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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

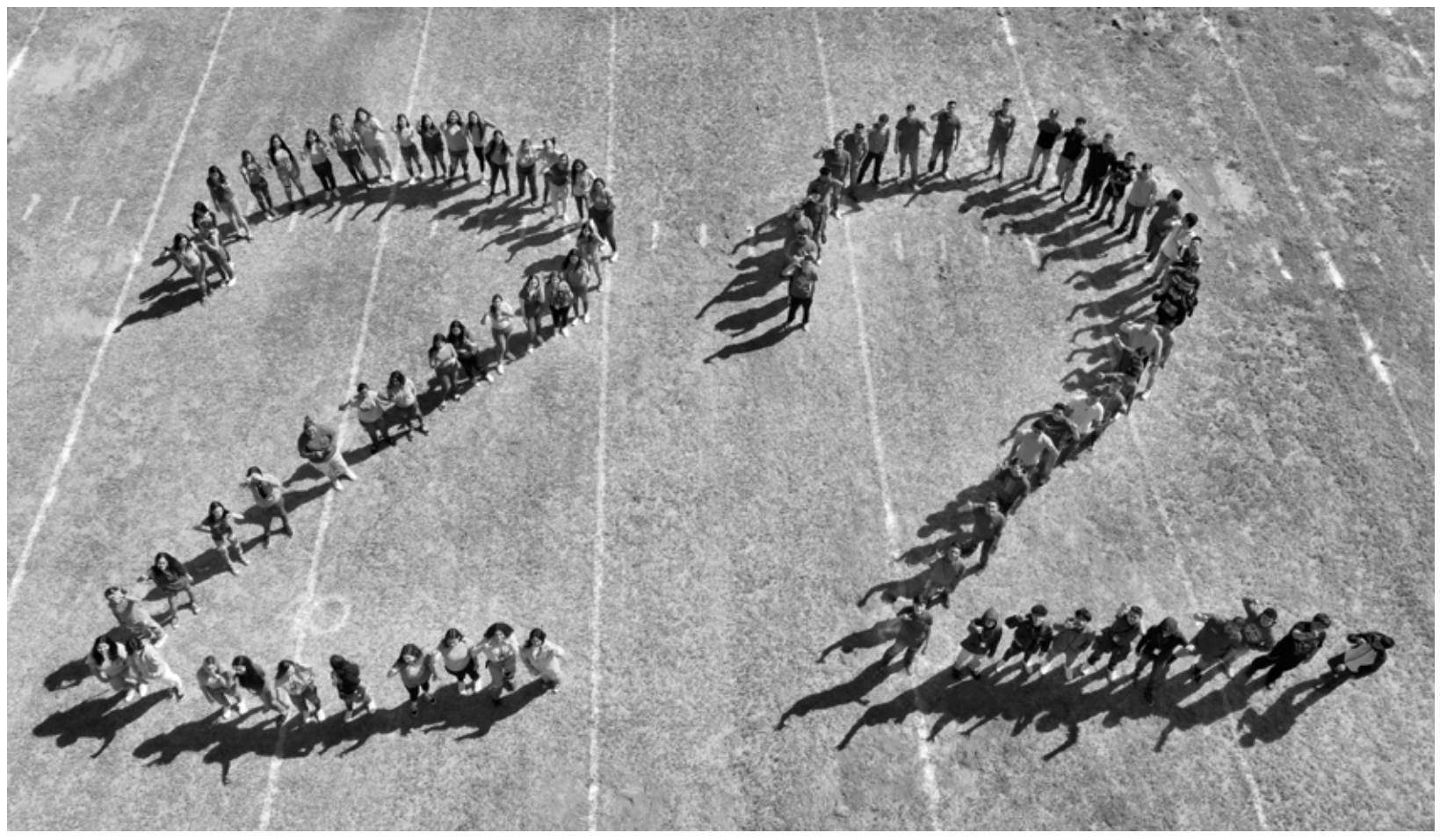


Photo by Chief Joel Nuñez / Foto por Chief Joel Nuñez

Presidio High School seniors celebrated graduating by forming a 22 on the football field. Ceremonies were held on Friday.
Los estudiantes del último año de Presidio High School celebraron su graduación formando un 22 en el campo de fútbol. Las ceremonias se llevaron a cabo el viernes.

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program hosts summit in Van Horn

By SAM KARAS
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VAN HORN — The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) for Region 10 hosted its first summit in Van Horn on Wednesday — and organizers hope there are more to come. RCORP is a part of the Biden administration's American Rescue Plan, and provides funding to rural communities to help combat the opioid epidemic. Opioid overdose deaths claim the lives of nearly 69,000 Americans each year, representing the bulk of deaths due to substance abuse.

RCORP's Region 10 encompasses Presidio, Brewster, Jeff Davis, Culberson and Hudspeth counties. The organization put up posters around the region with the slogan "No Cap," slang for "No Lies." It's all a part of program coordinator Emily Garcia's master plan: ending the stigma of substance abuse by engaging local youth with fun and accessible content.

"The main challenge that we have is stigma — people are afraid of reaching out, people are afraid to talk about it. Our goal for the summit is to raise awareness that people are not alone and there is help," she said. "My staff is fairly young. So we want to talk about it in a way that people will reach out, through games and health fairs and things like that."

Garcia opened an office in Van Horn a year ago with help from Aliviane, "The primary provider of prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services in West Texas for men, women and adolescents," per their website. The El-Paso-based organization is hoping that telehealth services will make addiction and recovery services more accessible for Region 10 folks, who already face huge gaps in available healthcare.

RCORP Region 10 currently operates two telehealth offices in Van Horn and one in Fort Davis, but Garcia stressed that her organization's services are still available to folks in locations that don't have a physical office. "They can do it in the comfort of their own home, through Zoom," she explained. "We can do case management, we can do counseling, we have all kinds of programs."

After Governor Abbot slashed $211 million from the state's mental health initiatives in April, she stressed that her organization wants to help close those gaps. She booked Amber Buchanan, a mental health specialist with telehealth service Charlie Health, to talk about the link between addiction and mental health.

