El Internacional
The International

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BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

FACE COVERING ORDINANCE IN EFFECT

by order of the State of Texas

FREE DRIVE-THRU COVID-19 TESTING

- **This testing is open to all residents in the region**
- No appointment required
- Personal Identification required
- This test will be an oral swab.

ALPINE

WHEN: Sunday, August 18th 9 AM – 4 PM (or until testing capacity is reached)

WHERE: North Brewster County Emergency Response Center
102 S 2nd St. Alpine

MARFA

WHEN: Monday, August 17th 9 AM – 4 PM (or until testing capacity is reached)

WHERE: Marfa Visitor Center
302 South Highland Avenue

Presidio ISD announces free meals program

PRESIDIO — The Presidio Independent School District today announced an amendment to its policy for serving meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2020-2021 school year, which would allow for all children at all schools/sites to be served meals at no charge.

For additional information please contact Presidio ISD Food Service Director Gabriela Mills by email at gmills@presidio-isd.net or at (432) 229-1114.

Boil water notice rescinded for Presidio

PRESIDIO — Water in the City of Presidio is safe to drink again after a water line failure last month caused officials to issue a boil water notice.

The city's public water supply experienced a "major failure" on July 31, after around 20 feet of main water line cracked and had to be replaced, officials said in a news release this week. And because the damage caused a disruption of service, they had to issue a boil water notice in compliance with requirements from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

While the repair work only took around 12 hours to complete, officials still had to flush and disinfect pipes. They also sent water samples from four locations to the City of Odessa Water Lab, which confirmed this week that it was once again safe to drink.

Having gone through those safeguards, city officials this Monday officially rescinded the boil

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West Texan Media Group, LLC









Behind the masks, Presidio teachers Mrs. Natividad and Mrs. Escontrias are all smiles with their new supplies. Teacher care packages were filled school supplies and distributed to 120 Presidio teachers.

Presidio Education Foundation gifts 120 care packages to teachers

PRESIDIO — Last week, the Presidio Education Foundation surprised teachers in Presidio by delivering 120 "Teacher Care Packages" to all educators in the school district. Each care package contained over $30 of school supplies, including face masks, pencils, pens, highlighters, dry erase markers, markers and notepads. In addition, the foundation distributed 15 Amazon gift cards ranging from $25 to $100, as well as two 27-inch computer monitors.

President of the board, Brian Vasquez, visited the elementary, middle school and high school campuses to distribute the packages between teacher training sessions and offer words of appreciation and encouragement. Vasquez stated, "Making a difference in Presidio and beyond through education is our vision statement, and each of you do that on a daily basis, year after year."

"The least that the foundation can do is provide every teacher with basic supplies, including several face masks." Vasquez enthusiastically stated, "The education foundation was able to take $3,500 in donations, purchase the most common school supplies in larger quantities to get better pricing, and physically deliver them to Presidio. Furthermore, the supplies were purchased using smile.amazon.com, which earns the foundation a quarterly donation from Amazon. "Last school year, the foundation received over $250 from Amazon as a result of the smile.amazon.com program. In turn, the foundation awards this as a scholarship to a graduating senior."

For more information, please visit www.presidioef.org or contact the foundation at info@presidioef.org.

Case counts are climbing in Presidio city. Where are the tests?

Por STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — Earlier this year, as coronavirus cases started climbing throughout the tri-county, Presidio seemed a holdout. Although the border city recorded Presidio County's first coronavirus case all the way back in May, when Marfa and Alpine saw major outbreaks in June, Presidio County's largest city was mostly spared.

In recent weeks, though, those trends have been reversing — with Presidio now almost tied with Marfa for the total number of coronavirus cases. At press time, there were 24 known coronavirus cases in Marfa compared to 23 in Presidio, according to the latest data available from the county.

That might not seem so bad — Presidio, after all, has more than twice as many residents as Marfa. But Presidio has also had far less testing — and other statistics paint a more troubling picture.

Since mid-July, a majority of the new coronavirus cases have turned up in Presidio, with 10 cases surfacing in Marfa versus 19 in Presidio. And with a vulnerable population that's more at risk of coronavirus complications, all three of the county's coronavirus deaths so far have been Presidio residents.

Those facts are catching the attention of Presidio city officials — some of whom are wondering why, as Presidio's situation worsens, the city isn't seeing more help from the state.

"Almost all the testing sites have been in Marfa," Mayor John Ferguson said. "I'm not sure why we haven't had another round out here." With cases climbing in the border city, he thought residents would certainly be interested in further testing.

Presidio city's last public testing site was on June 30, almost a month and a half ago. Since then, Marfa has had two additional mobile testing dates — and officials on Tuesday announced another round of Marfa testing next week.

Presidio's situation mirrors the broader picture across Texas, where testing has fallen dramatically in recent days. This week — for the first time since mid-June — the rolling average of new tests each day fell below 30,000. And meanwhile, Texas has one of the highest R-naughts in the country — the figure that measures how quickly coronavirus is spreading.

Then, there's contact tracing. As Texas struggles to keep tabs on new cases, Marfa city officials are in talks with the Texas Department of State

(Continued on page 2)

La Fundación para la Educación de Presidio regala 120 paquetes de ayuda a los maestros

PRESIDIO — La semana pasada, la Fundación de Educación de Presidio sorprendió a los maestros en Presidio al entregar 120 "Paquetes de atención para maestros" a todos los educadores del distrito escolar. Cada paquete de cuidado contenía más de $30 en útiles escolares, incluidos máscaras, lápices, bolígrafos, resaltadores, marcadores de borrado en seco, marcadores y libretas. Además, la fundación distribuyó 15 tarjetas de regalo de Amazon que van desde $25 a $100, así como dos monitores de computadora de 27 pulgadas.

El presidente de la junta, Brian Vasquez, visitó los campus de las escuelas primarias, intermedias y secundarias para distribuir los paquetes entre las sesiones de capacitación de maestros y ofrecer palabras de agradecimiento y aliento. Vásquez declaró: "Hacer una diferencia en Presidio y más allá a través de la educación es nuestra declaración de visión, y cada uno de ustedes lo hace a diario, año tras año".

"Lo mínimo que puede hacer la fundación es proporcionar a cada maestro los materiales básicos, incluidas varias mascarillas". Vásquez declaró con entusiasmo: "La fundación de educación pudo recibir $3,500 en donaciones, comprar los útiles escolares más comunes en grandes cantidades para obtener mejores precios y entregarlos físicamente a Presidio. Además, los suministros se compraron a través de smile.amazon.com, que le otorga a la fundación una donación trimestral de Amazon. "El año pasado, la fundación recibió más de $250 de Amazon como resultado del programa smile.amazon.com. A su vez, la fundación otorga esto como una beca a un estudiante de último año que se gradúa ".

Para obtener más información, visite www.presidioef.org o comuníquese con la fundación en info@presidioef.org.

Los recuentos de casos están aumentando en la ciudad de Presidio. ¿Dónde están las pruebas?

Por STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — A principios de este año, a medida que los casos de coronavirus comenzaron a aumentar en todo el condado, Presidio parecía un obstáculo. Aunque la ciudad fronteriza registró el primer caso de coronavirus en el condado de Presidio en mayo, cuando Marfa y Alpine vieron brotes importantes en junio, la ciudad mas grande del condado de Presidio se salvó en su mayoría.

