

Sul Ross signs memorandum to recruit Chihuahuan high schoolers

By ABBIE PERRAULT
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OJINAGA - Leaders from Sul Ross State University and Colegio de Bachilleres del Estado de Chihuahua (COBACH) met in Ojinaga on February 27 to sign a memorandum of understanding. The new document forms a partnership that accelerates admissions for international COBACH college preparatory students hoping to attend Sul Ross State University. “COBACH is an excellent educational organization,” said Sul Ross’ Vice President of Student and University Services Leo Dominguez. “We are extremely excited to have them partner with Sul Ross so we can help their students accomplish their higher education aspirations.” The accelerated pathway will reduce the overall associated costs of applying to Sul Ross and will waive certain admissions requirements based on COBACH students’ qualifications.

COBACH is an early college high school system that launched in the state of Chihuahua in the 1970s, and now has dozens of campuses all across Mexico. COBACH General Director María Teresa Ortuño Gurza traveled to Ojinaga to meet SRSU officials and sign onto the document.

The efforts to recruit across the border are new for SRSU. The school attempted to form an international partnership decades ago, but the effects of September 11 drew the efforts to an abrupt close, according to the school. But the efforts reawakened after a Strategic Enrollment Management Plan completed by Sul Ross in December 2019 revealed a cycle of growth and contraction for enrollment across the various Sul Ross campuses. From 2018 to 2019 alone, enrollment across Sul Ross declined by 346 students. “Maintaining a stable and growing enrollment has been a challenge for Sul Ross throughout its entire history,” said President Bill Kibler. “Without a strategy like the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, we become subject to the enrollment whims of the nation, state and region.”

Challenges such as location, cost of attendance, student engagement, instructional delivery methods, and overall student experiences present opportunities for the university to make significant improvement and changes, the school said after the release of the study.

Kibler had discussed opportunities for increasing enrollment by recruiting across the Rio Grande, saying, “Right now we are opening up what has the potential to be a significant pipeline for students from Chihuahua, Mexico.”

As a next step, Sul Ross State University has organized a “Sully Showcase,” inviting Ojinaga COBACH students to attend a special event on Friday, March 20 at the Alpine campus.

Sul Ross enrollment specialist and recruiter Dafne Rodriguez explained that her job is to help “recruit these students with these opportunities.” The Sully Showcase will give the international students a chance to meet with the admissions department and the department of financial aid, offering the same opportunities that local schools

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Sandro Canovas strands in front of an adobe home.

Photo by Maisie Crow

Local adobero, activist speaks at state cultural symposium

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
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WACO — When parks workers, ecologists and historical preservationists met last week for the first meeting of Texas Cultural Landscapes Symposium, the Big Bend region — and specifically, its historic adobe structures — got some recognition. Sandro Canovas, a local activist and *adobero*, or adobe-builder, was invited to give a presentation. His goal for speaking, he said, was to “bring to the attention of the Texas Historical Commission that the permanence of this tradition is at stake.” One threat: gentrification. In the view of Canovas and others, adobe — a low-cost building material made from materials like mud, straw and water — has come under threat in Marfa as housing costs continue to rise. What was once a working-class building method has now become a status symbol, Canovas said in an interview Monday. He cites Presidio County’s tax code and appraisals, which Canovas and others argue penalize adobe structures, as well as desire by (often richer) newcomers to culturally appropriate aspects of Latino culture (from adobe to sotol). Former *Big Bend Sentinel* reporter Sasha Von Oldershausen, writing for *The New York Times* in 2018, came to the same prognosis. “Adobe ... has become fashionable, a building material befitting the town’s cool mix of culture and desert aesthetic,” she wrote. “But for many of Marfa’s longtime residents, the gentrification of the adobe home has made living in one rather

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Local water officials adopt management plan

PRESIDIO COUNTY — At a brief meeting in Presidio city on Thursday, the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District unanimously adopted its proposed groundwater management plan for 2020-2025. Management plans like this, which run on a five-year basis, are a core responsibility of water districts like PCUWCD, said Carolyn Macartney, general manager for the district. Before the management plan can become official, it first needs to be submitted for review by the Texas Water Development Board. PCUWCD says it doesn’t yet have a timeline for that review. PCUWCD first publicized its proposed management plan last year, as readers may recall. The then-22 page report outlined the district’s proposed responsibilities for the next five years, which include everything from investigating 100 percent of complaints and reports of “wasteful practices” of water every year and registering all new wells to monitoring drought conditions. The water district then submitted that draft to the Texas Water Development Board, which sent them back a corrected and annotated version. “They’re paying really close attention,” Macartney said. Those edits helped inform the revised plan, which was published last month and covers much the same territory. With the revised plan, the PCUWCD also accepted written comments. But with only two — one regarding spelling mistakes and another suggesting better calibration of water meters — the board unanimously voted for the revised resolution. The PCUWCD is responsible for oversight of groundwater resources in Presidio County, which include the Igneous Aquifer and the West Texas “bolsons,” or bolsones, which are smaller pockets of groundwater resources. (See above.) Rather than formulating a broad vision for districts, management plans just lay out the minimum responsibilities that districts like PCUWCD must perform.

