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## The Prospector, October 21, 2020

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## Jill Biden visits El Paso

*Early voting records have been shattered*



Photograph by Anahy Diaz/The Prospector

Jill Biden is set to visit Houston and Dallas on Oct. 13, as early voting begins in Texas.

### Anahy Diaz

The Prospector

Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of Joe Biden, the Democratic candidate for U.S. president, made a campaign appearance Tuesday, Oct. 13 at UTEP's Undergraduate Learning Center, as early voting begins in Texas. The former second lady was joined by U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-El Paso) and former Congressman Beto O'Rourke.

"When Joe is president, you won't read the news shaking your head with tense shoulders," Biden said. "Because he's going to be someone who brings out the best in us. Someone our kids can look up to. Wouldn't that be nice for a change?"

Biden was welcomed by a crowd of about 60 attendees, who all sat six feet away from each other and were

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## How political organizations in El Paso have adapted

### Daniela Ramos

The Prospector

With the emergence of COVID-19 came a new reality that everyone's had to reconcile with: Social distancing, wearing face masks, holding low-density public events, and campaigning remotely.

With early voting in Texas underway, political organizations throughout the country have had to adapt to this new normal while adhering to public health mandates.

Here's how political organizations based in El Paso have been politicking these past few months.

#### El Paso Young Republicans

COVID-19 struck during primary season during what Isaiah Iturralde, communications director for the El Paso Young Republicans (EPYR), calls one of the most important elections in modern U.S. history.

Though COVID-19 might present a few setbacks, Iturralde said the Young Republicans have continued to follow most of their usual campaigning plans, except now with the proper restrictions.

"The biggest thing we've been trying to do is register voters," Iturralde said. "As well as raise awareness of local and state candidates."

Despite COVID-19, the Young Republicans have been hosting even more events than in the past,

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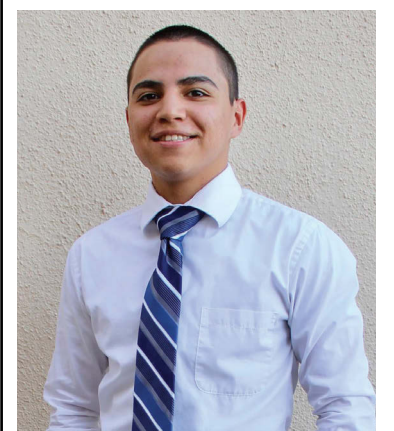


Photo courtesy of Isaiah Iturralde  
Isaiah Iturralde, Communications Director for the El Paso Young Republicans (EPYR).

## Some quick facts about the 2020 election

### Sasha Minjarez

The Prospector

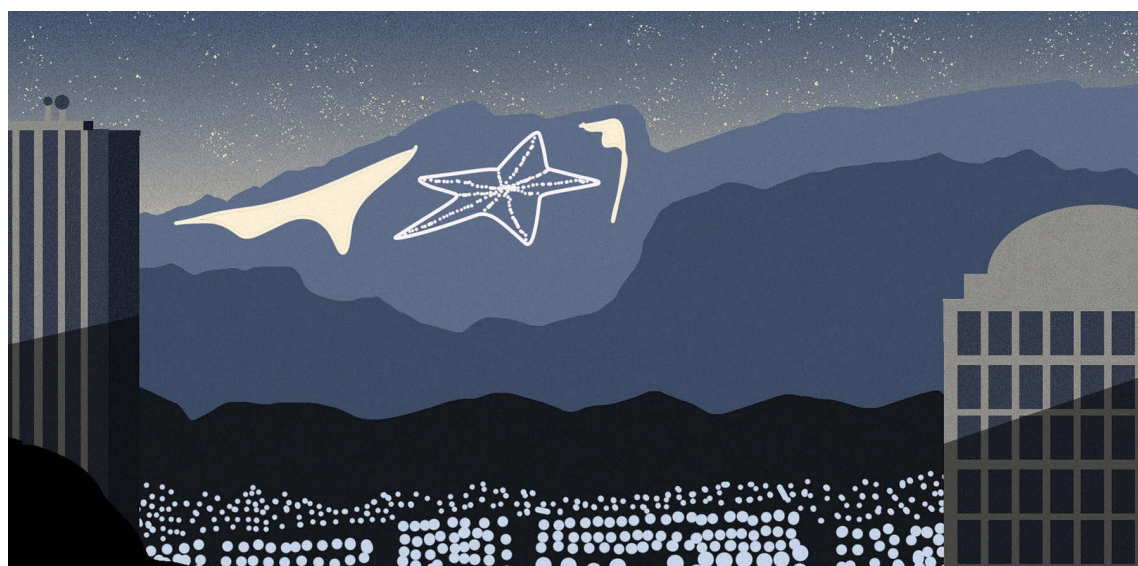
With less than a month away from Election Day Nov. 3, Texas' early voting period kicked off Oct. 13, and is set to last until Friday, Oct. 30.

According to The Hill, a record number of Americans have partaken in early voting this year, with an estimate of over six million turn out. El Paso also shattered its own record for the first day of early voting with more than 18,000 votes cast along with more than 15,000 mail-in ballots, with the numbers consistently climbing.

#### Early voting at UTEP

A notable implementation introduced this year by the El Paso County Elections is the "Voting Center" program, which allows registered voters to cast their votes at any of the accessible voting center locations established throughout the city, UTEP being one of 35 early voting sites. A total of 150 locations will be accessible on Election Day. The new voting center program is broadening the way people cast their vote, as prior to this, voting sites were structured by designated precincts.

The program aims to alleviate some of the uncertainties surrounding voting during the COVID-19 pandemic such as



Graphic by Hugo Hinojosa

With early voting in Texas underway, political organizations throughout the country have had to adapt to this new normal while adhering to public health mandates.

concerns related to health and mail-in ballots. Some Texas citizens are not eligible for mail in voting, as they do not meet the state's requirements, where an individual must be 65 years or older, out of the county for the duration of the voting period, incarcerated, ill, or disabled.

Early voters at UTEP can visit Templeton Suite at the Union East Building Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Other voting sites like Bassett Place and the Marty Robins Recreational Center, will be operating until 10 p.m. on the last week of early voting, to accommodate voters.

The UTEP Center for Community Engagement is also offering informative presentations for any department, class or organization at the University, with the goal of helping individuals navigate the

election during the pandemic. Presentation requests may be directed to Sophia Andritsos, undergraduate assistant for the Center of Community Engagement, via email at saandritsos@miners.utep.edu.

#### Voting during the pandemic

Amid the pandemic, El Paso County Elections is making mask-wearing mandatory as well as social distancing, where there will be six-foot markers on the floor indicating appropriate separation range. A limited number of masks will also be available at sites, for people who arrive unprepared.

"Vote Safe El Paso" kits will be given to each voter, which includes a cotton swab and protective finger cot to handle voting machines, hand wipes and the customary 'I Voted' sticker. Voters are also advised to wash their hands and use hand sanitizer before and after voting.

Additional staff is being allocated to sanitize the site routinely as well.