En las últimas semanas, sin embargo, esas tendencias se han revertido, con Presidio ahora casi empatado con Marfa en el número total de casos de coronavirus. En el momento de la publicación, había 24 casos conocidos de coronavirus en Marfa en comparación con 23 en Presidio, según los últimos datos disponibles del condado.

Puede que eso no parezca tan malo: después de todo, Presidio tiene más del doble de residentes que Marfa. Pero Presidio también ha tenido muchas menos pruebas, y otras estadísticas muestran un panorama más preocupante.

Desde mediados de julio, la mayoría de los nuevos casos de coronavirus han aparecido en Presidio, con 10 casos en Marfa frente a 19 en Presidio. Y con una población vulnerable que tiene más riesgo de complicaciones por coronavirus, las tres muertes por coronavirus en el condado hasta ahora han sido residentes de Presidio.

Esos hechos están captando la atención de los funcionarios de la ciudad de Presidio, algunos de los cuales se preguntan por qué, a medida que la situación de Presidio empeora, la ciudad no recibe más ayuda del estado.

"Casi todos los sitios de prueba se han realizado en Marfa", dijo el alcalde John Ferguson. "No estoy seguro de por qué no hemos tenido otra ronda aquí". Con casos en aumento en la ciudad fronteriza, pensó que los residentes ciertamente estarían interesados en más pruebas.

El último sitio de pruebas públicas de la ciudad de Presidio fue el 30 de junio, hace casi un mes y medio. Desde entonces, Marfa ha tenido dos

(Continúa en la página 3)

POR ORDEN DEL CONDADO DE PRESIDIO ENTRA EN VIGOR UNA PROHIBICIÓN SOBRE EL USO DEL FUEGO, NO SE PUEDE HACER FUEGO SOBRE LOS TERRENOS.

ORDENANZA DE CUBREBOCAS EN EFECTO

por orden del estado de texas

GRATIS PRUEBAS DE COVID-19 A TRAVÉS DE CONDUCIR

- Aunque no hay fechas programadas para las pruebas en Presidio en este momento, los residentes aún pueden hacerse la prueba en los sitios de Alpine y Marfa.
- Esta prueba está abierta a todos los residentes de la región.
- No se requiere cita. Se requiere
- identificación personal.
- Esta prueba será un hisopo oral.

ALPINE

CUÁNDO: domingo 18 de agosto de 9 a. a 4 p. (O hasta que se alcance la capacidad de prueba)

DÓNDE: Centro de respuesta de emergencia del norte del condado de Brewster
102 S 2nd St. Alpine

MARFA

CUÁNDO: lunes 17 de agosto de 9 a. a 4 p. (O hasta la prueba capacidad alcanzada)

DÓNDE: Centro de visitantes de Marfa, 302 South Highland Avenue

Presidio ISD anuncia el programa de comidas gratuitas

PRESIDIO — El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Presidio anunció hoy una enmienda a su política para servir comidas a los niños que se sirven bajo el Programa Nacional de Almuerzos Escolares y el Programa de Desayunos Escolares para el año escolar 2020-2021, que permitiría a todos los niños en todas las escuelas / sitios ser servidos comidas sin cargo.

Para obtener información adicional, comuníquese con la Presidio ISD Directora de Servicios de Alimentos de, Gabriela Mills por correo electrónico a gmills@presidio-isd.net o al (432) 229-1114.

Aviso de hervir el agua rescindido para Presidio

PRESIDIO — El agua en la ciudad de Presidio es segura para beber nuevamente después de que una falla en la línea de agua el mes pasado provocó que los funcionarios emitieran un aviso de hervir el agua.

El suministro público de agua de la ciudad experimentó una "falla importante" el 31 de julio, después de que alrededor de 20 pies de la línea principal de agua se rompió y tuvo que ser reemplazada, dijeron las autoridades en un comunicado de prensa esta semana. Y debido a que el daño causó una interrupción del servicio, tuvieron que emitir un aviso de hervir el agua de acuerdo con los requisitos de la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas.

(Continúa en la página 3)

ENGLISH NEWS

Presidio tests

(Continued from page 1)

Health Services to set up local and city-run contact tracing in what could be a pilot program for small Texas cities.

Presidio, on the other hand, is still relying on state contact tracers. As the county looks to get more involved in Marfa's contact tracing program, it's raising a difficult question: Will county residents outside of Marfa see benefits from the program too?

Presidio County Judge Cinderela Guevara said she'd ultimately like to see Marfa's local contact-tracing efforts extended to Presidio, and Mayor Ferguson said his city would also likely benefit from more contact tracing efforts, including local ones. But Marfa city officials have so far seen the issue differently, noting that its contact tracing program would be city-run and arguing that tracing efforts work best when they're hyperlocal.

On testing, Gary Mitschke, the emergency management coordinator for Presidio County, previously told *The Big Bend Sentinel* that he wanted to see more testing in Presidio. But the city so far hasn't had great turnout at its testing sites, which he thinks has made state officials wary to do another one.

Meanwhile, the Texas Division of Emergency Management, which organizes public testing sites, is increasingly trying to "centralize and consolidate" its sites, he said. With limited supplies, doing so would help — for example — Marfa and Fort Davis residents get tested with just one testing site rather than two. But it's unclear if Presidio is central enough for state officials to bring another testing site through town.

Asked if TDEM was adopting this approach, Seth Christensen, a spokesperson for the agency, said TDEM is "continuing to work with local officials to meet any testing need we might have" but stressed that "emergency management in Texas is locally driven." He also urged Texans to get a test if they've had any coronavirus symptoms or contacts with coronavirus-positive people.

Local officials would have more information on upcoming testing sites, he said. He also urged residents to check online at covidtest.tdem.texas.gov for more information.

Malynda Richardson, the EMS director for Presidio city, thinks she knows why more Presidio residents aren't getting tested.

"The notifications [on testing sites] are last-minute," she said. "The state all of a sudden says, 'We're going to do it on this date.' It really throws off our ability to let people know what's going on."

Richardson said it's a shame, because Presidio could use more testing. "Presidio has a bigger population than Marfa," she said. "Presidio has people that are moving back and forth across the border more frequently — and we have a population that's very at risk."

Still, the shortage of testing is hardly Richardson's only concern. She's also worried about the backlogs of state data — noting, for example, that Presidio EMS has transported COVID-19 patients to the hospital who didn't match any of the patient descriptions given to counties and local EMS by the state.

Ultimately, she'd like to see more resources from the state on everything from better data to more testing and contact tracing — though she acknowledges that contact tracing is particularly tricky in the border city. "Families have people that live on both sides," she said. "You can't just limit your contact tracing to Presidio."

Joe Portillo, the city administrator for Presidio, is taking a stoic approach towards these issues. On one hand, he acknowledges that he'd love to see more resources in Presidio, not just on coronavirus, but in terms of better medical services and job opportunities in general. But right now, he said, TDEM was likely just overwhelmed.

Portillo thought Americans were viewing the actions of officials like those at TDEM cynically, but "I don't think anybody has any ill intent," he said. Instead, he thought everyone — up to and including state and federal health officials — were just trying to do their best during a pandemic.

On testing, Portillo stressed that Presidio residents have other options, including getting tested at Preventative Care Health Services. (A spokesperson for the company did not respond to requests for comment by press time on how many Presidio residents it's tested or whether testing is always free.) And as for contact tracing, Portillo thinks such a program could help Presidio but isn't sure the city could do it on its own.

