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BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

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

Presidio High School rocketry teams to compete in national contest this Saturday

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Presidio High School's two rocketry teams are gearing up to head to the national competition this weekend. The American Rocketry Challenge (TARC) is held annually in The Plains, Virginia. The two Presidio teams will compete against 100 other entries from around the country for over $100,000 in cash prizes and a chance to compete all-expenses-paid in the international finals, held in London.

This won't be Presidio High School's first rodeo. The rocketry program has drawn national acclaim and recognition since their first TARC appearance in 2009, coached by Shella Condino. In 2012, the team was honored by President Obama at the National Science Fair — tickled by the fact that they had fundraised by auctioning off a cabrito, he made special mention of Presidio's team in his opening remarks.

The closest a Presidio team has ever come to advancing to the international finals was in 2014, when they placed fourth. Current Coach Luzviminda Santo Domingo, who has led the team for the past three years, is hoping for a strong finish this year. She explained that the team's rockets go through lots of trial and error in order to qualify.

"When we receive the challenge for the year, we start programming, and after some simulations we do around 10 to 14 launches. Then if the teams are prepared, we have an evaluator witness our launches. That's our qualification — we are allowed to do three qualification flights."

The competition requires teams to build a rocket with two eggs on board as passengers. If the team can launch the rocket 835 feet in 41 to 44 seconds and return the rocket to the ground without breaking the eggs, they advance.

The program teaches the kids a range of scientific and teambuilding skills. "You learn a lot of engineering because you have to build your own rocket," explained Team Astra member Maria Lujan. "Physics would be another skill that we have to use — you have to calculate on your own what you need for your rocket to be able to achieve the certain altitude and time that you need."

"My favorite part of rocketry is being able to work with all the people that I've met so far," she continued."I think it's a very good experience, it's getting to know new people and being able to work together to achieve our goals."

The students will leave for Virginia on Thursday morning. On Saturday, they'll compete in the preliminary competition in the

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Fatal car crash on US 67 south of Marfa leaves 1 dead, 2 injured

By ALLEGRA HOBBS and
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MARFA — A Chihuahua man died in a car crash on U.S. Highway 67 while traveling south between Marfa and Presidio when a north-traveling car veered into the southbound lane, hitting the man's car head-on and causing it to flip. The two occupants of the other vehicle sustained serious injuries but survived, while their car erupted in flames.

Mario Rodríguez, 62, was killed in the collision that took place approximately 18 miles south of Marfa on Sunday evening, around 7:28 p.m., according to the Texas Department of Public Safety. A preliminary report from the department indicates that Rodríguez had been driving south towards Presidio at milepost 952, where the speed limit is 70 miles per hour, when a northbound Dodge 3500 pickup truck veered into his lane, hitting him head-on.

A DPS spokesperson said the collision was still under investigation, and the department could not say why the northbound driver had veered into the southbound lane.

Rodríguez's son, Daniel Rodríguez Contreras, told The Big Bend Sentinel that he and his brother had been driving ahead of their father along the corridor towards Presidio, which was a normal route for them to travel as a family — the Estación Consuelo residents would often drive along the highway to visit family in the United States, he said.

On Sunday, the brothers were driving ahead of their father's Ford Aerostar passenger van when their father could no longer be seen trailing behind them. "He was following us," recalled Contreras in Spanish. "My brother no longer saw him and looked back and that was when he saw the accident."

That Sunday was Mother's Day, and Rodríguez had traveled into the United States to retrieve gifts and visit family, said Contreras. His car had been loaded

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Here are the May 7 elections results for the tri-county

By MARY CANTRELL and SAM KARAS
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TRI-COUNTY — Voters across Texas took part in elections this past weekend and overwhelmingly voted to approve two amendments to the Texas Constitution, both relating to homestead exemptions and property taxes.

Statewide, Proposition 1, which will continue to freeze and lower over time school property tax bills for those who are disabled or over age 65, passed with 87% of voters in favor of the amendment. Proposition 2, which will increase the general homestead exemption for public school taxes from $25,000 to $40,000, passed with 85% of the voters in favor of the amendment.

Unofficial results show that in Presidio County, out of a total of 245 votes, 88.57% of voters were in favor of Proposition 1, with 11.43% of voters against the amendment. Out of a total of 247 votes, 81.78% of voters were in favor of Proposition 2, with 18.22% of voters against the amendment.

In Brewster County, out of a total of 898 votes, 82.41% of voters were in favor of Proposition 1, with 17.59% voting against the amendment. Out of a total of 902 votes, 79.38% of voters were in favor of Proposition 2, with 20.62% voting against the amendment.

Unlike Brewster and Presidio county citizens, Jeff Davis County residents only participated in the county election and did not have any local issues on the ballot. Out of a total of 171 votes, 81.87% of voters were in favor of Proposition 1, with 18.13% voting against the amendment. Regarding Proposition 2, 85.38% of voters were in favor, with 14.62% voting against the amendment.

Similar to the rest of the state, voter turnout was low in the tri-county area. In Brewster County, 12.3% of registered voters turned out for the May 7 election. In Jeff Davis County, a similar 10.9% of voters participated in the election. Presidio's was the lowest in the tri-county area, with only 5.74% of registered voters turning out for the county election.

City of Marfa

The City of Marfa held a special election in order to reauthorize a one-quarter

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Pilot in Presidio plane smuggling crash pleads not guilty

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Tobias Penner Peters, the pilot who crashed a plane outside of Presidio in December, pleaded not guilty to two counts of felony human smuggling on April 25. Peters was not present at the courthouse in Pecos to deliver his plea, having waived a right of personal appearance.

On December 30, 2021, Peters fled the scene of the plane crash that left five undocumented passengers injured — one of the migrants' injuries were so severe that they had to be lifeflighted to the hospital. He remained at large for several months, and was finally arrested by the Presidio County Sheriff's Office at the Presidio Port of Entry on March 25.

Due to the severity of the injuries sustained by the migrants onboard, Peters' initial charge of felony "conspiracy to transport illegal aliens" was enhanced to include a second charge, "transportation of illegal aliens causing serious bodily injury." He was released on $100,000 bond, with conditions of release limiting his travel to within the state of Texas, forbidding travel to Mexico, and setting a curfew at his primary residence in Seminole.

A hearing is set for May 20 in Alpine at 9:30 a.m. before Judge David Fannin. Peters has retained two lawyers: Antonio Rodriguez of Presidio and Monty Kimball of Alpine, both of whom declined to comment. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas, headquartered in San Antonio, did not return a request for comment by press time.

Accidente automovilístico fatal en la US 67 al sur de Marfa deja 1 muerto y 2 heridos

Por ALLEGRA HOBBS y
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MARFA — Un hombre de Chihuahua murió en un accidente automovilístico en la autopista 67 de los EE. UU. mientras viajaba hacia el sur entre Marfa y Presidio cuando un automóvil que viajaba hacia el norte se desvió hacia el carril hacia el sur, golpeó el automóvil del hombre de frente y provocó que volcara. Los dos ocupantes del otro vehículo sufrieron heridas graves pero sobrevivieron, mientras que su automóvil estalló en llamas.