It's a conversation local advocates hope continues. Michael Drinkard of Terlingua's branch of the Family

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Presidio celebrates the Class of 2022

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Last Friday, family members and the staff of Presidio High School sent off this year's seniors in high style. The ceremony began on a somber note, as Principal Hevila Ramos led everyone in attendance through a prayer and a moment of silence for the two teachers and 19 students killed at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. Principal Ramos also noted some of the hardships and sacrifices that previous classes of Presidio High School seniors had to make because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Class of 2020 graduated under pandemic conditions which had not been seen in 100 years," she said in both English and Spanish. The Class of 2020 was able to graduate with a socially-distanced and limited outdoor ceremony; the Class of 2021's celebration was disrupted by border restrictions prohibiting friends and loved ones from crossing the bridge from Ojinaga.

"The Class of 2022 is not without its own firsts," Ramos said. "The Class of 2022 is about to experience their first graduation in this wonderful renovated gymnasium."

The school's gymnasium has been under construction since February 2021. The bright new space features a new stage area and stadium seating, providing an elevated backdrop for the evening's festivities. Close-up shots from the stage were projected onto the walls for families who weren't able to snag front-row seats.

Superintendent of Presidio ISD Ray Vasquez took the stage next to offer his congratulations. "For the past four years, it has been an honor and a privilege to have been part of your journey," he said. "Tonight concludes a wonderful chapter of your life. An equally significant one is about to begin for you. I hope you remember your years in Presidio and the lessons learned at home and in school."

This year's guest speaker was Alyssa Tavarez, a Presidio High School

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Presidio celebra la Clase de 2022

Por SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — El viernes pasado, los miembros de la familia y el personal de la Escuela Secundaria Presidio despidieron a los estudiantes de último año de este año con gran estilo. La ceremonia comenzó con una nota sombría, cuando la directora Hevila Ramos dirigió a todos los asistentes a una oración y un momento de silencio por los dos maestros y 19 estudiantes asesinados en la Escuela Primaria Robb en Uvalde. El director Ramos también señaló algunas de las dificultades y sacrificios que las clases anteriores de estudiantes de último año de Presidio High School tuvieron que hacer debido a la pandemia de COVID-19.

"La Clase de 2020 se graduó en condiciones de pandemia que no se habían visto en 100 años", dijo en inglés y español. La Clase de 2020 pudo graduarse con una ceremonia al aire libre limitada y con distanciamiento social; La celebración de la Clase de 2021 se vio interrumpida por restricciones fronterizas que prohibían a amigos y seres queridos cruzar el puente desde Ojinaga.

"La Clase de 2022 no está exenta de novedades", dijo Ramos. "La Clase de 2022 está a punto de experimentar su primera graduación en este maravilloso gimnasio renovado".

El gimnasio de la escuela ha estado en construcción desde febrero de 2021. El nuevo y luminoso espacio cuenta con un nuevo escenario y asientos tipo estadio, lo que brinda un escenario elevado para las festividades de la noche. Primeros planos del escenario se proyectaron en las paredes para las familias que no pudieron conseguir asientos en la primera fila.

El superintendente de Presidio ISD, Ray Vasquez, subió al escenario a continuación para ofrecer sus felicitaciones. "Durante los últimos cuatro años, ha sido un honor y un privilegio haber sido parte de su viaje", dijo. "Esta noche concluye un maravilloso capítulo de tu vida. Uno igualmente significativo está a punto de comenzar para usted. Espero que recuerde sus

(Continúa en la página 3)

El Programa de Respuesta a los Opioides de las Comunidades Rurales organiza una cumbre en Van Horn

Por SAM KARAS
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VAN HORN — El Programa de Respuesta a Opioides de Comunidades Rurales (RCORP) para la Región 10 organizó su primera cumbre en Van Horn el miércoles, y los organizadores esperan que haya más por venir. RCORP es parte del Plan de Rescate Estadounidense de la administración Biden y proporciona fondos a las comunidades rurales para ayudar a combatir la epidemia de opioides. Las muertes por sobredosis de opioides cobran la vida de casi 69,000 estadounidenses cada año, lo que representa la mayor parte de las muertes por abuso de sustancias.

La Región 10 de RCORP abarca los condados de Presidio, Brewster, Jeff Davis, Culberson y Hudspeth. La organización colocó carteles en la región con el lema "No Cap", argot para "No es Mentira". Todo es parte del plan maestro de la coordinadora del programa, Emily García: terminar con el estigma del abuso de sustancias involucrando a los jóvenes locales con contenido divertido y accesible.

"El principal desafío que tenemos es el estigma: la gente tiene miedo de acercarse, la gente tiene miedo de hablar de eso. Nuestro objetivo para la cumbre es crear conciencia de que las personas no están solas y hay ayuda", dijo. "Mi personal es bastante joven. Así que queremos hablar de ello de manera que la gente se comunique, a través de juegos y ferias de salud y cosas por el estilo".

García abrió una oficina en Van Horn hace un año con la ayuda de Aliviane, "El principal proveedor de servicios de prevención, intervención, tratamiento y recuperación en el oeste de Texas para hombres, mujeres y adolescentes", según su sitio web. La organización con sede en El-Paso espera que los servicios de telesalud hagan que los servicios de adicción y recuperación sean más accesibles para las personas de la Región 10, que ya enfrentan grandes brechas en la atención médica disponible.

La Región 10 de RCORP actualmente opera dos oficinas de telesalud en Van Horn y una en Fort Davis, pero García enfatizó que los servicios de su organización todavía están disponibles para personas en lugares que no tienen una oficina física. "Pueden hacerlo en la comodidad de su hogar, a través de Zoom", explicó. "Podemos hacer gestión de casos, podemos hacer consejería, tenemos todo tipo de programas".