"It's already tough in big cities," he said. "And in small towns, do they have resources for it? No."

Officials, Presidio leaders celebrate new water project in virtual ceremony

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — At a virtual groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, Presidio city leaders joined state and federal officials to celebrate a new project aimed at improving water lines within the city and bring water connections to more far-flung areas, including some residences along U.S. Highway 67.

The $4.5 million project — aided by groups like the North American Development Bank and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — will bring drinking water and sewage lines to new residents and help "eliminate line breaks," Ken McQueen, the administrator for EPA Region 6, said at the meeting.

All together, EPA Region 6 has spent more than $350 million on projects like this, bringing water and sewage to millions of residents in the process, McQueen said.

For Presidio, a project like this has been a long time coming. Aside from the nearby residents who completely lack water connections, Presidio city itself has often been plagued by water issues, as *The Presidio International* has previously reported.

With its water storage tanks elevated above much of the city, Presidio has to constantly pump water uphill to be stored. The tank fills from a pipe in the bottom, which means water pressure has to be high enough to push the water above it upward. This keeps taps flowing but also creates pressure build-ups in the city's narrow water pipes.

As a result, Presidio water lines regularly break — costing the city not only precious water, but the money needed to repair them. Studies of the water system in Presidio have previously estimated that around 30% of the water supply gets lost in leaks like these.

At the start of this month, these problems resulted in the cracking of a 20-foot length of a 12 inch water main — resulting in a boil notice that lasted more than a week.

The water line broke on July 31, and city workers were able to repair it by the end of the day. But in effort to ensure the water was safe to drink, city officials weren't able to rescind the boil water notice until Monday.

Calixto Mateos-Hanel, the managing director of the NADB, said it was "truly my great honor to lead the NADB" when he could see "firsthand" the benefits of projects like this. And McQueen, the EPA administrator, said that while he would have preferred to visit Presidio "with shovel in hand," he was nonetheless happy to help the city celebrate virtually.

Senator John Cornyn, who did not attend the meeting but recorded a short video for the occasion, congratulated Presidio residents on the project. And Congressman Will Hurd, who was in attendance, said that when he retires from office at the end of his term, he would "remember [projects] like this."

"People talk about the dysfunction of government," Hurd said, but projects like this one provided a contrast, as a variety of officials came together "to impact the lives of individuals."

Hurd also took an opportunity to speak about Presidio in general. "I fell in love with Presidio when I got to meet the students at the high school there," he said, describing the city's students as "an amazing group of kids."

He told city officials he'd be back to visit and recounted one of his trips to Ojinaga, where he said the Mexican media had flocked to see the arrival of a U.S. federal official. "I thought I was Beyoncé," he joked. "There were tons of reporters and cameras there."

Last but not least, the City of Presidio showed a brief video of Mayor Ferguson and City Administrator Joe Portillo with shovels in hand as they broke ground on the project. With the coronavirus pandemic preventing an in-person ceremony, an NADB spokesperson explained, Presidio had provided a video of the groundbreaking instead.

Within about 20 minutes, the groundbreaking ceremony was over — though for Presidio, the work to improve its water lines and connections is just beginning.

AREA AGENCY on AGING
A DIVISION OF THE RIO GRANDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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915-533-0998
Toll Free 1-800-333-7082

The Rio Grande Area Agency on Aging can be your source of support for older adults and family caregivers

ANXIETY, STRESS & CAREGIVING DURING COVID19

Caregivers may have additional stress and anxiety in their lives at this time. There are resources that are available if you are needing to confide in someone about your stress. These resources have trained volunteers willing to listen and speak to you.

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1-844-458-4673
7AM to 7PM
7 Days a week

FRIENDSHIP LINE
1-800-971-0016
24 hour hotline 8 am to 10 pm
10pm to 8am crisis calls only

TEXT SUPPORT HOTLINE
Text the word HOME to 741741

These resources do not have licensed therapists, counselors or doctors on call.
CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR or LICENSED THERAPIST if you have issues that are of a serious nature and require professional assistance.

Help and support is available for Family Caregivers
For additional information, education and support

Contact us at 915-533-0998 or Toll Free at 1-800-333-7082

Our business operations have temporarily changed. Currently, we are not open to the public for in-office appointments, however we are available to assist you by phone.

The Rio Grande Area Agency on Aging serves persons 60 years of age and older and their families that reside in El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Brewster and Presidio Counties. It is funded by the Older Americans Act through the Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Boil water

(Continued from page 1)

water notice. Anyone with questions about the situation can call the city at 432-229-3517.

Brad Newton, the executive director of the Presidio Municipal Development District, said the boil water notice had been issued as a safeguard — especially because at one point, city water pressure hit zero.

"The chances of our water being contaminated were very small to begin with," he said. "However, it's part of the procedure."

Besides being required, the precautions were also taken to "protect those with weakened immune systems" and other health conditions, he said.

"It's not going to affect healthy people unless you get a direct dose of [contaminants] or something," he said.

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Helicopter crash kills three Texas Parks and Wildlife Department employees





Photos courtesy of Brewster County Sheriff's Office and Texas Bighorn Society

A helicopter carrying three TPWD employees and a pilot crashed in a remote canyon southeast of Marathon on Saturday. The cause of the accident has not been announced. The three victims pictured left to right: Dr. Bob Dittmar, Dewey Stockbridge and Brandon White.

By ABBIE PERRAULT
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BREWSTER COUNTY — Three Texas Parks and Wildlife Department employees died in a helicopter crash on Saturday during an annual aerial survey of desert bighorn sheep over TPWD's Black Gap Wildlife Management Area. The pilot, a contractor, survived the crash.

Among the victims were local wildlife biologist Dewey Stockbridge, fish and wildlife technician Brandon White and state wildlife veterinarian Dr. Bob Dittmar.

As news broke, state officials offered their condolences to the families, with Governor Greg Abbott calling it a "tragic accident" and state Senator Pete Flores mourning the tragic deaths, stating, "They dedicated their lives to wildlife conservation in our great state and lost their lives doing what they believed in."

"All I can say is that he was an amazing man," Stockbridge's wife, Shannon, said in a statement to *The Big Bend Sentinel*, adding that he was a "passionate biologist, caring father to our two children (Jameson and London), utterly devoted to his family, and was my husband, love and soulmate."

Sheriff Ronny Dodson, whose department responded to the scene of the accident, said, "I send my heart out especially to Dewey and Brandon because I knew them personally." With a wife and son in the veterinary field, Dodson also mourned for Dittmar (a Kerrville-based veterinarian) and his family. The sheriff remarked, "Our two local guys we knew, it really hit home to us and we're saddened by the whole thing."

"Wildlife conservation in Texas lost three of its finest as they so honorably and dutifully carried out their calling to help survey, monitor and protect the bighorns of their beloved West Texas mountains,"said TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith. "We will miss Dewey, Brandon and Dr. Bob deeply and dearly."

Smith on Sunday said colleagues in Texas were mourning the accident. "These men were consummate professionals, deeply liked and highly regarded by their peers and partners alike for the immense passion, dedication, and expertise they brought to their important work in wildlife management and veterinary medicine."

The crew was in the midst of annual bighorn sheep surveys that take place each August, usually involving helicopter flights over Big Bend National Park, Big Bend Ranch State Park and the Elephant Mountain and Black Gap Wildlife Management Areas, in efforts to control the competing population of aoudads and to count the growing number of bighorn sheep.

