

## BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

## Rod Ponton resigns as city of Presidio attorney

By SAM KARAS  
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PRESIDIO — On Thursday, Presidio Mayor John Ferguson and City Secretary Brenda Lee Ornelas-Acuña received an email from City Attorney Rod Ponton announcing his resignation “effective immediately.” Ponton served as city attorney twice, first in 2002 through 2008 and then from 2017 to 2022.

The email marks the second major vacancy at City Hall this month after City Administrator Brad Newton was fired at a city council meeting on April 4. The city is currently facing a number of challenges, including recovering from years of bad city audits and figuring out how to regulate a proposed diesel transport operation.

“We’re going to have to move quickly to get ourselves another [attorney],” Ferguson said. “I think especially with the diesel question still out there we need somebody to guide us.”

Ponton said that he tendered his resignation in order to devote more time to other projects. “I was just getting stretched a little thin,” he said. “I’ve got a very busy private practice and also devote a lot of time to my work as Presidio county attorney.”

In his most recent stint as city attorney, Ponton believed his most important contribution was helping the city recover from years of financial mismanagement. Shortly after he took up his position in 2017, he helped the city navigate conflict with the IRS when it was revealed that the city had not been paying its FICA taxes, a federal payroll tax that is typically automatically deducted from each paycheck.

“Five years ago, the city was in terrible shape — Presidio was broke. It didn’t have any books, it didn’t have any accounts, it didn’t have any audits. It was a mess,” Ponton recalled. “I worked diligently with the city manager, the city staff and some outside consultants to right the ship. The citizens of Presidio should be gratified to know that it’s doing a lot better.”

With city council elections just around the corner, Presidio could be poised to see big changes in city politics. Presidio City Council will be discussing how to address both the city administrator and city attorney vacancies at their next meeting.

Mayor Ferguson spoke highly of Ponton’s tenure as city attorney. “Here’s how I characterize working with Rod: when the city is taken care of — water, sewer, trash, things like that — when it’s all going well, you don’t notice it,” he said. “For the years that he’s been with us, we’ve been able to take care of city business without getting ourselves into any kind of trouble.”

## Gov. Abbott initiates bridge expansion project amid local objections to delays

By SAM KARAS  
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PRESIDIO — Last Wednesday, State Senator César Blanco’s office put out a press release announcing that Governor Greg Abbott had given the construction project on the Presidio International Bridge his “final approval.” Later that day, an amended press release was circulated clarifying that the governor had merely “initiated” the process for approval, and that there were still several agencies to coordinate before construction could begin again.

Blanco’s office was not alone in their misunderstanding of the process — local officials have found it difficult to find answers about the construction on the bridge. At a city council meeting held March 21, Councilmember Arian Velázquez-Ornelas put an item on the agenda to discuss the bridge construction after she discovered that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) had been holding regular meetings about the Presidio bridge without representation from the city.

“I just want to make everyone aware that they’ve been having these meetings since 2019, and the city has not been invited,” she said.

According to Velázquez-Ornelas, work on the bridge was scheduled by TxDOT to shut down on April 11, 2020, pending “MOU with Mexico.” The MOU, or “memorandum of understanding,” is an agreement between all parties involved in the bridge construction. In this case, the MOU requires signatures from the Secretariat of Infrastructure, Communications and Transportation (SICT) and the Federal Toll Roads and Bridges and Related Services (CAPUFE) on the Mexican side and the state of Texas

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## Candidate meet and greet: Joe Andy Mendoza and Steve ‘Nicky’ Alvarez

By SAM KARAS  
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PRESIDIO — On May 7, Presidio residents will have the opportunity to vote for a fresh slate of city council candidates. Current council members Nancy Arevalo and Arian Velázquez-Ornelas will be running unopposed for one-year terms. Councilmember Joe Andy Mendoza and Mayor Pro Tempore John Razo are seeking two-year terms, and will compete with newcomers Steve “Nicky” Alvarez and Angel Campos for the three available longer-term seats.

This week, the Presidio International sat down with Mendoza and Alvarez to discuss their visions for the city’s future.

### JOE ANDY MENDOZA

Joe Andy Mendoza was born in Ojinaga and graduated from Presidio High School in 1999. He left home for over 20 years to pursue his dreams, and returned to Presidio last summer to settle down and make a difference. He currently serves as the vice principal of his alma mater.

“Everything that I did to come back to Presidio was not by opportunity or chance. I have been working on it for years,” he said. “I uprooted my family from Houston, and we bought a house here. I told [the school district] in my interview, ‘I’m coming back home.’”

Back in January, Mendoza was appointed to city council to fill a vacancy left by former Mayor Pro Tempore Irvin Olivas, who stepped down to spend more time with his family. In the whirlwind four months that Mendoza

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## Early voting is underway — here’s an overview of elections taking place in Presidio County

By MARY CANTRELL  
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — Early voting for local May 7 general and special elections starts this Monday, April 25, across the state. In addition to a county election in which voters will decide on two constitutional amendments relating to property taxes, the cities of Marfa and Presidio will also host elections.

In a special election in Marfa, voters will determine whether or not to reauthorize a quarter-cent sales tax for street improvement projects which has been in place for 20 years. In Presidio, general and special elections will decide the fate of the town’s city council in which all five seats are up for grabs.

The deadline to register to vote in the May 7 election has passed — to find out if you are registered to vote, visit the secretary of state’s website. Voters will be asked to present a valid form of identification at polling locations.

### Presidio County:

Two amendments to the Texas Constitution, both relating to homestead exemptions and property taxes, will appear on the county ballot. Voters across the state will vote on these two amendments, which, if passed, would see the state increasing funding for schools as a result of decreasing property taxes.

Proposition 1 — which has received criticism for being lengthy, totaling 77 words, and unclear — if passed, would continue to freeze and lower over time school property tax bills for those who are disabled or over age 65.

Proposition 2, if passed, would increase the general homestead exemption for public school taxes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

In Marfa, early voting will take place from Monday, April 25 to Saturday, April 30 as well as Monday, May 2 and Tuesday, May 3 from 8 a.m. to 5

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## El gobernador Abbott inicia el proyecto de expansión del puente en medio de las objeciones locales a los retrasos

Por SAM KARAS  
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PRESIDIO — El miércoles pasado, la oficina del Senador Estatal César Blanco emitió un comunicado de prensa anunciando que el Gobernador Greg Abbott había dado su “aprobación final” al proyecto de construcción del Puente Internacional Presidio. Más tarde ese día, se distribuyó un comunicado de prensa enmendado que aclaraba que el gobernador simplemente había “iniciado” el proceso de aprobación y que aún quedaban varias agencias por coordinar antes de que la construcción pudiera comenzar de nuevo.

La oficina de Blanco no fue la única que no entendió bien el proceso: a los funcionarios locales les resultó difícil encontrar respuestas sobre la construcción del puente. En una reunión del concejo municipal celebrada el 21 de marzo, la concejal Arian Velázquez-Ornelas incluyó un tema en la agenda para discutir la construcción del puente después de descubrir que el Departamento de Transporte de Texas (TxDOT) había estado realizando reuniones periódicas sobre el puente Presidio sin representación del ciudad.