Mario Rodríguez, de 62 años, murió en la colisión que tuvo lugar aproximadamente a 18 millas al sur de Marfa el domingo por la noche, alrededor de las 7:28 p.m., según el Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Texas. Un informe preliminar del departamento indica que Rodríguez conducía hacia el sur hacia Presidio en la milla 952, donde el límite de velocidad es de 70 millas por hora, cuando una camioneta Dodge 3500 en dirección norte entró en su carril y lo golpeó de frente.

Un portavoz de DPS dijo que la colisión aún estaba bajo investigación y que el departamento no podía decir por qué el conductor en dirección norte se había desviado hacia el carril en dirección sur.

El hijo de Rodríguez, Daniel Rodríguez Contreras, le dijo a The Big Bend Sentinel que él y su hermano habían estado manejando delante de su padre por el corredor hacia Presidio, que era una ruta normal para viajar en familia; los residentes de Estación Consuelo a menudo manejaban a lo largo de la carretera para visitar a la familia en los Estados Unidos, dijo.

El domingo, los hermanos conducían delante de la camioneta de pasajeros Ford Aerostar de su padre cuando ya no se podía ver a su padre detrás de ellos. "Nos estaba siguiendo", recordó Contreras en español. "Mi hermano

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Aquí están los resultados de las elecciones del 7 de mayo para los tres condados

Por MARY CANTRELL y SAM KARAS
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TRI-CONDADO — Los votantes de todo Texas participaron en las elecciones el fin de semana pasado y votaron abrumadoramente para aprobar dos enmiendas a la Constitución de Texas, ambas relacionadas con las exenciones de vivienda y los impuestos a la propiedad.

En todo el estado, la Proposición 1, que continuará congelando y reduciendo con el tiempo las facturas de impuestos sobre la propiedad escolar para las personas discapacitadas o mayores de 65 años, fue aprobada con el 87 % de los votantes a favor de la enmienda. La Proposición 2, que aumentará la exención general de la vivienda para los impuestos a las escuelas públicas de $25,000 a $40,000, fue aprobada con el 85% de los votantes a favor de la enmienda.

Los resultados no oficiales muestran que en el condado de Presidio, de un total de 245 votos, el 88,57 % de los votantes estuvo a favor de la Proposición 1, con un 11,43 % de los votantes en contra de la enmienda. De un total de 247 votos, el 81,78 % de los votantes estuvo a favor de la Propuesta 2, con un 18,22 % de los votantes en contra de la enmienda.

En el condado de Brewster, de un total de 898 votos, el 82,41 % de los votantes estuvo a favor de la Proposición 1 y el 17,59 % votó en contra de la enmienda. De un total de 902 votos, el 79,38 % de los votantes estuvo a favor de la Proposición 2 y el 20,62 % votó en contra de la enmienda.

A diferencia de los ciudadanos de los condados de Brewster y Presidio, los residentes del condado de Jeff Davis solo participaron en las elecciones del condado y no tenían ningún problema local en la boleta electoral. De un total de 171 votos, el 81,87 % de los votantes estuvo a favor de la Proposición 1 y el 18,13 % votó en contra de la enmienda. Con respecto a la Propuesta 2, el 85,38% de los votantes estuvo a favor, con un 14,62% votando en contra de la enmienda.

Al igual que en el resto del estado, la participación electoral fue baja en el área

(Continúa en la página 3)

Piloto en accidente de contrabando de avión en Presidio se declara no culpable

Por SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Tobias Penner Peters, el piloto que estrelló un avión en las afueras de Presidio en diciembre, se declaró inocente de dos cargos de delito grave de contrabando de personas el 25 de abril. de apariencia personal.

El 30 de diciembre de 2021, Peters huyó de la escena del accidente aéreo que dejó a cinco pasajeros indocumentados heridos; una de las lesiones de los migrantes fue tan grave que tuvieron que ser trasladados en avión al hospital. Permaneció prófugo durante varios meses y finalmente fue arrestado por la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Presidio en el Puerto de Entrada de Presidio el 25 de marzo.

Debido a la gravedad de las lesiones sufridas por los migrantes a bordo, el cargo inicial de Peters por el delito grave de "conspiración para transportar inmigrantes ilegales" se amplió para incluir un segundo cargo, "transporte de inmigrantes ilegales que causen lesiones corporales graves". Fue liberado con una fianza de $100,000, con condiciones de

(Continúa en la página 3)

Los equipos de cohetes de Presidio High School competirán en concurso nacional este sábado

Por SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Los dos equipos de cohetes de Presidio High School se están preparando para la competencia nacional este fin de semana. El American Rocketry Challenge (TARC) se lleva a cabo anualmente en The Plains, Virginia. Los dos equipos de Presidio competirán contra otras 100 entradas de todo el país por más de $100,000 en premios en efectivo y la oportunidad de competir con todos los gastos pagados en las finales internacionales, que se llevarán a cabo en Londres.

Este no será el primer rodeo de Presidio High School. El programa de cohetes ha sido aclamado y reconocido a nivel nacional desde su primera aparición en TARC en 2009, dirigido por Shella Condino. En 2012, el equipo fue honrado por el presidente Obama en la Feria Nacional de Ciencias; emocionado por el hecho de que habían recaudado fondos mediante la subasta de un cabrito, hizo una mención especial al equipo de Presidio en sus comentarios de apertura.

Lo más cerca que ha estado un equipo de Presidio de avanzar a la final internacional fue en 2014, cuando quedaron cuartos. La actual entrenadora Luzviminda Santo Domingo, quien ha dirigido al equipo durante los últimos tres años, espera un buen final este año. Explicó que los cohetes del equipo pasan por muchas pruebas y errores para poder calificar.

"Cuando recibimos el desafío del año, comenzamos a programar y después de algunas simulaciones hacemos alrededor de 10 a 14 lanzamientos. Luego, si los equipos están preparados, tenemos un evaluador que presencia nuestros lanzamientos. Esa es nuestra calificación: se nos permite hacer tres vuelos de calificación".

La competencia requiere que los equipos construyan un cohete con dos huevos a bordo como pasajeros. Si el equipo puede lanzar el cohete 835 pies en 41 a 44 segundos y devolver el cohete al suelo sin romper los huevos, avanzan.

El programa enseña a los niños una variedad de habilidades científicas y de trabajo en equipo. "Aprendes mucha ingeniería porque tienes que construir tu propio cohete", explicó María Luján, miembro del Team Astra. "La física sería otra habilidad que tenemos que usar: tienes que calcular por tu cuenta lo que necesitas para que tu cohete pueda alcanzar la altitud y el tiempo que necesitas".

"Mi parte favorita de los cohetes es poder trabajar con todas las personas que he conocido hasta ahora", continuó. "Creo que es una muy buena experiencia, conocer gente nueva y poder trabajar juntos para lograr nuestras metas."

Los estudiantes partirán hacia Virginia el jueves por la mañana. El sábado competirán en la

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ENGLISH NEWS

Election results

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of 1% sales tax for street and roadway maintenance and improvements. The quarter-cent tax must be reauthorized by voters every four years and has been in place since 2002. The reauthorization passed, with 109 voters in favor of extending the tax and 20 voting against the initiative.

Typically, the local May 7 election is a joint election between the city and school board in which voters decide on school board as well as city council candidates. But this year, the local joint election was canceled due to too few candidates.