In the 1960s, the native desert bighorn sheep were extirpated – extinct in the area – and since, local wildlife experts like White, Stockbridge and Dittmar have helped diligently study, nurture and restore a population of bighorn sheep in the area, which now numbers more than 1,500 across West Texas.

"He was a fabulous veterinarian," Dittmar's wife Bernadine told San Antonio's KSAT news this week, "but what drew him to Texas Parks and Wildlife was the bighorn sheep. He was involved in the relocation of them, and it gives us comfort to know that's what he was doing."

Texas Parks and Wildlife did not say whether surveying efforts would continue through August 16 as planned, but Tom VandenBerg, a BBNP employee, said the crew's work in the national park on August 5 was a "very successful day."

"They did a wonderful job. They removed a large number of aoudad from the national park and the day after that they were going to start doing that in Black Gap," said VandenBerg.

It was during the Black Gap surveys that the Bell 206 helicopter crashed in a remote canyon area 47 miles southeast of Marathon, according to the FAA. The federal agency stated the point of departure and intended destination from that Saturday are still being determined and the helicopter's tail number is still being confirmed.

Carter said, "All of us at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department send our deepest condolences and sympathies to the Stockbridge, White, and Dittmar families in the wake of this devastating tragedy and continue to pray for the health and recovery of the pilot."

The pilot and sole survivor, George Ezell, was transported to El Paso for treatment on Sunday and remains in the Intensive Care Unit in stable condition at the University Medical Center in El Paso.

Dodson hoped that the pilot's survival would aid investigators in determining whether the crash was a mechanical failure or another cause. The incident is being investigated by the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Transportation Safety Board and Texas Game Wardens. At this time the cause of the crash has not been announced.

The Texas Bighorn Society, an organization that partners with TPWD, set up a memorial fund for the families of the three victims, sending their deepest sympathies. "We will always be grateful to these men for their sacrifice and dedication to desert bighorn and wildlife conservation," President Sam Cunningham wrote. As TBS is a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are tax deductible and can be mailed to the TBS office at 1615 West Loop 289, Lubbock, TX 79416, online at http://www.texasbighornsociety.org/ or by calling 806-745-7783. The entirety of the fund will be distributed equally to the three surviving families.

NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL

Presidio tests

(Continuación de la página 3)

fechas adicionales de pruebas móviles, y los funcionarios anunciaron el martes otra ronda de pruebas de Marfa la próxima semana.

La situación de Presidio refleja el panorama más amplio en Texas, donde las pruebas han disminuido drásticamente en los últimos días. Esta semana, por primera vez desde mediados de junio, el promedio móvil de nuevas pruebas cada día cayó por debajo de 30.000. Y mientras tanto, Texas tiene una de las R-naughts más altas del país, la cifra que mide la rapidez con la que se está propagando el coronavirus.

Luego, está el rastreo de contactos. Mientras Texas se esfuerza por controlar los nuevos casos, los funcionarios de la ciudad de Marfa están en conversaciones con el Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Estado de Texas para establecer un rastreo de contactos local y municipal en lo que podría ser un programa piloto para las pequeñas ciudades de Texas.

Presidio, por otro lado, todavía depende de los rastreadores de contactos estatales. A medida que el condado busca involucrarse más en el programa de rastreo de contactos de Marfa, surge una pregunta difícil: ¿Los residentes del condado fuera de Marfa también verán los beneficios del programa?

La jueza del condado de Presidio, Cinderela Guevara, dijo que en última instancia le gustaría que los esfuerzos de rastreo de contactos locales de Marfa se extendieran a Presidio, y el alcalde Ferguson dijo que su ciudad probablemente también se beneficiaría de más esfuerzos de rastreo de contactos, incluidos los locales. Pero losMarfa ciudad de funcionarios de lahasta ahora han visto el problema de manera diferente, señalando que su programa de rastreo de contactos sería administrado por la ciudad y argumentando que los esfuerzos de rastreo funcionan mejor cuando son hiperlocales.

En las pruebas, Gary Mitschke, el coordinador de gestión de emergencias del condado de Presidio, le dijo anteriormente a *The Big Bend Sentinel* que quería ver más pruebas en Presidio. Pero la ciudad hasta ahora no ha tenido una gran participación en sus sitios de prueba, lo que cree que ha hecho que los funcionarios estatales desconfíen de hacer otra.

Mientras tanto, la División de Manejo de Emergencias de Texas, que organiza sitios de pruebas públicos, está tratando cada vez más de "centralizar y consolidar" sus sitios, dijo. Con suministros limitados, hacerlo ayudaría, por ejemplo, a los residentes de Marfa y Fort Davis a hacerse la prueba con un solo sitio de prueba en lugar de dos. Pero no está claro si Presidio es lo suficientemente central como para que los funcionarios estatales traigan otro sitio de prueba a la ciudad.

Cuando se le preguntó si TDEM estaba adoptando este enfoque, Seth Christensen, un portavoz de la agencia, dijo que TDEM "continúa trabajando con los funcionarios locales para satisfacer cualquier necesidad de prueba que puedan tener", pero enfatizó que "la gestión de emergencias en Texas es impulsada localmente". También instó a los tejanos a hacerse una prueba si han tenido síntomas de coronavirus o contactos con personas positivas al coronavirus.

Los funcionarios locales tendrían más información sobre los próximos sitios de prueba, dijo. También instó a los residentes a consultar en línea en covidtest.tdem.texas.gov para obtener más información.

Malynda Richardson, el director de EMS para la ciudad de Presidio, cree que sabe qué más residentes Presidio estánnosiendo probados.

"Las notificaciones [en los sitios de prueba] son de último momento", dijo. "El estado de repente dice: 'Lo haremos en esta fecha'. Realmente arruina nuestra capacidad para que la gente sepa lo que está pasando ".

Richardson dijo que es una pena, porque Presidio podría necesitar más pruebas. "Presidio tiene una población más grande que Marfa", dijo. "Presidio tiene personas que cruzan la frontera de un lado a otro con más frecuencia, y tenemos una población que corre mucho riesgo".

Sin embargo, la escasez de pruebas no es la única preocupación de Richardson. También está preocupada por la acumulación de datos estatales, y señaló, por ejemplo, que Presidio EMS ha transportado pacientes con COVID-19 al hospital que no coincidían con ninguna de las descripciones de pacientes dadas a los condados y EMS local por el estado.

En última instancia, le gustaría ver más recursos del estado en todo, desde mejores datos hasta más pruebas y rastreo de contactos, aunque reconoce que el rastreo de contactos es particularmente complicado en la ciudad fronteriza. "Las familias tienen personas que viven en ambos lados", dijo. "No se puede limitar el rastreo de contactos a Presidio".

Joe Portillo, el administrador municipal de Presidio, está adoptando un enfoque estoico hacia estos temas. Por un lado, reconoce que le encantaría ver más recursos en Presidio, no solo sobre el coronavirus, sino en términos de mejores servicios médicos y oportunidades laborales en general. Pero en este momento, dijo, TDEM probablemente estaba abrumado.

Portillo pensó que los estadounidenses estaban viendo cínicamente las acciones de funcionarios como los de TDEM, pero "no creo que nadie tenga malas intenciones", dijo. En su lugar, todo el mundo pensó - hasta e incluyendo funcionarios estatales y federales de salud - sólo estaban tratando de hacer lo mejor posible durante una pandemia.