“Solo quiero que todos sepan que han estado teniendo estas reuniones desde 2019 y que la ciudad no ha sido invitada”, dijo.

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## Reunión y saludo de candidatos: Joe Andy Mendoza y Steve ‘Nicky’ Alvarez

Por SAM KARAS  
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PRESIDIO — El 7 de mayo, los residentes de Presidio tendrán la oportunidad de votar por una nueva lista de candidatos para el concejo municipal. Los miembros actuales del consejo, Nancy Arévalo y Arian Velázquez-Ornelas, se postularán sin oposición por períodos de un año. El concejal Joe Andy Mendoza y el alcalde pro tempore John Razo buscan términos de dos años y competirán con los recién llegados Steve “Nicky” Alvarez y Angel Campos por los tres puestos disponibles a más largo plazo.

Esta semana, Presidio International se reunió con Mendoza y Alvarez para discutir sus visiones para el futuro de la ciudad.

### JOE ANDY MENDOZA

Joe Andy Mendoza nació en Ojinaga y se graduó de Presidio High School en 1999. Dejó su hogar durante más de 20 años para perseguir sus sueños y regresó a Presidio el verano pasado para establecerse y marcar la diferencia. Actualmente se desempeña como vicedirector de su alma mater.

“Todo lo que hice para volver a Presidio no fue por oportunidad ni por casualidad. He estado trabajando en eso durante años”, dijo. “Saqué a mi familia de Houston y compramos una casa aquí. Le dije [al distrito escolar] en mi entrevista: ‘Vuelvo a casa’”.

En enero, Mendoza fue nombrado concejal de la ciudad para llenar la

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## La votación anticipada está en marcha: aquí hay una descripción general de las elecciones que se llevarán a cabo en el condado de Presidio

Por MARY CANTRELL  
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CONDADO DE PRESIDIO — La votación anticipada para las elecciones locales generales y especiales del 7 de mayo comenzó este lunes 25 de abril en todo el estado. Además de una elección del condado en la que los votantes decidirán sobre dos enmiendas constitucionales relacionadas con los impuestos sobre la propiedad, las ciudades de Marfa y Presidio también serán anfitrionas de elecciones.

En una elección especial en Marfa, los votantes determinarán si se vuelve a autorizar o no un impuesto sobre las ventas de un cuarto de centavo para proyectos de mejora de calles que ha estado vigente durante 20 años. En Presidio, las elecciones generales y especiales decidirán el destino del concejo municipal del pueblo en el que los cinco escaños están en juego.

La fecha límite para registrarse para votar en las elecciones del 7 de mayo ya pasó. Para averiguar si está registrado para votar, visite el sitio web del secretario de estado. Se les pedirá a los votantes que presenten una forma válida de identificación en los lugares de votación.

### Condado de Presidio:

En la boleta electoral del condado aparecerán dos enmiendas a la Constitución de Texas, ambas relacionadas con las exenciones de viviendas y los impuestos sobre la propiedad. Los votantes de todo el estado votarán por estas dos enmiendas que, si se aprueban, harían que el estado aumentara los fondos para las escuelas como resultado de la disminución de los impuestos a la propiedad.

La Proposición 1, que ha recibido críticas por ser extensa, con un total de 77 palabras y poco clara, si se aprueba, continuaría congelando y reduciendo con el tiempo las facturas de impuestos a la propiedad escolar

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

## Rod Ponton renuncia como abogado de la ciudad de Presidio

Por SAM KARAS  
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PRESIDIO — El jueves, el alcalde de Presidio, John Ferguson, y la secretaria de la ciudad, Brenda Lee Ornelas-Acuña, recibieron un correo electrónico del abogado de la ciudad, Rod Ponton, anunciando su renuncia “con efecto inmediato”. Ponton se desempeñó como abogado de la ciudad dos veces, primero de 2002 a 2008 y luego de 2017 a 2022.

El correo electrónico marca la segunda vacante importante en el Ayuntamiento este mes después de que el administrador de la ciudad Brad Newton fuera despedido en una reunión del consejo de la ciudad el 4 de abril. Actualmente, la ciudad enfrenta una serie de desafíos, incluida la recuperación de años de malas auditorías de la ciudad y descubrir cómo regular una propuesta de operación de transporte de diésel.

“Vamos a tener que actuar rápidamente para conseguir otro [abogado]”, dijo Ferguson. “Creo que, especialmente con la cuestión del diésel aún por ahí, necesitamos a alguien que nos guíe”.

Ponton dijo que presentó su renuncia para dedicar más tiempo a otros proyectos. “Me estaba estirando un poco”, dijo. “Tengo una práctica privada muy ocupada y también dedico mucho tiempo a mi trabajo como fiscal del condado de Presidio”.

En su período más reciente como abogado de la ciudad, Ponton creía que su contribución más importante fue ayudar a la ciudad a recuperarse de años de mala gestión financiera. Poco después de asumir su cargo en 2017, ayudó a la ciudad a sortear el conflicto con el IRS cuando se reveló que la ciudad no había estado pagando sus impuestos FICA, un impuesto federal sobre la nómina que generalmente se deduce automáticamente de cada cheque de pago.

“Hace cinco años, la ciudad estaba en un estado terrible: Presidio estaba en quiebra. No tenía libros, no tenía cuentas, no tenía auditorías. Fue un desastre”, recordó Ponton. “Trabajé diligentemente con el administrador de la ciudad, el personal de la ciudad y algunos consultores externos para enderezar el barco. Los ciudadanos de Presidio deberían estar complacidos de saber que está mucho mejor”.

Con las elecciones del concejo municipal a la vuelta de la esquina, Presidio podría estar preparado para ver grandes cambios en la política de la ciudad. El Concejo Municipal de Presidio discutirá cómo abordar las vacantes de administrador municipal y abogado municipal en su próxima reunión.

El alcalde Ferguson elogió el mandato de Ponton como abogado de la ciudad. “Así es como caracterizo el trabajo con Rod: cuando se cuida la ciudad (agua, alcantarillado, basura, cosas así), cuando todo va bien, no lo notas”, dijo. “Durante los años que ha estado con nosotros, hemos podido ocuparnos de los asuntos de la ciudad sin meternos en ningún tipo de problema”.





# ENGLISH NEWS

## Bridge expansion

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on the American side.

The MOU had come up in an earlier city council meeting held February 28, when former City Attorney Rod Ponton, based on information from an internal TxDOT source, was under the impression that the agreement was “waiting on the governor’s desk.” Ponton and other city officials were not entirely certain how construction would proceed once the agreement was signed.