Those who do not wish to vote inside sites, have the option to use El Paso County Elections' curbside service at every early voting site, by calling its office at 915-546-2154.

Polling locators and wait times are available on El Paso County Elections' mobile application and website. Arlington Park, Bassett Place, the El Paso County Coliseum, Marty Robins Recreation Center, Officer David Ortiz Recreation Center, Oz Glaze Senior Center, and Sunland Park Mall will have additional personnel on board dedicated to assisting in the express curbside voting process.

For more information regarding the 2020 election, visit <https://epcountyvotes.com/>. Election Day is on Nov. 3 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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#### Early voting at UTEP

**Monday-Friday**

**8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Saturday-Sunday**

**12 p.m. - 5 p.m.**



# High school teachers say students are now cheating more

Sven Kline

The Prospector

Since the very beginning of our academic careers, we have been told to never cheat. We hear it over our shoulders during exams as our teachers stalk like hawks and teaching assistants prowl the room like a pack of wolves checking our every move.

We all know the consequences of plagiarism; expulsion at the highest-degrading degree, a mark on your permanent record and the shame that comes with it.

But in the “new normal” of today’s COVID-19 regulations, a new change has been stirring behind the curtains of education and that is the increasing plagiarism and cheating among high school students.

When the option to turn off your camera is there and teachers can do nothing about it, the possibility of cheating comes easy for some.

I spoke with two El Paso high school teachers and they said the amount of students plagiarizing and cheating has increased.

“Kids are failing at a rate no one has seen before and with grades so low they are already in jeopardy of losing credit for the first semester,” Carlos, a high school biology teacher of over fourteen years, said.

But it’s not just teachers with seniority who have noticed this trend. Uribe, a geometry and engineering teacher of two years, also spoke on this rising trend.

“Grades are abysmal right now,” Uribe said. “I have some classes where there are more kids failing than not.”

And if that wasn’t bad enough, teachers also feel obliged to mitigate this seemingly insurmountable challenge caused by the pandemic.

“I’ve done a lot in terms of lessening the workload compared to last year, as well as making sure everything could be completed in class,” Uribe said. “But every one of my students that is failing is because they simply aren’t attempting to do any work.”

Carlos elaborated further on this, pressing the need for students to have someone around to motivate them through the education system.

“Parents are often at work and it is up to students to wake up and attend class,” Carlos said. “In many cases, a student will choose to stay in bed until 2 p.m. Without teachers constantly nagging at students, they are not mature enough to get things done on their own.”

Let’s be honest, many of us would have taken any chance in high school to disregard school and sleep until the afternoon, and like Carlos said, some high school students simply think school sucks. How do you possibly remedy that when you need students to log on in the first place?

While most of us, including students, are still at home with Google at our fingertips to provide all the answers we could ever need, the temptation to cheat is staring students right in the face every single day — and some don’t even care if it’s obvious that they cheated.

“There are some signs of cheating that have stayed constant before and after quarantine,” Uribe said. “A student’s free response on a short answer type question can give away

cheating if the syntax and diction seem out of character for that student. A quick Google search can show whether a student directly copy and pasted from an internet source.”

Like an internet meme goes: “Hey can I copy your homework?” And the response is, “Sure just change a few things so it’s not obvious.”

Courtesy of knowyourmeme.com If high schoolers can’t change up the plagiarism a bit, what makes them think they’ll be able to get away with it in college?

Uribe went on to talk about how this form of cheating, — copy and pasting from the internet, — originates from the new reality that kids are currently living majority of their lives on the internet.

“Students aren’t really making new friends, just sticking to those they already know,” he said, which shows not just a problem with kids and their grades, but also their social networking skills.

So why does cheating occur in the first place?

“Cheating occurs because kids are lazy,” Carlos said, but there are of course exceptions — the ones who are desperately trying to keep a good academic record.

“Once in a while a good kid will cheat for fear of getting a zero for an assignment they forgot to do,” he added.

Carlos has a good point, there are students who have struggled in the classroom setting and have done better because of online school.

I’ll admit, I too cheated in high school and I’m sure many have also, but what’s different is this simple notion of making an effort to not

get caught. From what teachers have told me, pandemic high schoolers nowadays seem to not care.

Call it what you want, but when I copied and pasted from Google then reworded my answer, I actually felt as if I learned something from having to reword it in my own vocabulary and diction. By doing so, I put the material into my own understanding because I was making the answer mine, the same way as asking a friend for an answer and rewording it.

When it comes to cheating in a university setting, students are held to the discretion of their professor, but the ramifications are by far more severe like not being refunded for your class payment, possible loss of financial aid (FAFSA), academic probation and legal ramifications, according to UTEP’s website.

But what Uribe and Carlos do, is evaluate cheating on a case-by-case basis by either giving a failing grade or being reporting the student to school administration.

“The protocol for cheating is an automatic zero which is usually enough to discourage cheating,” Carlos said. “Most high school kids who rely heavily on cheating are bad at it.”

Uribe usually provides the student with a second chance.

“The student gets a zero for that assignment,” Uribe said. “I often allow them a chance to make it up, after having a talk with them. Doing this does run the risk that a student decides to cheat again if they think they got off easy, but I care that they learn, and I feel like if I can get a student to attempt the work that

they’ll be better off than potentially shutting down after taking a big hit to their grade.”

It’s not that teachers don’t care because they do, but it is rather most students who hold little consideration toward their education, and that is where the root of the problem, I think, lies.

No generation has ever gone through online education for this long. This is a new lifestyle that still requires adjusting to. The responsibility now falls on the parents to monitor their children and ensure they’re participating in school, because when that webcam is dark, and the Zoom call is empty, it shows our education system is failing in a new level we have never seen before.

Are younger generations ready for college? Some students may be ready, but for many others who simply don’t thrive in online classes, the pandemic stole their education this year. The true impact of this disastrous pandemic on K-12 education is yet to be seen.

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*Editor’s note: The two high school teachers mentioned in this article are only referred to by parts of their names at their request. Doing so may also protect them from any action by school administration.*

## NEWS

# Researchers investigate effects of pets released in wild

*Grant will allow a UTEP-led team of researchers analyze interbreeding among ducks*

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

Breeding between wild and domestic animals, known as hybridization, can bring upon complicated consequences and it can happen when people release their pets in the wild. A nearly \$1 million-dollar grant provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF) is allowing a UTEP-led research team to further this understanding on the adaptive impacts of hybridization on animal populations.

The team of researchers is led by Dr. Philip Lavretsky, Ph.D., assistant professor at UTEP’s Department of Biological Sciences, and includes

principal investigator Dr. Michael Schummer, Ph.D., of the State University of New York’s College of Environmental Science and Forestry, senior personnel Dr. Brian Davis, Ph.D., of Mississippi State University, as well as collaborators Drs. Helen James, Ph.D., and Rob Fleischer, Ph.D., of the Smithsonian.

Additional partners include the Forbes Biological Station in Illinois and The California Waterfowl Association. This experienced team will be using the mallard duck as a non-model study system to investigate what happens when domestic and wild animals interbreed in nature.