Sobre las pruebas, Portillo enfatizó que los residentes de Presidio tienen otras opciones, incluida la prueba en los Servicios de salud de atención preventiva. (Un portavoz de la compañía no respondió a las solicitudes de comentarios en el momento de la publicación sobre cuántos residentes de Presidio se evaluó o si las pruebas son siempre gratuitas). la ciudad podría hacerlo por sí sola.

"Ya es difícil en las grandes ciudades", dijo. "Y en los pueblos pequeños, ¿tienen recursos para ello? No."

Funcionarios, líderes de Presidio celebran nuevo proyecto de agua en una ceremonia virtual

Por STEPHEN PAULSEN
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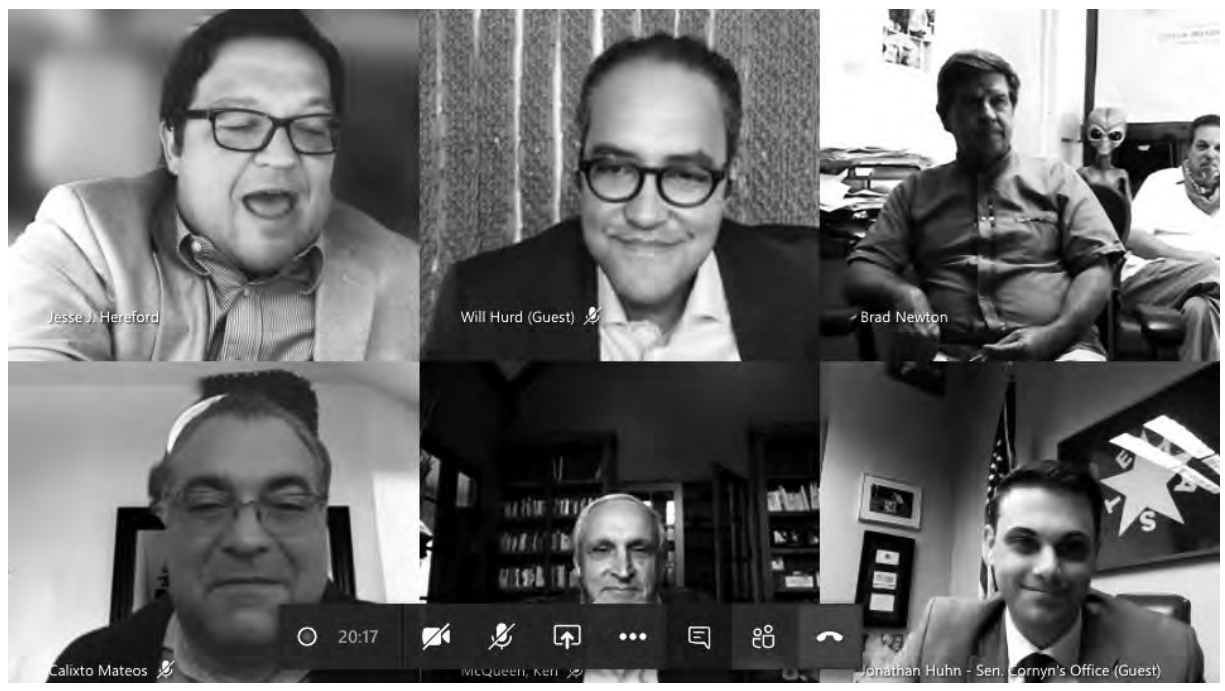

Officials from the North American Development Bank, the EPA and Senator Cornyn's office joined congressman Will Hurd, Mayor John Ferguson and Presidio Municipal Development District executive director Brad Newton for a groundbreaking on Presidio's multimillion dollar water project.
Funcionarios del Banco de Desarrollo de América del Norte, la EPA y la oficina del senador Cornyn se unieron al congresista Will Hurd, el alcalde John Ferguson y el director ejecutivo del Distrito de Desarrollo Municipal de Presidio, Brad Newton, para un innovador proyecto de agua multimillonario de Presidio.

PRESIDIO — En una ceremonia virtual de inauguración el miércoles, los líderes de la ciudad de Presidio se unieron a funcionarios estatales y federales para celebrar un nuevo proyecto destinado a mejorar las líneas de agua dentro de la ciudad y llevar conexiones de agua a áreas más remotas, incluidas algunas residencias a lo largo de la carretera 67 de los EE.UU..

El proyecto de $ 4.5 millones, con la ayuda de grupos como el Banco de Desarrollo de América del Norte y la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los EE. UU., llevará agua potable y alcantarillado a los nuevos residentes y ayudar a "eliminar los saltos de línea", dijo Ken McQueen, administrador de la Región 6 de la EPA, en la reunión.

En total, la Región 6 de la EPA ha gastado más de $ 350 millones en proyectos como este, llevando agua y alcantarillado a millones de residentes en el proceso, dijo McQueen.

Para Presidio, un proyecto como este ha tardado en llegar. Aparte de los residentes cercanos que carecen por completo de conexiones de agua, la propia ciudad de Presidio a menudo ha estado plagada de problemas de agua, como *The Presidio International* informó anteriormente.

Con sus tanques de almacenamiento de agua elevados por encima de gran parte de la ciudad, Presidio tiene que bombear agua constantemente cuesta arriba para almacenarla. El tanque se llena desde una tubería en el fondo, lo que significa que la presión del agua debe ser lo suficientemente alta como para empujar el agua hacia arriba. Esto mantiene los grifos fluyendo pero también crea acumulaciones de presión en las estrechas tuberías de agua de la ciudad.

Como resultado, las líneas de agua de Presidio se rompen con regularidad, lo que le cuesta a la ciudad no solo el agua preciosa, sino el dinero necesario para repararlas. Los estudios del sistema de agua en Presidio han estimado previamente que alrededor del 30% del suministro de agua se pierde en fugas como estas.

A principios de este mes, estos problemas provocaron la rotura de una tubería de agua de 20 pies de largo de 12 pulgadas, lo que provocó un aviso de ebullición que duró más de una semana.

La línea de agua se rompió el 31 de julio y los trabajadores de la ciudad pudieron repararla al final del día. Pero en un esfuerzo por garantizar que el agua fuera segura para beber, los funcionarios de la ciudad no pudieron rescindir el aviso de hervir el agua hasta el lunes.

Calixto Mateos-Hanel, director gerente del BDAN, dijo que fue "verdaderamente un gran honor para mí liderar el BDAN" cuando pudo ver "de primera mano" los beneficios de proyectos como este. Y McQueen, el administrador de la EPA, dijo que si bien hubiera preferido visitar Presidio "con pala en mano", estaba feliz de ayudar a la ciudad a celebrar virtualmente.

El senador John Cornyn, quien no asistió a la reunión pero grabó un video corto para la ocasión, felicitó a los residentes de Presidio por el proyecto. Y el congresista Will Hurd, que estuvo presente, dijo que cuando se retire del cargo al final de su mandato, "recordará [proyectos] como este".

"La gente habla de la disfunción del gobierno", dijo Hurd, pero proyectos como este proporcionaron un contraste, ya que una variedad de funcionarios se unieron "para impactar la vida de las personas".

Hurd también aprovechó la oportunidad para hablar sobre Presidio en general. "Me enamoré de Presidio cuando conocí a los estudiantes de la escuela secundaria", dijo, y describió a los estudiantes de la ciudad como "un grupo increíble de niños".