Después de que el gobernador Abbot recortó $211 millones de las iniciativas de salud mental del estado en abril, enfatizó que su organización quiere ayudar a cerrar esas brechas. Contrató a Amber Buchanan, especialista en salud mental del servicio de telesalud

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Locals mourn Uvalde and call for change, schools talk safety and university launches community response

By MARY CANTRELL and ALLEGRA HOBBS
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TRI-COUNTY AREA — A small group of citizens gathered last Wednesday on the Presidio County Courthouse lawn for a candlelight vigil to honor those who lost their lives in a mass school shooting which took place in Uvalde, Texas, the day prior. Days later, in Alpine, a group of around 30 congregated in a public park to mourn and to call for stricter gun laws.

In the small, neighboring towns, the ripple effects of the national tragedy — which took place over four hours eastward — were being felt and acted upon.

The shooting, in which an armed 18-year-old took the lives of 19 fourth graders and two educators, occurred at Robb Elementary. Investigators with the Texas Department of Public Safety are conducting a probe of the local police response, in which the police chief ordered officers to wait for backup instead of confronting the gunman, even though children inside the building were calling 911.

In the aftermath of the national tragedy — which reawakened long-held debates over the state's lax gun laws — communities across Texas gathered to commemorate the grief-stricken Uvalde community and rallied to organize aid.

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Los lugareños lloran por Uvalde y piden un cambio, las escuelas hablan de seguridad y la universidad lanza una respuesta comunitaria

Por MARY CANTRELL y ALLEGRA HOBBS
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ÁREA DE LOS TRI-CONDADOS — Un pequeño grupo de ciudadanos se reunió el miércoles pasado en el césped del Palacio de Justicia del Condado de Presidio para una vigilia con velas en honor a quienes perdieron la vida en un tiroteo masivo en una escuela que tuvo lugar en Uvalde, Texas, el día anterior. Días después, en Alpine, un grupo de unas 30 personas se congregó en un parque público para llorar y pedir leyes de armas más estrictas.

En los pequeños pueblos vecinos, los efectos de la tragedia nacional, que tuvo lugar durante cuatro horas hacia el este, se sintieron y se actuó en consecuencia.

El tiroteo, en el que un joven armado de 18 años le quitó la vida a 19 estudiantes de cuarto grado y dos educadores, ocurrió en Robb Elementary. Los investigadores del Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Texas están investigando la respuesta de la policía local, en la que el jefe de policía ordenó a los oficiales que esperaran refuerzos en lugar de

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West Texan Media Group, LLC

ENGLISH NEWS

Locals mourn Uvalde

(Continued from page 1)

In Marfa, candles — one with the handwritten sentiment "Marfa hearts Uvalde" in Sharpie — flickered in the wind on a makeshift altar as pianist Jason Ballmann played melancholy tunes on a portable electric keyboard to a group of around 20 attendees. Flags flanking the courthouse entrance were drawn at half mast.

Organizers of the vigil, Marfa residents Jake Davis and Becca Bright, wanted to give locals a place to come together and show support for Uvalde, they said.

"It's small, but it feels like a natural gesture towards another small Texas community," said Bright. "Just to offer a safe space to process or have conversations, grieve."

"We can start activism tomorrow, contacting senators and elected officials for much needed gun reform laws to address the crisis happening in this country," added Davis. "Tonight, I think our shared goal, spoken or unspoken, was just to create a space where people can come and take what they need and leave what they don't."

Marfa Police Chief Steve Marquez was present at the vigil along with other local officers. He said the impacts of the Uvalde shooting would be felt over an extended period and the fact that it happened at an elementary school in another small border town was sobering.

"This is going to be on our minds for a long, long time," said Marquez. "It happened in Uvalde, but it's got a ripple effect, it affects everybody."

The Marfa Police Department held a multi-agency active shooter training this spring, funded by a grant from the ALERRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Emergency Rapid Response Training) Center of Texas State University in San Marcos, and intends to host more in the future, said Marquez. He said collaboration with other area first responders, like the EMS and volunteer fire departments, would also continue.

"We're going to go into summer right now, but [Uvalde] is going to stay on everybody's mind over the next three months, preparing for next year," said Marquez.

Marquez said he was in ongoing conversations with Marfa Independent School District Superintendent Oscar Aguero regarding strategies for emergency response training as well as how to keep lines of communication open between students, teachers and parents.

Marquez, a father of five, was also grappling with the events in Uvalde on a personal level, he said.

"Speaking as a parent, you send your kids to school, you want to see them come home. This stuff shouldn't happen," said Marquez. "Your kids shouldn't be afraid to go to school."

School security has been a frequent subject of discussion at many school board meetings over the past year. With the possibility of a bond for campus infrastructure upgrades on the horizon, Aguero told The Big Bend Sentinel on Tuesday that the issue of school safety would likely play a large role in the reimagining of MISD's facilities.

Aguero said the district is working on installing new security cameras for all of the buildings on campus and he and Chief Marquez were set to meet soon regarding possible additional security measures the schools could implement next year. Marfa police officers are typically present during school days in the mornings and afternoons to assist with the flow of traffic, but serve no other significant role in monitoring school safety on a daily basis.

Another possible measure the school district is looking into is the installation of keyless, smart locks for building doors. But because that option requires each door to be hooked up to electricity, the decision on styles of door locks will likely be delayed in favor of making a decision in conjunction with any safety solutions that come out of bond discussions, said Aguero. There are a few doors Aguero said he would like to prioritize getting keyless locks for.

The district will work through the summer on safety messaging and plans to send out information to students and parents at the beginning of the school year this coming August, said Aguero. Possible safety-enhanced solutions might include directing student traffic to certain areas when classes occur at the district's campus-adjacent facilities, like welding courses which take place across the street. But the campus's sheer number of buildings, ingresses and egresses presents a number of security challenges, said Aguero.

The district is also looking to streamline and better understand their emergency notification systems and will continue to hold shelter in place, fire and reunification drills as required by law, said Aguero.

Over in Alpine, resident Helen Snook felt compelled to do something — she started by sending an email to a few friends, asking about organizing a rally. Upon doing a little research, she discovered that she wouldn't need a permit if the event took place on park land. She organized a gathering to take place Saturday morning at the Railroad Park. A table with candles and flowers was set up to honor the lives lost. Locals turned up with signs expressing their grief and anger over repeated mass shootings.