The research began on Sept. 1 and will continue through the next five years.

It is important to note that mallard ducks are the ancestors of nearly all domestic duck breeds except for the Muscovy duck, Lavretsky explained. As a result of the successful domestication of this animal, the mallards range has now spread all around the world, which has brought them into close contact with their wild populations.

“Not only is the mallard important culturally, ecologically, and agriculturally, I’ve always been interested in studying these birds

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Photo courtesy of UTEP

A team of researchers was recently awarded \$1 million in funding from NSF for their ongoing research on understanding the adaptive impacts of hybridization.

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Photograph by Anahy Diaz/The Prospector

Studio G Beto O'Rourke joins Jill Biden on stage Oct. 13, as he urges El Paso and the rest of Texas to vote for Joe Biden.



Photograph by Anahy Diaz/The Prospector

Folk dancers perform at Jill Biden's campaigning event at UTEP Oct. 13.

Early Voting from cover page

required to wear masks as the world still battles the COVID-19 pandemic. The event featured live mariachi, folk dancers and a large sign that read "Vota Ahora."

"For the first time in a long time, winning Texas is possible," Biden said. "I know you're busy, but this election is too important not to do every single thing we can."

According to the Texas Secretary of State website, as of September there were 16,617,436 registered voters in Texas, a new state record — a 1.5 million increase from 2016.

"This is a city that believes that you and your husband can win the 38 electoral college votes of the state of Texas," O'Rourke told Biden and the crowd. "It will turn the page on Donald Trump and 'Trumpism' and allow us to begin the next necessary new chapter in a country led by Joe Biden."

Less than a mile away, at UTEP's Student Union Building East, voters like Alexis Padrón, 21, and Armand Avila, 22, were ready to cast their ballots.

"I'm voting this time specifically because I believe we need a leader who is actually for people in the United States," said Padrón, a political science student at UTEP who is voting in her first presidential election. "I want more than anything for all people in this country to feel safe."

Unlike Padrón, this is Avila's second time voting in a presidential election. He hopes his vote will help the country move toward a better four years.

"Winning this election won't solve all the problems, but it will be a step

to the right direction," said Avila, a political science and electrical engineering major at UTEP. "Instead of sliding back decades like we have for the past four years."

Avila and Padrón want to see issues like climate change, gun violence, police reform, immigration and the pandemic be discussed and resolved in the upcoming years. However, they both agree that in order for this to occur, young people must vote.

"As generations come in, I think we become more open to change and caring about others more than just ourselves," Padrón said. "I think my generation is going to be the generation that changes things and that could possibly make Texas blue."

An early voting station will be held at UTEP's Student Union until Oct. 30. Each voter will receive a bag with a finger cot, sanitizing pads, a cotton swab and an "I voted" sticker.

"To see change, you need voting power and activism power," Avila said. "Generation Z, we've grown up with the world constantly in crisis... the climate, gun violence. Seeing stuff like that change, it doesn't end at the ballot box, but it definitely starts there."

For more information regarding early voting at UTEP, please visit <https://www.utep.edu/cce/voter-engagement/>.

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You seem tipsy. Do you still want to do this?

Ok, but we'll stop if you change your mind.

Yes, I'm really into it!



Mixing alcohol and sex can make it difficult to know if you can give or get consent.

Don't assume you are on the same level. Consent requires mutual agreement. If someone is wasted, they can never consent. [utep.edu/care](https://www.utep.edu/care)



Political from cover page all virtually or in-person with the necessary precautions, Iturralde explained.

The Young Republicans have seized this moment to expand their networks and reach broader audiences through social media.

“We are the most active we have been since the beginning of this organization,” Iturralde said. “COVID has impacted our organization, but in a positive way.”

One of their main campaigning method is phone banking, organized in direct support of Republican candidates in the upcoming election, like Tony Gonzales, running for the seat in Texas’ 23rd Congressional district, and Irene Armendariz-Jackson, running against incumbent Veronica Escobar (D-El Paso) for Texas’ 16th Congressional district seat.

“By the end of the election period we will have successfully organized nine different phonebanks,” Iturralde said.

In addition to this, the Young Republicans have also hit the streets to knock on doors and have hosted a numerous of online events featuring high-profile guests.

The group of young conservatives have also found ways to give back to the community like when it aided elders with their grocery shopping during the beginning stages of the pandemic.

“That was not a form of campaigning, it was done entirely outside of political agenda,” Iturralde explained. “We were promoting the value that our organization holds most dearly, which is: community first.”

Acting as servants to the community is a priority for the Young Republicans, Iturralde explained, although it has gotten

more difficult to continue because of the many issues that come with any in-person activity.

With the Nov. 3 election less than a month away, October is crunch time for organizations on both ends of the political spectrum.

“The whole purpose now is to be urgent; voters need to know what’s on the line,” Iturralde said.

“We acknowledge that times are changing, and we like to exceed the views of the national Republican party. That’s why we’re focusing on getting those silent votes out and in our favor,” college student added.

#### El Paso Young Democrats

The El Paso Young Democrats (EPYD) have also been meeting the moment by hosting virtual events and campaign activities despite the limitations of the COVID-19 era.

“We have been making local endorsements city council races, trying to get the word out on candidates on who they are and how they’re important to the youth of El Paso,” said Dominique Huerta, vice president of EPYD.

One of the ways its been showing its support to local Democratic candidates has been through virtual forums via Zoom calls. Its forums, centered on issues important for the city’s youth, are all live-streamed on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram for the public to tune in, Huerta said.

Phonebanking, as well as ‘text banking,’ have also been activities Young Democrats has been doing to get its candidates either reelected or elected for the first time.

Regarding voter registration, Huerta said it’s been harder these past months because of the potential health risks that come with face-to-face registration.

“If COVID-19 hadn’t happened, we probably would’ve seen lots of

registration in UTEP alone,” Huerta said. “We would’ve been in the library or other buildings helping students register and vote.”

Since Texas doesn’t allow online registration, EPYD members have been sending links of registration forms that can be printed, filled out and mailed to the the county’s election’s office.

“We’re putting the responsibility on the people, so it will be a harder process for them,” Huerta said.

The young progressive said members of the Young Democrats have been sending out constant reminders of the early voting period, more so this week, considering it officially began in Texas Oct. 13.

“We promote early voting much more because it’s considered to be safer, since, in theory, there are less people in line,” Huerta said. “Although, a surprising amount of people lined up to vote on the first day of early voting, which is encouraging to watch, but probably involves higher risk of contagion.”

Though all online events have been carried out successfully and members have continued to be in touch through virtual meetings, the connections established through a screen are just not the same as in person, Huerta lamented.

“We have a great relationship with our members, but I just wish we had more time to communicate and discuss,” Huerta said. “I wish we could have the meetings in-person with more personal interaction among our members.”

Though Zoom calls may be more convenient, active participation and collaboration among the members of the Young Democrats has still been somewhat of a challenge.

“It’s really hard to be encouraged to attend a meeting and stay focused when it’s all virtual,” Huerta said.