Les dijo a los funcionarios de la ciudad que regresaría de visita y relató uno de sus viajes a Ojinaga, donde dijo que los medios mexicanos habían acudido en masa para ver la llegada de un funcionario federal estadounidense. "Pensé que era Beyoncé", bromeó. "Había toneladas de reporteros y cámaras allí".

Por último, pero no menos importante, la ciudad de Presidio mostró un breve video del alcalde Ferguson y el administrador de la ciudad Joe Portillo con palas en la mano mientras iniciaban la construcción del proyecto. Con la pandemia de coronavirus impidiendo una ceremonia en persona, explicó un portavoz del BDAN, Presidio había proporcionado un video de la palada inicial.

En unos 20 minutos, terminó la ceremonia de inauguración, aunque para Presidio, el trabajo para mejorar sus líneas de agua y conexiones apenas está comenzando.

Accidente de helicóptero mata a tres empleados del Departamento de Parques y Vida Silvestre de Texas

Por ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

CONDADO DE BREWSTER — Tres empleados del Departamento de Parques y Vida Silvestre de Texas murieron en un accidente de helicóptero el sábado durante una inspección aérea anual del borrego cimarrón del desierto sobre Black Gap Wildlife Management de TPWD Zona. El piloto, un contratista, sobrevivió al accidente.

Entre las víctimas se encontraban el biólogo local de vida silvestre Dewey Stockbridge, el técnico de peces y vida silvestre Brandon White y el veterinario estatal de vida silvestre Dr. Bob Dittmar.

Cuando se supo la noticia, los funcionarios estatales ofrecieron sus condolencias a las familias. El gobernador Greg Abbott lo calificó como un "trágico accidente" y el senador estatal Pete Flores lamentó las trágicas muertes y declaró: "Dedicaron sus vidas a la conservación de la vida silvestre en nuestro gran estado y perdieron sus vidas haciendo lo que creían ".

"Todo lo que puedo decir es que era un hombre increíble", dijo la esposa de Stockbridge, Shannon, en un comunicado a *The Big Bend Sentinel*, y agregó que era un "biólogo apasionado, un padre cariñoso con nuestros dos hijos (Jameson y London), completamente dedicado a su familia, y era mi esposo, amor y alma gemela ".

El alguacil Ronny Dodson, cuyo departamento respondió a la escena del accidente, dijo: "Envío mi corazón especialmente a Dewey y Brandon porque los conocía personalmente". Con esposa e hijo en el campo de la veterinaria, Dodson también lamentó por Dittmar (un veterinario con sede en Kerrville) y su familia. El alguacil comentó: "Nuestros dos tipos locales que conocíamos, realmente nos impactó y estamos tristes por todo el asunto".

"La conservación de la vida silvestre en Texas perdió tres de sus mejores cualidades, ya que ellos llevaron a cabo su llamado de manera tan honorable y diligente para ayudar a inspeccionar, monitorear y proteger los grandes cuernos de sus amadas montañas del oeste de Texas", dijo Carter Smith, director ejecutivo de TPWD. "Extrañaremos a Dewey, Brandon y el Dr. Bob profundamente y con mucho cariño ".

Smith dijo el domingo que sus colegas en Texas estaban de luto por el accidente. "Estos hombres eran profesionales consumados, muy queridos y muy apreciados por sus compañeros y socios por la inmensa pasión, dedicación y experiencia que aportaron a su importante trabajo en el manejo de la vida silvestre y veterinaria. medicamento."

La tripulación se encontraba en medio de los censos anuales de borrego cimarrón que se llevan a cabo cada agosto, generalmente con vuelos en helicóptero sobre el Parque Nacional Big Bend, el Parque Estatal Big Bend Ranch y las Áreas de Manejo de Vida Silvestre Elephant Mountain y Black Gap, en un esfuerzo por controlar la población competidora de aoudads y contar el creciente número de borrego cimarrón.

En la década de 1960, el borrego cimarrón nativo del desierto fue extirpado, extinto en el área, y desde entonces, expertos locales en vida silvestre como White, Stockbridge y Dittmar han ayudado a estudiar, criar y restaurar diligentemente una población de borrego cimarrón en el área, que ahora es más numerosa. de 1,500 en el oeste de Texas.

"Era un veterinario fabuloso", dijo la esposa de Dittmar, Bernadine, a las noticias de KSAT de San Antonio esta semana, "pero lo que lo atrajo a Texas Parks and Wildlife fue el borrego cimarrón. Estuvo involucrado en la reubicación de ellos y nos reconforta saber que eso es lo que estaba haciendo ".

Texas Parks and Wildlife no dijo si los esfuerzos de levantamiento continuarían hasta el 16 de agosto como estaba planeado, pero Tom VandenBerg, un empleado de BBNP, dijo que el trabajo del equipo en el parque nacional el 5 de agosto fue un "día muy exitoso".

"Hicieron un trabajo maravilloso. Sacaron una gran cantidad de aoudad del parque nacional y al día siguiente iban a empezar a hacer eso en Black Gap ", dijo VandenBerg.

Fue durante las encuestas de Black Gap que el helicóptero Bell 206 se estrelló en un área remota de un cañón a 47 millas al sureste de Marathon, según la FAA. La agencia federal indicó que el punto de partida y el destino previsto a partir de ese sábado aún se están determinando y el número de cola del helicóptero aún se está confirmando.

Carter dijo: "Todos en el Departamento de Parques y Vida Silvestre de Texas enviamos nuestras más profundas condolencias y condolencias a las familias de Stockbridge, White y Dittmar a raíz de esta devastadora tragedia y continuamos orando por la salud y la recuperación del piloto".

El piloto y único sobreviviente, George Ezell, fue transportado a El Paso para recibir tratamiento el domingo y permanece en la Unidad de Cuidados Intensivos en condición estable en el Centro Médico Universitario en El Paso.

Dodson esperaba que la supervivencia del piloto ayudara a los investigadores a determinar si el accidente fue una falla mecánica u otra causa. El incidente está siendo investigado por el Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Texas, la Administración Federal de Aviación, la Junta Nacional de Seguridad en el Transporte y Texas Game Wardens. En este momento no se ha anunciado la causa del accidente.

La Texas Bighorn Society, una organización que se asocia con TPWD, estableció un fondo conmemorativo para las familias de las tres víctimas, enviando sus más sinceras condolencias. "Siempre estaremos agradecidos con estos hombres por su sacrificio y dedicación a la conservación de la vida silvestre y el cimarrón del desierto. ", Escribió el presidente Sam Cunningham. Como TBS es una organización 501 (c) (3), todas las donaciones son deducibles de impuestos y pueden enviarse por correo a la oficina de TBS en 1615 West Loop 289, Lubbock, TX 79416, en línea en http://www.texasbighornsociety.org/ o llamando al 806-745-7783. La totalidad del fondo se distribuirá por igual a las tres familias sobrevivientes.

Hervir el agua

(Continuación de la página 1)

Si bien el trabajo de reparación solo tomó alrededor de 12 horas en completarse, los funcionarios aún tenían que lavar y desinfectar las tuberías. También enviaron muestras de agua de cuatro ubicaciones al Laboratorio de Agua de la Ciudad de Odessa, que confirmó esta semana que nuevamente era segura para beber.

