rod1127](https://twitter.com/alyson_rod1127) on Twitter.



TOP: The El Paso Community Foundation invites the city of El Paso to give to the community for the Holidays. BOTTOM: The donation event hosted by The El Paso Community Foundation will be happening Dec. 12-15. Photos by Jasmin Campoya/The Prospector

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Celebrate X-mas with the best traditions

BY MEAGAN GARCIA
The Prospector

Although it is a widely celebrated holiday, Christmas can look vastly different for each person who participates in the festivities. Depending on things like culture and ethnicity, it can affect the way people decorate their homes, the gifts they give and even the days they choose to honor the season.

While traditions are usually made within individuals' households, there are a few popular practices that are great for bringing loved ones together for quality time.

Here are some things you can do to up your Christmas game if they are not a part of your routine already, even better if you can find ways to tweak these suggestions to fit your style.

Making food together

This may seem like a basic tradition but preparing a meal with loved ones is a tried-and-true bonding method which extends across multiple cultures. The act of making food with others encourages people to spend quality time with those around them and challenges individuals to practice patience when tasked with working together to create the dish.

Certain cultures can also have specific food items that are made during the holidays. For example, in many Mexican households a



Making food together, buying family ornaments, and making a Santa list are among just a few Christmas traditions you can do with family. **Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector**

popular food that is prepared for the winter is tamales. The way it is made varies from person to person, but it is a long-standing tradition that remains significant for millions of families. There is even a book called "Too Many Tamales," by Gary Soto that speaks to this.

Making meals with the important people in your life can be a major connecting experience and act as a way to pass down practices that have gone through generations. Even if you are not cooking or bak-

ing something that has been within your family for decades, it can still serve as a good way to have fun with those special to you and allow for you to experiment with food.

Buying family ornaments

Some traditions may present as more materialistic, such as buying family ornaments and growing a collection over the years. Much like the last idea, there is not a specific science to this practice. The objective is to pick out Christmas ornaments with those close to you

so that if you put up a tree for the season, you will have a tangible memory to tie it to.

Whether you buy the ornaments separately or pick out a joint decoration to commemorate an anniversary, the year or some type of personal achievement, this tradition is a great experience for loved ones to share.

If you would like to personalize the practice even further, making ornaments and decorating the tree with those works just as well.

If you have any ornaments that you made during school from your childhood or if there are children in your life that do, making a habit of keeping them will work especially well for this tradition.

Making a Santa list

Even if you do not believe in Ol' Saint Nick, making a Christmas wish list is a tradition that stands the test of time and alleviates loads of gift anxiety.

This is a practice that most people grow out of once they reach a certain age since it usually comes with the truth about Santa's existence.

However, writing or typing up a quick list of all the things you would like for the holidays can be a big help for your loved ones who do not quite know where to start with their shopping.

This tradition can also be crafted to fit your budget by making smaller columns for different price ranges.

Having something like a "big gift" section and a "little gift" section can also help people make estimates based on budgets.

All in all, there is no "right" way to do Christmas. Traditions are born from the groups that nurture them and are shaped to fit those standards. The ideas listed are just suggestions to possibly make the season more special.

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

Best Christmas songs throughout the years

BY ELISHA NUNEZ
The Prospector

You might have already heard some Christmas songs on the radio station, through someone else, or maybe you are the one who is already getting in the spirit.

As November is almost halfway done, that means that the Christmas season is getting closer.

That being said, the music and tunes you hear once a year are coming back again, and before Christmas comes, let us rank some songs of the holiday season.

"Santa Baby" by Eartha Kitt

Starting the list is an iconic song of the holiday season. Released in 1953, "Santa Baby" found success inside and outside of the U.S., topping charts in multiple countries.

Initially, the song was deemed too suggestive for Christmas by certain critics, and was even temporarily banned from radio stations in the Southern U.S. However, it has been covered by multiple artists

since then, including Madonna and Ariana Grande, and is recognized as one of the best Christmas songs of all time. Kitt's light and playful voice, set with an orchestra background, combines to make it one of the most memorable songs.

"Last Christmas" by Wham!

It would seem impossible if you went up to someone and they said they did not know this next song.

A synthpop hit from the '80s, "Last Christmas," not only brings the Christmas feeling, but also brings heartache. Even though it just made it to the number one spot on the UK's top singles chart in 2020, it has always been an unforgettable song of the season.

Lyrical, it is probably the saddest song on the list, but that should not discourage you from listening. If you are going through tough times with a loved one during the holidays, then this is the song for you.

"Feliz Navidad" by José Feliciano

The only entry on this list with a

phrase in another language. "Feliz Navidad" is not only something commonly said during the holidays, but it is also one of the catchiest songs made for Christmas by a member of the Latinx community. Released in 1970, Feliciano, a Puerto Rican musician, wrote the song with his family in mind, as they were in New York City while he was in Los Angeles. A tune wishing a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, this song would become one of the most downloaded and played Christmas songs in the United States and Canada.