The Young Democrats have been



Photo courtesy of Dominique Huerta

Dominique Huerta, vice president of the El Paso Young Democrats (EPYD).

pushing their members not only volunteer at the polls, but also get more involved in other ways like running for office.

“A goal of ours is to push our membership to run for office,” Huerta said. “We’re not just the future of El Paso, but the future of the Democratic Party.”

#### League of Women Voters of El Paso

For the League of Women Voters of El Paso (LWVEP), a nonpartisan political organization, the group has been able to carry out all of its scheduled activities both in-person and virtually, following all proper restrictions, said Beatriz Vera, vice president of membership.

The organization is educational in nature, strictly non-political, and promotes citizen participation, speaking out on issues within the El Paso community. It operates as a branch for the national civic organization simply known as the League of Women Voters, according to the LWVEP’s website.

To continue the organization’s work, the LWVEP member meetings

have still been held every fourth Thursday of the month, but now they’re via Zoom.

For National Voter Registration Day, Sept. 26, the LWVEP decided to follow through with an in-person candidate forum, for which the Alamo Drafthouse acted as sponsor for.

The forum took place inside of the building and was livestreamed through Facebook and Instagram.

According to Vera, the candidate forum resulted in a reach of 12,437 people along with 3,398 Facebook post engagements.

“We took all the necessary measures needed to make it in-person. All of the candidates were there, which is rare, and they were only allowed inside,” Vera said. “It was very successfully done.”

Additionally, voter registration was done as a drive-thru at the event with lots of volunteers, masks, and plenty of social distancing, Vera said.

“We did a lot of registering before Oct. 5 so that the election authorities could have time to process all of the applications,” Vera said.

One of the silver linings of the pandemic is how it’s helped LWVEP members become more active on social media as a way to politically engage with the community,

“COVID-19 has allowed our members to engage more through social media and learn to use it as a platform for participation,” Vera said. “Although, some of our older members, both men and women, have chosen to step aside due to issues with the required technology to remain in communication.”

Vera said this year’s election has already showed historic levels of voter engagement.

“We’ve seen that there are more people interested in not only registering but in actually showing up to vote this year,” Vera said. “We were informed by the El Paso County Elections Department that around 60,000 more voters were registered for these elections than those in 2018.

Daniela Ramos may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu) @TheDaniRamos on Twitter.



Photo courtesy of LWVEP

Beatriz Vera (sitting down dressed in orange) is part of the League of Women Voters of El Paso (LWVEP), a non-partisan organization.

#### Researchers from page 2

because of their unique behavior and evolutionary history,” Lavretsky said. “The mallard duck is a study system that I have been working over the last decade, and I believe that they give us a unique chance to understand the impact on the adaptive potential of wild populations when they breed with their domestic version.”

Using state-of-the-art genomics, ancient DNA, and 3D scanning technologies, the research team hopes to employ a three-prong approach to shed light on the outcomes of interbreeding. First, the team will be using full genome

sequencing of today’s wild and domestic breeds along with their hybrids to understand what genes may be important in their survival.

Additionally, the team aims to go back in time by looking at changing genetics of North American wild mallards by coupling ancient DNA analyses and the hundreds of mallards sampled over the last century and deposited across museums.

Finally, live wild and domestic mallards will also be brought into captivity to study everything from feeding efficiency, mate choice preference, and growth rates.

“We are really trying to not only

understand what happened by going back in time with biological collections, look at the genomes for genetic variation that may be important in the adaptive potential of wild mallards, but also get at mechanisms that may explain some of the recent declining trends in North American mallards,” Lavretsky said. “Specifically, if they cannot eat, they cannot survive through the winter and migrate as well as nest properly, and so with enough generations of less fit individuals you expect a population decline.”

Breeding between wild and domesticated populations can lead to negative results in their

populations where they suffer and face decline if certain domestic traits are not adaptive in the wild. Thus, Lavretsky’s team will be shedding light on the importance of domestication and its effects on wild populations.

Importantly, they hope their work will educate the general public about the negatives of releasing their pet ducks, or generally, any domestic animal.

Lavretsky is excited as this NSF funding provides the opportunity for three to eight of UTEP’s undergraduate students to get paid hands-on research experience.

“It is critical for our students

to get such experiences so they can compete in the workforce and continue to be great scientists,” Lavretsky said. “I’ve been building up the mallard system as a perfect study system to investigate domestic and wild population interactions, and with all of this culminating in the funded NSF project makes me extremely excited as we have the resources to really uncover some fundamental and important insight here.”

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# ENTERTAINMENT

OCTOBER 21, 2020

EDITOR PAULINA ASTRID SPENCER, 747-5161

## Clothing brand strives to empower women

**Paulina Astrid Spencer**

The Prospector

Ni En More is a local project and clothing line combining social activism, fashion and art for the empowerment of women in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

The brand was founded by three artists, Lise Bjorne from Norway, and Jane Terrazas and Veronica Corchado from Juarez.

Ni En More is a blend of Norwegian and Spanish, meaning "not one more." The words are inspired by Susana Chavez Castillo, a human rights activist and poet from Juarez who was murdered in 2011 and has been credited with the authorship of the phrase, "Ni una Mas" or "Not one More."

Chavez Castillo was a prominent poet who led protests against the unsolved murders of women in the Juarez/ El Paso border. On Jan. 11, 2011, at 36 years-old, she became a victim when she was murdered at her home.

According to The Guardian, 1,500 women were murdered in Juarez in 2019. This year alone, 119 homicides were reported in January.

These women are known to have been of vulnerable socio-economic backgrounds. Ni En More wants to create economic independence for women by creating a working environment that provides fair wages, a safe environment, education and training.

According to its official website,



Photo courtesy of Manny Jorquera

The brand was founded by three artists, Lise Bjorne from Norway, and Jane Terrazas and Veronica Corchado from Juarez.

its main goal is to create a sustainable business model that will support the brand, while empowering women, creating jobs that provide dignity and building a strong and fair income for all employees.

Ni En More's 2020 edition is a collection ranging from face masks, blouses, to protest badges. All products are ethically produced through At Core, a sewing studio in Juarez. According their website, all

clothes get their colors and prints from plants, flowers, and vegetables growing in the Chihuahua district in Mexico. Local flower shops donate their withered flowers to the brand.

Ni En More has been featured in Vogue U.S., Vogue Mexico, Vogue Spain and Vogue Germany, putting Juarez on the map and bringing awareness to the femicides in the city and around the world.

Manny Soto, 29, an El Paso

photographer who was intrigued by the brand and its message, contacted Ni En More for a collaboration.

Soto's photographs went on to be featured on all three of the Ni En More articles produced by Vogue.

"I think the activism they're doing for women," Soto said was his favorite characteristic about the brand. "Having a safe place for victims of domestic violence, a safe place for them to find work, and have

a consistent income."

Soto and Ni En More's photoshoot took place in El Paso at the Franklin Mountain State Park in late 2019. Soto wanted to showcase a diverse and inclusive group of women, as he believes the fashion industry lacks diversity. Soto's photos feature women of different color and sizes so the audience can fully identify with the models, the brand and its message.