Habiendo pasado por esas salvaguardas, los funcionarios de la ciudad este lunes anularon oficialmente el aviso de hervir el agua. Cualquiera que tenga preguntas sobre la situación puede llamar a la ciudad al 432-229-3517.

Brad Newton, director ejecutivo del Distrito de Desarrollo Municipal de Presidio, dijo que el aviso de hervir el agua se emitió como una salvaguardia, especialmente porque en un momento dado, la presión del agua de la ciudad llegó a cero.

"Para empezar, las posibilidades de que nuestra agua se contaminase eran muy pequeñas", dijo. "Sin embargo, es parte del procedimiento".

Además de ser un requisito, las precauciones también se tomaron para "proteger a quienes tienen el sistema inmunológico debilitado" y otras condiciones de salud, dijo.

"No afectará a las personas sanas a menos que reciba una dosis directa de [contaminantes] o algo así", dijo.

En la ceremonia virtual, los funcionarios locales y federales hablaron efusivamente sobre lo que el proyecto de mejora del agua podría significar para Presidio. John Ferguson, el alcalde de Presidio, dijo que el sistema "definitivamente debía actualizarse" y que las mejoras "iban a hacer mucho bien a los ciudadanos y al crecimiento futuro de Presidio".

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Por internet @ my2020census.gov
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Los participantes del censo están actualmente en las comunidades para asegurar un conteo completo y preciso.
Un conteo erróneo de la comunidad corre el riesgo de eliminar a las personas de color, migrantes y otros grupos históricamente no contados. Los datos del censo determinan los escaños del Congreso estatal y los fondos federales para Medicare, Medicaid y otros recursos esenciales.
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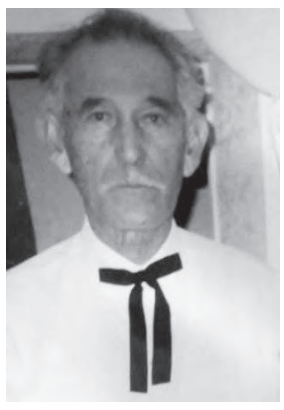

Hernandez

Reynaldo Brito Hernandez, 91, of Presidio, Texas, passed away Friday, July 31, 2020 in Odessa. He was born July 8, 1929 in Presidio to the late Cecilia and Tomas Hernandez. Reynaldo was a long time resident of Presidio. He married Raquel Alvarado Hernandez in Fabens, Texas, on December 5, 1948. Reynaldo was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

Reynaldo will be lovingly remembered and greatly missed by his seven children, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and numerous relatives.

Reynaldo was predeceased by his parents, Tomas and Cecilia Hernandez; his spouse, Raquel Alvarado Hernandez; and two sons,Tomas and Antonio Hernandez.



Ramirez

Saul Ramirez, 74, beloved husband and father, was called to his eternal resting place on August 8, 2020. He entered this world on October 7, 1945 in Presidio, born to Theodoro Ramirez and Jesus Ramirez. He was self-employed doing water wells for 40 years, loved to cook his famous "tripitas" and asado, and loved to work on his own garden at home where he grew vegetables. Saul had many friends who loved hanging out with him.

Saul is survived by his wife, Jessie Lara Ramirez; brother Daniel Ramirez and sister Maria De La Luz Reyes; his daughters, Diana Lara, Debra Reyes and Mini Madrid; and sons Robert Lara and Richard Franco. He has 15 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren and multiple nieces and nephews.

The visitation took place Tuesday, August 11 and Wednesday, August 12, 2020. A Rosary was held at 2 p.m. at Pecos Funeral Home Chapel, at 607 W. 3rd in Pecos, Texas. Graveside services will be held Thursday August 13, 2020 at 10 a.m. at Mt. Evergreen Cemetery.

The pallbearers are Richard Franco, Jeremy Lara, Johnny Madrid, Joe Reyes, Robert Lara, Larry Paredez, Reggie Lozano, Ivan Paredez, and Augustine Paredez as Honorary Pallbearer.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all services are for immediate family only, and visitation is limited to 40 persons of the immediate family. At the graveside services, the church requires social distancing and only 10 members of the immediate family to be under the tent and asks all other family members to social distance until after the services have concluded.

Hernandez

Gilberto Armendariz Hernandez, 87, of Presidio, died Thursday, August 6, 2020 in Odessa, Texas. Chapel Service was held at 2 p.m. on August 7, 2020 at Martinez Funeral Home Chapel. The family opted for a private cremation to follow. Arrangements are by Martinez Funeral Home and Crematory in Odessa.

Leyva

Jorge Leyva, 41, of Presidio, died Monday, August 3, 2020, in Odessa. Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. on Friday, August 7, 2020, at Martinez Funeral Home Chapel. The family opted for a private cremation that followed. Pastor Emilio Bustamante officiated. Arrangements were made by Martinez Funeral Home and Crematory of Odessa.

Luna

Enrique Enriquez Luna, 62, of Presidio, Texas, died Sunday, August 2, 2020 in Presidio. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m., Thursday, August 6, 2020 at Acres West Funeral Chapel. Arrangements were made by Acres West Funeral Chapel in Odessa.



PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF PRESIDIO

TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The City of Presidio is giving notice of the city's intent to submit a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program grant application for a Fire, Ambulance and Services Truck grant request of up to $500,000.00 for the purchase of an ambulances and equipment. The application will be available for review at the office of the City Administrator during regular business hours. Para obtener una copia en espanol, comuniquese con Jose Portillo al 432-229-3517.

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FOR SALE

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Crown Sanchez

In loving memory of **Nancy Lou Galindo Crown Sanchez**, age 85, who passed away peacefully with her family by her side on August 22, 2019 at City of Hope hospital in Duarte, California. Nancy was born on October 31, 1933 in Presidio, Texas, daughter of Nancy Barandey Galindo and husband Patrick W. (Casey) Crown, who together owned and operated the Oil Flyer Cafe in Presidio, Texas. The Oil Flyer Cafe opened in 1933 and was operated and owned by Nancy Barandey Galindo Crown until 1972. Nancy was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Cesar Federico Juarez Sanchez, also born in Presidio, Texas, and her cousin, Lily Galindo Daly, who grew up with Nancy like a sister.

Nancy was a wonderful, caring and loving mother and grandmother. Nancy is survived by her two loving sons: Alfredo, and Cesar Saul and his wife, Melissa, and their son, Dario Patrick. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Dora M. Sanchez, her family, and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. Nancy was a dedicated and beloved kindergarten teacher. She graduated from California State University in Los Angeles with a teaching credential in bilingual education — emphasis Spanish. She taught kindergarten for the Montebello School District in California for 25 years. Nancy is also survived by many loving students and fellow teachers.

Nancy enjoyed many interests. One of Nancy's favorite pastimes was Ikebana, which is the art of Japanese flower arrangement. She also enjoyed antique hunting and collecting colored glass. She also enjoyed over the years taking care of her many pets which included dogs, cats, birds and a tortoise. Nancy was an inspiration to her family and friends. Nancy was interred alongside her husband Cesar at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier, California on September 10, 2019.



Sanchez Paz

Daniel Sanchez Paz came into this world on January 15, 1931 in Ruidosa, Texas, to the late Concepcion Sanchez and Simon Paz. He made his triumphant transition to glory on August 4, 2020 surrounded by family. Assuredly, the heavens rejoiced at his arrival.

