City council candidates talk COVID-19, climate change in forums

Isaiah Ramirez

With early voting right around the corner, candidates vying for a seat on El Paso City Council spoke about their platforms at in-person forum hosted by the League of Women Voters of El Paso. The event was held Sept. 22, which was National Voter Registration Day, at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema in West Side El Paso.

From navigating through the coronavirus pandemic to mitigating the effects of climate change, the candidates in the districts two, three, four, and seven races all debated on a variety of topics with early voting in Texas less than three weeks away.

The questions were presented to candidates by the League of Women Voters and the debates were moderated by Rosemary Neil with the El Paso Community First Coalition; Karen Dykes, former candidate for district attorney; Diana Annello, a public relations senior at UTEP; Elida S. Perez, reporter with El Paso Matters; and Robert Moore, chief executive of a local non-profit.

In the mayoral debate moderated by Moore, incumbent Mayor Dee Margo faced off against city council candidates Dorian Martinez, former Mayor Oscar Leeser, and attorney Veronica Carbiaj.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the city and how officials have responded to it was a heated debate topic, with candidates taking aim at Margo’s handling of the pandemic.

“We still don’t have a public health director and I know Ms. Margo is going to shrug it off as it’s not a big deal but it is a big deal because people are dying in El Paso,” said Gillman.

Margo rebutted Gallinar’s criticism by saying the absence of a public health director doesn’t make any difference.

“If anyone understands how the operations of the city works, you would understand that the health director has nothing whatsoever to do with the designated person for the health pandemic,” Margo said.

Alexandra Annello, the district two representative since 2017, covers the Northeast and central parts of El Paso, took part in forum against challenger James Campos.

The most important priority in my district is rebuilding as I see a lot of things that need to be done. This is where the coronavirus pandemic has an opportunity to reject the climate apocalypse, and to invest in our communities,” Sunny El Paso co-founder Miguel Escoto said. “That is what we’re marching for today.”

The protest began with one hour of sign making, then a call to action from prominent speakers including Rosemary Neil, director has nothing whatsoever to do with the designated person for the health pandemic,” Margo said.

According to the program’s website, UTEP’s COVID-19 testing is only for enrolled students and employees who will be on campus during the fall semester and are not experiencing symptoms of the virus. Individuals who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, feeling ill or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 are encouraged to visit a community testing site or seek advice from their medical provider.

If a person tests positive, they receive a phone call from a UTEP Environmental Health and Safety employee, who then advises a person on the next steps. According to UTEP, the University will also identify which classes or offices the infected person attended and invite all those who may have been exposed to be tested.

The highest number of people tested positive for the novel coronavirus between Sept. 21 and Sept. 27. According to the university’s COVID Data Dashboard.

Last week, 13 people tested positive for COVID-19, which is technically the highest number UTEP’s voluntary testing program, but still relatively low considering UTEP has an enrollment of more than 24,000 students and the City of El Paso already surpassed more than 24,000 positive cases. During the week of Aug. 31 through Sept. 6, the program revealed 12 positive cases — the second highest.

The university made it a goal to test up to 2,500 asymptomatic people affiliated with the university each week, the El Paso Times reports, but UTEP’s COVID-19 dashboard does not reflect the number of tests administered each week, so the positivity rate is unclear for each week since Aug. 24.

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RBG’s legacy of gender equality will never be undone

The recent death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg shook the nation to its core and despite the turbulent politics around it, none of her death, the achievements of the second woman to serve as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) are, and will never cease to, undeniable. The sheer attention and praise Ginsburg has gotten since her death September 18, 2020, is to how much she was respected, admired, and cared for by everyone who knew her, and how important her life work was to those who felt betrayed or dismissed by the law.

“Her legacy, even prior to the Supreme Court, will definitely last,” said Dr. Todd Curry, Ph.D., associate professor of constitutional law and judicial politics at UTEP. “I can’t see any Republican under the sun do this.”

As a champion of equal justice and rights under the law, RBG spoke up not only for women, but for law throughout the nation in male-dominated industries and environments.

She’s always been a champion for a level playing field. She was the founder of the American Civil Liberties Union’s (ACLU) Women’s Rights Project, which was created with the sole purpose of achieving equal protection for women. Through this branch of the organization, she managed to change the minds of a man-dominated Supreme Court, which had “long accepted sex-based differences as natural, upholding laws that explicitly prohibited women from serving as lawyers, bartenders, or jurors, “wrote David Cole, national legal director of the ACLU, for the New York Review Daily remembering Ginsburg.