Habla en un simposio cultural estatal un activista y adobero local

Por STEPHEN PAULSEN
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WACO — Cuando los trabajadores de los parques, ecologistas y conservacionistas históricos se reunieron la semana pasada para la primera reunión del Simposio de Paisajes Culturales de Texas, la región de Big Bend —y, específicamente, sus históricas estructuras de adobe- obtuvo cierto reconocimiento. Sandro Cánovas, activista local y adobero, fue invitado a dar una presentación. Su objetivo al hablar, dijo, era “llamar la atención de la Comisión Histórica de Texas sobre el hecho de que está en juego la permanencia de esta tradición.” Una amenaza: el aburguesamiento. En opinión de Cánovas y otros, el adobe —un material de construcción de bajo coste hecho de materiales como el barro, la paja y el agua- se ha visto amenazado en Marfa a medida que siguen aumentando los costes de la vivienda. Lo que antes era un método de construcción de la clase obrera se ha convertido en un símbolo de estatus, dijo Cánovas en una entrevista el lunes. Cita el código fiscal y las tasaciones del Condado de Presidio, que según Canovas y otros, penalizan las estructuras de adobe, así como el deseo de los recién llegados (a menudo más ricos) de apropiarse culturalmente de aspectos de la cultura latina (desde el adobe hasta el sotol). Sasha Von Oldershausen, ex reportera del *Big Bend Sentinel*, escribió para *The New York Times* en 2018 y llegó al mismo pronóstico. “El adobe

(continúa en la página 3)

Los funcionarios locales del agua adoptan un plan de gestión

CONDADO DE PRESIDIO — En una breve reunión celebrada en la ciudad de Presidio el pasado jueves, el Distrito de Conservación de Aguas Subterráneas del Condado de Presidio (PCUWCD) aprobó por unanimidad su propuesta de plan de gestión de aguas subterráneas para 2020-2025. Los planes de gestión como este, que se ejecutan sobre una base de cinco años, son una responsabilidad fundamental de los distritos de agua como PCUWCD, dijo Carolyn Macartney, gerente general del distrito. Antes de que el plan de gestión pueda hacerse oficial, primero debe ser presentado para su revisión por la Junta de Desarrollo del Agua de Texas. El PCUWCD dice que aún no tiene un plazo para esa revisión. Como recordarán los lectores, el PCUWCD publicó por primera vez su plan de gestión propuesto el año pasado. El informe de entonces, de 22 páginas, esbozaba las responsabilidades propuestas por el distrito para los próximos cinco años, que lo incluyen todo, desde la investigación del 100 por ciento de las quejas e informes de “prácticas de derroche” de agua anual y el registro de todos los nuevos pozos hasta la supervisión de las condiciones de sequía. El distrito de aguas presentó luego ese borrador a la Junta de Desarrollo de Aguas de Texas, que les devolvió una versión corregida y anotada. “Están prestando mucha atención,” dijo Macartney. Esas ediciones ayudaron a informar sobre el plan revisado, que fue publicado el mes pasado y cubre casi el mismo territorio. Con el plan revisado, el PCUWCD también aceptó comentarios escritos. Pero con solo dos comentarios -uno sobre errores de ortografía y otro sugiriendo una mejor calibración de los medidores de agua- la junta votó unánimemente por la resolución revisada. El PCUWCD es responsable de la supervisión de los recursos de aguas subterráneas en el Condado de Presidio, que incluyen el Acuífero Igneo y los “bolsones” del oeste de Texas, que son bolsones más pequeños de recursos de aguas subterráneas. (Véase más arriba.) En lugar de formular una visión amplia para los distritos, los planes de gestión solo establecen las responsabilidades mínimas que deben cumplir distritos como el PCUWCD. Traducción de MIRIAM HALPERN CARDONA

Sul Ross firma un memorándum para reclutar estudiantes de bachiller de Chihuahua

Por ABBIE PERRAULT
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OJINAGA — Líderes de la Universidad Estatal Sul Ross y del Colegio de Bachilleres del Estado de Chihuahua (COBACH) se reunieron en Ojinaga el 27 de febrero para firmar un memorando de entendimiento. El nuevo documento forma una asociación que acelera las admisiones de los estudiantes internacionales del Colegio de Bachilleres del Estado de Chihuahua que esperan asistir a la Universidad Estatal de Sul Ross. “COBACH es una excelente organización educativa,” dijo el Vicepresidente de Servicios Estudiantiles y Universitarios de Sul Ross, Leo Dominguez. “Estamos muy emocionados de que se asocien con Sul Ross para que podamos ayudar a sus estudiantes a satisfacer sus aspiraciones de una educación superior.” La vía acelerada reducirá los costes generales asociados a la solicitud de ingreso a Sul Ross y eliminará ciertos requisitos de admisión basados en las calificaciones de los estudiantes de COBACH.