"Due to the current political climate, I think it's very imperative to showcase diversity," Soto said. "So, I like to show women of different skin tones."

As a proud El Pasoan, Soto wanted to show the borderland through sets by collaborating with local brands and talent.

"To be able to have my photos featured in Vogue is very humbling," Soto said. "To be able to show the talent we have in El Paso and Juarez is very important, and I think the world needs to see the talent we have."

Soto plans to continue to represent the Sun City by producing quality photographs and encouraging others to follow their goals.

"There's room for everyone to be able to showcase their talent, so keep at it and don't give up on your dreams and continue to pursue them," Soto said.

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## Banana and Bear: art shop on wheels Themed lotería game encourages city to vote

**Alyson Rodriguez**

The Prospector

The concept of being mobile and nomadic has been around for some time, the Bedouins crossed the desert, the gypsies ventured across Europe as did the hippie vendors who followed the Grateful Dead. Now mobile vendor, Vanessa Alvarez is doing the same with her new mobile shop, Banana and Bear.

Alvarez, an El Paso Community College graduate and business major at UTEP, has been crafting and selling her handmade art at markets since 2014. However, this past week, she launched her own mobile shop. The idea to open her own shop stemmed from her love of creating art. Alvarez wanted to fill her shop with her handmade jewelry and showcase other local vendors. Banana and Bear was named after her two ferrets because to Alvarez, they are "cute, playful, and fun" which is the energy she hopes her store radiates.

Banana and Bear's products consist of handmade pins, necklaces, keychains, rings, knick knacks, and thrifted clothing, with varied prices. Clothing costs between \$3 to \$20 while handmade items range from \$4 to \$10. The products are made with different types of materials such as resin and clay.

Alvarez runs her mobile shop inside of a vintage camper, an idea influenced by Portland women who use campers as mobile shops.

"I thought it would be a great idea to bring that concept to El Paso, not



Photo courtesy of Vanessa Alvarez

Alvarez, has been crafting and selling her works of art at markets since 2014.

to mention it was the perfect size for quantity of inventory I normally carry," Alvarez said. "If one location doesn't work well then, I can get up and move at any time. It is also super cute and goes very well with the theme of my quirky jewelry."

The mobile shop is in front of El Paso's Galleria Lincoln and Old Sheep Dog Brewery every other weekend. Alvarez also sells her creations on Etsy, which she also manages all by herself, leading to consider herself a "one-woman show."

"It's a lot of work but I love the look on people's faces when they find something, they like that I made, or when they can relate to a silly pin that says 'ay ay' on it," Alvarez said.

Alvarez wants to inspire other struggling local artists by proving anything is possible if you work hard to achieve it. She hopes people understand this isn't something that happened over night, it is a business that has taken time and dedication.

"If you enjoy something go after it, because it's better to say that you tried it and failed, than to look back and regret not taking the risk," Alvarez said.

For more information, follow the Banana and Bear store on Instagram @bananaandbear or on Facebook as 'Banana and Bear.' To shop Banana and Bear's products, visit its Etsy web page.

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**Anahy Diaz**

The Prospector

"The Dreamer", "The Border" and "The Vote", are cards found in an El Paso-themed version of the popular Mexican game, lotería, created to bring awareness to local issues and elections.

"Votería", by the El Paso Equal Voice Network (EVN), is striving to bridge the gap between voters and politics by bringing local issues to the table. The card game replaces traditional lotería images like La Dama ("The Lady") or El Catrin ("The Gentleman") with La Obrera ("The Worker") or El Chuco ("The Chuco"), that relate to El Paso's culture, history and issues.

"The best way to sort of convince a person to vote is not just a phone call from a stranger. It's your friends, your family and your coworkers talking about the issues and having a pathway to understand how it's connected to your vote," said Cemelli De Aztlán, who works as a network weaver and community building member for EVN. "People can sit down and literally play this game and learn why these issues are important."

EVN is a network consisting of La Mujer Obrera, A.Y.U.D.A., Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, and the A.C.L.U. Border Rights Center, who are collaboratively working on issues that affect the community like border rights, environmental justice and

voter engagement.

"Through these five organizations, we all work together in order to push for long term change driven by community, for community," De Aztlán said.

Specific local issues on the game include La Destrucción ("The Destruction"), featuring an image of the Durangito neighborhood in El Paso, a historic space in the city that has been under constant threat of being replaced by a multimillion community art center.

Susana Prieto Terrazas, a Mexican labor attorney and El Paso citizen, is also featured on the game under Los Derechos ("The Rights"), after being detained in Tamaulipas, Mexico in July for allegedly instigating illegal protests in Ciudad Juarez and

See Lotería on page 6



Photograph by Anahy Diaz/  
The Prospector

Votería, an El Paso version lotería, includes 54 cards and 10 boards.



# In Review: Twilight's 'Midnight Sun' perfect for spooky season

Victoria Almaguer  
The Prospector

Fifteen years ago, we were introduced to the global phenomenon of "The Twilight Saga." The book series, comprising of four novels written by Stephenie Meyer, sold over 100 million copies in the late 2000's.

The novels follow Bella Swan, a high school student who moves to a small town in Washington. There, Bella meets Edward Cullen, a handsome and mysterious teen that is soon revealed to be a vampire. Bella and Edward's romance is the center of the plot, as they face the deadly threats of hostile vampires who are not fond of their relationship.

The novels were turned into five movie adaptations catapulting Meyer and the three leading actors, Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner into overnight world fame.

Now, eight years after the last movie, "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2" was released, Meyer came back this year releasing the highly anticipated novel "Midnight Sun" in its totality.

Avid fans, like myself, have waited for this moment for twelve years. As a huge fan of the books and movies, I still remember when news of the "Edward's version of Twilight" book was being written. Even more so, when leaked paragraphs of

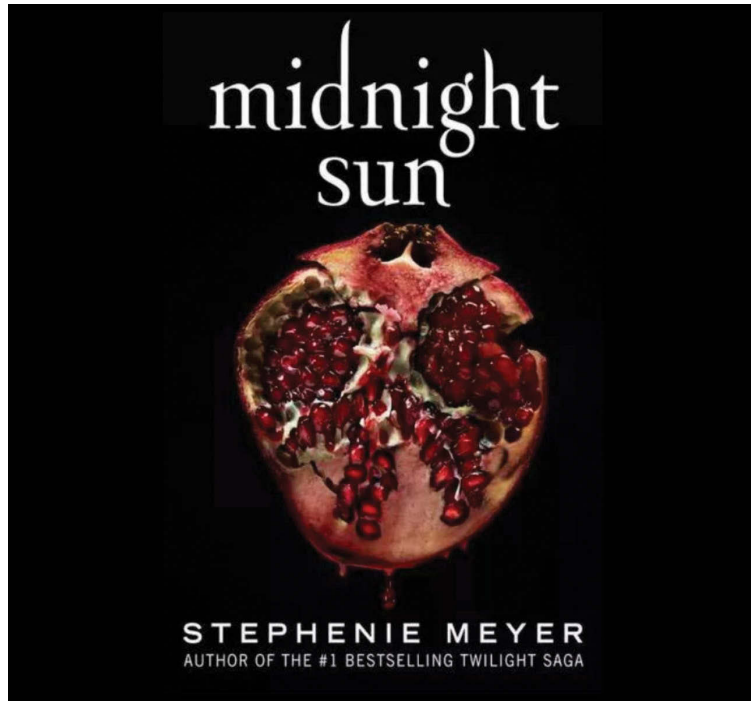


Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

Midnight Sun, a companion novel to 2005 book Twilight by Stephenie Meyer.

the book came out. Meyer, at that time, decided not to continue with the book, which was tragic in my opinion. Luckily, the tragedy ended this year with its release.