Mr. Sanchez grew up in El Pueblito, Chihuahua, where a good portion of ex-villistas settled in 1920, and it was no surprise that Mr. Sanchez would enjoy sharing stories passed down by generations about Pancho Villa's army, along with his own childhood memories in this municipality of Aldama, Chihuahua.

In his young adult years, he met and married the late Balbina Castillo, and from this union, three sons and two daughters were born.

Mr. Sanchez later remarried to Baudelia Olivas. They had been married 59 years at the time of his passing. From this union, five sons and five daughters were born. They settled in Barrancos de Guadalupe, where the older children were born. Aside from being a farmer and using old wisdom in his agriculture planting, Mr. Sanchez was known as a male midwife and all his children were delivered by his own loving hands. The younger three children were born in Ruidosa after he moved his family there to allow them the opportunity to learn English and access to a better education. He instilled in them a love for the outdoors and to live off the land, either obtaining fish from the Rio Grande or game from the Chinati Mountains. He loved to take his family on outings into the deep canyons where they would bathe in tinajas, run around in flowing streams and enjoy a fish-fry or wild game.

He felt called into the ministry in the '70s and was offered the opportunity to become the pastor of several newly created Baptists missions along the western Rio Grande on both sides of the border.

His passion for reaching those who did not know his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ would see him travel to remote places, leaving as early as 4:30 a.m. and returning as late as 10 p.m., sometimes traversing treacherous roads, rivers or streams. He never got tired of sharing God's promises and truths, either in his sermons, helping to organize medical missions to bring much needed health and dental services, or hosting Vacation Bible School groups from different churches throughout the country. He was always happy to serve his community. He organized Christmas and New Year's programs for all the surrounding communities and people would come from afar to enjoy fellowship. He was well-known for his generosity and compassion, always helping others and sharing the little that he had to help others, sometimes even leaving his family with nothing, but knowing God would supply his needs and that faith never failed as he was always multiplied for his good deeds. This instilled a strong faith in his children at a very young age.

Mr. Sanchez enjoyed farming and had a green thumb for growing fresh produce and his family would always feast on homegrown grapes, watermelons, figs and corn to name a few. He also enjoyed playing his guitar and singing. Mr. Sanchez penned several Christian songs which were never copyrighted and have been in the public domain, but his children will proudly give credit to the authorship when they hear someone playing or singing one of their father's songs. He always found something to do and would give things a second chance by repurposing them. One of his favorite phrases was: "si me vienen a buscar, les dicen que ahorita vengo, que nomas me fui a bañar." "If someone comes looking for me, let them know I'll be right back; I just went to bathe." One of his relaxing hobbies was to soak in the thermal waters of the Chinati Hot Springs, known as Kingston Hot Springs at that time. Pastor Sanchez is now soaking in the eternal waters where his Master received him with open arms and said to him,

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of the thy Lord."

He is survived by his wife, Baudelia Olivas Sanchez from Presidio, Texas. Seven sons: Cuco Sanchez and Adan Castillo from Odessa, Texas; Ismael Castillo from Fort Davis, Texas; Alfredo Sanchez and Jesus Sanchez from Presidio, Texas; Nicolas Sanchez from Midland, Texas; and Jesus Manuel Sanchez from Redford, Texas. Seven daughters: Margarita Bustillos from Grendale, Texas; Margarita Bustillos from Fort Davis, Texas; Elvira Sanchez Leyva; Manuela Sanchez Cataño and Concepcion (Concha) Sanchez from Presidio, Texas; Irma Sanchez from Andrews, Texas; and Angie Sanchez from Fort Stockton, Texas.

Also 39 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren and 32 great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a son, Daniel Sanchez Jr.; his parents; three brothers, Encarnacion and Julian Baeza, and Serafin Saenz; and one sister, Angelita Sanchez.

A viewing was held on Thursday, August 6, 2020 and the funeral service was on August 7, 2020 at Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa in Presidio, Texas, with Minister Joel Moreno Ponce from Iglesia Bautista El Calvario in Ojinaga, Chihuahua, officiating. Burial followed in Desert Hills Cemetery.

Pallbearers were his grandchildren: Homero Leyva, Miguel Leyva, Leaneth Cataño, Jesus Manuel Sanchez Jr., Esdael Sanchez and Daniel Ivan Sanchez.

Alpine Memorial Funeral Home was entrusted with funeral arrangements.

HURD ON THE HILL

A missing Smithsonian: The Museum of the American Latino

By U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WILL HURD – TX23

To fully understand American history, we have to understand all our history, which must include the contribution of the American Latino.

The National Mall, America's front yard, features museums about core pieces of America's history, ranging from Natural History, Air and Space, Art, the American Indian and African American History and Culture. Half of all Americans will visit the National Mall in their lifetime, but, if they were to visit today, there would be a huge gaping hole in the portfolio of Smithsonian museums. The Museum of the American Latino is missing.

The legacy of David Farragut at the Battle of Mobile Bay is a part of our history that many people don't know enough about. The Battle of Mobile Bay — a battle of the Civil War — is where the Union won a decisive victory, capturing the last Confederate controlled port along the Gulf of Mexico. David Farragut — a Latino — was America's first admiral and led the naval forces for the Union during the Civil War. It was at this battle Farragut became famous for his inspirational line, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"

Farragut is one of the great leaders to have contributed to the success of our nation, after all he did to fight and bleed for our freedom. We owe it to him to honor his name within a National Museum of the American Latino. Unfortunately, Farragut's legacy is only one among a plethora of American Latinos whose contribution to the very fabric of our nation is not represented on the National Mall. The U.S. is stronger because of the past, present and future contributions Latinos have made across our communities, and we owe it to them and their families to honor their names and stories.

Almost 59 million Latino Americans call our nation home, and, estimates show by 2060, one out of every four people in the U.S. will be of Latino heritage. Yet, in spite of their essential relevance to our country's intellectual, economic and cultural life, a task force commissioned in 1994 by the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution found that "U.S. Hispanics are the only major contributor to American civilization still uncelebrated by any specific, systemic, permanent effort in this country's major cultural institution."

Congress, in an effort to concretize the story of the American Latino into our Smithsonian Institutions, passed the National Museum of the American Latino Act with overwhelming bipartisan support just last month. My colleagues, Reps. Jose Serrano (D-N.Y.) and Pete Aguilar (D-Calif.), and I have been working to pass this bill for years. The bill — once it passes the Senate and is signed into law by the president — calls for the creation of a board of trustees responsible for finding a location, developing a long-term plan for construction and advising the Smithsonian board of regents. The bill would also ensure Latino collections, art, research and publications are added to Smithsonian museums, research centers and other educational institutions throughout the U.S. and abroad.

After 26 years, because of House passage of this bill, we are one step closer to honoring the many Latino Americans who have shaped our nation's history. We are one step closer to giving Latino Americans the appreciation they deserve. But the fight is not over. We still have more steps to go, including passage through the U.S. Senate.

My friend and fellow Texan, Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas), is a strong supporter of this museum. I'm confident with his support we will get this done. But we're still going to need the help of all of you to get this across the finish line. I encourage you to call your Senators and urge them to pass this bill. Together we can make sure the Smithsonian Institution no longer has a major missing piece.

Building the National Museum of the American Latino is not a Republican or a Democrat issue. It's an American issue transcending all of us, and it will allow future generations of Americans from sea to shining sea to learn from our past, appreciate the progress made today and work together to create a stronger future.

It's an incredible honor during my final term in office to lead the House effort to make the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino a reality.

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.

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