COBACH es un sistema de escuela secundaria universitaria que se inició en el estado de Chihuahua en la década de 1970, y ahora tiene docenas de campus en todo México. La directora general de COBACH, María Teresa Ortuño Gurza, viajó a Ojinaga para reunirse con funcionarios del SRSU y firmar el documento. Los esfuerzos para reclutar estudiantes al otro lado de la frontera son nuevos para el SRSU. La universidad había intentado formar una asociación internacional hace décadas, pero los efectos del 11 de septiembre hicieron que los esfuerzos terminaran abruptamente, según informó la universidad. Pero los esfuerzos se reanimaron después de que un Plan Estratégico de Administración de Matrículas completado por Sul Ross en diciembre de 2019 reveló un ciclo de crecimiento y contracción de las matrículas en los distintos campus de Sul Ross. Solo entre 2018 y 2019, la matrícula en Sul Ross disminuyó en 346 estudiantes.

“Mantener una matrícula estable y creciente ha sido un desafío para Sul Ross a lo largo de toda su historia,” dijo el presidente Bill Kibler. “Sin una estrategia como el Plan Estratégico de Gestión de la Matrícula, estamos sujetos a los caprichos de la matrícula de la nación, el estado y la región.” Desafíos como la ubicación, el coste de la asistencia, el compromiso de los estudiantes, los métodos de enseñanza y las experiencias de los estudiantes en general presentan oportunidades para que la Universidad haga mejoras y cambios significativos, dijo la universidad después de la publicación del estudio. Kibler había discutido sobre las oportunidades de aumentar la matrícula mediante el reclutamiento de estudiantes al otro lado del Río Bravo, diciendo, “En este momento estamos abriendo lo que tiene el potencial de ser un conducto significativo para los estudiantes de Chihuahua, México.” Como siguiente paso, la Universidad Estatal de Sul Ross ha organizado un evento llamado “Sully Showcase” para presentar la universidad, invitando a los estudiantes de COBACH Ojinaga a asistir al evento especial el viernes 20 de marzo en el campus de Alpine. La especialista en matrículas y reclutamiento para los estudiantes de Chihuahua, México, Dafne

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Hospital hosts coronavirus seminar

By JIM STREET

ALPINE — The Big Bend Regional Medical Center hosted a coronavirus seminar last week at the Parish Hall for Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church for representatives of Brewster, Jeff Davis and Presidio Counties.

Dr. Ekta Escovar opened by saying, “Panic and hysteria are not appropriate. There are no cases in the Big Bend, and we’re not like big cities that have lots more exposure.”

She said we need to keep living our lives but be informed so we know how to react if and when the virus arrives here.

And the likelihood is that it will, because she said the worldwide spread of the disease is “inevitable.”

The formal name is COVID-19 and the virus is called SARS CoV-2.

The virus is similar to the SARS epidemic of 2002 and the MERS in 2012 and, while the fatality rate was substantially higher with the earlier diseases, this one is significantly more contagious.

Ten percent of SARS cases were fatal, and one in three MERS cases were fatal whereas the fatality rate for COVID-19 is 3.4 percent, and that includes China. The U.S. death rate is 0.17.

“The problem with this is it is highly contagious,” she said. “There are 124 cases in the U.S. and 11 of those were person-to-person. And it can take up to three weeks before a patient knows he is sick.

“The purpose of this seminar is to prepare in case it comes here,” she said.

Symptoms are a fever of 101 degrees or more, aches and a dry cough. It affects only 1.4 percent of healthy people. Those with other health problems are much higher, with up to 13.2 percent for those with cardiovascular disease, for example.

The average age of those affected is 47 and 41 percent are female. It affects mostly older citizens, but children have much lower percentages – with zero for those under 9. And 83 percent of cases will be mild to moderate. Recovery can be two weeks for moderate cases but up to six weeks for severe or critical cases.

However, there is no reported case of someone with COVID-19 coming down with another disease at the

same time.

“Containment is key.” Dr. Escovar said. “China was reporting more than 1,000 new cases per day at the peak, but it is now down to three per day. They did that with aggressive containment.”

COVID-19 is spread by droplets from coughing or sneezing, which can travel about three feet. But contact can also be made by touching droplets on surfaces. Prevention includes frequent handwashing and not touching your face. By touching an affected surface and then your face, you can transfer the virus through the eyes, nose or mouth.

She suggests people clean surfaces frequently with sanitizers. The virus can live up to nine days on porous surfaces and up to 27 days on nonporous surfaces, given the right conditions.

Dr. Escovar said travel should be avoided whenever possible, especially to the West Coast, East Coast or the Chicago area, and affected countries outside the U.S. with emphasis on China, South Korea, Italy and Iran, where numerous cases have been reported.

With many members of law enforcement and Border Patrol in the audience, Escovar said that border apprehensions are very low risk. These are people who have been crossing the desert for weeks and have had little to no contact with other people.