It comes in perfect timing as many people are staying home during the COVID-19 pandemic. After being released on Aug. 4, the book sold one million copies during the first week. There are no words to describe the

emotions I felt as I held my very own hardcover of the 627-page novel in my hands. It felt like I finally had the closure we all deserved years ago. Being that the book is Edward's point of view of the first novel, "Twilight", you would think that it is the same story, but it shows a side of Edward the audience hasn't seen before.

"Midnight Sun" is slightly different from "Twilight". Not only do you get

## Pick Rating



to read about Edward's thoughts on Bella, but readers also get a closer look at the Cullen family. Paragraph after paragraph, one is given more than a glimpse of Edward's thoughts now fans are also able to explore Edward's mind-reading ability. His deepest thoughts are the constant dilemma he has between loving Bella but also wanting to kill her due to his thirst for blood. He hates himself for trespassing Bella's privacy, but Edward's creepy tendencies are excused for the love that he has for her and wanting to protect her.

Throughout the book Edwards gift of telepathy gives us a glimpse of what different characters are thinking. Edward's own thoughts aim to have people hate him, but one just ends up loving him even more. Bella becomes a beacon of light through his dark life, and you begin to understand that his decisions and actions, as hurtful as they may be, are with the intent to protect Bella. Edward paints Bella in a new way that is different from the Bella readers were introduced to in the beginning.

If you already loved Edward, you might find an even more charming and compelling character in "Midnight Sun." People say, "there are two sides to every story," and it's an amazing experience to be able to read Edward's side of his never-ending story with Bella.

"Team Edward" will be happy with this book and the fact that Meyer stuck to its origin. Dedicating the book to fans, Meyer has announced her plans to release three more books, but the audience still doesn't know if they will all be through Edward's perspective. Maybe a Renesmee Cullen and Jacob Black story? Although we are still in the dark, we cannot be more excited for the continuation of this series. I give Midnight Sun four out of five picks. With "spooky" season happening now, along with the arrival of the "Twilight" films on Amazon Prime, Midnight Sun is a recommended book that you will want to sink your teeth in.

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## Lotería from page 5

Matamoros against low wages for maquiladora factory workers.

After spending three weeks in jail, Prieto Terrazas was released with the help of a coalition created by EVN demanding her freedom.

Another issue addressed on Votería is the rise of feminicides in the El Paso/Juarez border region, which are listed under the Fue Femicidio ("It Was Femicide") card. The illustration includes a cross and cardboard poster honoring the death of feminist artist and activist, Isabel Cabanillas, who was murdered in Juarez in January.

Cabanillas was part of the group of Juarez women, Hijas de su Maquilera Madre, who spoke against the systemic and historical violence of women in Mexico.

"We're literally putting our issues on the table so that people get involved and inspired to do something," De Aztlán said.

With the 2020 Election Day set on Nov. 3, the network distributed its Votería game to the first 100 registered EVN members. In addition to the game, members were also given a bag featuring El Voto ("The Vote") design, various voter registration cards, a face mask, a sticker of The Dreamer game card and a Votería shirt.

"Voting is only a piece of the puzzle," De Aztlán said. "For many of us freedom is yet to exist, but the threat of losing our democracy or ability to create a democracy, to create peace, to create dignity, that's definitely at risk."

Votería includes 54 cards and 10 boards, with each card's issue information available on EVN's website at <https://www.elpasoequalvoice.org/>. For a copy of Votería, one may also visit EVN's site to contact its administrators.

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# Rubin Center aims to bring opportunities for UTEP artists

## Exodis Ward

The Prospector

The Rubin center's community curator, Ramon Cardenas has plenty of hands-on experience in the art world. He ran his own commercial screen-printing company, Maintain Studio.

He and his wife, Christian Pardo Cardenas make up Los Dos, a collaboration that creates murals, teaches workshops and recently participated in an exhibition in New Zealand. Despite his success, he decided he needed to come to UTEP to formally learn how things work in museums.

"It's an amazing opportunity to be here and get my degree and professional experience at the same time," Cardenas said. "I want to do the best I can and focus on engaging the university students and bring in underrepresented and diverse artists to the gallery space."

Before being named curator, Cardenas had some experience

working in museums. He'd organized small pop-up shows like the yearly Chalk the Block. While interning at the Rubin Center, the team recognized the unique experience Cardenas held and created the curator position for him.

He's currently working on his first professional curating job, "Manipulation." "Manipulation" is an exhibition of Jellyfish Colectivo's work.

"When we were thinking about shows to do in this Covid time, we wanted to work with area artists because a lot of institutions and artists aren't working," Cardenas said. "We want to be supportive of artists that are established here."

Cardenas is a longtime advocate for local artists. When he wasn't working on commercial prints with larger companies, he reached out to artists to print their work and make it more accessible.

He is passionate about community involvement too. As part of Los Dos alongside his wife, he taught

workshops in collaboration with the El Paso Museum of Art. In 2017, him and Christian painted a mural on the Durango bridge that included a section for community members to paint.

"It was the largest scale project that we've ever done. It was about 575 feet long by 20," Cardenas said. "It was cool to get the community involved because that's a lot of what LosDos focuses on: community engagement and access in the form of public artwork."

Los Dos' reach has expanded internationally. They created a mural for the "This is America" exhibit in New Zealand. The exhibit was a survey of American art with an emphasis on the upcoming presidential election. Though they couldn't go abroad because of travel restrictions, their mural is on display. Cardenas has a dream of helping other's artwork go international like his did. With his new platform, he'll be able to.

"There's print making facilities

and studios, so I think I really want to utilize all the things that UTEP has to offer and work with visiting artists to engage with the students and create projects that could use those tools," Cardenas said.

In addition to workshops with artists, Cardenas has a goal of connecting El Paso artists to the New York and Los Angeles art markets.

"A lot of curators and institutions are starting to take notice in this area," Cardenas said. "It's politically in the spotlight and a lot of people started visiting the area and recognizing the unique environment and the artists that are here."

The Rubin center has a goal of bringing diversity to El Paso and Cardenas wants to take it as far as it will go. He wants to show the community artwork that they might not have otherwise seen. With the reopening of the gallery Oct. 29, community members will have a variety of exhibitions to view.

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Photo courtesy of Edgar Picazo

Prepping a LosDos mural in gallery before shipping to Netherlands exhibition.