Regardless of the process, representatives from both the city and the port of entry agreed that time was of the essence. Port Director Jesus Luis Chavez was present at the meeting on February 28 and encouraged city council members to reach out to the governor’s office directly. He reported that he had been personally bargained with complaints from locals on the long lines at the bridge, with delays that could last up to 10 hours during peak holiday weekends.

“We want to support you guys — we want to make sure that we’re there for you,” Chavez told the crowd. “But the fact is, we need everyone’s assistance on this. If we do it right and it gets done this year, your traffic will be a lot better.”

Beyond locals’ frustration with long wait times at Customs, Velázquez-Ornelas brought up more practical concerns about the delayed construction. “I have safety concerns with the materials that are left exposed on the bridge,” she said. “If you have rebar that’s been exposed to the weather — is it going to need to be repaired? All the material that’s in front of Pancho’s Pizza, that’s all material for the bridge. What’s the cost going to be to rebuild and re-order this material?”

Velázquez-Ornelas was happy to report at the council’s next meeting on April 1 that Chris Weber, TxDOT’s local engineer out of Alpine, had addressed her concerns. Weber explained that thanks to the dry desert climate in Presidio, the uncovered metal materials would not need to be replaced. “There’s movement forward, so I’m thankful for that,” she said.

Ponton was skeptical that the MOU was a necessity in the first place. “I think the real story here is that there doesn’t need to be an MOU, because you don’t build a bridge without a presidential permit signed by the presidents and the secretaries of state of the U.S.A. and Mexico that says, ‘We’re going to build this bridge,’” Ponton said.

The Trump administration signed off on the permit

for the Presidio bridge on June 15, 2017. SICT and CAPUFE on the Mexican side proceeded with construction without an MOU with the state of Texas — at the meeting on February 28, council reported that Mexico had “substantially finished their half.” Construction on the American side started to hit snags in March 2019, when TxDOT initially suspended construction “awaiting MOU with Mexico” before indefinitely pausing the project in April 2020. The bridge was closed to nonessential traffic during the COVID-19 pandemic between March 2020 and November 2021, contributing to delays.

A spokesperson for TxDOT explained that the presidential permit wasn’t enough to authorize the use of state funds: “The Presidential permit authorizes the State of Texas to construct, operate and maintain the Presidio-Ojinaga International Bridge at the International Boundary between the United States and Mexico, however, an agreement is required by the State in accordance with Sec. 792.006, Texas Government Code; for which an agreement made by a state agency that involves the use of money appropriated from the state treasury is not valid unless it is approved by the governor and the Legislative Budget Board.”

Confusingly, local officials noticed construction activity before the MOU was initiated by Abbott’s office, and that the agency’s contractor had been ordering materials for the bridge and stockpiling them near the U.S.-67 southbound entrance by Pancho’s Pizza. At the April 1 city council meeting, Velázquez-Ornelas reported that the project had “already been funded,” per an internal TxDOT source; former City Manager Brad Newton reported seeing movement of equipment at the site where bridge materials were kept.

Despite all the misunderstanding, local officials ultimately saw the governor’s initiation of the MOU as a sign of progress. “From what I understand, even though maybe it has not been signed yet — whatever the process is, it’s underway,” said Presidio Mayor John Ferguson. “It may not be signed right now, but hopefully it will be within a couple of weeks. Ultimately, if we can actually get this thing back underway, and get it done, that’s all that matters.”

Now that the MOU has been initiated, all parties involved will need to sign the agreement before it gets a second pass across the governor’s desk. Governor Abbott’s office did not respond for comment by press time.

## Early voting

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p.m. at the Casner Room at City Hall. On election day, May 7, polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. also at the Casner Room. Polls will be open through lunchtime during early and election day voting.

In Presidio, early voting will take place from Monday, April 25, to Saturday, April 30, as well as Monday, May 2, and Tuesday, May 3, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Presidio Annex Building C. On election day, May 7, polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. also at Presidio Annex Building C.

Runoff elections will take place on May 24. There are no county-level races in the runoff elections for Presidio County. More information on the runoff elections can be found here. The Big Bend Sentinel will post times and locations for voting in the May 24 runoff when they become available.

### City of Marfa:

In Marfa, local joint elections held each May determine the makeup of the city council and Marfa ISD School Board, however this year both elections have been canceled due to a lack of candidates vying for the positions. Candidates will simply be appointed to fill the roles for which they applied due to a lack of contested races. But unlike the school board, where all seats have been filled, the city council only had two candidates apply to fill three expired seats, meaning one seat remains vacant.

Current council member Eddie Pallarez will serve for a second term, and new, soon-to-be council member Mark Cash will fill in another open seat. As a matter of public transparency, Pallarez and Cash will appear on the ballot as “unopposed candidates declared elected.”

Council members Buck Johnston and Yoseff Ben-Yehuda will exit office in late May or early June. Once the new council is sworn in, they will vote whether to solicit letters of interest from the public in order to appoint a new council member or to host a special election this coming November in order to fill the seat.

While the city canceled its general election due to few city council and school board candidates, it will host a special election regarding a local initiative to reauthorize a one-quarter of one-percent sales tax for street and roadway maintenance and improvements. The quarter-cent tax has been in place since 2002 and must be reauthorized by voters every four years.

Since its implementation in 2002, the city has collected

\$991,000 in sales tax for street maintenance, which both residents and non-residents pay into. Recently, the city has utilized the sales tax for street maintenance to seal coat N. Spring, S. Hill/Gonzales, E. Dallas, W. Texas, S. Summer, Hartford and Edinburg Streets and repave S. Yale, S. Hoover, S. Ridge, S. Austin, S. Dean and S. Spring streets.

Early voting will take place from Monday, April 25, to Saturday, April 30, as well as Monday, May 2, and Tuesday, May 3, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Casner Room at City Hall. On election day, May 7, polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. also at the Casner Room. Polls will be open through lunchtime during early and election day voting. To see a sample ballot, visit the city’s website.

### City of Presidio:

The City of Presidio hosts a joint election with Presidio ISD every two years. In the upcoming general election voters will decide exclusively on city council candidates because there are no expired school board terms.

The City of Presidio will hold a general and special election in order to fill all five of the city council vacancies. Three seats will be up for election as a part of the general election, while two will be up for election as a part of the special election because there are open seats for unexpired terms. All candidates will appear on one ballot.

Voters may choose three candidates out of a total of four to serve for full, two-year terms on the city council. Those running for full terms in the general election are city council candidates Steve “Nicky” Alvarez III, Angel Campos, Joe Andy Mendoza, and John Razo.

Running to fill two one year, unexpired terms are candidates Nancy Arevalo and Arian Velazquez-Ornelas. Arevalo and Velazquez-Ornelas will automatically be appointed as they are each running unopposed but will still appear on the ballot.

Early voting will take place from Monday, April 25, to Friday, April 29, as well as Monday, May 2, and Tuesday, May 3. Hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the exception of April 29 and May 3 where polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voting on election day, May 7, will also take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. All voting will take place at the City Hall Conference Room, 107 W. O’Reilly St.