Dr. Escovar stressed that if you think you have been exposed, do not go to the emergency room and infect others. Call your regular doctor, as they know you best. If you do have to go to the hospital, call them first so they can prepare a contained space for you. If you are infected, call the Health Department and report it.

She said the closest lab to test for COVID-19 is in El Paso, as the hospital in Alpine does not have the ability to test for it.

Vaccines can take 18 to 20 months to be approved, though one was identified in just three days, she said. Antivirals are being developed, but none show promise thus far.

Hotels, motels and short-term rentals should be alerted to take extra precaution for guest rooms.

Dr. Escovar said people should be wary of touching things like steering wheels, light switches or anything others may have touched when the disease is present.

El hospital organiza un seminario sobre coronavirus

Por JIM STREET

ALPINE — El Centro Médico Regional de Big Bend organizó un seminario sobre coronavirus la semana pasada en el Salón Parroquial de la Iglesia Católica de Nuestra Señora de la Paz para los representantes de los condados de Brewster, Jeff Davis y Presidio.

La Dra. Ekta Escovar inició el seminario diciendo, “el pánico y la histeria no son apropiados. No hay casos en el Big Bend y no somos como las grandes ciudades que están mucho más expuestas.”

Dijo que necesitamos seguir viviendo nuestras vidas pero estar informados para saber cómo reaccionar si el virus llega aquí, en el caso de que llegue.

Y es probable que así sea porque dijo que la propagación mundial de la enfermedad es “inevitable.”

El nombre formal es COVID-19 y el virus se llama SARS CoV-2.

El virus es similar a la epidemia de SARS de 2002 y la de MERS en 2012 y, aunque la tasa de mortalidad fue sustancialmente mayor en las enfermedades anteriores, esta es significativamente más contagiosa.

El 10% de los casos de SARS fueron mortales, y uno de cada tres casos de MERS fue mortal, mientras que la tasa de mortalidad de COVID-19 es del 3,4%, y eso incluye a China. La tasa de mortalidad de los Estados Unidos es de 0,17.

“El problema con este virus es que es altamente contagioso,” dijo. “Hay 124 casos en los EE.UU. y 11 de ellos fueron de persona a persona. Y puede tardar hasta tres semanas antes de que un paciente sepa que está enfermo.

“El propósito de este seminario es prepararse en caso de que llegue aquí,” dijo.

Los síntomas son una fiebre de 101 grados o más, dolores y una tos seca. Solo afecta al 1,4 por ciento de las personas sanas. Las que tienen otros problemas de salud tienen muchas más probabilidades de verse infectadas, con hasta un 13,2 por ciento para las que tienen enfermedades cardiovasculares, por ejemplo.

La edad media de los afectados es de 47 años y el 41 por ciento son mujeres. Afecta sobre todo a los ciudadanos mayores y los niños son un porcentaje mucho más bajo, con un cero por ciento para los menores de 9 años. Y el 83 por ciento de los casos serán leves a moderados. La recuperación puede ser de dos semanas para los casos moderados pero hasta seis semanas para los casos graves o críticos.

Sin embargo, no hay ningún caso reportado de alguien con COVID-19 que enferme de otra enfermedad al

mismo tiempo.

“La contención es la clave,” dijo la Dra. Escovar. “China estaba reportando más de 1.000 nuevos casos por día en el momento más álgido, pero ahora ha bajado a tres por día. Lo hicieron con una contención agresiva.”

COVID-19 se propaga por medio de gotitas de la tos o los estornudos, que pueden viajar unos tres pies. Pero el contacto también puede hacerse tocando las gotitas en las superficies. La prevención incluye lavarse las manos frecuentemente y no tocarse la cara. Al tocar una superficie afectada y luego la cara, se puede transferir el virus a través de los ojos, la nariz o la boca.

Sugiere que la gente limpie las superficies frecuentemente con desinfectantes. El virus puede vivir hasta nueve días en las superficies no porosas y hasta 27 días en las porosas.

La Dra. Escovar dijo que se debe evitar viajar siempre que sea posible, especialmente a la Costa Oeste, la Costa Este o el área de Chicago y los países afectados fuera de los Estados Unidos, con énfasis en China, Corea del Sur, Italia e Irán, donde se han reportado numerosos casos.

Con muchos miembros de la policía y la Patrulla Fronteriza en la audiencia, Escovar dijo que las aprehsiones en la frontera son de muy bajo riesgo. Se trata de personas que han cruzado el desierto durante semanas y que han tenido poco o ningún contacto con otras personas.

La Dra. Escovar enfatizó que si usted cree que ha estado expuesto, no vaya a la sala de emergencias y afecte a otros. Llame a su médico habitual ya que es el que mejor lo conoce. Si tiene que ir al hospital, llámelos primero para que le preparen un espacio de contención. Si está infectado, llame al Departamento de Salud e informe sobre ello.

Dijo que el laboratorio más cercano para analizar el COVID-19 está en El Paso, ya que el hospital de Alpine no tiene la capacidad de analizarla.