# SPORTS

OCTOBER 21, 2020

EDITOR MICHAEL CUVIELLO, 747-5161

## UTEP to take on Charlotte if COVID permits

**Michael CuvIELLO**

The Prospector

Coming off its first postponement of the season, the UTEP Miners are scheduled to travel to the University of Charlotte at North Carolina to take on the 49ers Saturday, Oct. 24.

Both teams had their games postponed this past weekend due to COVID-19 concerns. For Charlotte, this was the third game this season that has been delayed or canceled due to COVID-19. Charlotte had its road game against North Carolina on Sept. 19 canceled due to having too many offensive linemen in quarantine. The following week Charlotte's home game against Georgia State University was canceled due to, too many positive tests for their opponent. This past weekend's game was postponed due to multiple many positive tests from Florida International University.

So, while the current situation could change over the week, the Miners are hopeful that the team will be able to play football against the 49ers Saturday.

Charlotte is 1-3 on the season and has yet to play a home game this year. The 49ers are coming off a season that saw the team finish 7-6 with a spot in the Bahamas Bowl.

Last season Charlotte won a hard-fought game over UTEP at the Sun Bowl 28-21. The Miners led the game 21-7 at halftime but have up 21 unanswered points in the second half for the loss.

The 49ers are coached by its second-year head coach, Will Healy, an 8-8 record as Charlotte's coach. Healy was formerly the coach at Austin Peay State University, where he was named FBS coach of the year



Photo courtesy of UTEP

Sophomore receiver Jacob Cowing takes pass versus Louisiana Tech Oct. 10.

in 2017.

Leading the offense for the 49ers is redshirt junior quarterback, Chris Reynolds who was responsible for 448 yards of total offense in last year's game. For the season, Reynolds has struggled to run the ball as effectively as he did last season when he finished with over 700 yards rushing. He has completed 59% of his passes on the season with three touchdowns and two interceptions. Reynolds is coming off his best game of the season versus North Texas, where he was 15 of 22 for 290 yards in the air with two passing touchdowns.

A pair of talented seniors anchored the running game with Tre Harbison and Aaron McAllister, taking over for departed all-conference back Benny Lemay. McAllister had 145 yards on the ground versus North Texas. The team as a whole ran all over North Texas

for 311 yards.

Victor Tucker and Micalous Elder are the top receivers for Charlotte. Tucker leads the team in receptions with 13 for 177 yards and Elder has 11 catches for 135 yards. In last year's game, sophomore Cameron Dollar dominated the Miner secondary for nine catches for 157 yards. For the season, Dollar has seven catches for 121 yards and a touchdown.

On the offensive line, the 49ers only return two starters from last season in senior Kaelin Fisher, making the line calls at center and junior D'Mitri Emmanuel at the key left tackle position. Manny right tackle is heralded four-star freshman Ty'Kieast Crawford a four-star recruit out of Carthage, Texas. Crawford turned down multiple Power Five schools to play for Charlotte.

Defensively it has been a

transition year for the 49ers after losing the best pass rusher in the conference in Alex Highsmith, who had 14 sacks and 21.5 tackles for loss. Junior Markess Watts, who had 9.5 sacks last season, returns but overall, Charlotte has struggled to get a consistent pass rush. As a team, Charlotte only has two sacks total on the season, with senior Romeo McKnight leading the team with 1.5. Senior Tyriq Harris returns to the team after missing the entire 2019 season due to injury.

The linebacking corps lost its top two playmakers from last season in Jeff Gemmel and Henry Segura, who made the game sealing interception versus UTEP last year. Taking over as the leader of the linebackers is junior Troy University transfer Tyler Murray, built similarly to Segura. Murray currently leads the team in tackles with 31, including an interception.

At safety, Charlotte returns its top two players with seniors Ben DeLuca and Ja'Cione Fugate. Both players make multitude tackles downfield and support the run very well. Duke transfer Antone Williams has moved in as a key component of the secondary.

New starters at the corners have struggled to contain the passing game. Sophomore Lance McMillon and senior Nafees Lyon man the corners for the 49ers.

UTEP will seek to build on its excellent defensive performance against Louisiana Tech, disrupting Reynolds beat the Miners with his arms and legs last season. So far this season, Reynolds has struggled to make anything happen in the run game, so containment for the Miners will be a key to the game. With two

outstanding backs to keep UTEP honest, the Miners will need to play with fewer blitzes but have the talent on the line to keep Charlotte offense honest.

Sophomores Praise Amaewhule and Keenan Stewart both showed they were tough to handle one-on-one against Louisiana Tech and may have success against a lesser experienced offensive line that does have some talent.

Last season the secondary failed to make big plays against Charlotte, but retain a very experienced secondary that is gaining confidence.

Offensively the strength of the Miners is its run game. Freshman Deion Hankins and senior Josh Fields need to find holes to keep the offense on the field. Last game, the Miners found a tough time running the ball averaging only 2.2 yards per carry. Appalachian State ran all over the Charlotte defense in week one for over 330 yards.

Head Coach Dana Dimel needs to get sophomore quarterback Gavin Hardison some confidence-building plays across the middle and use the backs and tight ends more. Through five games, not one back or end has over two receptions. High percentage passing plays and success running the ball would keep the defense well rested and keep constant pressure.

While UTEP has a lot of room to improve, an upset on Charlotte's road is not out of the question.

Prediction is UTEP 24 Charlotte 21

The Miners will play 10 p.m. Oct. 24 at Jerry Richardson Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina. ESPN+ will broadcast the game.

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## Cross country runs second event of year at OSU Invitational

**Heriberto Perez**

The Prospector

The UTEP cross country team had its second meet of the shortened season at the 2020 OSU invitational hosted in Stillwater, Oklahoma, at the OSU Cross Country Course. The last time UTEP competed was at the Cowboy Jamboree two weeks ago at the same facility. UTEP junior Karoline Daland registered her top-

career time in the women's 6K.

For the men's side, sophomore Titus Cheruiyot was the top Miner of the competition recording a 24:53 and placing 33rd out of the total 95 competitors at the OSU Invitational. Junior Rodgers Korir finished 27th with a time of 24:55. Sophomore Kenneth Talavera ended up 69th with 26:18.3 and junior Boaz Ronoh

See Cross Country on page 8



Photo courtesy of UTEP

Rogers Korir competes in Lori Fitzgerald Classic at Chamizal Park Sept. 13.

## Locomotive within reach of Championship game

**Heriberto Perez**

The Prospector

This Saturday, Oct. 24, the El Paso Locomotive will try to enter its first USL Championship final in its second season of existence. The Locos will now face the second-best team of the Western Conference, the Phoenix Rising FC.

The Locomotive comes into the final with a 13-game unbeaten streak since Aug. 1. El Paso's last loss of the season came at the hands of this week's opponent by a score of 3-1. In that game, El Paso opened the scoring with a goal from forward, Aaron Gomez, the equalizer came out at the 19th minute of the game with a penalty scored by Rufat Dadashov, the 2-1 came from Solomon Asante and the 3-1 by Junior Flemmings right before the halftime to keep the win for Phoenix.