With three expired seats on city council — that of councilmembers Yoseff Ben-Yehuda, Buck Johnston and Eddie Pallarez — only Pallarez chose to run again, and because he was unopposed, he will be appointed to serve another two-year term. Also unopposed is Mark Cash, who will fill in the other seat, leaving one vacancy on the council. Pallarez and Cash appeared on the ballot as "unopposed candidates declared elected."

Once the new council is sworn in, in late May or early June, they will likely solicit letters of interest from the public in order to appoint the final councilperson. Alternatively, council could opt to hold a special election in November in order to fill the spot. The Marfa Independent School District Board of Trustees filled its positions and is operating with a full team.

City of Presidio

Presidio residents re-elected Mayor Pro Tempore John Razo and interim Councilmember Joe Andy Mendoza with 77 and 113 votes each, respectively. Steven "Nicky" Alvarez was elected to serve a full, two-year term on city council for the first time with 122 votes. Current councilmembers Arian Velázquez-Ornelas and Nancy Arevalo ran unopposed for unexpired one-year terms.

City of Alpine

In Alpine, the school district and city each held elections to determine new leaders. Just under 17% of Alpine's eligible voters turned out for the mayoral election, and Catherine Eaves won with 416 votes over opponent Amit Rangra's 322 votes. Rangra took a slight lead on election day, but Eaves' supporters turned out in force for early voting — 299 voters cast ballots for Eaves in the weeks preceding the election, compared to Rangra's 187 early votes.

Both city council members on the ballot — Chris Rodriguez and Martin Sandate — ran unopposed for their seats. Rodriguez took home 71 votes and Sandate earned 100 votes.

The Alpine Independent School District held an election in order to fill one board member seat for District 7. The only race on the ballot, candidate Mary McCallister ultimately won out, acquiring a total of 98 votes as opposed to opponent Elpidia R. Lujan's 33. Voter turnout for the school board election was 11.6%.

Runoff elections, in which voters across the state will decide on a number of Democratic and Republican candidates for the November 2022 General Election, will take place on May 24. More information on the runoff elections can be found at https://www.texastribune.org/2022/04/22/texas-voting-primary-runoff-2022.

There are no county-level races in the runoff elections for Presidio and Jeff Davis counties. In Brewster County, voters will decide on Democratic and Republican candidates for the County Judge position. Polling times and locations for the Brewster County runoff election can be found here: http://www.brewstercountytx.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Notice-of-General-Primary-Runoff-Election-for-Democratic-and-Republican-Parties-May-24-2022-1.pdf.

The Big Bend Sentinel will post times and locations for voting in the May 24 runoff as they become available.

Fatal car crash

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up with gifts to bring back to Mexico for a Mother's Day celebration. "He was going to throw a party for all his children, his mother and his relatives who are mothers, and he brought in his truck many gifts that he had bought at Walmart and other stores for all the moms," said Contreras. "All of that stayed [in the truck]."

Contreras said his father had been a devoted husband, parent and grandparent. "My father was a humble, simple, hard-working man who never got into trouble with anyone," he said. "He always worked to give the best to his three children and his wife, and his grandchildren."

The surviving driver and passenger of the other car involved were transported to Big Bend Regional Medical Center, said Marfa Fire Chief Gary Mitschke, who had been at the scene. That car's passenger was subsequently airlifted to El Paso for surgery, according to a GoFundMe raising money for his medical expenses. The organizer of the Gofundme did not return a request for comment by press time, and the driver of the car could not be reached by press time.

Mitschke said he spoke to one of the car occupants upon arrival, who was on the ground and indicated he felt pain in his abdomen. The other occupant was farther away and receiving treatment from EMS, who were arriving on the scene. "They were far enough away from the burning vehicle where I felt they were safe," said Mitschke.

The car fire on the highway spread to grass on the roadside, said Mitschke, creating a brush fire. "We actually had two fires to deal with," he said. "I had the rescue truck work on the vehicle and then a brush truck start working on the brush fire that was next to the road there — that was our biggest concern, and also to make sure everybody was safe and well away from there, because a burning vehicle can still blow up."

Contreras stressed that he and his family have no desire to file charges over the accident — they are merely hoping that the expense of transporting his father's body from Alpine back to Mexico can be covered. "We don't want to file charges against the other person because we know it was an accident," he said. "We don't hate him or want revenge against him because he caused death."

Mitschke said U.S. Highway 67 is a "tough highway to travel," noting it can be dangerous due to the high volume of traffic and the speed at which cars often travel on it. "There's a lot of places that you just need to slow down, and I will tell you for a fact that, I think the speed limit is 70, [but] people go 80 or 85, and they will pass in no passing zones," said Mitschke.

With an eye towards safety improvements, the Texas Department of Transportation recently added additional passing lanes to the route after conducting a years-long study of the corridor. Per a department spokesperson, passing lanes were added between mileposts 966 and 968, near Cibolo Creek Ranch Airstrip, as a result of the study.

Presidio High School

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morning; final results for the day will be released around 6 p.m.

For Team Space Fam freshman Abdiel Bustamante, it'll be his first time traveling out of state. Despite the stress of preparing for nationals, he plans to keep competing. "I'll definitely do it again," he said.

The two teams representing Presidio this year are Team Astra, led by captain Irlanda Sotelo, and Team Space Fam, represented by Ramon Rodriguez. Team Astra's other members include Yahir Brito, Maria Lujan, Karla Valdivia, Claudia Piedra, and Maya Fausett. Team Space Fam includes Kenia Hernandez, Mason Bishop, Abdiel Bustamante, Mark Joshua Sto. Domingo and Robert Loya-Loya.

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As Presidio considers HOT tax ordinance, trouble in Terlingua highlights need for more robust collection

By SAM KARAS
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TRI-COUNTY — At the last regular meeting of the Presidio Visitors and Convention Bureau, in April, Board Director Arian Velázquez-Ornelas informed the board that she intended to present an agenda item at an upcoming Presidio City Council meeting that would pave the way for a local hotel occupancy tax (HOT) to be collected from short-term rentals within city limits. Discussion was tabled at that meeting, but the item's place on the agenda marks a major shift for the tourism industry of the remote border city.

Unlike many neighboring Big Bend communities, Presidio doesn't yet have local regulations or tax collection mechanisms in place for short-term rentals listed on sites like Airbnb and VRBO. "They're popping up like bluebonnets," Velázquez-Ornelas said, speculating that some local families set them up to help make ends meet during the pandemic.

HOT tax collection is a sore subject for Presidio city officials, despite the relatively small number of short-term rentals in town. Unlike Marfa, which has 168 active rentals, Presidio only has 25; where Marfa has five hotels, Presidio only has two. The status of Presidio's non-operational third hotel — the Big Bend Inn — has been questionable since it was revealed that the business owed $100,000 in overdue HOT taxes. The hotel's owner could not be reached for comment.

"I actually looked into it a few years back and even reported the case to the state, but nothing to my knowledge ever came of it," Mayor John Ferguson said. "I can't remember the last time that they were doing their due diligence to pay those taxes."

Velázquez-Ornelas explained that HOT funds in Presidio fund activities through the Visitors and Convention Bureau. Despite its name, the board also organizes holiday events the community can enjoy, like last year's successful Christmas Posada and a Fourth of July celebration at the Presidio International Speedway. "[HOT funds] basically determine our budget," she explained.