Las vacunas pueden tardar de 18 a 20 meses en ser aprobadas, aunque una fue identificada en solo tres días, dijo. Se están desarrollando antivirales, pero ninguno es promotor hasta ahora.

Los hoteles, moteles y alquileres de corta duración deben ser alertados para que tomen precauciones extra en las habitaciones de huéspedes.

La Dra. Escovar dijo que la gente debería ser cautelosa al tocar cosas como volantes, interruptores de luz o cualquier cosa que otros puedan haber tocado cuando la enfermedad está presente.

Traducción de MIRIAM HALPERN CARDONA

Memorandum

(continued from page 1)

have during showcases.

“Our COBACH Sully Showcase is an open house for our new prospective students,” Rodriguez said. “This event will go ahead and give them more information about the admission process, helping with the initiation of their student visa, and getting them more comfortable with the university.”

“This is basically an accelerated admission contract to help international Ojinaga students to have better opportunities for a higher education. It’s a much shorter process than our traditional international process,” Rodriguez said. She adds that now that the memorandum is signed, COBACH students are eligible to begin their applications now.



Photo courtesy of SRSU

Leo Dominguez, SRSU Vice President of Student and University Services, signs a Memorandum of Understanding with leaders from the Colegio de Bachilleres del Estado de Chihuahua in Ojinaga. Also representing Sul Ross at last Thursday’s signing was Dr. Lisa Harris, Vice President of Enrollment Management.

Memorándum

(continúa de la página 1)

Rodríguez, explicó que su trabajo es ayudar a “reclutar a estos estudiantes con estas oportunidades.” El “Sully Showcase” dará a los estudiantes internacionales la oportunidad de reunirse con el departamento de admisiones y el departamento de ayuda financiera, ofreciendo las mismas oportunidades que tienen las escuelas locales durante los eventos de presentación.

“Nuestro COBACH Sully Showcase es una jornada de puertas abiertas para nuestros nuevos futuros estudiantes,” dijo Rodríguez. “Este evento les dará más

información sobre el proceso de admisión, ayudándoles con la iniciación de su visado de estudiante y haciéndoles sentir más cómodos con la universidad.”

“Se trata básicamente de un contrato de admisión acelerada para ayudar a los estudiantes internacionales de Ojinaga a tener mejores oportunidades para una educación superior. Es un proceso mucho más corto que nuestro proceso internacional tradicional,” dijo Rodríguez. Añade que ahora que se ha firmado el memorándum, los estudiantes de COBACH son elegibles para comenzar ahora sus solicitudes.

Traducción de MIRIAM HALPERN CARDO

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Public Open House Notice

TxDOT 2021 – 2024

Rural Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (RSTIP)

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) El Paso District will conduct three public open houses for the TxDOT 2021-2024 Rural Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (RSTIP). The District planning and programming territory is about 21,700 square miles covering six counties in the state of Texas including El Paso County, Hudspeth County, Culberson County, Jeff Davis County, Presidio County, and Brewster County. The RSTIP is a short-range program of projects developed by the District in cooperation with rural planning organizations (RPO) that covers a four-year period. The document contains a prioritized listing of all projects including regionally significant projects proposed for state, federal, and local funding in all areas of the TxDOT El Paso District outside the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization boundaries.

The public open houses will be held at the following locations (all open houses will have the same information):

Tuesday, March 24, 2020 from 5-7 p.m., at the Alpine City Hall, 100 North 13th Street, Alpine, Texas 79830

Wednesday, March 25, 2020 from 5-7 p.m., at the Presidio Senior Citizens Activity Center, 1400 East O’Reilly Street, Presidio, Texas 79845

Thursday, March 26, 2020 from 5-7 p.m., at the Van Horn City Hall, 1801 Broadway Street, Van Horn, Texas 79855

All interested community members are encouraged to attend the public open house and provide feedback to the 2021-2024 RSTIP. The open house will be conducted in English. Persons interested in attending the meeting who have special communication or accommodation needs, or need an interpreter, are encouraged to contact Jennifer Wright (915) 790-4200 or via email at Jennifer.Wright3@txdot.gov. Requests should be made no later than five (5) working days prior to the public open house. TxDOT will make every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs.

Information about the RSTIP is available for review at www.txdot.gov (keyword El Paso Rural STIP), at the public meeting, and/or a copy may be obtained at various TxDOT locations, including: the El Paso District Headquarters office located at 13301 Gateway Boulevard West in El Paso, the Alpine Area Office located at 2400 North Highway 118 (Fort Davis Highway) in Alpine; and the TxDOT Maintenance offices: Dell City on FM 1437; Sierra Blanca at 700 FM 1111; Van Horn at 2001 Van Horn Drive (US 90), 1.5 miles south of town; Fort Davis at 104 Musquiz Drive (SH 118); Marfa at 809 West San Antonio (US 90); and Presidio on East FM 170.

For additional information about the public meeting, project documentation, or for any other project related questions, please contact Rebecca Reyes at (915) 790-4200 or Rebecca.Reyes@txdot.gov.