Although, she did much more than that.

Ginsburg successfully argued in the Supreme Court, which had “long accepted sex-based differences as natural, upholding laws that explicitly prohibited women from serving as lawyers, bartenders, or jurors,” explained.

In the assuring and timely words of former U.S. Attorney General,” said Joyce White Vance, distinguished professor of law and former Solicitor General of North Carolina, “this is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not raining. You might as well throw it away. In fact, it probably makes you look foolish.”

Evidently, RGB was right, since that very same Supreme Court made their decision on this case, Alabama passed a voter identification act, which as enforced an burden on the one that would directly affect low class minority voters, and Mississippi was immediately sued, according to Joyce White Vance, distinguished professor of law and former Solicitor General of North Carolina.

This just comes to prove how much there is to be done for the protection of freedom and equality in the country. Rather than focusing on immediate matters that may soothe political concepts, leaders must strive to appropriate them to citizens, and make them available to all.

Ginsburg’s most notable quality is that she embodied the purpose of government and governmental needs and beliefs. In spite of being its sole purpose, government rarely works for the people it represents. This is one example of how Ginsburg’s values, ideas, and determination are needed in our society.

Individual agendas and the impact of RBG’s passing on the 2020 elections

Ginsburg’s passing has raised the levels of political and ideological unrest that has plagued the U.S. since Ginsburg’s passing. The election is just around the corner, making every major decision and event in the country a political one.

Although RBG’s death has left an immense legacy to live up to, it certainly hasn’t delayed President Donald Trump’s nomination for a new justice.

It was initially in debate whether a Supreme Court nomination should go forward before the Nov. 3 election. According to a national poll conducted by Reuters on Sept. 19, 62% of Americans lean toward having nomination be made after the election.

Despite this, Trump announced Sept. 24 that he will nominate Judge Amy Coney Barrett, a known conservative, to fill RBG’s position in the Supreme Court.

However, it appears Ginsburg’s death won’t influence the electoral outcomes or be used to tilt the scales.

A poll conducted by Ipsos shows voters have already made up their mind and RBG’s passing hasn’t changed or affected their decision.

“No, I don’t believe the outcome of the election will be affected,” said “In my lifetime, this is the least predictable of undecided voters I’ve ever seen, which is 7 to 8% of voters.”

This means most people know who they will be casting their vote for in less than two months.

However, this doesn’t mean Ginsburg’s passing will be a minor point on the contrary, it might just be decisive if the election reaches the Supreme Court.

If the election does come before the Supreme Court, then only will Ginsburg’s death favor Republicans regarding who gets elected president in November, Curry said.

If Barrett were to fill Ginsburg’s seat as associate justice of the Supreme Court, then it would lock a conservative majority on the high court.

Currently, the Supreme Court has five Republicans and three Democrats. However, Curry explained Roberts has voted against Trump before, making the court, four to four.

“Then they replace Ginsburg with a Republican, then that’s when Roberts vote would count, making the court, five to four,” Curry said. “And that is to have a Republican majority,” said.

“In matters like abortion rights, for example, with conservative ideology ruling the Supreme Court, decisions like this could be overturned. Her [Ginsburg’s] legacy in this case will probably not be as lasting.”

Ginsburg’s legacy

Although my own Christian behalf or convictions keep me from being entirely onboard with RBG’s agenda, she fought for equality and against disadvantage and oppression, which is something that I cannot oppose.

Her true legacy is something intangible or perhaps something undeciphered in the hearts and souls of so many throughout the U.S. and in the world.

Ginsburg promoted a popular sentiment, a belief system even, that legitimized the constitutional passage that makes all individuals “equal under the law.”

Therefore, her real legacy lives in the new mindset she asserted, wherever everyone should have the same rights, liberties and be deserving equal opportunities to advancement regardless of sex or race.

Her peaceful, amicable, and strong relationships with Supreme Court opponents, like Chief Justice Antonin Scalia reflect the kindness and knowledge that is needed in politics.

Ginsburg’s determination, intelligence, and ability to control whatever court she stood before what defined her as a true giant on the court.

These characteristics allowed her to open many doors for women, not just in the legal field but across all professions and personal pursuits.