The state collects its own HOT funds, the majority of which go to the General Revenue Fund and a smaller portion of which go to state-wide tourism initiatives, per the comptroller's website. Usage of local HOT funds can vary depending on the size and location of the local entity involved — coastal communities, for example, can use HOT funds to maintain beaches.

In general, local HOT funds must be somehow linked to improving the area's tourism. In 2021, the Big Bend's state representative, Eddie Morales, introduced a bill that would expand the definition of what HOT taxes could be used for, arguing that the funds should be able to be used in dark sky protections that enhance area tourism. The bill died in the chamber, but highlighted a desire to reconfigure HOT tax programs to better suit diverse tourist economies.

"The tax code is very prescriptive — there's only a certain number of things that these taxes can go toward," explained Marfa City Attorney Teresa Todd. "It can't go into the general fund — street paving or the police department or anything like that. They have to be used for the promotion of tourism."

Todd has helped steer Marfa through its fair share of HOT tax collection issues. In 2019, a city budget workshop revealed that the Hotel Saint George owed the city more than $100,000 in local HOT funds, prompting the city to reevaluate how they were dealing with tax collection. Todd started summoning some of the smaller players into municipal court. Many newer short-term rental operators weren't even aware that they owed tax.

"These weren't really folks who get notices to come to court that much," she explained. "It really traumatized them — people would come to City Hall crying with their checkbooks. All we were really looking for was compliance."

Just before the pandemic, the city opted to contract with House Compliance, hoping that hiring an outside agency for collections would help. Widespread shutdowns in the spring of 2020 caused problems within the company, and the city ultimately decided the contract money wasn't worth the hassle. "We just didn't feel we were getting the bang for our buck," Todd said.

The City of Marfa returned to DIY collection. State tax law allows for a city or county to charge interest on overdue HOT tax and outlines provisions through which the municipality's legal fees are covered by the tax pool, should the collection process require legal muscle.

Since the pandemic, Todd hasn't noticed as many compliance issues, and the city has opted for a lighter touch — in the case of smaller operators who may not have been aware that local as well as state tax was due, the city often opted to waive late fees, focusing on empowering short-term rental owners to get into and stay in compliance.

"I don't even know that we ever really fined anybody — there have been a few people with pretty egregious cases that maybe paid interest, but that's very, very rare," she explained.

Some of the issues lie in the fact that local HOT taxes in the Big Bend are self-reported and remitted. In neighboring Brewster County, a flat 7% HOT tax is charged for all short-term rentals outside of Alpine. Short-term rental operators are sent a spreadsheet with tax bills for all other short-term rentals in the area and a worksheet to help them verify the amount owed.

This sheet of tax data is publicly accessible, but the fact that it is also automatically sent out to all short-term property owners in the area has stoked controversy in Brewster County Commissioners Court, as rental owners are made acutely aware each tax season who's been keeping up with their bills.

"It's been an ongoing issue since before I came into office," said South County Commissioner Sara Allen Colando, who was sworn in in January 2019. "It started out as people not realizing that they had to pay HOT taxes to Brewster County, and it's kind of devolved into, 'Well, if Joe's not going to pay then I'm not going to pay either.' There are some pretty significant rental operations out here who know they're supposed to pay and are just not paying. It's created a lot of friction."

Non-payment of county HOT taxes has been the subject of public comment at the past three Brewster

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THE CITY OF PRESIDIO IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR. THIS IS FULL-TIME POSITION UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.

Description
To plan, direct, manage and oversee the administration of municipal operations, under supervision of the mayor; Coordinate assigned activities with other City departments and outside agencies; Administer policies established by the Mayor and City Council for efficient operation of the municipality, and provide highly responsible and complex administrative support to the Mayor and City Council in legislative, policy, fiscal, and other technical matters.

The City Administrator is appointed by and serves at the will of the Presidio City Council and also serves in the following capacities:

- Chief Administrative
- City Emergency Management Coordinator
- City Public Information Officer

Essential responsibilities and duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Confers with department heads concerning operating problems, plans, and policy questions; Assists department heads in the management, development, and implementation of department goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for City Departments; Providing leadership and direction for effective City service; Serves as facilitator/communicator between departments to coordinate efficient provision of municipal services; Reviews progress and advises or directs administrative and operating officials in the conduct of functional programs.
- Develops proposals for the Mayor and City Council on citywide policies and coordinates the application of these policies in city procedures according to City Code; Provides leadership and direction in the development of short and long term plans; Gathers, interprets, and prepares data for studies, reports, and recommendations; Attends all City Council meetings; Makes such reports as required by the Mayor and the City Council; Serves as liaison for City on major projects; Responds to complaints to maintain positive community relations for the City; Represents the City Council in public meetings and other elected bodies and boards.
- Staffs the budget framework process and presents recommendations to the Governing Body; Maintains sound fiscal position for the City through preparation of annual budget, financial reporting, treasury and cash management, debt administration, accounting, utility billing, special assessments administration, risk management, pensions, business and occupational licensing, permits, and record management; Provides policy guidance for the development and review of budget requests and program proposals through coordination with City Department Heads; Assesses governmental operations to ensure effectiveness, efficiency, and public convenience in coordination with the Mayor; Review and evaluate work methods and procedures; Meet with management staff to identify and resolve problems.
- Represents the City on various committees involving other public entities or private organizations; Provides professional advice to the Mayor, City Council, and to Department Heads; Makes presentations to councils, boards, commissions, civic groups, and the general public; Receives visitors; Reviews, investigates, and resolves all inquiries and requests from citizens in conjunction with the appropriate Department Head; Disseminates public information and media information regarding City activities.

Performs other related duties of a comparable level as required by the Governing Body.

Requirements
KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge of laws, ordinances, regulations, operations, services, and activities of governing municipal governments.
- Thorough knowledge of public administration, functions, structures, and operating routines of municipal governments and modern office management and information systems.
- Knowledge of principles and practices of municipal budget preparation, program development, and administration.
- Knowledge of principles of supervision, training, and performance evaluations.
- Knowledgeable in pertinent Federal, State and local laws, codes and regulations.

SKILLS

- Skilled in communicating clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
- Skilled in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with city employees, public officials and the public.

ABILITIES

- Ability to plan, organize and supervise the work of others.
- Ability to delegate authority and responsibility.
- Ability to lead and direct the operation, services, and activities of City Departments.
- Ability to identify and respond to community, business, economic development, and City Council issues, concerns, and needs.
- Ability to develop and administer departmental goals, objectives, and procedures.
- Ability to prepare clear and concise administrative and financial reports.
- Ability to prepare and administer large and complex budgets.
- Ability to analyze problems, identify alternative solutions, project consequences of proposed actions, and implement recommendations in support of goals.
- Ability to prepare short- and long-range plans, establish goals and objectives, and develop applicable action plans.
- Ability to research, analyze, and evaluate new service delivery methods and techniques.
- Ability to interpret and apply Federal, State, and local policies, laws, and regulations.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Business Finance, or the equivalent of years' experience in a related field.
- Three years of increased responsibility within leadership/management roles; Continuous career advancement in municipal operations or within related position preferred
- Possess strong financial aptitude and demonstrated budget and financial management skills; Working knowledge of municipal finance, budgeting, and strategic planning preferred.
- Strong communication skills, both orally and in writing.
- Knowledge of organizational management principles and ability to apply to public sector organizations.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with a variety of people/groups such as City Council members, directors, consultants, other government entities, and the public.
- Ability to communicate with the public, present proposals, discuss problems and respond to complaints.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION

- Possession of, or ability to obtain a valid driver's license.
- Employment contingent upon successful post-offer background check, credit check, and drug screen.