"It was just good to do something and be out there and let people know that, you know, things like that happen, but we're not going to just say, 'Oh, well' — we're going to express our sadness and frustration that this stuff continues," said Snook.

Part of the purpose of the event was advocating for increased gun safety measures, said Snook. "One of the things we need to do is regulate gun ownership, so we don't have guns in everybody's hands that shouldn't have guns," she said.

Many passers-by honked and waved, signaling their approval, said Snook; a smaller number of people directed "negative gestures" towards the small gathering.

The tragedy struck particularly close to home for nearby Sul Ross State University — the sprawling West Texas institution is based in Alpine, but also has a campus in Uvalde. Both teachers who were killed in the shooting, Irma Linda Garcia and Eva Mireles, were Sul Ross alumni. In the days following the shooting, the university posted a tribute to the departed. A dedicated page full of resources for those grappling with the tragedy, or those looking to offer aid, appeared on the university's website.

"It's been, for all of us, pretty traumatic, because we have employees there, we have students there," said outgoing SRSU President Pete Gallego in an interview with The Big Bend Sentinel. "None of our campus employees lost anyone directly in their families, but it's such a small town. It's not that different from an Alpine, where everybody's affected because everybody knows somebody was impacted."

The dispersed campus is a united one, noted Gallego — because many classes are online, it's not uncommon for students living elsewhere to take a class from a professor in Uvalde. "We're all very bound together," he said.

The school has already established a scholarship in the names of the two departed alumni, said Gallego, and is looking towards establishing opportunities for children impacted by the shooting and their siblings to attend the university on scholarship. Sul Ross has also been asked to provide counseling services via the local Federally Qualified Health Clinic, and the Uvalde campus has closed in recent days to provide "a focal point where law enforcement can gather."

"We have folks both in Alpine and on the ground there in Uvalde working on short-term, middle-term and long-term methods of helping the community, because truthfully, when the national media and others leave, Sul Ross will still be there as a member of that community," said Gallego.

In terms of school security, Gallego said the university is looking at "upgrading" facilities — that includes investing more in doors and in electronic security systems and upgrading on-campus technology like video cameras and alarms. The university president cited a recent event at the Alpine campus in which a two-hour shelter-in-place order was imposed due to reports of a suspicious person, possibly carrying a gun — that person turned out to be holding a BB gun, said Gallego, but it prompted internal discussions about tackling emergency responses.

"We have that conversation fairly regularly, as this has become a phenomenon in American society," said Gallego.

At Alpine ISD — where, in 2016, a 14-year-old freshman shot and killed herself after shooting and wounding another student — security and safety have already already a priority, said interim Superintendent Dennis McEntire, who spoke to The Big Bend Sentinel with the caveat that he is vacating the temporary position in the coming days, and a permanent superintendent will be in place on Monday. The facilities are already equipped with locked, buzz-in doors and ID systems, Mcentire said. "We're doing pretty much everything that can be done without turning our schools into prisons," he said.

The school is also offering counseling services to students and parents — there is an imperative to pay attention to "people who are hurting in our communities," said McEntire.

"That awareness is the best defense against this — awareness on everybody's part and to always be aware of what's around you," he said. "And I think the other part of that is, when you hear cries for help, whether it's from anguish or anger or how those cries come in, we have to pay attention to them."

Opioid Response Program

(Continued from page 1)

Crisis Center of the Big Bend would like to see these kinds of services expand in the region. "I haven't noticed a drop in mental health healthcare funding because it seems like mental healthcare does not exist around here," he said. "There's a big need for more of that — I've seen a big deterioration in [mental health] over the past two years with the pandemic."

Another service that RCORP can provide is Narcan training. Narcan is an inhalable opioid inhibitor that can be used to help reverse overdoses. Its generic form, naloxone, is also available as an intramuscular injection. A shortage of the drugs has hit headlines in recent months, but Garcia and Drinkard have planned ahead.

"A paramedic from Central Texas came out to deliver some COVID tests and asked if there was anything else we might need," Drinkard explained. "I said, 'It sure would be nice to have some Narcan'."

Though the inhalable form of the drug is relatively user-friendly, training to spot the signs of an overdose is key. "We do provide the training and we provide the product at the end. Right now, it's very hard to get a hold of, but we do have some boxes, at least to start off with," Garcia said.

She's hoping that RCORP can plant roots in the region, even after its initial grant funding runs out. "We're hoping that we stay here for the long run. After our grant ends, we're hoping to be able to still provide the same services if not more," she said. "Small counties need the help as well."

Van Horn is her organization's home base for right now, but she's planning to host a version of Wednesday's summit in Alpine later this summer, in hopes of reaching a wider Region 10 audience. "We're just looking for a space right now," she said.

Class of 2022

(Continued from page 1)

graduate from the Class of 2010. Tavarez now lives outside of Washington, D.C. and works as a public information officer for the U.S. Army. She has also served in the Air Force Reserves and the Navy, where she's risen in the ranks to become co-captain of the Navy's women's rugby team. Tavarez addressed the fresh crop of graduates with humor and honesty.

"Many people don't like to talk about their failures, but I do. I wouldn't be where I am today without my failures, both the big ones and small ones," she said. "The most important thing about failure is to remember that failure is subjective. Everyone has their own definition of failure. And failing isn't what's important — what's more important is your first step after you fail."

Tavarez talked about how she had her first daughter when she was still in college, and struggled to finish her coursework. That struggle led her to the military, which allowed her to travel all over the world, and also got her back into rugby, a sport she really enjoys.

"Presidio alumni have become nurses, engineers, chemists, lawyers, financial advisors and so much more," Tavarez said. "We are more than just a small border town. We are resilient, we get back up when knocked down. If you don't like what you're studying in school, change it. If you don't like where you work, change it."