Ginsburg’s values, ideas, and accomplishments cannot be taken away from a society that was shaped by her, no matter who her replacement or bearer be the title of President of the United States.

However, it is with profound sorrow that I contemplate the possible future of this nation, and I must agree with Joe Biden’s claim that this election is in truth a battle for America itself. A message that can also be heard through former Federal Prosecutor and Legal Analyst Howard Kurtz.

“In times of such confusion and discord, ‘we must step out of our comfort zones and into rooms where we may not be welcomed; we must speak up.’” Rusch wrote. “We must continue to fight the legal battles on behalf of those least fortunate and more vulnerable than us.

Although Choe is known to choose her successor’s seat continues to uphold the spirit and passion in favor of the disregard, cast aside, and unfairly persecuted by the law.

In the assuring and timely words of Ginsburg herself, “real change, ending change, happening one step at a time.”

What we need is access. What we need is affordable electricity. What we need is for our elders and our low-income families to not have to decide between (paying) their electric bill (or) food,” Carbajal said. Activists say the Permian Basin Pipeline is already one of El Paso’s largest air pollutants, but if built, the Newman 6 plant would produce emissions exceeding the Environmental Protection Agency’s air quality standards over 18 times.

“You have to be vigilant. ” Newman 6 plant. “This may happen with or without your consent. But that is why it is so important for us to keep fighting at the federal level, at the state level, at the local level,” Carbajal said, further echoed by Andrew James Torres said. “The solution will come when we have elected officials who will actually listen to us.”

“Fossil fuels are the number one contributor to climate change and rising temperatures. ” Annello said.

El Paso on 301 North Oregon St. and finally to the El Paso Electric building on 100 North Stanton St.

Earlier this year, El Paso Electric was bought out by the JP Morgan Chase-affiliated Infrastructure Investment Fund, or IIF, despite the pushback from Sunrise and other local coalitions like Earthworks and Familias Unidas de Chamizal.

The region’s largest utility company is now under private control by IIF.

“We’re here to rally around our greatest allies and bring attention to the fact that there is a problem, but there is a solution,” Sunrise organizer Andrew James Torres said. “The solution will come when we have elected officials who will actually listen to us.”

Back in February, Annello was one of just two City Council members that voted against the agreement that allowed the sale of El Paso Electric to an investment arm of JP Morgan Chase.

“It doesn’t have to come to this. You can have a city government, a Public Utility Commission and an El Paso Electric Company who responds to you before it gets here,” Annello said.

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Annello and El Paso mayoral candidate, Veronica Carbajal.

“You can have a city government, a Public Utility Commission and an El Paso Electric Company who responds to you before it gets here,” Annello said.

Another matter discussed during the mayoral forum was the issue of climate change and water consumption.

“I believe that under the restrictions we have right now, we need to push forward and see if we can locate and allocate water,” Martinez said.

Carbajal said she’s cared about climate change for decades and that it’s pressing matter for the city considering its rising temperature.

“I have been having nightmares about climate change for 25 years since I was an undergraduate at Brown majoring in environmental studies when we didn’t believe we could make it to 2020,” Carbajal said.

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How it’s different from the scholarships office

One distinction between the new fellowships office and the Office of Scholarships is its funding. Another difference is the scope of the opportunities that each office focuses on.

The scholarships office works with internal funding provided to the university from donors, alumni, and the state. This funding is not exclusive to national and international competition, making UTEP students eligible to compete with each other. The fellowships office on the other hand, facilitates and distributes external funds procured from foundations, government agencies, or individual philanthropic donors like that of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship.

There is more expansive applicant pool which ranges from across the country to the world, such as the case with the Rhodes Scholarship.

Fellowship funding is also portable for the purpose of relocating to any desired institution or studying abroad. UTEP President Heather Wilson is a Rhodes Scholar herself and the first member of her family to graduate from college.

“The best students at UTEP can compete with the best students anywhere; they need the encouragement to know that they can,” said Wilson in a news release. “We established the Office of Student Fellowships and Awards to give students the guidance and support to prepare themselves for these graduate fellowships.”

The opportunities it offers

Some of the fellowship opportunities the Office of Student Fellowships and Awards has on its radar is the Boren Fellowship, the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, Gates Cambridge Scholarship, Hertz Foundation Fellowship, Marshall Scholarship, Mitchell Scholarship, National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship Program, Rhodes Scholarship, Schwarzman Scholarship, and the Truman Scholarship.