## Candidate meet and greet

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has served on council, he has helped guide the city through a series of challenges: overhauling the city’s water system and utility rates, navigating the passage of a hazmat ordinance and terminating the contract of former City Administrator Brad Newton.

“Things in council were happening for the better, and then we went into hyperspeed,” he said with a laugh. “We’re not waiting for change, we’re not hoping for change. We are planning for change, envisioning change, and making it happen — all for the people of the city. I don’t know that Presidio has ever had that before.”

Since Mendoza started his interim term on council in the winter, meetings have been long, stretching three or four hours. Additional dates were added to the calendar to make room for the difficult conversations taking place on the podium at the Presidio Activities Center. “We’re trying to clean house,” he said. “That’s always gonna be a dirty process, it’s never pretty. I want to continue doing what’s best for my community.”

His turn as a public servant originally began as a way to inspire his students. “By being from here, being bilingual and everything — I wanted to show them that they could do it,” he said.

Some challenges that he anticipates the city will face in the coming months are making sure residents are protected from the risks of a potential diesel transport operation in town, the staffing changes at City Hall, and the end of Title 42, the pandemic-era federal policy of “immediate expulsion” of undocumented migrants from the United States.

“Right now, our fight is for the safety of the city,” he said. “It doesn’t have to take an educated person to make a good decision. You just have to have the right information. And you have to go get it and not expect it to be laid out for you.”

“It’s like remodeling a house,” he continued. “Anyone can do demolition. Reconstruction takes professionals and experts.”

### STEVE “NICKY” ALVAREZ

Steve “Nicky” Alvarez is a born-and-raised Presidian who currently works as the College and Career Readiness Coordinator at Presidio High School. He has

served on the Presidio Convention and Visitors Bureau for two years and has found a knack organizing local events for kids and seniors.

Like Mendoza, Alvarez left Presidio after high school to pursue a career in higher education that took him to Austin and eventually Washington, D.C. “It’s wonderful — there’s a group of former Presidians that have left and come back. We’re planning on serving our community and getting involved.”

Over the past two years, Alvarez’s focus has been bringing the community together and healing from the collective trauma of COVID. “I think the pandemic has been very hard on everybody,” he said. “A lot of people have personally experienced death. Over the past two years, I’ve attended a lot of funerals.”

Alvarez has focused on hosting festive events to boost morale. In the past few months, he’s helped Presidio High juniors and seniors organize their first prom in two years, hosted a pair of music series with the Visitors Bureau, and thrown Senior Center parties to celebrate the spring holidays with local elders. In May, he’ll travel to D.C. with the school’s rocketry team as they take on the national competition.

As a Presidio native, he’s no stranger to how thorny and complicated local politics can be. “There’s a saying in Spanish — pueblo chico, infierno grande,” he said. To get ahead of the gossip cycle, acting with accountability is key. “I believe in transparency. Whatever the city does, everything needs to be very transparent and very legit.”

“I think you also have to do your own research,” he continued. “You have to be very open-minded and get your information from multiple sources. If elected, I’m committed to educate myself on all the topics and be very well informed before I take any action.”

As a self-professed “extrovert by nature,” seeking outside counsel and getting in touch with what constituents want won’t be a problem for Alvarez. “You have to keep a pulse as to what people are saying, you have to stay informed and hopefully get more people engaged,” he said. “If people come to me as an elected official, I plan to enforce what I already do, which is to follow up and not just let things fall through the cracks.”

## Presidio celebrates Earth Day with bike races, climate summit

By SAM KARAS

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PRESIDIO — Last week, Presidio residents celebrated Earth Day with a pair of events that brought people together to learn eco-friendly habits with family and good food. On Thursday, the elementary school crowd turned out in huge numbers for the Earth Day bike races, hosted by the Big Bend Conservation Alliance, and on Friday, folks gathered in the PAC and over Zoom to learn about climate change and ecology from guest speakers.

### Bike races

On Thursday, the Big Bend Conservation Alliance hosted a full evening of events for the younger crowd, kicking off with “Burritos for Boxes,” where local families were invited to trade their recycling for coupons for free burritos at the Bean.

Elvira Hermosillo, Presidio’s community liaison for the Big Bend Conservation Alliance, kick-started the city’s recycling program a decade ago. She got local youth excited about recycling with fun events and even negotiated a deal with the school to use a district cardboard baler for a municipal recycling center.

The recycling center came under fire last fall, and Project Homeleaf, a youth-led environmental organization made up of students who learned about recycling as first graders from Hermosillo, struck up a deal with the city to keep it alive. With almost a decade of work put into teaching Presidio residents about recycling, seeing so many families drop off their cardboard, plastic and aluminum last Thursday was emotional for Hermosillo.

“We gave out all 48 coupons we printed,” she said. “I had to turn people away because it was after 6 and we had to get to the next event. But I was so happy and excited — I kept telling people to come back.”

Hermosillo’s strategy has always been teaching young people good environmental habits in the hopes that they’ll pass the message along to their parents. “A lot of people were there because their kids told them to take them. So a lot of them were surprised to find out that they can bring detergent bottles and shampoo bottles, all kinds of plastics and paper envelopes, magazines, boxes. People just need to be educated.”

After the recycling center closed its gates, the festivities moved over to the Little League fields, where a huge crowd assembled for the bike races. The organizers separated the kids by age group and gave out medals for the winners of each race held on the blocked-off street between the PAC and the pool.

Elvis Medina, director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Presidio, was Hermosillo’s right hand man in setting up the event in a way that was safe and enjoyable for all. “I gave her some ideas about how to set up the cones for the races, what baseball fields to use, how the sun sets, where the most shade is,” he said. “That’s all part of my line of work so I was just trying to help out. It was a great project.”

The American Legion served up hot dogs and lemonade, and the Presidio ISD Police Department made a huge batch of popcorn to share with the crowd. The Presidio Police Department was also on the scene to help block off the street. Roxy Cabello performed bilingual hits before the evening was capped off with a sprinkler party.

“That was my favorite part,” said Hermosillo.

“Thanks to the city, they allowed us to turn on the sprinklers in the biggest baseball field for 15 minutes. There were kids of all ages — I saw high school kids playing in the water. Everyone was running around and having a good time.”

### Climate summit

On Friday evening, locals were invited to join the youth organizers of Project Homeleaf for a series of guest speakers as part of Presidio’s first climate summit. Scientists from around the country Zoomed into the event for talks, alongside presentations by local organizations like Project Homeleaf and Big Bend Conservation Alliance.

Dr. Alex Mayer, a professor of civil engineering at El Paso, joined the summit virtually to present on climate change and the Rio Grande. The research Mayer presented on Friday night forecasts the potential impacts of climate change on the upper basin of the Rio Grande — the part of the river that runs from Colorado to El Paso.