The Class of 2022's salutatorian, Carlos Sanchez, and valedictorian, Octavio Padron, also gave remarks, reminiscing about good times passed with classmates in the hallways of Presidio High. The class of 90 students then lined up to receive their diplomas with a handshake from Principal Ramos and Superintendent Vasquez. Yearbook facilitator Sophia Hernandez was in the crowd, taking pictures and reminding graduates not to adjust their tassels until everyone had received their diploma.

The diploma ceremony was a chance for some Presidio High School seniors to show off their carefully-decorated caps — some had elaborate sequined Mexican flags, another had a drawing of Dory from Finding Nemo with the slogan, "I Already Forgot Everything." One, festooned with butterflies, reminded everyone in the audience that the group's successes were a team effort.

"Cuando me vean volar, recuerden que ustedes me pintaron las alas," it read. "When you see me fly, remember that you painted my wings."

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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

Los lugareños lloran por Uvalde

(Continuación de la página 1)

confrontar al atacante, a pesar de que los niños dentro del edificio estaban llamando al 911.

Después de la tragedia nacional, que reavivó los debates de larga data sobre las laxas leyes de armas del estado, las comunidades de Texas se reunieron para conmemorar a la afligida comunidad de Uvalde y se unieron para organizar la ayuda.

En Marfa, las velas, una con el sentimiento escrito a mano "Marfa ama a Uvalde" en Sharpie, parpadearon con el viento en un altar improvisado mientras el pianista Jason Ballmann tocaba melodías melancólicas en un teclado eléctrico portátil para un grupo de alrededor de 20 asistentes. Las banderas que flanqueaban la entrada del juzgado estaban a media asta.

Los organizadores de la vigilia, los residentes de Marfa, Jake Davis y Becca Bright, querían brindar a los lugareños un lugar para reunirse y mostrar su apoyo a Uvalde, dijeron.

"Es pequeño, pero se siente como un gesto natural hacia otra pequeña comunidad de Texas", dijo Bright. "Solo para ofrecer un espacio seguro para procesar o tener conversaciones, duelo".

"Podemos comenzar el activismo mañana, contactando a senadores y funcionarios electos para las leyes de reforma de armas que tanto se necesitan para abordar la crisis que está ocurriendo en este país", agregó Davis. "Esta noche, creo que nuestro objetivo compartido, dicho o no, era solo crear un espacio donde las personas puedan venir y tomar lo que necesitan y dejar lo que no necesitan".

El jefe de policía de Marfa, Steve Márquez, estuvo presente en la vigilia junto con otros oficiales locales. Dijo que los impactos del tiroteo en Uvalde se sentirían durante un período prolongado y que el hecho de que sucediera en una escuela primaria en otro pequeño pueblo fronterizo era aleccionador.

"Esto va a estar en nuestras mentes durante mucho, mucho tiempo", dijo Márquez. "Pasó en Uvalde, pero tiene un efecto dominó, afecta a todos".

El Departamento de Policía de Marfa llevó a cabo un entrenamiento de tiradores activos de varias agencias esta primavera, financiado por una subvención del Centro ALERRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Emergency Rapid Response Training) de la Universidad Estatal de Texas en San Marcos, y tiene la intención de albergar más en el futuro, dijo Márquez. Dijo que también continuaría la colaboración con otros socorristas del área, como el EMS y los departamentos de bomberos voluntarios.

"Vamos a entrar en el verano ahora mismo, pero [Uvalde] permanecerá en la mente de todos durante los próximos tres meses, preparándose para el próximo año", dijo Márquez.

Márquez dijo que estaba en conversaciones continuas con el Superintendente del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Marfa, Oscar Agüero, sobre estrategias para la capacitación en respuesta a emergencias y sobre cómo mantener abiertas las líneas de comunicación entre estudiantes, maestros y padres.

Márquez, padre de cinco hijos, también estaba lidiando con los eventos en Uvalde a nivel personal, dijo.

"Hablando como padre, envías a tus hijos a la escuela, quieres verlos volver a casa. Esto no debería pasar", dijo Márquez. "Sus hijos no deberían tener miedo de ir a la escuela".

La seguridad escolar ha sido un tema frecuente de discusión en muchas reuniones de la junta escolar durante el año pasado. Con la posibilidad de un bono para las mejoras de la infraestructura del campus en el horizonte, Agüero le dijo a The Big Bend Sentinel el martes que el tema de la seguridad escolar probablemente desempeñaría un papel importante en la reinvención de las instalaciones de MISD.

Agüero dijo que el distrito está trabajando en la instalación de nuevas cámaras de seguridad para todos los edificios del campus y que él y el jefe Márquez se reunirán pronto con respecto a las posibles medidas de seguridad adicionales que las escuelas podrían implementar el próximo año. Los oficiales de policía de Marfa suelen estar presentes durante los días escolares por las mañanas y las tardes para ayudar con el flujo del tráfico, pero no desempeñan ningún otro papel importante en el control diario de la seguridad escolar.

Otra posible medida que el distrito escolar está estudiando es la instalación de cerraduras inteligentes sin llave para las puertas de los edificios. Pero debido a que esa opción requiere que cada puerta esté conectada a la electricidad, la decisión sobre los estilos de las cerraduras de las puertas probablemente se retrase a favor de tomar una decisión junto con cualquier solución de seguridad que surja de las discusiones sobre bonos, dijo Agüero. Hay algunas puertas para las que Agüero dijo que le gustaría priorizar la obtención de cerraduras sin llave.

El distrito trabajará durante el verano en mensajes de seguridad y planea enviar información a los estudiantes y padres al comienzo del año escolar el próximo agosto, dijo Agüero. Las posibles soluciones mejoradas de seguridad podrían incluir dirigir el tráfico de estudiantes a ciertas áreas cuando las clases se llevan a cabo en las instalaciones adyacentes al campus del distrito, como cursos de soldadura que se llevan a cabo al otro lado de la calle. Pero la gran cantidad de edificios, entradas y salidas del campus presenta una serie de desafíos de seguridad, dijo Agüero.