Opportunities for undergraduates includes the Boren Scholarship, Gilman Scholarship and Gilman-McCain Scholarship, Goldwater Scholarship, Hikawins Scholarship, Houston Endowment Scholarship, and the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute.

The office works with students in both undergraduate and graduate levels to help them discover an array of prospective opportunities. Options range from, but are not limited to, the Gilman Scholarship for Pell Grant eligible undergraduates; the Rhodes Scholarship and Fulbright which are exclusive to graduating seniors; and the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, open to graduating seniors as well as first-year graduate students.

The Hawkins Scholarship, introduced in February during UTEP’s Inaugural Convocation, Scholars and Fellows Day, is a new undergraduate scholarship of $10,000 being awarded this semester. The award has no U.S. citizenship requirement and is the only internal scholarship managed through the Office of Student Fellowship and Awards.

Not only is there a perceptible range in the diversity of students being supported, but in the spring semester, UTEP produced seven Gilman Scholars out of 14 total applicants which highlights the success rate and significance of spreading awareness of these opportunities.

“Fellowships are a lot more than just the money; they are personally transformative and provide access to new professional networks that benefit awardees throughout their careers,” Meinerz said. “The reward for putting in all the effort involved in completing an application can be life-changing.”

In addition to informing students of the availability of these fellowships, faculty and staff are also there to aid students throughout the application process. The process, which typically lasts three to six months, and includes extensive essays and the gathering of letters of institutional support, can be rigorous. However, the faculty and staff at the Office of Student Fellowships and Awards is there for its students with coaching, feedback, and guidance throughout the preparation and development of students’ applications.

Past-COVID-19 UTEP students have speculated on options that involve traveling overseas, such as the Fulbright and Gilman awards, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the agencies funding these opportunities have already allocated the funds, the Office of Fellowships is encouraging students in any case to apply anyway. A contingency plan for travel disruptions due to COVID-19 may be considered after, but the important thing is to apply, Meinerz said. It’s also important to note that the application process for these fellowships is carried out in advance from their actual departure.

“The Howard Gilman Foundation has adjusted to travel restrictions by allowing students to either defer their award for a semester or study remotely,” Meinerz said. “The pandemic has limited travel related to some fellowships, but I encourage students to explore scholarship and fellowship funding opportunities and apply as they normally would,” Meinerz said.

“Most of these fellowships are meant for students who are applying for graduate programs, but I encourage students to apply for undergraduate fellowships as well, since many of these programs have a broad range of eligibility and also provide funding for their students in their senior year as well. I encourage students to explore scholarship and fellowship funding opportunities and apply as they normally would,” Meinerz said.

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“The Office of Student Fellowships and Awards has adjusted accordingly as well, by conducting all their information sessions virtually. Interested students can also revert to the recorded sessions which will remain posted on the office’s website.”

“In order to increase the number of students who apply for these prestigious external fellowships, scholarships and awards, Meinerz said, “My vision is to build a pipeline of students applying for these kinds of awards from the moment they set foot on campus, whether they are freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors or graduate students. UTEP students have the academic preparation, skills and experience to compete for these opportunities. They have and can win these awards.”

Photo courtesy of UTEP

“Fellowships are a lot more than just the money, they are personally transformative and provide access to new professional networks that benefit awardees throughout their careers.”

-Melanie Meinerz, Ph.D.
Virtual farmer’s market supports local businesses

Alyson Rodriguez
The Prospector

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, more stores are adapting to the “new normal” and moving their sales online. Businesses are looking for creative ways to adapt to social distancing rules, while staying afloat. Farmer’s markets are some of the businesses trying to adapt to this new way of life.

What used to be an early morning weekend event for shopping fresh produce and homemade local goods, can now be done online from the comfort of one’s bed.

One farmer’s market that is adapting virtually is the Jefa Market, a local non-profit ran by Chicachat. Jefa Market is a virtual marketplace owned by women. The main purpose of Chicachat is to advance women in social, entrepreneurial, and wellness positions. It is a safe networking space built by a community of women who support one another and provide friendship and mentorship.

The mission of Chicachat is to serve female entrepreneurs and economic growth. It does this by hosting a networking event every month for its members, but due to coronavirus Jefa Market has moved online.