The Rio Grande doesn’t always flow between El Paso and Presidio, but Mayer believes that his work still holds valuable insight. He has been working to study snowmelt in the upper Rio Grande Basin — unlike rivers in some more temperate areas that are fed by precipitation along their route, the Rio Grande is fed almost exclusively by yearly snow melts from the mountains in central New Mexico and Colorado. The Rio Conchos, which feeds into the lower Rio Grande between Presidio and Ojinaga, is also a desert river originating at high elevations.

“If we were to have to live on the amount of water in El Paso and Juárez and Las Cruces, we wouldn’t be able to make it. We’re reliant on that snowpack water, and that’s relevant because these basins are more vulnerable to climate change,” he explained. “It’s not so much about getting less precipitation overall — snow is melting earlier. There’s less snow and more rain.”

Warmer temperatures and earlier snow melts have an amplifying effect on pre-existing patterns of climate change. Snow is reflective, meaning that sunlight bounces off of snowy surfaces. Bare ground absorbs sunlight. “When the snow melts, you start to have exposed ground. That exposed ground is darker than the snow. The sun will warm up that bare ground much more quickly than if there was snow there.”

Mayer stressed the importance of getting people out to see and enjoy the river. UTEP administers the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, a “slice of the historical Rio Grande” that helps to educate people about what a healthy river could look like.

“I don’t know if you’ve been to El Paso, but we experience the river primarily as a concrete ditch. Our experience with the river is this very kind of industrialized looking thing,” he explained. “I think bringing people to places where they can experience what the river looked like before European settlement is important to let people imagine what the ecosystem can look like.”

Mayer found the experience of participating in Project Homeleaf’s climate summit “humbling.” “I was really excited to hear the enthusiasm of the organization that ran the event,” he said. “Those young people in Presidio can shoot for the stars and not just have to listen to what adults are saying — ‘This is the way it is and get used to it.’”

**CORRECTIONS:** A story with the headline “Governor Abbott approves expansion of Presidio bridge ran in the April 21, 2022 issue of the Presidio International, stating that the Memo of Understanding for the Presidio International Bridge had been signed by Governor Abbott, per Senator Blanco’s office. We received updated information — that the MOU had only been initiated — from Senator Blanco’s office after going to press. We regret the error.

### VENTA FINAL DE LA SUBASTA EN EFECTIVO DE LA PROPIEDAD DE GSA

304 North Bagley Avenue  
Presidio, Texas 79845

Comienzo de la subasta: miércoles 13 de abril de 2022 a las 8 a. m. CST  
La subasta termina: miércoles 25 de mayo a las 5 p. m. CST

**Sitio de subastas:** <https://realestatesales.gov/gsauctions/aucitsrh/?sl=FTWOR722014001>

Depósito requerido para participar en la subasta \$5,000  
Oferta recomendada: \$ 130,000

**Comuníquese con Dorothy Adidas, especialista en bienes raíces de GSA por teléfono (817) 223-9358 o correo electrónico [dorothy.adidas@gsa.gov](mailto:dorothy.adidas@gsa.gov)**





## NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL

## Expansión del puente

**(Continuación de la página 1)**

Según Velázquez-Ornelas, TxDOT programó que el trabajo en el puente cerraría el 11 de abril de 2020, en espera del “memorando de entendimiento con México”. El MOU, o “memorando de entendimiento”, es un acuerdo entre todas las partes involucradas en la construcción del puente. En este caso, el MOU requiere las firmas de la Secretaría de Infraestructura, Comunicaciones y Transportes (SICT) y de Carreteras y Puentes Federales y Servicios Conexos (CAPUFE) del lado mexicano y del estado de Texas del lado americano.

El memorando de entendimiento había surgido en una reunión anterior del concejo municipal celebrada el 28 de febrero, cuando el exfiscal municipal Rod Pontón, según información de una fuente interna de TxDOT, tenía la impresión de que el acuerdo estaba “esperando en el escritorio del gobernador”. Pontón y otros funcionarios de la ciudad no estaban completamente seguros de cómo procedería la construcción una vez que se firmara el acuerdo.

Independientemente del proceso, los representantes tanto de la ciudad como del puerto de entrada acordaron que el tiempo era esencial. El director del puerto, Jesús Luis Chávez, estuvo presente en la reunión del 28 de febrero y animó a los miembros del consejo de la ciudad a comunicarse directamente con la oficina del gobernador. Informó que había sido bombardeado personalmente con quejas de los lugareños sobre las largas filas en el puente, con retrasos que podían durar hasta 10 horas durante los fines de semana festivos pico.

“Queremos apoyarlos, muchachos, queremos asegurarnos de que estamos ahí para ustedes”, dijo Chávez a la multitud. “Pero el hecho es que necesitamos la ayuda de todos en esto. Si lo hacemos bien y se hace este año, su tráfico será mucho mejor”.

Más allá de la frustración de los locales con los largos tiempos de espera en la Aduana, Velázquez-Omelas planteó preocupaciones más prácticas sobre el retraso en la construcción. “Tengo preocupaciones de seguridad con los materiales que quedan expuestos en el puente”, dijo. “Si tiene barras de refuerzo que han estado expuestas a la intemperie, ¿tendrá que repararse? Todo el material que está enfrente de Pancho’s Pizza, todo eso es material para el puente. ¿Cuál será el costo de reconstruir y reordenar este material?”

Velázquez-Ornelas se complació en informar en la próxima reunión del consejo el 1 de abril que Chris Weber, el ingeniero local de TxDOT de Alpine, había abordado sus inquietudes. Weber explicó que gracias al clima seco del desierto en Presidio, no sería necesario reemplazar los materiales metálicos descubiertos. “Hay un movimiento hacia adelante, así que estoy agradecida por eso”, dijo.

Pontón se mostró escéptico de que el MOU fuera una necesidad en primer lugar. “Creo que la verdadera historia aquí es que no es necesario que haya un MOU, porque no se construye un puente sin un

permiso presidencial firmado por los presidentes y los secretarios de estado de EE. UU. y México que diga: ‘Nosotros ‘vamos a construir este puente’”, dijo Ponton.

El gobierno de Trump firmó el permiso para el puente Presidio el 15 de junio de 2017. SICT y CAPUPE del lado mexicano procedieron con la construcción sin un MOU con el estado de Texas, en la reunión del 28 de febrero, el consejo informó que México había “sustancialmente terminado su mitad.” La construcción en el lado estadounidense comenzó a tener inconvenientes en marzo de 2019, cuando TxDOT inicialmente suspendió la construcción “en espera de un MOU con México” antes de pausar indefinidamente el proyecto en abril de 2020. El puente estuvo cerrado al tráfico no esencial durante la pandemia de COVID-19 entre marzo de 2020 y noviembre de 2021, lo que contribuye a los retrasos.

Un vocero de TxDOT explicó que el permiso presidencial no fue suficiente para autorizar el uso de fondos estatales: “El permiso presidencial autoriza al Estado de Texas a construir, operar y mantener el Puente Internacional Presidio-Ojinaga en el Límite Internacional entre los Estados Unidos y México, sin embargo, se requiere un acuerdo por parte del Estado de conformidad con la Sec. 792.006, Código de Gobierno de Texas; para lo cual no es válido un acuerdo hecho por una agencia estatal que involucre el uso de dinero apropiado del erario del estado a menos que sea aprobado por el gobernador y la Junta Legislativa del Presupuesto.”