Public comments, both verbal and written, may be submitted at the scheduled public open house. After the public open house, written comments may be mailed to the Texas Department of Transportation - El Paso, Attention: Rebecca Reyes RE: 2021-2024 RSTIP, 13301 Gateway Blvd. West, El Paso TX 79928 or emailed to

PRESIDIO LADY DEVILS TRACK



The Presidio Lady Devils Track team competed at the Comanche Relays at Fort Stockton on 02/29/2020. 4x100, 4x200, 4x400 meter relays got the gold medals in all 3 relays. The team finished as the runner up for the track meet.

- 4x100 Meter Relay – Jasmine Sotelo, Daniela Soto, Nicole Felix, Davinia Mireles – 1st Place 50.07
- 4x200 Meter Relay - Jasmine Sotelo, Daniela Soto, Nicole Felix, Davinia Mireles – 1st Place 1:47.00
- 4x400 Meter Relay – Alejandra Valles, Daniela Soto, Nicole Felix, Davinia Mireles – 1st Place 4:14.58
- 800 Meter Run – Alejandra Valles – 2nd place
- 1600 Meter Run – Crystal Catano – 3rd place
- 3200 Meter Run – Crystal Catano – 3rd place
- long and triple jump – Daniela Valenzuela - 1st place

Last Friday March 6, the Lady Devils competed at the West Texas Relays at Odessa. It was a 6A track meet that was very competitive that was good for our athletes.



- 100 Meter Dash – Nicole Felix 3rd place 12.99
- 200 Meter Dash – Daniela Soto 1st place 25.83
- 400 Meter Dash – Alejandra Valles 3rd place 1:02.43
- 800 Meter Run – Alejandra Valles 2nd place 2:27.01
- 4x200 Meter Relay – Daninia Mireles, Daniela Soto, Nicole Felix, Jasmine Sotelo 2nd place 1:45.62
- 4x400 Meter Relay – Davinia Mireles, Nicole Felix, Alejandra Valles, Daniela Soto – 2nd place 4:10.66
- Long Jump – Daniela Valenzuela 2nd place 16-10.00
- Triple Jump – Daniela Valenzuela 2nd place 36-04.50



HURD ON THE HILL

Staying vigilant as coronavirus continues

By U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WILL HURD – TX23

Over the last few months, the coronavirus outbreak that began in Wuhan, China has developed into a global threat. The coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, is now present in over 100 countries with over 100,000 confirmed cases worldwide, resulting in over 3,000 deaths. While the vast majority of cases are still in China, the continuous spread of COVID-19 has caused governments around the world to put in place protective protocols.

The U.S. government responded swiftly when the outbreak began, bringing hundreds of Americans back from China on State Department-chartered planes while simultaneously establishing safeguards to limit the spread of COVID-19 by instituting travel restrictions to extremely affected countries. As San Antonio always has, the Alamo City answered the call to care for our fellow Americans in their time of need, quarantining people at Lackland Air Force Base.

My priority has been and will continue to be the public health and safety of all Americans, which is why I have been in constant contact with federal and local officials handling the situation. I personally toured the quarantine site at Lackland when the first repatriated Americans arrived and witnessed firsthand the exemplary efforts being made by our public health officials on the ground. Despite our willingness to shouldering the costs associated with these response activities. Last week, the CDC made an immediate \$1.75 million available for Texas jurisdictions as a reimbursement for the state’s response activities so far.

It is vital that we continue to take action to prevent the spread of COVID-19 here in the United States. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I worked with my colleagues to pass H.R. 6074, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act to provide additional resources to fight COVID-19.

This legislation provides \$4 billion to increase the number of diagnostics tests available and invest in

vaccine development and procurement once a vaccine is available. The increase in testing capabilities around the country will further aid public health officials as they work to address this outbreak. Currently testing is ongoing in 78 public health labs across all 50 states. The legislation also contributes billions of dollars to the CDC and further efforts to protect Americans at home and abroad. It also provides nearly \$1 billion exclusively for state and local response efforts to help combat cases throughout the United States.

Even with all these resources being made available, there are individual steps that all of us can and should be taking on our own to prevent further spread of COVID-19. Wash your hands carefully, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, avoid close contact with people who are showing symptoms and stay home when you are sick. The U.S. government will continue to work diligently to address this public health crisis, but this is a developing and dynamic situation that requires all Americans to do their part. We will get through this together, and I will remain in contact with those assessing the situation.

If you would like additional information on COVID-19, you can visit these local and federal resources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus
- Antonio Metropolitan Health: www.sanantonio.gov/Health/News/Alerts/CoronaVirus
- World Health Organization: www.who.int

A former undercover CIA officer, entrepreneur and cybersecurity expert, Will Hurd is the U.S. Representative for the 23rd Congressional District of Texas. In Washington, he serves on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, where he is the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Intelligence Modernization and Readiness, and the House Committee on Appropriations, where he serves on the Subcommittees on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development.