WORKING CONDITIONS:
Environmental and Physical Conditions

- Office environment; travel from site to site; works with computers.
- Essential and marginal functions require maintaining physical condition necessary for standing or sitting for prolonged periods of time.

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

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

EMAIL RESUME: bornelas@presidiotx.us

APPLICATIONS WILL BE TAKEN UNTIL JUNE 15, 2022

NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL

Resultados de las elecciones

(Continuación de la página 1)

de los tres condados. En el condado de Brewster, el 12,3 % de los votantes registrados acudieron a las elecciones del 7 de mayo. En el condado de Jeff Davis, un 10,9% similar de votantes participó en las elecciones. Presidio fue el más bajo en el área de los tres condados, con solo el 5.74% de los votantes registrados que asistieron a las elecciones del condado.

Ciudad de Marfa

La ciudad de Marfa celebró una elección especial para volver a autorizar un impuesto sobre las ventas de una cuarta parte del 1 % para el mantenimiento y las mejoras de calles y carreteras. El impuesto de un cuarto de centavo debe ser reautorizado por los votantes cada cuatro años y ha estado vigente desde 2002. La reautorización fue aprobada con 109 votantes a favor de extender el impuesto y 20 en contra de la iniciativa.

Por lo general, la elección local del 7 de mayo es una elección conjunta entre la ciudad y la junta escolar en la que los votantes deciden sobre los candidatos de la junta escolar y del concejo municipal. Pero este año, la elección local conjunta fue cancelada debido a la escasez de candidatos.

Con tres puestos vencidos en el concejo municipal, el de los concejales Yoseff Ben-Yehuda, Buck Johnston y Eddie Pallarez, solo Pallarez eligió postularse nuevamente y, debido a que no tuvo oposición, será designado para cumplir otro mandato de dos años. Mark Cash tampoco tiene oposición, quien ocupará el otro puesto, dejando una vacante en el consejo. Pallarez y Cash aparecieron en la boleta como "candidatos sin oposición declarados electos".

Una vez que el nuevo consejo preste juramento, a fines de mayo o principios de junio, es probable que solicite cartas de interés del público para nombrar al último concejal. Alternativamente, el consejo podría optar por celebrar una elección especial en noviembre para ocupar el puesto. La Junta Directiva del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Marfa ocupó sus cargos y está operando con un equipo completo.

Ciudad de Presidio

Los residentes de Presidio reeligieron al alcalde pro tempore John Razo y al concejal interino Joe Andy Mendoza con 77 y 113 votos cada uno, respectivamente. Steven "Nicky" Alvarez fue elegido para servir un término completo de dos años en el concejo municipal por primera vez con 122 votos. Los actuales concejales Arian Velázquez-Ornelas y Nancy Arevalo se postularon sin oposición por períodos de un año que no hayan vencido.

Ciudad de los Alpes

En Alpine, el distrito escolar y la ciudad celebraron elecciones para determinar nuevos líderes. Poco menos del 17% de los votantes elegibles de Alpine se presentaron a las elecciones para alcalde, y Catherine Eaves ganó con 416 votos sobre los 322 votos de su oponente Amit Rangra. Rangra tomó una ligera ventaja el día de las elecciones, pero los partidarios de Eaves se sumaron a la votación anticipada: 299 votantes votaron por Eaves en las semanas anteriores a las elecciones, en comparación con los 187 votos anticipados de Rangra.

Los dos miembros del concejo municipal en la boleta, Chris Rodríguez y Martin Sandate, se postularon sin oposición para sus escaños. Rodríguez se llevó a casa 71 votos y Sandate obtuvo 100 votos.

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Alpine realizó una elección para ocupar un puesto de miembro de la junta para el Distrito 7. La única carrera en la boleta electoral, la candidata Mary McCallister finalmente ganó, adquiriendo un total de 98 votos en comparación con los 33 de la oponente Elpidia R. Lujan. La participación electoral para la elección de la junta escolar fue del 11,6%.

Las elecciones de segunda vuelta, en las que los votantes de todo el estado decidirán sobre una serie de candidatos demócratas y republicanos para las elecciones generales de noviembre de 2022, se llevarán a cabo el 24 de mayo. Puede encontrar más información sobre las elecciones de segunda vuelta en https://www.texastribune.org/2022/04/22/texas-voting-primary-runoff-2022.

No hay contiendas a nivel de condado en las elecciones de segunda vuelta para los condados de Presidio y Jeff Davis. En el condado de Brewster, los votantes decidirán sobre los candidatos demócratas y republicanos para el puesto de juez del condado. Los horarios y lugares de votación para la segunda vuelta de las elecciones del condado de Brewster se pueden encontrar aquí: http://www.brewstercountytx.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Notice-of-General-Primary-Runoff-Election-for-Democratic -y-Partidos-Republicanos-24-de-mayo-2022-1.pdf.

El Big Bend Sentinel publicará los horarios y lugares para votar en la segunda vuelta del 24 de mayo a medida que estén disponibles.

Accidente automovilístico fatal

(Continuación de la página 1)

ya no lo vio y miró hacia atrás y fue entonces cuando vio el accidente".

Ese domingo era el Día de la Madre y Rodríguez había viajado a los Estados Unidos para recuperar regalos y visitar a la familia, dijo Contreras. Su auto había sido cargado con regalos para traer de regreso a México para la celebración del Día de la Madre. "Él iba a hacer una fiesta para todos sus hijos, su mamá y sus familiares que son mamás, y traía en su camioneta muchos regalos que había comprado en Walmart y otras tiendas para todas las mamás", dijo Contreras. "Todo eso se quedó [en el camión]".

Contreras dijo que su padre había sido un devoto esposo, padre y abuelo. "Mi padre era un hombre humilde, sencillo, trabajador, que nunca se metía en problemas con nadie", dijo. "Siempre trabajó para dar lo mejor a sus tres hijos y a su esposa, y a sus nietos".

El conductor sobreviviente y el pasajero del otro automóvil involucrado fueron transportados al Centro Médico Regional de Big Bend, dijo el jefe de bomberos de Marfa, Gary Mitschke, quien estuvo en el lugar. Posteriormente, el pasajero de ese automóvil fue trasladado en avión a El Paso para someterse a una cirugía, según un GoFundMe que recaudó dinero para sus gastos médicos. El organizador de Gofundme no respondió a una solicitud de comentarios al cierre de esta edición, y no se pudo contactar al conductor del automóvil al cierre de esta edición.

Mitschke dijo que habló con uno de los ocupantes del automóvil al llegar, que estaba en el suelo e indicó que sentía dolor en el abdomen. El otro ocupante estaba más alejado y recibía atención de los servicios de emergencias médicas, que llegaban al lugar. "Estaban lo suficientemente lejos del vehículo en llamas donde sentí que estaban a salvo", dijo Mitschke.