De manera confusa, los funcionarios locales notaron actividad de construcción antes de que la oficina de Abbott iniciara el memorando de entendimiento, y que el contratista de la agencia había pedido materiales para el puente y los había almacenado cerca de la entrada sur de la U.S.-67 por Pancho's Pizza. En la reunión del concejo municipal del 1 de abril, Velázquez-Ornelas informó que el proyecto "ya había sido financiado", según una fuente interna de TxDOT; el ex administrador de la ciudad, Brad Newton, informó haber visto movimiento de equipos en el sitio donde se guardaban los materiales del puente.

A pesar de todo el malentendido, los funcionarios locales finalmente vieron el inicio del MOU por parte del gobernador como una señal de progreso. “Por lo que entiendo, aunque tal vez aún no se haya firmado, sea cual sea el proceso, está en marcha”, dijo el alcalde de Presidio, John Ferguson. “Puede que no esté firmado en este momento, pero con suerte lo estará dentro de un par de semanas. En última instancia, sí podemos volver a poner esto en marcha y hacerlo, eso es todo lo que importa”.

Ahora que se ha iniciado el MOU, todas las partes involucradas deberán firmar el acuerdo antes de que reciba una segunda aprobación por parte del gobernador. La oficina del gobernador Abbott no respondió para hacer comentarios al cierre de esta edición.

## *Votación anticipada*

**(Continuación de la página 1)**

para las personas discapacitadas o mayores de 65 años.

La Proposición 2, si se aprueba, aumentaría la exención general de impuestos sobre la propiedad familiar para las escuelas públicas de \$25,000 a \$40,000.

En Marfa, la votación anticipada se llevará a cabo desde el lunes 25 de abril hasta el sábado 30 de abril, así como el lunes 2 y martes 3 de mayo de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m. en la Sala Casner del Ayuntamiento. El día de las elecciones, 7 de mayo, las urnas estarán abiertas de 7 a.m. a 7 p.m. también en la Sala Casner. Las urnas estarán abiertas hasta la hora del almuerzo durante la votación anticipada y el día de las elecciones.

En Presidio, la votación anticipada se llevará a cabo desde el lunes 25 de abril hasta el sábado 30 de abril, así como el lunes 2 y martes 3 de mayo, de 8 a. m. a 5 p. m. en el edificio anexo C de Presidio. El día de las elecciones, 7 de mayo, las urnas estarán abiertas de 7 a.m. a 7 p.m. también en el Edificio Anexo C de Presidio.

Las elecciones de segunda vuelta se llevarán a cabo el 24 de mayo. No hay contiendas a nivel de condado en las elecciones de segunda vuelta para el condado de Presidio. Puede encontrar más información sobre las elecciones de segunda vuelta aquí. El Big Bend Sentinel publicará los horarios y lugares para votar en la segunda vuelta del 24 de mayo cuando estén disponibles.

## Ciudad de Marfa:

En Marfa, las elecciones locales conjuntas que se llevan a cabo cada mayo determinan la composición del concejo municipal y la Junta Escolar del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Marfa; sin embargo, este año ambas elecciones se cancelaron debido a la falta de candidatos que compitan por los puestos. Los candidatos simplemente serán designados para ocupar los puestos que solicitaron debido a la falta de carreras disputadas. Pero a diferencia de la junta escolar, donde se han ocupado todos los puestos, el concejo municipal solo presentó dos candidatos para ocupar tres puestos vencidos, lo que significa que un puesto permanece vacante.

El miembro actual del consejo, Eddie Pallarez, servirá por un segundo mandato, y el nuevo miembro del consejo, Mark Cash, que pronto será miembro del consejo, ocupará otro puesto vacante. Como cuestión de transparencia pública, Pallarez y Cash aparecerán en la boleta electoral como “candidatos sin oposición declarados electos”

Los concejales Buck Johnston y Yoseff Ben-Yehuda dejarán sus cargos a fines de mayo o principios de junio. Una vez que el nuevo consejo preste juramento, votará si solicita cartas de interés del público para nombrar a un nuevo miembro del consejo o para organizar una elección especial el próximo noviembre para ocupar el puesto.

Si bien la ciudad canceló sus elecciones generales debido a la escasez de candidatos para el concejo municipal y la junta escolar, organizará una elección especial con respecto a una iniciativa local para volver

## *Reunión y saludo de candidatos*

**(Continuación de la página 1)**

vacante que dejó el exalcalde interino Irvin Olivas, quien renunció para pasar más tiempo con su familia. En los cuatro meses vertiginosos que Mendoza ha servido en el concejo, ha ayudado a guiar a la ciudad a través de una serie de desafíos: reformar el sistema de agua de la ciudad y las tarifas de los servicios públicos, navegar por la aprobación de una ordenanza sobre materiales peligrosos y rescindir el contrato del exadministrador de la ciudad, Brad Newton.

“Las cosas en el consejo estaban mejorando, y luego entramos en hipervelocidad”, dijo riendo. “No estamos esperando un cambio, no estamos esperando un cambio. Estamos planificando el cambio, visualizando el cambio y haciéndolo realidad, todo para la gente de la ciudad. No sé si Presidio ha tenido eso antes”.

Desde que Mendoza comenzó su mandato interino en el consejo en el invierno, las reuniones han sido largas, de tres o cuatro horas. Se agregaron fechas adicionales al calendario para dar cabida a las conversaciones difíciles que tienen lugar en el podio del Centro de Actividades de Presidio. “Estamos tratando de limpiar la casa”, dijo. “Ese siempre va a ser un proceso sucio, nunca es bonito. Quiero seguir haciendo lo mejor para mi comunidad”.

Su giro como servidor público comenzó originalmente como una forma de inspirar a sus alumnos. “Al ser de aquí, ser bilingüe y todo, quería mostrarles que podían hacerlo”, dijo.

Algunos de los desafíos que anticipa que la ciudad enfrentará en los próximos meses son asegurarse de que los residentes estén protegidos de los riesgos de una posible operación de transporte de diésel en la ciudad, los cambios de personal en el Ayuntamiento y el fin del Título 42, la ley federal de la era de la pandemia. La política de “expulsión inmediata” de los inmigrantes indocumentados de los Estados Unidos.

“En este momento, nuestra lucha es por la seguridad de la ciudad”, dijo. “No hace falta ser una persona educada para tomar una buena decisión. Sólo tienes que tener la información correcta. Y tienes que ir a buscarlo y no esperar que te lo presenten”.

“Es como remodelar una casa”, continuó. “Cualquiera puede hacer demoliciones. La reconstrucción requiere profesionales y expertos”.