Rubin Center presents local artists

Jellyfish Colectivo, Untitled, digital graphic, 2020, from the exhibition Manipulation.

Past virtual galleries and events can be found at step.edu/rubin!

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Jefa Market presents local artists

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Pumpkin patches opens to public during pandemic

As the summer ends and the new season begins, fall enthusiasts can celebrate the beginning of “pumpkin space everything” with limited activities at local pumpkin patches and corn mazes.

Although the coronavirus pandemic has put a halt to many events this season with some restrictions. La Union Maze, one of the most popular mazes located in La Union, New Mexico, will not feature its iconic haunted maze this Fall. "The kind of place where you can go in and get lost in," Doyle said.

The other exhibition, The Liquid Gates of Time, was created by an artist that wishes to remain anonymous but uses a symbol for their signature. Their work is in collaboration with UTEP’s special collections, biodiversity collections and the centennial museum collections to enhance the taxonomy of the borderland. Some pieces in the show include armor from the 19th century and historic images from Juarez in the early 1900’s. “The artist is working with the notion that it’s difficult to pin down what it means to be a border resident or be here on the border,” Doyle said. “It’s been great to collaborate with other mediums on campus but also think about how these things come together as part of our understanding of the border.”


The Rubin center is also experimenting with a new employee position that they hope to keep permanently, community curator. The goal for the community curator is to connect to the artistic community and help artists have better opportunities after graduation.

Ramon Cardenas is an Art History major and a first person to be chosen for the role. “Ramon himself, inspired it. He is very deeply engaged in the community in lots of different ways. He knows lots of young artists, lots of community activists and organizations. He has experience grant-writing, putting together large-scale public art projects and running a business.” Doyle said. “We wanted to take advantage of those skills within the gallery space. Moving forward, we hope to have Ramon lead workshops and conversations for other UTEP students, interested in the arts.”

The Rubin center will have increased cleaning protocols and required face masks. Groups will be kept between five and ten people to keep social distance. Walk-ins are allowed, availability is determined by the number of people already in the gallery.

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Virtual farmer’s market supports local businesses

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As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, more stores are adapting to the “new normal” and moving their sales online. Businesses are looking for creative ways to adapt to social distancing rules, while staying afloat. Farmer’s markets are some of the businesses trying to adapt to this new way of life.

What used to be an early morning weekend event for shopping fresh produce and homemade local goods, can now be done online from the comfort of one’s bed.

One farmer’s market that is adapting virtually is the Jefa Market, a local non-profit ran by Chicachat. Jefa Market is a virtual marketplace owned by women.

The main purpose of Chicachat is to advance women in social, entrepreneurial, and wellness positions. It is a safe networking space built by a community of women who support one another and provide friendship and mentorship.

The mission of Chicachat is to serve female entrepreneurs and economic growth. It does this by hosting a networking event every month for its members, but due to coronavirus Jefa Market has moved online.
In review: ‘Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging’ 12 years later

Pauline Astrid Spencer
The Prospector

Being a teen in the late 2000’s, I spent the majority of my middle school years reading the "Confessions of Georgia Nicholson" series by Louie Reminson. Initially, I started reading the series with my two best friends and being so excited for the 2008 Nickelodeon movie adaptation of the book "Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging," I would like to say I have left "Angus, Thongs and perfect snogging" as my teenage past, but I quote the movie daily. I cannot be the only American girl who pretended to be British and had the biggest crush on Aaron Johnson. This movie shaped my middle school experience and introduced me to British artists like Scouting for Girls and Mummi Ra.

Ten years later, I decided to rent the movie and determine if it is as good as I remember. Although it is a classic, I noticed aspects of the movie that I overlooked as a 12-year-old girl.

In 2008, I realized the reason why the movie and books were so influential to me, is because they appealed to my heart and heart heart. Fourteen-year-old Georgia is a character that reflects what being in that mindset truly is. Georgia is insecure about her physical appearance and her personality, something that many tween girls, including myself, went through at that age. Being a pre-pubescent girl is hard, and Georgia perfectly depicts some of the struggles middle-school and high school girls go through. She is constantly comparing herself to "fitter" girls like "slaggy" Lindsay and altering her appearance to look prettier for boys, particularly Robbie, one of the two new brothers in town.