El incendio del automóvil en la carretera se extendió a la hierba al costado de la carretera, dijo Mitschke, creando un incendio forestal. "En realidad, tuvimos que lidiar con dos incendios", dijo. "Hice que el camión de rescate trabajara en el vehículo y luego un camión de matorrales comenzó a trabajar en el incendio de matorrales que estaba al lado de la carretera allí; esa era nuestra mayor preocupación, y también asegurarnos de que todos estuvieran seguros y bien lejos de allí, porque un vehículo en llamas aún puede explotar".

Contreras enfatizó que él y su familia no desean presentar cargos por el accidente; simplemente esperan que se puedan cubrir los gastos de transporte del cuerpo de su padre desde Alpine de regreso a México. "No queremos presentar cargos contra la otra persona porque sabemos que fue un accidente", dijo. "No lo odiamos ni queremos vengarnos de él porque causó la muerte".

Mitschke dijo que la Autopista 67 de los EE. UU. es una "autopista difícil de transitar", y señaló que puede ser peligrosa debido al alto volumen de tráfico y la velocidad a la que los automóviles suelen viajar por ella. "Hay muchos lugares en los que solo necesitas reducir la velocidad, y te diré con certeza que, creo que el límite de velocidad es 70, [pero] la gente va a 80 u 85, y pasarán en zonas de no rebasar. ", dijo Mitschke.

Con miras a las mejoras de seguridad, el Departamento de Transporte de Texas agregó recientemente carriles de paso adicionales a la ruta después de realizar un estudio del corredor durante años. Según un vocero del departamento, como resultado del estudio se agregaron carriles para rebasar entre los postes de milla 966 y 968, cerca de la pista de aterrizaje de Cibolo Creek Ranch.

Accidente de contrabando

(Continuación de la página 1)

liberación que limitaban su viaje dentro del estado de Texas, prohibían viajar a México y establecían un toque de queda en su residencia principal en Seminole.

Se fijó una audiencia para el 20 de mayo en Alpine a las 9:30 am ante el juez David Fannin. Peters ha contratado a dos abogados: Antonio Rodríguez de Presidio y Monty Kimball de Alpine, quienes se negaron a comentar. La Oficina del Fiscal Federal para el Distrito Oeste de Texas, con sede en San Antonio, no respondió a una solicitud de comentarios al cierre de esta edición.

Presidio High School

(Continuación de la página 1)

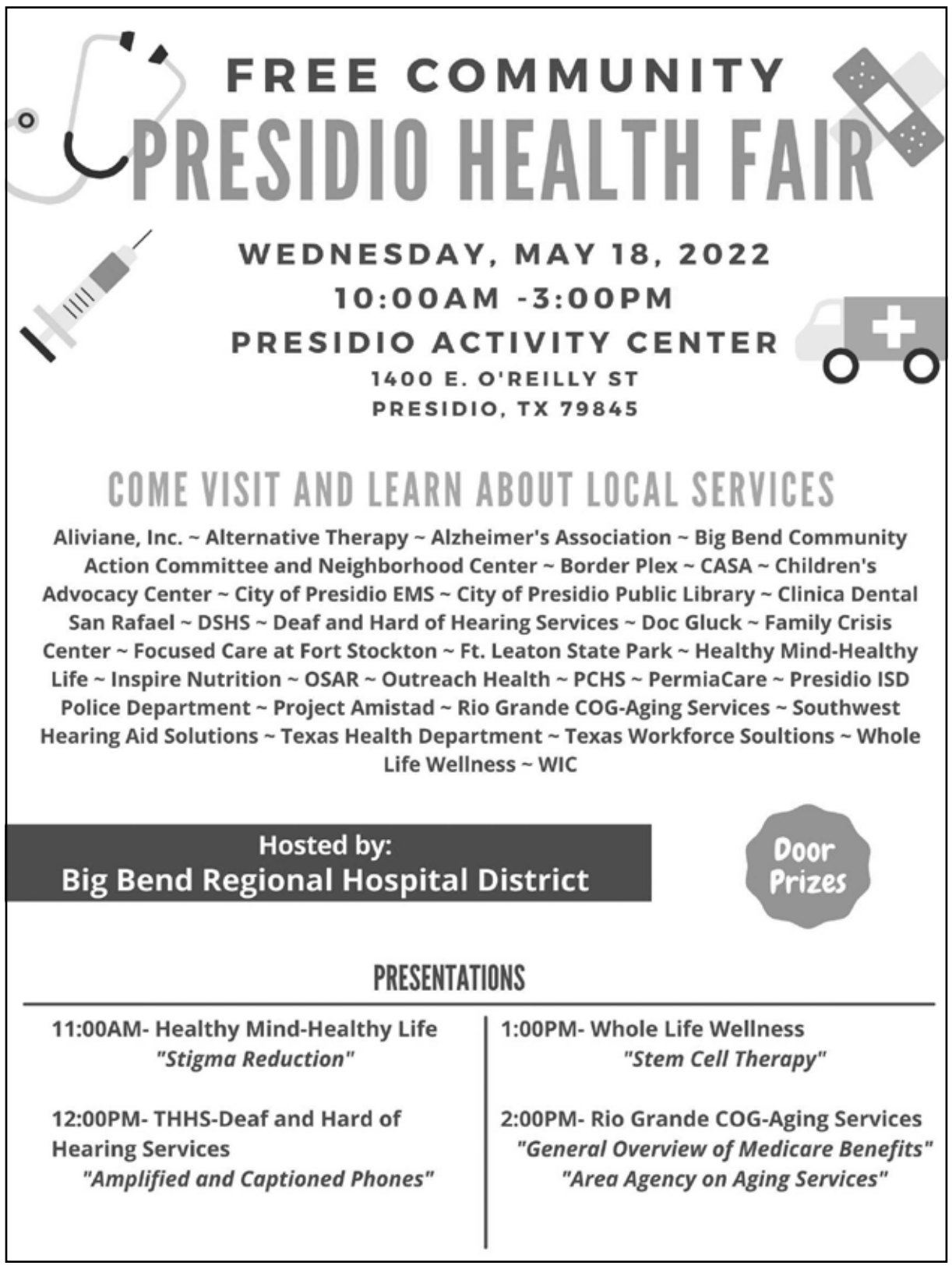
competencia preliminar de la mañana; Los resultados finales del día se darán a conocer alrededor de las 6 p.m.

Para Abdiel Bustamante, estudiante de primer año de Team Space Fam, será la primera vez que viaje fuera del estado. A pesar del estrés de prepararse para las nacionales, planea seguir compitiendo. "Definitivamente lo haré de nuevo", dijo.

Los dos equipos que representan a Presidio este año son Team Astra, dirigido por la capitana Irlanda Sotelo, y Team Space Fam, representado por Ramón Rodríguez. Los otros miembros del Equipo Astra incluyen a Yahir Brito, María Luján, Karla Valdivia, Claudia Piedra y Maya Fausett. Team Space Fam incluye a Kenia Hernández, Mason Bishop, Abdiel Bustamante, Mark Joshua Sto. Domingo y Robert Loya-Loya.