## STEVE “NICKY” ÁLVAREZ

Steve “Nicky” Alvarez es un presidente nacido y criado que actualmente trabaja como coordinador de preparación universitaria y profesional en Presidio High

**Corrección:** una historia con el titular “El gobernador Abbott aprueba la expansión del puente Presidio” apareció en la edición del 21 de abril de 2022 de Presidio International, indicando que el Memorando de Entendimiento para el Puente Internacional Presidio había sido firmado por el gobernador Abbott, según la oficina del Senador Blanco. Recibimos información actualizada, que el MOU solo se había iniciado, de la oficina del Senador Blanco después de ir a la imprenta. Lamentamos el error.

**APOYAR EL PERIODISMO LOCAL  
EN [SHOP.BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM](http://SHOP.BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM)**

# AMADO PERRO DE LA FAMILIA DESAPARECIDO

Laleh ha estado desaparecida desde el 25 de febrero en las inmediaciones de Farm Road 170, a unas 17 millas al oeste de Presidio.

# Caniche estándar de gran tamaño.

# Gran recompensa.

**LLAME A FARIHA AL (432) 229-4435 O  
(914) 482-1449 O CORREO ELECTRÓNICO  
FARIHANUR@GMAIL.COM**





# CLASSIFIED

## Friends of Big Bend Ranch State Park to host fundraising party Saturday in Presidio

By SAM KARAS  
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — This Saturday, the Friends of Big Bend Ranch State Park will toast the reopening of Fort Leaton and the end of a successful fundraising season with a parking lot party at Big Buddha Bakery. Guests are encouraged to bring their own chairs to take in the festivities and a live music lineup.

Terlingua’s Chet O’Keeffe will open, followed by Alpine’s Calamity Creek String Band. The Big Buddha team will be firing up sourdough pizzas all afternoon, and Marfa’s Cactus Liquors will be providing libations. Midland-based craft beer outfit Tall City Brewing will also be sending some of its wares down to Presidio for the event.

The event is a way for the greater tri-county community to come together and celebrate the state park. The Friends group — a nonprofit that supports the park financially in ways Texas Parks and Wildlife can’t — is celebrating a successful online auction in March that was the organization’s major fundraising push for the year. “We want to keep that momentum going and highlight what we’re trying to do for the park,” said board member Lauren Cecil.

The group’s major efforts for 2022 include promoting the park’s dark sky protections, improving guests’ experiences along the River Road corridor, and revamping the desert garden exhibit at the Barton Warnock Visitor Center. The desert garden project aims to make the interior of the state park — a notoriously remote and rugged place — a little more accessible for casual visitors to the park by bringing plants from the backcountry to Lajitas.

“I am so excited that the event is being held in Presidio,” said Cecil, who owns Rio Bravo Ranch just south of town. The event will be an opportunity for locals to get to know Friends board members as well as people involved in projects throughout the Big Bend parks. “I love the people in Presidio, I love the energy in Presidio and want to help bring the Friends into that.”

## OBITUARY



### Covos

**Oscar Covos** of Presidio, Texas, was called home on Sunday, April 10, 2022, in Fort Stockton, Texas, at the age of 92. We lost a great mentor, father, grandfather, brother and friend.

Oscar Covos was born on March 2, 1930, in Presidio to father Miguel Covos and mother Paula Vargas. He married the love of his life, Evangelina Mendoza, and they were blessed with six children.

Oscar’s greatest accomplishment was raising his family. He loved each one of his children unconditionally. He had a special devotion for his Catholic faith, and he honored Our Lady of Guadalupe. His overall favorites were the Atlanta Braves baseball team, and his orange slice gummies. He also had a unique love for animals. We would often tease him that he had an “Old McDonald’s farm.” His pastimes were dancing and playing poker. Our dad was courageous and had an incredible sense of humor.

Oscar was preceded in death

by his parents Miguel Covos and Paula Vargas, his beautiful wife Evangelina Mendoza, son Adan Covos, daughter Marta Hernandez, brothers Lucio Covos, Salvador Covos, and sister Hortencia Sanchez.

Oscar is survived by his children: Manuel (Olivia) Covos, Oscar (Armida) Covos, Luis (Gloria) Covos, Norma (Rene) Molinar, daughter-in-law Irene (Adan) Covos, all residing in Presidio; brothers Ervey Covos and Edmundo Covos, both residing in Odessa, Texas. He was blessed with 14 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and 15 great-great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers: Mark Covos, Eric Covos, Adan Covos, Manuel Bustamante, Marty Martinez and Albert Covos.

First Visitation was held on Friday, April 15, 2022, from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. at Eternity Funeral Home, Fort Stockton. Second Visitation was on Sunday, April 17, 2022, from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. with a Recitation of the Rosary at 7 p.m. at Santa Teresa Catholic Church, Presidio.

Funeral Mass was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 18, 2022, at Santa Teresa Catholic Church, Presidio, with Father Miguel “Mike” Alcuino officiating. Burial to follow at Desert Hills Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Eternity Funeral Home.

The family of Oscar Covos wishes to extend our sincere thank you to Focus Care of Fort Stockton, Pecos County Hospice, and his nurse Doraly for all the compassionate care they provided to our father.

...



### Salazar

**Josefina “Pepa” Salazar**, 87, died on Wednesday, April 5, 2022, in Odessa, Texas, with her family by her side.

Josefina was born March 19, 1935, in Cerro Alto, Chihuahua, Mexico, to Gorgonio and Isabel Vasquez.

She was a loving faithful wife to Enrique Salazar who preceded her in death. They had nine children: Yolanda, Eleazar, Noemi, Rosa, Marivel, Antonio, Maricela, Enrique and Adan.

Josefina is survived by her loving children and many grandchildren.

First Visitation was held on Thursday, April 7, 2022, from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Iglesia De Cristo located at 104 Commerce St., Presidio, Texas 79845. Second visitation was held on Friday, April 8, 2022, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. at Iglesia De Cristo.

Funeral Service was held on Saturday, April 9, 2022, at 10 a.m. with Predicador Jesse Arevalo officiating. Burial followed at Desert Hills Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Eternity Funeral Home.

## JOBS

### Available jobs: Full Time Dental Hygienist, Outreach Worker (PT or FT, must travel between clinics, bilingual is required)

Applications may be picked up at  
1501 N. Erma, Presidio, TX or call 432-837-4812.  
Please call before arrival.

**Presidio County Medical Clinic • 1501 N. Erma Ave**

### Fowlkes Cattle Company Inc. is now taking applications for truck drivers.

At least 3 Years experience and class A Cdl License required.  
Must have a clean record and pass a pre-employment drug test.

**Come By Fowlkes Cattle Co., Inc., 1800 Golf Course Road, Marfa, TX to apply.**

**For More Information Call 432-729-4664.**



P O Box 265/1412 W. Berlin, Marfa, TX 79843  
Phone: 432-729-1992 ext. 102 / Fax: 432-729-3435  
TRAX TRANSPORTATION

### OPORTUNIDAD DE EMPLEO

BBCAC está aceptando solicitudes para un puesto de chofer de transporte. El solicitante debe tener una licencia de conducir válida de Texas y tener al menos 5 años de experiencia de manejo. El solicitante debe pasar una prueba de drogas/alcohol; y una verificación de antecedentes penales antes de ser contratado.