Phoenix has won seven out of the last eight games; the last time it lost was against the San Diego Loyal SC (3-2). The Rising also has a home record of 8-1-0 that can take advantage of this next weekend; El Paso has an away record of 2-1-3.

Looking at each team's top players, the Locomotive count heavily on midfielder Dylan Mares, who has five goals, five assists and 33 shots in 17 appearances this season. In comparison, Aaron Gomez has the same number of goals, three assists and 44 shots. He had the same



Photograph by Marie Salette Ontiveros/The Prospector

El Paso Locomotive fans cheer on their winning team after emerging victorious over New Mexico United Saturday, Oct. 17.

number of appearances. Gomez trails in the team lead with 44 chances for Mares to 14 for Gomez.

In the back zone of El Paso, its goalkeeper Logan Ketterer, with 41 saves, eight clean sheets, and 17 goals conceded in 17 appearances, made him one of the league's top keepers and second in the USL in shutouts.

The Phoenix Rising has the top goal scorer of the league in Junior Flemmings. He has scored 14 goals, two assists, 45 shots, and 17 chances created in 14 appearances. Fleming is one of the league's top players.

Rufat Dadashov is another top player for the Rising with 11 goals, four assists, 39 shots and 28 chances created in 17 appearances. Phoenix's goalkeeper, Zac Lubin has

41 saves, same as Ketterer, five clean sheets, and 15 goals conceded in 15 appearances.

These two teams have played three games since El Paso's debut in the USL, with all three games won by Phoenix.

The winner of this western conference final will face the Eastern Conference Final winner between Louisville City FC and Tampa Bay Rowdies, most likely Nov. 1. Louisville was the best team of the eastern conference with 35 points, and the Tampa Bay Rowdies were the winners of Group H with 33 points and ended up in fourth place of the conference.

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Cross Country from page 7 finished 76th with a time of 26:52. Junior Michael Sims finished at 27:16, senior Cornelius Kapel with 28:12 and UTEP's newcomer and junior Yusuf Mohamud 28:37.

Northern Arizona won the men's team title with 36 points, while UTEP finished in sixth with 185 points ahead of Oklahoma Christian (209) and Oklahoma (230).

BYU won the women's team championship with 22 points. UTEP was finished in sixth place with 160 points ahead of Oklahoma Christian.

The top performer for the women's team for UTEP was Daland, clocking in at a time of 22:17, placing her 23rd overall. Senior Carolyn Chepkosgei ended up in the 45th place in the competition with a time of 23:43, while sophomore Joan Kimaiyo ended up in the 47th place and clocked in a 23:44.0. Senior Andrea Lucero finished with a time of 25:30. Sophomore Valerie Gonzalez had a time of 26:04.2, and sophomore Jacquilyn Orozco finished with 27:27 to round out the women's results.

Both teams could compete for medal finishes within the conference but the men's team is a likely contender for a conference championship.

UTEP will compete next at the Conference USA Championships Saturday, Oct. 31, in Birmingham, Alabama.

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# Locomotive advance to Western Conference Final

Heriberto Perez

The Prospector

The El Paso Locomotive advanced to the USL western conference final Saturday, Oct. 17 by winning its match in the penalty kick phase for the second week in a row. El Paso tied with its former conference rival New Mexico United 1-1 at the end of regulation play. Once again, the Locomotive was victorious on the penalties 5-3 and will play its second consecutive western conference final on the road next Saturday against the Phoenix Rising FC. This victory in the semifinal extended the Locos' 13-game unbeaten streak, the last time they lost a game was Aug. 1 versus its western conference final opponent Phoenix 3-1.

"Tonight was tough. There were some good things and some not so good things," Locomotive Head Coach, Mark Lowry said. "It was an up and down game. It was a typical semifinal about attrition and believing in each other. It felt good going into extra time, and the guys put in a phenomenal extra 30 minutes on the back of the New Mexico goal, which could have deflated us. The guys stuck to it; they showed great heart and great grit, more than I did, to be honest. They were superb Tonight."

It was a very tight game, with United controlling possession most of the night 61% versus 39% from the locals. The Locomotive had a total of 12 shots in the 120 minutes, with five on target, three off-target, and four blocked by United goalkeeper Cody Mizell.

At the 30-minute mark of the match, came the first critical action of the game when Locomotive's forward Aaron Gomez passed to midfielder Dylan Mares, who, with a clean shot from the edge of the box, sent the ball to the right angle of the net and scored the first goal of the game.

During the game, El Paso had several opportunities to score but United goalkeeper Mizell was there to block or keep El Paso going off the goal. New Mexico's most significant chance of the game came up at the 90+5 minute when forward Romeo Parkes, with a 25-yard shot, scored the equalizer for the visitors and sent the game into extra time.

For the extra time, El Paso had subbed out its three forwards, Gomez, Carrijo and Mares, to have more defense and maintained the 1-0, but the surprise came at the very last moment of the half. Both teams had the opportunity to break up the tie but could not find the net's back and sent the game to the penalties.

The Locomotive started the penalties with left-back Eder Borelli scoring, and then it was New Mexico's forward Devol Sandoval, who scored the 1-1 for the first penalties' round.

The second round started with El Paso's midfielder Nick Ross and New Mexico's Chris Wehan tying it with goals.

In the third round, Richie Ryan scored the 3-2 lead, but Kalen Ryden sent it to the top corner of the net to tie the third round of the shootouts.

The fourth round was the critical final one when El Paso forward Saeed



Photograph by Marie Salette Ontiveros/The Prospector

Locomotive midfielder Dylan Mares presses the ball downfield versus New Mexico United Oct. 17.

Robinson scored the 4-2 lead for the Locos. Right after, United's Parkes, who sent the game to overtime, was blocked by Locomotive goalkeeper Logan Ketterer to keep the lead. Ketterer's block opened the opportunity for midfielder Distel Zola to score the fifth and winning penalty for the home team with a 5-3 win on penalties.

"It's exciting and it feels good. In Columbus (a few years back), I didn't come through, and it's exciting that I got a chance at redemption in back-to-back weeks." We're really excited to be back. We have a huge chip on our shoulder from losing

there last year, and we're excited to get a chance at redemption there. "Phoenix will be no joke, but we can't wait to get it on."

El Paso will be playing the Western Conference Final next at 8:30 p.m. Oct. 24, at the Casino Arizona Field in Phoenix, Arizona.

"It's been a weird season, but we're in the Western Conference Finals. Twice in two years," Lowry said. "If you had offered that to any of us before the season, we would have snapped your hand off."

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# EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE @ UTEP

DATE	HOURS
Tuesday, Oct. 13 - Friday, Oct. 16	8am - 5pm
Saturday, Oct. 17 - Sunday, Oct. 18	12pm - 5pm
Monday, Oct. 19 - Friday, Oct. 23	8am - 5pm
Saturday, Oct. 24 - Sunday, Oct. 25	12pm - 5pm
Monday, Oct. 26 - Friday, Oct. 30	8am - 5pm

**Union Building East, Room 313, Templeton Suite**

**For more information visit [epcountyvotes.com](http://epcountyvotes.com) or call (915) 546-2154**

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