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50-195-S (5-22/7)
[41.41,41.70]

Procedimientos para la protesta y apelación de los impuestos de la propiedad

Los propietarios tienen el derecho a protestar las acciones acerca de sus tasaciones del impuesto de propiedad. Puede seguir estos procedimientos de apelación si usted tiene alguna preocupación acerca de:

- el valor (del mercado) tasado a su propiedad;
- el valor desigual de su propiedad en comparación con otras propiedades;
- la inclusión de su propiedad en la lista de tasaciones;
- cualquier exención que se puede aplicar a usted;
- la calificación para una tasación de agricultura o de trastería;
- las unidades de impuestos que están gravando su propiedad;
- la titularidad de la propiedad;
- el cambio de uso del terreno recibiendo una tasación especial;
- el fracaso del jefe de tasaciones o de la junta de revisión de tasaciones (ARB por sus siglas en inglés) para enviar una notificación requerida; o
- cualquier acción tomada por el jefe de tasaciones, distrito de tasaciones del condado (CAD por sus siglas en inglés) o ARB que se aplica y le afecta negativamente.

Revisión Informal
(Insert description of CAD's informal review process, if any, then give name and telephone number of person taxpayer should contact.)

PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
P O BOX 879
MARFA, TEXAS 79843
(432)729-3431

Revisión por el ARB
Si usted no puede resolver su problema informalmente con el CAD, puede presentar una notificación de protesta solicitando que su caso sea escuchado por el ARB.

El ARB es una junta independiente de ciudadanos que escucha y determina las protestas sobre las tasaciones de propiedad y otras preocupaciones listadas arriba. Tiene el poder de ordenar al CAD a hacer los cambios necesarios sobre la base de los testimonios oídos durante la audiencia de el ARB.

Si presenta una solicitud por escrito para una audiencia de ARB (aviso de protesta) antes de la fecha límite, el ARB establecerá su caso para una audiencia y le enviará un aviso por escrito de la hora, fecha, lugar y tema de la audiencia. Si es necesario, puede solicitar una audiencia por la tarde o un sábado. Usted puede usar el formulario del Contralor 50-132, *Property Appraisal - Notice of Protest*, para presentar su solicitud por escrito para una audiencia de ARB.

Antes de su cita con el ARB, puede pedir a revisar la evidencia que el CAD planea introducir a la audiencia para establecer cualquier asunto en cuestión. Antes de una audiencia en una protesta o inmediatamente después de que comience la cita, usted o su agente y el CAD están obligados a intercambiar copias de cualquier material (evidencia) destinada a ser ofrecido o sometido al ARB en la cita. La evidencia se puede presentar para cualquier tipo de audiencia ya sea en papel o en un pequeño dispositivo electrónico portátil (como un CD o memoria USB) que será guardado por el ARB. No traiga la evidencia en un teléfono. Los procedimientos de audiencia del ARB con respeto a todos los requisitos para presentar adecuadamente evidencia sobre un pequeño dispositivo electrónico portátil deben ser revisados.

En la mayor medida posible, la audiencia será informal. Usted o su agente designado pueden aparecer en persona, por conferencia telefónica o videoconferencia o mediante la presentación de una declaración jurada por escrito para presentar su evidencia, hechos y argumentos. Debe indicar el tipo de audiencia que solicita en su notificación de protesta o por escrito antes de 10 dias antes de la fecha de la audiencia y proporcionar su evidencia y declaración jurada por escrito antes de que comience la audiencia del ARB. Puede usar el formulario del Contralor 50-283, Property Owner's Affidavit of Evidence to the Appraisal Review Board, para presentar evidencia para su audiencia de teleconferencia o para su audiencia por declaración jurada.

Usted y el representante del CAD tienen la oportunidad de presentar evidencia sobre su caso. Puede interrogar al representante de CAD. El ARB rendirá su decisión basado en la evidencia presentada por ambas partes. En la mayoría de los casos, el CAD tiene la carga de establecer el valor de la propiedad por una preponderancia de la evidencia presentada.

En ciertas protestas, el jefe de tasaciones tiene la carga de probar el valor de la propiedad por evidencia clara y convincente. Usted debe revisar los procedimientos de audiencia de ARB para aprender más sobre la evidencia y asuntos relacionados.

No debe tratar de contactar a los miembros del ARB fuera de la audiencia. Los miembros del ARB están obligados a firmar una declaración jurada diciendo que no han hablado de su caso antes de que el ARB lo oiga.

Revisión por Corte del Distrito, Árbitro o SOAH
Después de decidir su caso, el ARB debe enviarle una copia de su orden por correo certificado. Si no está satisfecho con la decisión del ARB, tiene el derecho a apelar ante la corte de distrito. Como una alternativa a la corte de distrito, puede apelar a través del arbitraje obligatorio o a la Oficina Estatal de Audiencias Administrativas (SOAH por sus siglas en inglés) si se cumplen los criterios de calificación.

Si decide ir a la corte de distrito, debe iniciar el proceso presentando una petición ante el corte de distrito dentro de los 60 días siguiendo la fecha en que reciba el orden del ARB. Si decide apelar a través del arbitraje obligatorio, debe presentar una petición del arbitraje obligatorio con el CAD no más tarde del 60º día después de que recibe el aviso del orden de el ARB. Si decide apelar al SOAH, debe presentar una apelación con el CAD no más tarde que el 30º día después de que recibe el aviso del orden del ARB. Las apelaciones a la corte de distrito, el arbitraje obligatorio, y SOAH requieren el pago de ciertas tasas o depósitos. Si cree que el ARB o el jefe de tasaciones no cumplió con un requisito de procedimiento de ARB, puede presentar una queja ante el enlace del contribuyente local. Si no es resuelto por el ARB o el jefe de tasaciones, puede solicitar un arbitraje vinculante limitado para obligar al ARB o al tasador principal a cumplir.

El Pago de los Impuestos
Usted debe pagar la cantidad de impuestos debido por la parte del valor imponible no disputado, la cantidad de impuestos debido sobre la propiedad bajo la orden de que se han adoptado la apelación o la cantidad de impuestos debido en el año anterior.

Información Adicional
Usted puede obtener más información poniéndose en contacto con su CAD en: (*Insert CAD name, address and telephone number*).

PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
P O BOX 879
MARFA, TEXAS 79843 (432)729-3431

Puede obtener formularios del Contralor e información adicional sobre cómo preparar una protesta en el sitio web del Contralor en comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.

Fecha de vencimiento para presentar protestas al ARB*

Fecha de Vencimiento Común
No puede ser más tarde del 15 de mayo (o dentro de 30 días después de que un aviso del valor tasado fue enviado a usted, cualquier es más tarde).

Las protestas tardes son permitidas si usted falla de cumplir la fecha de vencimiento común por causa justa. El ARB decide si usted tiene una buena causa. Las protestas tardes no son permitidas después de que el ARB apruebe las evaluaciónes de tasación por el año.

Fechas de Vencimiento Especiales
Para el cambio de uso (el CAD le informó que usted está perdiendo la tasación agrícultar porque cambió el uso de su terreno), la fecha no es más tarde que el trigésimo día después de que el aviso de la determinación fue entregado a usted.