Presidio Elementary announces teachers and students of the month



Isabo Inguanzo



Dania Samaniego



Mrs. Irma Rodriguez

PRESIDIO — February’s Pre-k to 2nd grade teacher of the month, Mrs. Irma Rodriguez, is currently a kindergarten teacher at Presidio Elementary School. A veteran teacher with more than 20 years of teaching experience, she started her journey as an educator when she enrolled as an Education student at the University of Ciudad Juarez in 1978. After college, she taught for 12 years in Mexico and was also a campus administrator in a small community of Ascensión, Chihuahua as well as in the City of Juarez.

Eventually, she got married and that provided her the opportunity to live and study in the United States. She studied at Sul Ross State University and was able to become a teacher at the school district.

This summer Mrs. Rodriguez will have 20 years of working as a teacher in the United States. One of her pleasures is to be able to share her experience and strategies with other teachers, especially those who are new in their teaching career. During her esteemed career, she has always maintained a good relationship with her students’ parents. This is key to facilitating her students’ learning.

Teaching is a career that always provides opportunities to learn new strategies that can be applied in teaching our new generations of students. Mrs. Rodriguez feels fortunate to be able to teach in the school. Mrs. Rodriguez said, “I love my job, but now I am thinking about retirement, and this provides me with a very difficult decision. It is something that I want to postpone as long as possible.”

She wants to thank the Presidio Independent School District for the opportunity to teach and for the recognition being provided to the work she loves.

Pre-k to 2nd grade student of the month Dania Samaniego is a well-loved, adorable pre-kindergarten student in Ms. Marina Alvarado’s class. According to her teacher, Dania exemplifies all the qualities of an excellent student. She is very hardworking, always trying to complete her assignments and works on time. She wants her work to be the best.

Though she looks shy when you see her, she is very friendly and helpful. She would be the first to assist her classmates. She exerts effort to help her classmates during their school activities.

She is also considerate and generous. She is the type of person who is going to walk an extra mile if her classmates would need anything. She volunteers herself when asked to help.

Indeed, we see a very bright future in this very adorable kid from pre-k. We can foresee her to be a very

successful and productive member of our community. We can see her shooting for the stars. Congratulations Dania for being selected the Student of the Month from Presidio Elementary School PK-2nd campus.

Third through fifth grade student of the month Isabo Inguanzo is a 4th Grade student. She is an “A” student who works for perfection in everything that she does. She was a clear choice to receive this honor from her classmates and teachers. Her classmates describe her as kind, sweet, helpful and funny.

To her teachers, she exemplifies leadership. She is a student excelling across all subjects and levels. She works hard to get the job done. Her accomplishments include: “A” Honor roll, member of Robotics club, UIL contestants and winner, and member of the Student Council among other things. Aside from being an outstanding student, she is kind-hearted and always willing to lend a helping hand. She is a “model student.” She embodies the Characteristics of what Presidio Elementary stands for: pride, respect, and academic success.

Third through fifth grade teacher of the month is Mrs. Janicel Gallego (not pictured.) She joined our team last year from the Philippines to make a difference in her life and the life of the American students here in Presidio. In her short amount of time here, she has proven to be a passionate and dedicated teacher. She has the heart for teaching and the dedication to advance students’ education. She has a genuine care for all students. Her students described her as funny and nice, but strict when she must be, in order to help everyone learn.

In her own words, she said, “Teaching for me is a work of serendipity. After graduation, I eagerly started my career as a guidance counselor, but somehow fate brought me to teaching. I’ve never been happier. This is my real calling.

“This is where I can serve my purpose. My teaching experience has taught me two important life lessons: to serve with your heart and to always seek improvement. Because I’m a teacher, I must continue to grow so that I can inspire others to grow with me. Teaching has its share of struggles, but at the end of the day, what matters is we are able to contribute to the betterment of humanity one day at a time, one child at a time.”

Mrs. Gallego is committed to learning. Great as she is as a teacher, she continues to seek growth and ways to improve her practice. In a note of gratitude, she wrote, “I will give everything I can to serve Presidio ISD. I cannot promise so much but know that I will commit to bringing 100% of me in school.”

HURD EN EL CAPITOLIO

Manteniéndose alerta mientras continúa el Coronavirus

Por U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WILL HURD – TX23

En los últimos meses, el brote de coronavirus que comenzó en Wuhan, China, se ha convertido en una amenaza global. El coronavirus, también conocido como COVID-19, está ahora presente en más de 100 países con más de 100.000 casos confirmados en todo el mundo, que han provocado más de 3.000 muertes. Si bien la gran mayoría de los casos siguen en China, la continua propagación de COVID-19 ha hecho que los gobiernos de todo el mundo establezcan protocolos de protección.

El gobierno de los Estados Unidos respondió rápidamente cuando comenzó el brote, trayendo a cientos de estadounidenses de China en aviones fletados por el Departamento de Estado y estableciendo simultáneamente salvaguardias para limitar la propagación de COVID-19 mediante el establecimiento de restricciones de viaje a los países extremadamente afectados. Como San Antonio siempre ha hecho, la Ciudad del Álamo respondió a la llamada para cuidar a nuestros compatriotas en sus momentos de necesidad, poniendo en cuarentena a la gente de la Base Aérea de Lackland.