"White Christmas" by Bing Crosby

It is featured in dozens of Christmas movies and was originally for the musical film, "Holiday Inn."

"White Christmas," or the version sung by Bing Crosby at least, is a staple of the Christmas season. Written by Irving Berlin, this song is the oldest on the list, with its first performance by Crosby being in 1941 Christmas Day, a few weeks

after the Pearl Harbor Attack. Crosby's version is the best-selling version of the Christmas song, having estimated 50 million copies sold worldwide.

With a calm voice and soothing background vocals, this song makes you want to cover up with a warm blanket and sip hot chocolate.

"A Holly Jolly Christmas" by Burl Ives

Now, this Christmas song ranking would not be complete without this iconic track. Released in 1965, "A Holly Jolly Christmas" was the title track in Ives' Christmas album, released at the same time.

With a mixed-gender chorus and, quite literally, a holly jolly vocal performance by Ives, this song makes you feel like a kid again waiting for Christmas day.

Before we get to the best song on this ranking, we have some honorable mentions. People who responded to polls posted by The Prospector on Instagram said Chris Brown's version of "This Christ-

mas," "Jingle Bells," and "Doughnut," by K-pop girl group Twice are perfect for the season.

"All I Want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey

You knew we would reach this point in the list eventually, and here it is. It should be common knowledge at this point, after this song has been certified Diamond by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and topped the charts in 26 countries at the time of its release in 1994, "All I Want for Christmas is You" is one of, if not the, most memorable and iconic music releases of all time.

It is highly unlikely that anyone will not recognize this upbeat-tempo and exciting song.

Taking inspo from a variety of musical genres, this song is a perfect blend of modern-day genres that take you for a ride during the Christmas season.

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Sports

Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela, editor



The Prospector's Student-Athlete of the Month: Rodgers Korir

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector



Senior cross country captain Rodgers Korir says his favorite part about being captain is to see his team improve every single day. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

Cross country is not only a physically challenging sport but also mentally demanding. UTEP senior cross country captain Rodgers Korir understands that fully, but he is does not shy away from a challenge.

Korir was born and raised in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya. He grew up from humble beginnings as one of eight children. His parents did not have jobs and they had to rely on family in order to survive. Everyone is a farmer in his hometown, but Korir is the first in his family to attend college and to receive a degree in civil engineering.

"Where I come from, it is a place where athletes come from," Korir said. "When I was a kid, we used

to have to run 15 kilometers in the morning to get to school at 5:30 a.m. and then I ran in high school and that's how I got a scholarship to UTEP. It kept me motivated since I began running when I was young, and I still run now."

After graduating this fall, Korir plans on getting a master's degree and pursuing a career in structural engineering. He is currently applying to jobs here in the U.S. in order to gain experience. His dream is to return to Kenya and help advance structures and technology there.

"In high school, I was the best in mathematics and physics," Korir said. "I realized my passion and interest for civil engineering when

I would watch the construction in my home country, and I realized I wanted to be a part of that."

Korir's biggest inspiration to run cross country is his own father, who used to be an accomplished athlete himself. He had heard many stories of his father's races, which gave Korir the epiphany that he could become a great runner as well.

"Since I came here five years ago, UTEP is a cool place," Korir said. "I like the people and the climate here. My classmates are the best and I really like all of my professors and instructors. I feel welcomed and comforted here in El Paso, more than I had felt in any other place."

In his running career, Korir's big-

gest accomplishment is being the UTEP cross country team captain for the past three years.

He likes to make sure everyone is close on the team and to listen to his teammates' ideas on how to improve the team.

"My favorite thing about running is when I start to feel the pain in my legs," Korir said. "It pushes me to run faster. I want to outdo that pain and use it to make me better. My favorite part about being team captain is to see all of my teammates improve every single day. I love it when my teammates come to me for help and advice, I love to help everybody."

Korir and the UTEP cross coun-

try team recently won second place at the 2022 Conference USA Cross Country Championship Oct. 29, in Denton, Texas. Korir placed 19th.

"I would like to thank UTEP for my scholarship and for providing the team everything that we need," Korir said. "We would not be able to compete without them. I am also thankful to all of the coaches who have helped me perfect my running skills and my teammates and friends as well."

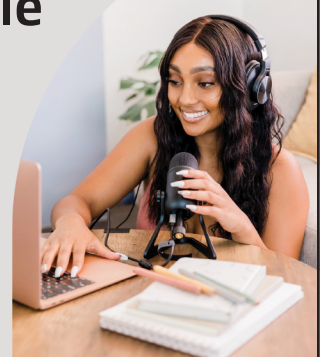
Most recently, the team went to New Mexico for the NCAA Mountain Regionals where it placed 13th out of 17 teams.

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COMMENTARY

Which holiday sport is the best to watch?