Some things I did not realize or pay attention to when I was 12 years old, is the fact that Georgia is very rude and disrespectful to her perfectly normal and kind parents. Georgia embodies the angst of being a teenage girl, but watching the movie now, she just seems spoiled and mean.

As a teen, I wanted Georgia to get together with Robbie and hate his girlfriend Lindsay, but in hindsight, her relentless schemes were evil, and she was pursuing a boy in a relationship. Although I still hate Lindsay as a 24-year-old, I cannot agree with Georgia’s schemes to break up a relationship, and let’s forget Robbie and Georgia kissed in the pool while he was still dating Lindsay.

Georgia’s jealousy over Lindsay and Robbie’s relationship, as well as her friend Jas’ relationship with Robbie’s brother Tom, is toxic and problematic. All the bad things that happened to Georgia result from her obsession with being in a relationship with Robbie. She does not care about her friend or anyone else’s feelings.

I rate this movie and I have come to the consensus that although I can no longer relate to "Angus, thongs and perfect snogging," I am still curious when I was 12 years old, I still love it, and I will never watch it if they play it on Nickelodeon.

I rate this movie 4 picks out of 5 because I still hold it dear to me, and I will still watch it with my friends until the day I die.

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‘Breathe, Nolan, Breathe’: a documentary of the horrors of hazing

Alyson Rodriguez
The Prospector

On Sept. 23, the UTEP Student Engagement & Leadership Center (SELC) hosted a virtual screening and discussion with the directors of the documentary "Breathe, Nolan: The Nolan Burch Story." The 2019 film discusses the topic of hazing and following the tragic events that led to the death of a West Virginia University (WVU) student.

SELC hosted the event as part of its Hazing Prevention Week, where various UTEP groups attended like its cheer, dance, band, and athletics teams, as well as members of the University’s Fraternity and Sorority Life.

In recent years, hazing has become a severe problem across college campuses in the United States. Hazing is any intentional action or situation that causes embarrassment, harassment, ridicule or risks emotional or physical harm to members of a group or team, regardless of the willingness to participate.

The 35-minute documentary centers around the tragic death of WVU freshman, Nolan Burch, in 2014. The film details the events that led to Nolan's death, which was more than six times the legal limit for an adult.

Burch and his fraternity brothers finally realized something was wrong and called 911. Emergency medical technicians administered CPR on Burch, which kept him stable enough to make it to the hospital where he was put on life support. Burch’s family and friends were able to say goodbye to him at the hospital, before he was taken off life support on Nov. 14 and passed away due to acute ethanol intoxication.

According to the documentary, Nolan’s father was recognized by the national Kappa Sigma chapter. TJ and Kim established the Nolan Michael Burch (NMB) Foundation in their son’s honor. The NMB Foundation’s mission is to assist young adults in recognizing and preventing the dangers associated with hazing through education and awareness. It also provides solutions and guidance that help young adults combat hazing. N.O.L.A.N., an acronym for Not Only Learning About Not dying, was put to end an hazing and to empower the young generation to understand the difference between life and death, stands for Notice, Obey, Lead, Act, and Notify. It works as a reminder for people that if they see something dangerous, they should say something.

The NMB Foundation’s website showcases Burch’s second to last tweet on Twitter, a quote by an unknown author. The quote reads, "Maybe some things don’t get better, but we do. We get stronger. We learn to live with our situations as messy and ugly as they are. We fix what we can, and we adapt to what we can’t. Maybe some of us will never be fully okay but at least we’ve tried. We’ve tried. We’re still trying. That’s worth celebrating too. If you’re reading this, congratulations, you made it to today. You’re doing good.

Burch was able to save four lives through organ donation. "Breathe, Nolan, Breathe," available for free on YouTube, is nominated for an Emmy in the Documentary – Cultural/Topical category in the Ohio Valley Chapter. A virtual screening of the film is set to be held Sunday, Oct. 4.

For more information on Nolan Burch and the NMB Foundation, visit https://nmbfoundation.com/en/.

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Cross-country returns for an abbreviated season

Michael Cuviello

Kicking off the 2020 UTEP cross-country season, the Miners placed seventh in the C-USA championships. Korir missed C-USA First team from Middle Tennessee State conference with both the first and runner for the Miners and in slower than his time in the regionals. A 152nd which was over a minute runner to qualify for the NCAA and ninth in the NCAA Mountain where he won two races and finished third in the C-USA championships and ninth in the NCAA Mountain regions. He was the lone male runner to qualify for the NCAA championships where he placed a 132nd which was over a minute slower than his time in the regionals. The duo of Korir and Cheruiyot is coming off a spectacular season where he won two races and finished third in the C-USA championships, giving the Miners the most potent duo of runners in C-USA.