El distrito también busca optimizar y comprender mejor sus sistemas de notificación de emergencia y continuará realizando simulacros de refugio en el lugar, incendio y reunificación según lo exige la ley, dijo Agüero.

En Alpine, la residente Helen Snook se sintió obligada a hacer algo: comenzó enviando un correo electrónico a algunos amigos, preguntándoles sobre la organización de un mitin. Después de investigar un poco, descubrió que no necesitaría un permiso si el evento tuviera lugar en un parque. Ella organizó una reunión que se llevaría a cabo el sábado por la mañana en el Railroad Park. Se instaló una mesa con velas y flores para honrar las vidas perdidas. Los lugareños se presentaron con carteles que expresaban su dolor y enojo por los repetidos tiroteos masivos.

"Fue bueno hacer algo y estar allí y hacerle saber a la gente que, ya sabes, suceden cosas así, pero no vamos a decir simplemente, 'Oh, bueno', vamos a expresar nuestra tristeza. y frustración de que esto continúe", dijo Snook.

Parte del propósito del evento fue abogar por mayores medidas de seguridad con las armas, dijo Snook. "Una de las cosas que debemos hacer es regular la propiedad de armas, para que no tengamos armas en manos de todos los que no deberían tener armas", dijo.

Muchos transeúntes tocaron la bocina y saludaron, señalando su aprobación, dijo Snook; un número menor de personas dirigió "gestos negativos" hacia la pequeña reunión.

La tragedia golpeó particularmente cerca de casa a la cercana Universidad Estatal de Sul Ross: la institución en expansión del oeste de Texas tiene su sede en Alpine, pero también tiene un campus en Uvalde. Las dos maestras que murieron en el tiroteo, Irma Linda García y Eva Mireles, eran exalumnas de Sul Ross. En los días posteriores al tiroteo, la universidad publicó un homenaje a los difuntos. En el sitio web de la universidad apareció una página dedicada llena de recursos para aquellos que lidian con la tragedia o para aquellos que buscan ofrecer ayuda.

"Ha sido, para todos nosotros, bastante traumático, porque tenemos empleados allí, tenemos estudiantes allí", dijo el presidente saliente de SRSU, Pete Gallego, en una entrevista con The Big Bend Sentinel. "Ninguno de los empleados de nuestro campus perdió a nadie directamente en sus familias, pero es una ciudad tan pequeña. No es tan diferente de un Alpine, donde todos se ven afectados porque todos saben que alguien se vio afectado".

El campus disperso es uno unido, señaló Gallego: debido a que muchas clases son en línea, no es raro que los estudiantes que viven en otros lugares tomen una clase de un profesor en Uvalde. "Todos estamos muy unidos", dijo.

La escuela ya ha establecido una beca a nombre de los dos ex alumnos fallecidos, dijo Gallego, y busca establecer oportunidades para que los niños afectados por el tiroteo y sus hermanos asistan a la universidad con una beca. También se le ha pedido a Sul Ross que brinde servicios de asesoramiento a través de la Clínica de Salud Calificada Federalmente local, y el campus de Uvalde ha cerrado en los últimos días para proporcionar "un punto focal donde la policía pueda reunirse".

"Tenemos gente tanto en Alpine como en Uvalde trabajando en métodos a corto, mediano y largo plazo para ayudar a la comunidad porque, sinceramente, cuando los medios nacionales y otros se vayan, Sul Ross seguirá estando allí. como miembro de esa comunidad", dijo Gallego.

En términos de seguridad escolar, Gallego dijo que la universidad está buscando "mejorar" las instalaciones, lo que incluye invertir más en puertas y sistemas electrónicos de seguridad y mejorar la tecnología del campus, como cámaras de video y alarmas. El presidente de la universidad citó un evento reciente en el campus de Alpine en el que se impuso una orden de refugio en el lugar de dos horas debido a informes de una persona sospechosa, posiblemente portando un arma; esa persona resultó tener una pistola de aire comprimido, dijo. Gallego, pero provocó discusiones internas sobre cómo abordar las respuestas de emergencia.

"Tenemos esa conversación con bastante regularidad, ya que se ha convertido en un fenómeno en la sociedad estadounidense", dijo Gallego.

En Alpine ISD, donde, en 2016, una estudiante de primer año de 14 años se disparó y se suicidó después de disparar y herir a otro estudiante, la seguridad ya es una prioridad, dijo el superintendente interino Dennis McEntire, quien habló con The Big Bend Sentinel con la advertencia de que dejará vacante el puesto temporal en los próximos días, y el lunes se nombrará un superintendente permanente. Las instalaciones ya están equipadas con puertas cerradas con zumbido y sistemas de identificación, dijo Mcentire. "Estamos haciendo casi todo lo que se puede hacer sin convertir nuestras escuelas en prisiones", dijo.

La escuela también ofrece servicios de asesoramiento a estudiantes y padres; es imperativo prestar atención a "las personas que sufren en nuestras comunidades", dijo McEntire.

"Esa conciencia es la mejor defensa contra esto: conciencia de parte de todos y estar siempre al tanto de lo que te rodea», dijo. "Y creo que la otra parte de eso es que cuando escuchas gritos de ayuda, ya sea por angustia o ira o por cómo llegan esos gritos, tenemos que prestarles atención".

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Clase de 2022

(Continuación de la página 1)

años en Presidio y las lecciones aprendidas en casa y en la escuela".

La oradora invitada de este año fue Alyssa Tavarez, graduada de Presidio High School de la Clase de 2010. Tavarez ahora vive fuera de Washington, D.C. y trabaja como oficial de información pública para el Ejército de los EE. UU. También ha servido en las Reservas de la Fuerza Aérea y la Marina, donde ha ascendido de rango para convertirse en co-capitana del equipo de rugby femenino de la Marina. Tavarez se dirigió a la nueva generación de graduados con humor y honestidad.

"A muchas personas no les gusta hablar de sus fracasos, pero a mí sí. No estaría donde estoy hoy sin mis fracasos, tanto los grandes como los pequeños", dijo. "Lo más importante sobre el fracaso es recordar que el fracaso es subjetivo. Todos tienen su propia definición de fracaso. Y fallar no es lo importante, lo más importante es tu primer paso después de fallar".