Los requisitos para este puesto incluyen: transporte y espera de clientes; estudio de antecedentes del DHS de MN; examen médico DOT; Capacitación para conductores nuevos del DOT de MN; trabajar con personas desde bebés hasta ancianos; estar informado tanto en inglés como en español; y estar dispuesto a trabajar con personas discapacitadas. Estamos buscando candidatos que estén interesados en trabajar a largo plazo para nuestra agencia.

El pago inicial es de \$ 15.00 por hora.

Las solicitudes se pueden recoger en las oficinas de Big Bend Community Action, de 9:00 a. m. a 12:00 p. m. y de 1:00 p. m. a 4:00 p. m.; Lunes Viernes.

**BBCAC es un empleador que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.**

## FOR SALE

### FOR SALE PRESIDIO LAND

80 Acres Description Tex Mex Sec 9  
Split from p# 9145 lot Block 00300

Price \$32,000.00

**Tel: 281-969-5216  
Cell: 832-520-0204**

### PROPERTY FOR SALE

60' x 100' Lot at 201 S Hartford, Marfa  
Has livable mobile home; tool shack; car port.  
Selling for \$80,000.

Interested parties please write to  
M. Rod. 2316 Washington St., Carlsbad, NM 88220-3368

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

More than 1 billion people in more than 193 countries celebrate Earth Day to demonstrate support for environmental protection. This year hundreds of people in our community of Presidio came out to celebrate the day, with so many helping to make this event happen.

There’s nothing like pedal power on Earth Day — thank you to all the kids who participated with such enthusiasm in the bike races; to Christina and Manny Salazar who donated two bicycles for the raffle; and to Mayor John Ferguson for putting those bikes together before the event.

Together we served up 300 hot dogs and 320 cups of lemonade donated by the American Legion — hot dogs were cooked by owners of El Chagarrito restaurant; lemonade served in compostable cups by Project Homeleaf members Clarisa Villagran, Laisa Arevalo and Itzel Rubio.

Thank you to the Presidio ISD Police Department who provided a first aid station and popped free popcorn with a line that extended almost all the way to the city pool; Roxy Cabello for live music; City of Presidio and Elvis Medina, director of the city’s Parks and Recreation Department, for graciously letting us use the ball fields and providing sprinklers for the kids to play; and Presidio Police Department and Texas State Troopers for providing security.

Volunteers made everything happen — thank you to Vicente Bocanegra from Presidio Young Life, Jesse Carrasco, Yanira Arzaga, Linda Rodriguez, Adrian Flores, Lorenzo Carrasco, Adriana Barajas, Alejandro Contreras, Patrick Manian, and high school teacher Matthew Boane.

Special thanks to Elementary School Principal Mr. Juan Saldana and all his teachers for their participation. Throughout the week leading up to the event, we worked together with 241 pre-K to second grade students to plant seeds using recycled containers. The school also kindly allowed me to hand out flyers to students and promote Earth Day to kids and families — this is what made our turnout so successful!

Lastly, with everyone’s support and participation, “Burritos for Boxes” was a hit. The event tripled the amount of attendance at recycling and by the end of the night the cardboard compactor was 100% full to the brim! Thank you to everyone who saved your boxes and dropped them off for burrito coupons at The Bean. Let’s keep working to keep up this practice all year—Presidio’s recycling center is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Environmental protection is the practice of protecting the natural environment by individuals, organizations, and governments. Its objectives are to conserve natural resources and the existing natural environment and, where possible, to repair damage and reverse trends. This Earth Day, thank you for coming together to take all of this to heart in Presidio.

**Elvira Hermosillo**  
*Presidio Community Connector*  
*Big Bend Conservation Alliance*

### JOB OPENING

**THE CITY OF PRESIDIO IS ACCEPTING APPLICATION FOR THE POSITION OF LIFEGUARDS AND ASSISTANT MANAGER WITH THE AQUATIC CENTER.**

THIS IS A SEASONAL POSITION.

THIS POSITION WORKS UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF THE AQUATIC CENTER MANAGER AND ASSISTANT MANAGER.

### CANDIDATES MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- MUST BE LEGAL TO WORK IN THE UNITED STATES
- MUST BE AT LEAST 15 YEARS OF AGE
- MUST BE ABLE TO SWIM AND PASS THE SWIM TRAINING AND EXAM

APPLICATION AND COMPLETE JOB DESCRIPTION AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL.

A CITY OF PRESIDIO EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION IS REQUIRED TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE POSITION.

**THIS POSITION IS OPEN UNTIL MAY 13, 2022**

PLEASE SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO CITY SECRETARY- BRENDA ACUÑA, 507 W OREILLY ST, PRESIDIO, TEXAS.

MAILING ADDRESS:  
CITY SECRETARY  
PO BOX 1899  
PRESIDIO, TX 79845

EMAIL APPLICATION: bornelas@presidiotx.us

**APPLICATIONS WILL BE TAKEN UNTIL MAY 13, 2022**

### JOB OPENING

The Presidio County Appraisal District is seeking a full-time Office Clerk for our Marfa office.

Bi-lingual preferred.  
Must be able to work M-F, 8:00 am- 5:00 pm.  
High School/GED required.

Please submit applications/resume to the Presidio CAD Office, PO Box 879, Marfa, Texas 79843 or by email [cramirez@presidiocad.org](mailto:cramirez@presidiocad.org).

**All applications must be submitted by May 1, 2022.**

*The Presidio CAD is an equal opportunity employer.*

## THE SENTINEL IS LOOKING FOR A BARISTA TO JOIN OUR CREW!

**CANDIDATES WILL CROSSTRAIN BETWEEN COFFEE AND COCKTAILS.**

**PLEASE EMAIL YOUR RESUME TO MAISIE@BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM**

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## PRESIDIO SPORTS CALENDAR

**THURSDAY, APRIL 28:**

*PHS Softball Bi-District at Monahans vs Muleshoe, 7:00 PM*

**FRIDAY, APRIL 29:**

*PHS Track at Abilene Regional Track Meet*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30:**

*LRFMS Baseball vs Ft. Stockton at Presidio*

*1st Game 9:00 AM, 2nd Game 11:00 AM*

*PHS Track at Abilene Regional Track Meet*

**MONDAY, MAY 2:**

*LRFMS Softball at Alpine. 4:30 PM*

## The International

Maisie Crow  
Max Kabat  
Allegra Hobbs  
Sam Karas  
Mary Cantrell  
Ariele Gentiles  
Becca Foster  
Georgia Peterson  
Mary Etherington  
Maria Salgado  
Tomas Salgado  
Francisco Florevillar  
Maria Gerardo

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