While there is quite a drop off in talent from the top two runners on the Miners, there is talent from the top two runners last season in Winny Koech and Linda Cheruiyot both top four finishers in the conference championships, in which the women placed third overall even though it had three of the top seven finishers in the race. The key contributor to UTEP not being able to cap off its season with a championship was its fifth-place runner, finishing over two minutes off the pace of the top finishers.

Junior Rogers Korir runs from the pack on the way to victory at Lori Fitzgerald Classic at Chamizal Park Sept. 13.

Locomotive wins regular season finale

Heriberto Perez

The El Paso Locomotive capped off its regular season with a 4-0 victory on the road over the USL defending champions, the Real Monarchs (SLC) to extend its unbeaten streak to 11 games. El Paso ended up as Group C leaders and will begin the playoffs next weekend at Southwest University Park.

At the 8th minute of the game the Locomotive scoring started with defender Macaulay King, who found midfielder Dylan Mares with an excellent inside pass as he scored the opening goal with a one-touch shot from outside the box. This was Mares’ 4th goal of the season.

Midfielder Ritchie Ryan at the 40-minute mark sent a perfect pass down to forward Aaron Gomez, who, with a nice shot just hit the crossbar and sealed the 1-0 lead at the half with the Locomotive dominating possession 68% of the time.

It was not until the 67th-minute mark when Mares tried to score his second goal of the match, that Gomez took advantage of the bounce off the Monarchs’ goalkeeper and sent the ball to the back of the goal to net to score his fifth goal of the season to make the game 2-0 for the Locomotive.

At the 71-minute mark, midfielder Sared Robinson made his way to the bench when he substituted for midfielder Leandro Carrijo. Seven-minutes later, Robinson scored to make it 3-0 El Paso after a pass from Mares, with a great run, and individual play inside of the box on the goal.

Robinson finished his excellent performance with a second goal at the 87-minute mark taking advantage of a mistake by Monarchs’ defender Zack Farnsworth. The goal took the lead to an insurmountable 4-0 lead with 3 minutes remaining and continued the unbeaten streak for the Locomotive.

“a tough year for all, our group was very challenging,” Locomotive head coach Mark Lowry said. “Colorado Springs Switchbacks were very hard to play against and got better each week. Real Monarchs SLC was young and full of energy. Love to see young players developing. And New Mexico United showed huge toughness to play each game away and I respect that.”

El Paso dominated the game from start to finish averaging 59% of ball possession while SLC managed only 41%. The Locomotives also dominated on the shots taken, with a total of nine shots, five on target, three off-target, and one blocked. For the third consecutive game El Paso goalkeeper had a stout outing of the opposition.

The Locomotive will return to Southeast University Park on the Western Conference Quarterfinals at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 10 when it will host Group D runner-ups FC Tulsa for the first game of 2020 playoffs.

Football team travels to take on Bulldogs

Michael Cuviello

Starting off the season 3-1 including a rare road win, the Miners once again take to the road to take on conference rival the Louisiana Tech Bull Dogs (2-1) Oct. 10, in Ruston, Louisiana.

The Miners have lost seven straight at the goal.

For the women’s team it will be all about senior Carolyne Chepkosegei, "Colorado Springs Switchbacks were very hard to play against and got better each week. Real Monarchs SLC was young and full of energy. Love to see young players developing. And New Mexico United showed huge toughness to play each game away and I respect that.”

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Locomotive Midfielder Distel Zola runs against Real Monarch defender German for the ball Aug. 29.

The Bulldog offense is second in the land in passing yards per game with 6 catches for 73 yards. The Bulldogs also ran for 152 yards as a team. Senior Israel Tucker averaged 585 yards of total offense. Starting off conference play earlier in the season in Winny Koech and Linda Cheruiyot both top four finishers in the conference championships, in which the women placed third overall even though it had three of the top seven finishers in the race. The key contributor to UTEP not being able to cap off its season with a championship was its fifth-place runner, finishing over two minutes off the pace of the top finishers. Junior Karoline Daland is expected to take a big step up this season after the other returning runner to have a top 10 finish last season. Daland capped off her season with a 14th place finish at the C-USA championships and started the season off running within a second of Chepkosegei in the Cowboy Jamboree Saturday finishing 24th.