Mi prioridad ha sido y seguirá siendo la salud pública y la seguridad de todos los estadounidenses, por lo que he estado en contacto permanente con los funcionarios federales y locales que manejan la situación. Personalmente recorrí el emplazamiento de cuarentena en Lackland cuando llegaron los primeros estadounidenses repatriados y fui testigo de primera mano de los esfuerzos ejemplares que están haciendo nuestros oficiales de salud pública sobre el terreno. A pesar de nuestra voluntad de ayudar siempre a nuestros compatriotas, es importante que nuestra comunidad y otras no tengan que soportar la carga financiera de los costes asociados a estas actividades de respuesta. La semana pasada, el CDC puso a disposición de las jurisdicciones de Texas 1,75 millones de dólares inmediatos como reembolso de las actividades de respuesta del estado hasta el momento.

Es vital que continuemos tomando medidas para evitar la propagación de COVID-19 aquí en los Estados Unidos. Como miembro del Comité de Apropiaaciones

de la Cámara de Representantes, trabajé con mis colegas para aprobar la H.R. 6074, la Ley de Apropiaaciones Suplementarias para la Preparación y Respuesta al Coronavirus, para proporcionar recursos adicionales para luchar contra el COVID-19.

Esta legislación proporciona 4.000 millones de dólares para aumentar el número de pruebas diagnósticas disponibles e invertir en el desarrollo y la adquisición de vacunas una vez que éstas estén disponibles. El aumento de las capacidades de prueba en todo el país ayudará aún más a los funcionarios de la salud pública en su labor para hacer frente a este brote. Actualmente se están realizando pruebas en 78 laboratorios de salud pública en los 50 estados. La legislación también contribuye con miles de millones de dólares a los CDC y a otros esfuerzos para proteger a los estadounidenses en el país y en el extranjero. También proporciona casi 1.000 millones de dólares exclusivamente para los esfuerzos de respuesta estatales y locales para ayudar a combatir los casos en todo el territorio de los Estados Unidos.

Incluso con todos estos recursos disponibles, hay medidas individuales que todos nosotros podemos y debemos tomar por nuestra cuenta para evitar una mayor propagación de COVID-19. Lávese las manos cuidadosamente, evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca, evite el contacto cercano con personas que muestren síntomas y quédese en casa cuando esté enfermo. El gobierno de EE.UU. seguirá trabajando diligentemente para hacer frente a esta crisis de salud pública, pero esta es una situación dinámica y en desarrollo que requiere que todos los estadounidenses hagan su parte. Saldremos de esto juntos, y me mantendré en contacto con los que evalúan la situación.

Si desea información adicional sobre COVID-19 puede visitar estos recursos locales y federales:

- Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus
- Salud Metropolitana de San Antonio: www.sanantonio.gov/Health/News/Alerts/CoronaVirus
- Organización Mundial de la Salud: www.who.int

Traducción de MIRIAM HALPERN CARDONA

He's excited to be back and looks forward to building up relationships with law enforcement and lawyers in the area. "I'm not someone who makes decisions in isolation," he said.

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Far West Texas Water Planning Group (FWTWPG), also known as Region E, will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Far West Texas Region Initially Prepared Water Plan (IPP). The comments will be used in developing an approved regional water plan for the FWTWPG area. The Far West Texas Region includes the counties of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio and Terrell.

The Public Hearing will be held:

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020
AT 6:00 P.M.
El Paso County Water Improvement District #1
13247 Alameda Avenue
CLINT, TEXAS

The Far West Texas Water Planning Group (FWTWPG) will accept written and oral comments at the public hearing.

Questions related to the public hearing or requests for additional information should be referred to Jesus “Chuy” Reyes, Chairman, at (915) 872-4000 or submitted in writing to the address listed below.

All written comments are due to the FWTWPG by 5:00 P.M. on June 15, 2020, and may be submitted to:

Mr. Jesus “Chuy” Reyes, Chairman
Far West Texas Water Planning Group (Region E)
8037 Lockheed, Suite 100
El Paso, TX 79925

The Initially Prepared Plan can be found on the FWTWPG website at <http://westtexaswaterplanning.org/>. A paper or digital copy of the IPP will be available for viewing by March 13, 2020, at the County Clerk’s Office in the following counties: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio and Terrell. A paper or digital copy will also be available for viewing at the following libraries: Alpine Public Library, Marathon Public Library, Big Bend High School Library, Van Horn City-County Library, El Paso Public Library, Law Library, El Paso County Courthouse, Clint ISD/Public Library, Clint Grace Grebing Public Library, Ft. Hancock ISD/Public Library, Jeff Davis County Library, Marfa Public Library, City of Presidio Library, Valentine Public Library, and Terrell County Public Library.

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