BY ITZEL GIRON
The Prospector

As the holiday season nears, many questions may arise like what side dish are you making for thanksgiving dinner? What Christmas movie are we watching? Or if you find yourself to be a sports fan: Am I watching basketball or football? Well, this year you can add another sport to the watchlist. For the first time ever, the FIFA Men's World Cup will begin Nov. 20 and end Dec. 18, meaning this year's Thanksgiving and Christmas parties could look a little different.

The reason for a third holiday sport? Well, the soccer tournament will be held in Qatar, a place known for reaching temperatures of up to



122 degrees in the summer. To keep players safe and reduce the risk of dehydration, the World Cup was moved to a cooler climate. With

soccer being a summer sport, for some it might be on the bottom of the watchlist but, if you love the fast-paced energy of a soccer match, it is perfect to keep you sitting on your couch and not at the dinner table on Thanksgiving.

Soccer is not perfect, as some matches can exceed the 90-minute period and can even be scoreless the entire time. However, this being the biggest stage in soccer, the pros are likely to keep the games entertaining with questionable calls, fouls and a few goals here and there. Sadly, there will not be a game on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, but you can catch the final World Cup match Dec. 20.

For some, tradition might be more

to your liking as the NFL has had a Thanksgiving game since its inception. This year, games include the Bills and Lions at 10:30 a.m. followed by the Cowboys and Giants in a divisional game at 2:30 p.m. and the last game of the night being the Vikings and the Patriots battling it out at 6:30 p.m. A month later during Christmas, the NFL will have three games on Christmas Day, and most of that week's games will take place on Christmas Eve.

If you find yourself wanting to watch basketball, a series of games will take place the day before Thanksgiving, Nov. 23, and the day after, Nov. 25. For Christmas, there will also be a series of games to keep you flipping back and forth

between the channels to keep up with the NBA and the NFL.

Now which one is the best? With soccer being played around this time on such a big stage, the World Cup is sure to be a nail-bitter from beginning to end. It is also reported that it could be some star players last time on the big stage.

The World Cup only happens every four years whereas football and basketball happen every year. Although football and basketball might be closer to home and more manageable to even attend in person, soccer has a way of not just bringing families together, but nations.

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BATTLE OF I-10 from Cover points. Eerily enough, The Aggies also ended the game completing 44.6 percent of its field goal attempts. NMSU matched the Miners in offensive rebounds, with 11, and defensive rebounds, with 24.

Next up, the UTEP Miners stay in El Paso as Sul Ross State University comes to the Don Haskins Center at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15.

The Miners face the Aggies once again at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30 at the Pan American Center in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

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TOP: Guard Tae Hardy looks to pass the ball against the Aggies.

BOTTOM LEFT: Guard Mario McKinney shoots the ball during the second half of the game.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Forward Calvin Soloman during the tip off against New Mexico State University game Nov. 12.

Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

Expectations for the 'World Cup' in Qatar

BY ITZEL GIRON
The Prospector

For the first time, the World Cup will be held from Nov. 20 to Dec. 18 to protect players and attendees from dehydration. 32 nations are taking the biggest stage in soccer.

It is possibly the last time anyone will get to see big names such as Argentina forward Lionel Messi, Mexico goalie Guillermo Ochoa and Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo at the international level. It is an entertaining set of group matches. The World Cup is broken into the Group Stage, Round of 16, Quarterfinals, Semi-Finals then the Final match Dec. 18.

It is hard to determine what teams are powerhouses, especially when most nations have not released their roster. However, some teams look like they will be missing key players to materialize a successful run.

For the United States 26-man roster, familiar names such as forward Christian Pulisic is sure to be vital to the advancement out of the group stages. However, the U.S. men's team will be without striker Ricardo Pepi. The youthful legs will not make his international debut leaving a hole in speed and opens up the possibility of goals. Also missing from the roster is longtime goalie Zack Steffen, a pivotal player when it comes to penalty kicks.

Mexico is one team to keep an eye out for. Although their roster is not out yet, stars like goalie Guillermo

"Memo" Ochoa are sure to be out on the field. However, big name Javier "Chicharito" Hernandez will not be on the roster due to "tactical reasons" and could cost Mexico a chance go to the Round of 16.

Brazil comes in highly favored to win the World Cup, especially with a force like Neymar making a comeback in what could be his final World Cup. Brazil has won the past seven games and shown strong dominance against their opponents. Other notable players on the roster include forward Rodrygo and defender Thiago Silva who make up the strength needed to make a deep run in the tournament.

A favored nation to win the final is Argentina, as it could be Lionel Messi's final international appearance and if able to win, it could mean his first World Cup.

While Argentina has five Premier League players on the squad, the key to a successful run in this World Cup is communication and a flow process to mend together. Losing a couple of players due to injuries, it could be possible that Argentina is not able to find a well enough rhythm to move past the Round of 16 or the Quarterfinals.

The first match in the group stages is set for 9 a.m. Nov. 20 against Qatar and Ecuador and will be live streamed on FOX Sports, Peacock and Telemundo networks.

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The FIFA World Cup in Qatar begins Nov. 20 with Qatar facing Ecuador. Photo by Gianluca Cuevas/The Prospector