Sophomore Joan Kaimaiy and Valerie Gonzalez will be taking on much bigger races this season. Kaimaiy competed in every event last season with two top 20 finishes and finishing 61st overall at the C-USA championships and Gonzalez only competed in two events last season.

Rounding out the women’s team will be senior Andrea Lucero and sophomore Jaqueline Onzo. For the team to be competitive in the C-USA championships there will have to be greater improvement from the top five finishers for the Miners as that position just did not give great value to the top runners of the team. With Middle Tennessee State returning all of its top runners, the UTEP women’s team is far from the conference favorite it was last season. Chepkosegei has the ability to be a top three finisher in the C-USA championships and Daland with improvement should be one of the top seven finishers in the conference. Overall, the women’s team is very inexperienced and will struggle to finish in the top half of conference.

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Bulldogs from page 7 has provided a capable backup for Henderson and has 145 yards rushing in three games this season.

At wide receiver, the team abounds with talent. Distinctive sophomore Smoke Harris has emerged as the Bulldogs top receiver leading the team with 13 receptions for 171 yards and three touchdowns. Senior Adrian Hardy a year removed from a 75-catch season has returned from injury and is starting to come back into form. Hardy is a very physical receiver that could pose some problems for the UTEP secondary. Rounding out the wide receivers are junior Griffin Herb and sophomore Wyme Touissant both receivers that can hurt a team downfield.

On the offensive line, the Bulldogs replace three starters from last season and are led by senior center Kody Russey an all-conference contender. Helping to anchor the offensive line will be LSU transfer Donavaugn Campbell a former four-star recruit who was the sixth ranked guard in his recruiting class. Campbell will take over at tackle for the Bulldogs and along with junior Antwan Lewis form one of the best tackle duos in the conference.

Defensively the Bulldogs were decimated by graduation losing nine starters from a 10-win team as well as defensive coordinator Bob Diaco who left for Purdue. Making matters worse for the Bulldog defense has been the absence of returning edge rusher and starter Willie Baker who in 2018 was a force getting to the opposing quarterback with 7 sacks and 10 tackles for loss. Last season Baker had 10 tackles for loss.

With Baker’s absence the lone returning starter on the field has been junior Milton Williams who has been a force in the middle of the defensive line with 2 sacks. In last years game Williams recorded a sack versus UTEP. All linebacker freshman Tyler Griggs has been a tackling machine with 33 total in three games. Senior Ezekiel Barnett a backup linebacker that recorded 59 tackles last season including four sacks is now in an expanded role on the outside with 18 tackles on the season. At only 213 pounds Barnett plays more like a safety and covers a lot of ground.

The secondary has been a major Achilles hill for the Bulldogs giving up 330 yards per game in the air. A lack of experience and chemistry in the secondary that features two freshmen playing significant time at corner along with sophomore Bee Jay Williamson at safety has derailed any defensive consistency so far this season.

In many ways the offenses of the Bulldogs and Miners mirror each other with inexperienced quarterbacks with great weapons at their disposal. Both teams receiving corps and running backs are the premier talent on the its rosters.

Both teams should be able to move the ball at ease on the opponent which could make for a high scoring game. It remains to be seen if the defense can carry over its stellar performance from its road victory over Louisiana Monroe which saw them not allow any momentum offensively.

A big 21-6 win on the road at Louisiana Monroe has the Miners seemingly gaining confidence with its first winning record of the Dimel era. For the Miners getting freshman running back Deion Hankins in the groove early will be key to setting up the passing game against a very suspect secondary. The experience on the offensive line for the Miners should be a tremendous advantage as well as cohesion with returning starters on its defense.

The game will come down to which team minimizes mistakes and turnovers could very well decide which team comes out on top. With the lack of returning starters on defense the Bulldogs are ripe to be exploited with the talent of the UTEP wide receivers. That being said it’s a very tough place to come in and steal a victory. Overall, I think UTEP may be catching a young team at the right point of the season for the upset but Skip Holtz is one of the best coaches in C-USA and maximizes the ability of his players.

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Prediction: Louisiana Tech 35 UTEP 21

UTEP’s game against Louisiana Tech will begin at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 10 and will be televised on ESPN2.