Tavarez habló sobre cómo tuvo a su primera hija cuando aún estaba en la universidad y le costó terminar sus estudios. Esa lucha la llevó al ejército, lo que le permitió viajar por todo el mundo y también la devolvió al rugby, un deporte que realmente disfruta.

"Los ex alumnos de Presidio se han convertido en enfermeros, ingenieros, químicos, abogados, asesores financieros y mucho más", dijo Tavarez. "Somos más que un pequeño pueblo fronterizo. Somos resilientes, nos levantamos cuando nos derriban. Si no te gusta lo que estás estudiando en la escuela, cámbialo. Si no te gusta el lugar donde trabajas, cámbialo".

El salutatorian de la Clase de 2022, Carlos Sanchez, y el valedictorian, Octavio Padron, también hicieron comentarios, recordando los buenos momentos que pasaron con sus compañeros de clase en los pasillos de Presidio High. Luego, la clase de 90 estudiantes hizo fila para recibir sus diplomas con un apretón de manos del director Ramos y el superintendente Vásquez. La facilitadora del anuario, Sophia Hernández, estaba entre la multitud, tomando fotografías y recordando a los graduados que no ajustaran sus borlas hasta que todos hubieran recibido su diploma.

La ceremonia de entrega de diplomas fue una oportunidad para que algunos estudiantes de último año de Presidio High School mostraran sus gorras cuidadosamente decoradas: algunos tenían elaboradas banderas mexicanas con lentejuelas, otros tenían un dibujo de Dory de Buscando a Nemo con el lema "Ya lo olvidé todo". Uno, adornado con mariposas, les recordó a todos en la audiencia que los éxitos del grupo fueron un esfuerzo de equipo.

"Cuando me vean volar, recuerden que ustedes me pintaron las alas", decía. "Cuando me veas volar, recuerda que pintaste mis alas."

Respuesta a los Opioides

(Continuación de la página 1)

Charlie Health, para hablar sobre el vínculo entre la adicción y la salud mental.

Es una conversación que los defensores locales esperan que continúe. A Michael Drinkard, de la sucursal de Terlingua del Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend, le gustaría ver que este tipo de servicios se expanda en la región. "No he notado una caída en la financiación de la atención de la salud mental porque parece que la atención de la salud mental no existe por aquí", dijo. "Hay una gran necesidad de más de eso: he visto un gran deterioro en [la salud mental] en los últimos dos años con la pandemia".

Otro servicio que puede brindar RCORP es la capacitación Narcan. Narcan es un inhibidor opioide inhalable que se puede usar para ayudar a revertir las sobredosis. Su forma genérica, naloxona, también está disponible como inyección intramuscular. La escasez de medicamentos ha aparecido en los titulares en los últimos meses, pero García y Drinkard han planeado con anticipación.

"Un paramédico del centro de Texas salió a realizar algunas pruebas de COVID y preguntó si había algo más que pudiéramos necesitar", explicó Drinkard. "Dije: 'Seguro que sería bueno tener un poco de Narcan'".

Aunque la forma inhalable de la droga es relativamente fácil de usar, la capacitación para detectar los signos de una sobredosis es clave. "Proporcionamos la capacitación y proporcionamos el producto al final. En este momento, es muy difícil conseguirlo, pero tenemos algunas cajas, al menos para empezar", dijo García.

Ella espera que RCORP pueda echar raíces en la región, incluso después de que se agote la subvención inicial. "Esperamos que nos quedemos aquí a largo plazo. Después de que finalice nuestra subvención, esperamos poder seguir brindando los mismos servicios, si no más", dijo. "Los condados pequeños también necesitan la ayuda".

Van Horn es la base de operaciones de su organización por ahora, pero planea organizar una versión de la cumbre del miércoles en Alpine a fines de este verano, con la esperanza de llegar a una audiencia más amplia de la Región 10. "Solo estamos buscando un espacio en este momento", dijo.



Una cliníca de bajo costo para operar, castrar y vacunar a los mascotas viene a Presidio el
Viernes, 3 de Junio hasta el Domingo, 5 de Junio

Abierto a todos dueños de mascota. Se ofrece con límites, asistencia financiera y transportación.

El Viernes despues de las 3 de la tarde ofrecemos solamente vacunas, (incluye la Rabia) y microchips (no sirugias este dia)

Vacunas: se paga por donación (sugerimos $15). Microchips: $10 (incluye registración por vida)

Sabado y Domingo ofrecemos sirugia para castrar o operar y todas las vacunas (incluye la Rabia), microchips agrege $10.

Si no puedes pagar, no te vamos a negar servicios. Se necesita registrar!

No se aceptan sin cita. Se acepta dinero en efectivo, tarjetas de credito, y cheque.

Recibirás la localización de la clínica y otros detalles despues de registrar.

Esta cliníca esta alojada por el Far West Texas Rescue Coalition, un esfurezo colaborativo de los rescates y refugios de su comunidad local y Animal Balance.

Para registrar llame 432-837-2532
Si prefieres una respuesta en espanol, por favor deje un mensaje con su nombre y numero de telefono.

FAR WEST TX RESCUE COALITION

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A low-cost spay/neuter/vaccine clinic is coming to
Presidio, Friday June 3 through Sunday June 5

Open to all pet owners. Limited financial assistance and pet transportation available.

Friday after 3 pm

We will offer vaccines (including Rabies) and microchips ONLY (no surgeries)

Vaccines - pay by donation ($15 suggested). Microchips - $10

Saturday and Sunday

We will offer spay/neuter and vaccines (including Rabies) and microchips

The cost will be $100 per cat or dog for spay/neuter and all vaccines (including Rabies). Microchips - add $10

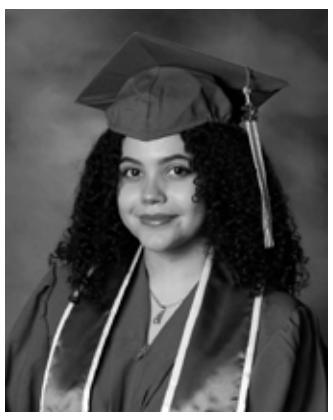
You will not be turned away if you cannot pay. No walk-ins can be included.
Pay by cash, check, credit card.