Para los cambios de ARB (el ARB le ha informado de un cambio que aumenta su obligación de impuestos y el cambio no resultó de una protesta que usted presentó), la fecha no es más tarde que el trigésimo día después de que el aviso del cambio fue entregado a usted.

(You may insert deadline for protests concerning omitted property if doing so would avoid taxpayer confusion.)

Si cree que el CAD o ARB le deberían haber enviado un aviso y no lo hicieron, puede presentar una protesta hasta el día antes de que los impuestos se vuelvan delincuentes (usualmente el 1ero de febrero) o no más tarde del 125º día después de la fecha en que usted afirma que recibió una factura de impuestos de uno o más entidades que gravan su propiedad. El ARB decide si oigan su caso basado en la evidencia sobre si un aviso requerido fue enviado a usted.

* El límite de fecha se pospone al siguiente día laborable si cae en un fin de semana o día de festivo legal, estatal o nacional.

CLASSIFIED

HOT tax ordinance

(Continued from page 2)

County Commissioners Court meetings. During their April 26 meeting, Daryl Eby of Big Bend Vacation Rentals asked county officials how they planned to address the discrepancy. "It seems like the county should be obligated to enforce that tax in Terlingua," he said. "If one of our largest competitors is not obligated to pay, that is a significant disadvantage to other lodging operators in the county that are paying."

Eby did not name the entity in question: Basecamp Terlingua, a popular rental spot on Kempf Road widely known amongst the influencer set for its distinctive "bubble house" lodging.

According to records obtained through the Brewster County Treasurer's Office, Basecamp Terlingua has not paid HOT taxes to Brewster County since March 2020. Basecamp doesn't appear on the Brewster County HOT rolls until 2019. In 2019 and 2020, Basecamp paid a total of $28,488 in Brewster County HOT tax — to date, the only money it has ever paid the county, according to public records, despite being one of the most popular and successful short-term rentals in the area.

Basecamp is not the only rental property in Brewster County delinquent on HOT taxes, but it is the largest such company to do so and has delayed payment the longest. According to the worksheet sent to rental owners by the Brewster County Treasurer's Office, the county levies a 10% per annum interest on late taxes. Basecamp's current rental holdings should generate around $300 a night for the county at full occupancy.

Most other rental properties automatically deduct taxes from their bookings through platforms like Airbnb and VRBO. According to an Airbnb spokesperson, the company has an agreement with the state of Texas allowing the site to automatically collect and remit the 6% state HOT tax each time a guest books. In some areas, hosts can opt-in to a system that automatically collects local HOT taxes as well, streamlining the process. "In Texas, Airbnb collected and remitted over $64 million in occupancy taxes in 2019 — an increase of approximately 95% over 2019," they said.

Basecamp was barred from Airbnb in 2020, amidst sexual assault allegations against founder and owner Jeff Leach. Basecamp rentals are currently managed through the company's website, which automatically adds 13% tax to each transaction — 6% of the total to the state, and 7% of the total to the county. Where that money ends up is unclear.

"We have contributed hundreds and thousands of dollars to HOT tax over the years from various entities we manage," Leach wrote in response to a request for comment. "We are in contact with Visit Big Bend and look forward to chatting with them about concerns and questions."

A representative for Visit Big Bend — the entity responsible for instituting and dispersing Brewster County's HOT funds — did not return requests for comment.

Commissioner Colando stressed the need for better education and updated regulations to help the county collect. "People don't understand how HOT taxes can and cannot be used and are frustrated that it's not being used for worthwhile projects that are simply illegal uses of the funds. Then — on top of that — there's this huge amount of money that is not being collected or remitted to the county like it's legally supposed to. There's a lot of people who are understandably upset with how the HOT tax is collected, enforced and expended."

Justin Bragiel, general counsel for the Texas Hotel and Lodging Association, had been briefed on the situation in Terlingua. "This isn't a Brewster County-only problem — this is a problem everywhere. I get lots of calls about short term rentals because there's so many of them and they're hard to locate."

"The law is very much on the county's side," he explained. "The problem is always the amount of resources that the county devotes to going after each individual operator who may not be complying with the law. The county attorney, for example, can go to the district court and ask the court to enjoin that lodging property from operating until they become current on their taxes. The county has the ability to do full audits of any individual who's supposed to be remitting taxes. And then there are paneled penalties that apply for failure to comply. The legal tools are there — it's just a matter of devoting the resources."

As Presidio begins regulating a burgeoning short-term rental industry, Marfa and Terlingua can provide a blueprint for local officials to plan how to grow the local tourism economy responsibly and fairly.

Mayor John Ferguson, for one, is looking forward to the changes. "I'm going to open an Airbnb myself probably within the next year," he said. "I'm happy to pay, I think it's the right thing to do. Hopefully it'll make a positive difference in Presidio."

OBITUARY



Bejarano

Cynthia Diaz Manriquez, age 53, born in Alpine, Texas, passed away on May 2, 2022, in Houston, Texas.

Rosary will be held at Santa Teresa De Jesus Catholic Church, Friday, May 6, at 7 p.m.

Funeral services will be held on May 7 at 10 a.m. at Santa Teresa de Jesus Catholic Church with Father Victorino Loresca of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church officiating. Burial will follow at Desert Hills at 11 a.m. Arrangements are by Eternity Funeral Home.

Cynthia was born in Alpine to Louis and Margie Manriquez on July 25, 1968. She went to school in Presidio. She graduated from Sul Ross State University. She was an art teacher at Channelview High School for 22 years. She was involved in the band boosters club and the Catholic community.

Cynthia is preceded in death by her mother, Margie Manriquez.

Cynthia is survived by her daughters, Ashley Diaz and Kasmine Diaz, and by her father, Luis Manriquez.

Pallbearers will be Ramon Barriga, Leo Madrid, Tony Manriquez, Luz Manriquez, Alfredo Manriquez and Joe Portillo

The family of Cynthia wishes to extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Ratan, M.D. Anderson staff, Channelview High School, and donors.

EMAIL
ADS@BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM
FOR ADVERTISING RATES

JOBS

Available jobs: Full Time Dental Hygienist

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

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING WOMEN FROM YOUR COMMUNITY GET FREE BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING?

Please reach out to us to apply for the CHW – Community Healthcare Worker position.

As the CHW, you would be:

- Going out to the community to recruit participants
- Enroll participants who are eligible and provide simple health education
- Make sure that all paperwork is completed by the participant

Please call Sarah at 432-837-4812 for more information.

Applications may be picked up at 1605 N. FT. Davis Hwy
Alpine, TX 79830 or call (432) 837-4555.

Please call first before arrival.

Family Health Service of Alpine • 1605 N. FT. Davis Hwy

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



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/gsaauctions/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



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

Big Bend Community Action Committee, Inc.

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.

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432-229-5000 • www.fdsb.com

PRESIDIO SPORTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MAY 12:
LRFMS Baseball vs Van Horn @ Presidio, 4:30 PM

SATURDAY, MAY 14:
LRFMS Softball @ Presidio Round Robin

MONDAY, MAY 16:
LRFMS Softball vs Marfa @ Presidio. 4:30 PM
PHS Track, Softball, & Baseball Recognition, 6:30 PM

TUESDAY, MAY 17:
PHS Band Concert, 6:00 PM

The International El

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