You will receive clinic location and other details after registering.

This clinic is hosted by Far West Texas Rescue Coalition, a collaborative effort of your local community rescues and shelters and Animal Balance

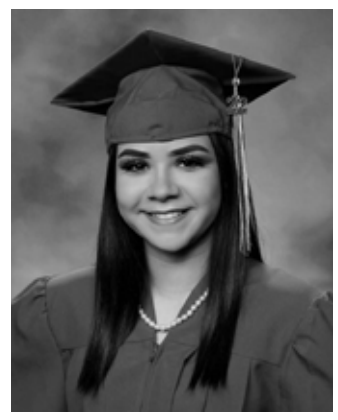
To register, call 432-837-2532

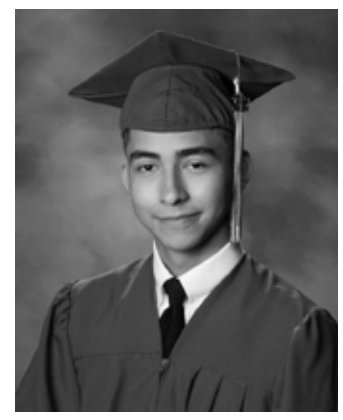
Presidio High School Graduating Class of 2022

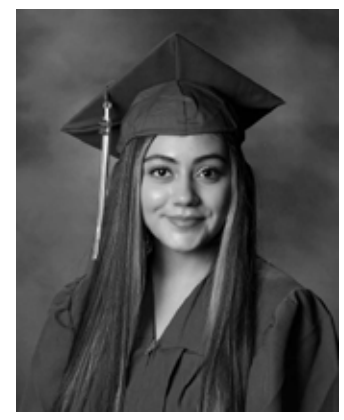

Alondra Acosta

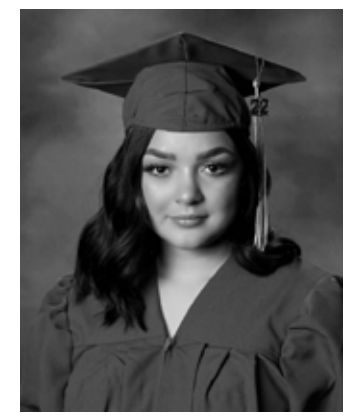

Ivy Aguilar


Nathan Alvarado


Angela Anaya

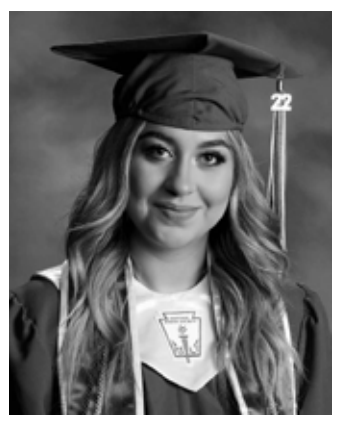

Luis Araluz

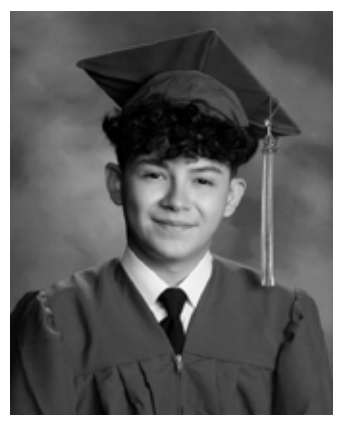

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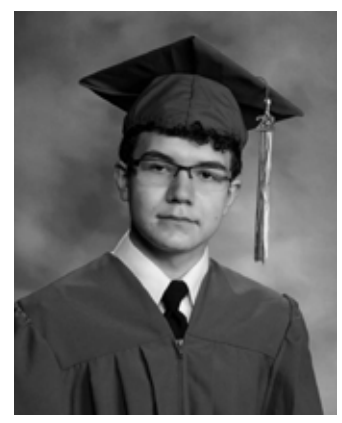

Ashley Arroyo


Bernie Orona Arzaga

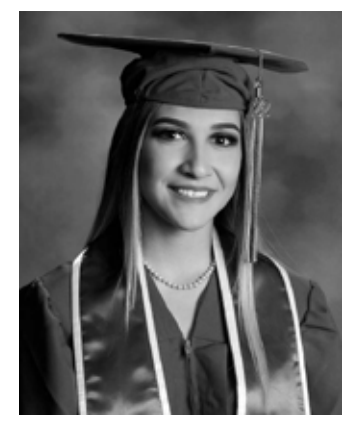

Alejandro Baeza


Alexa Baeza


Brayan Bailon


Mason Bishop

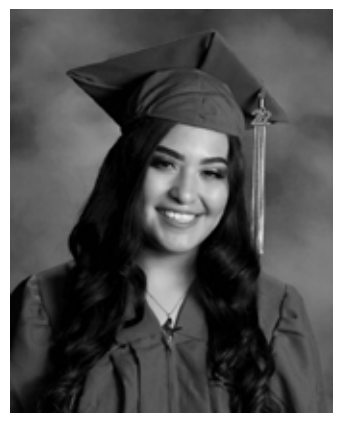

Yahir Brito

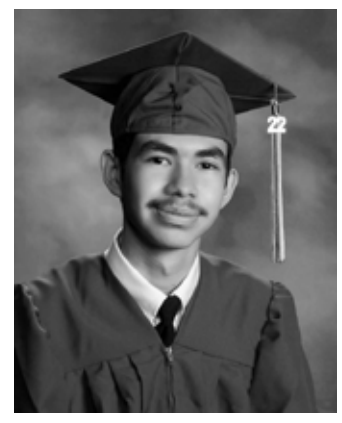

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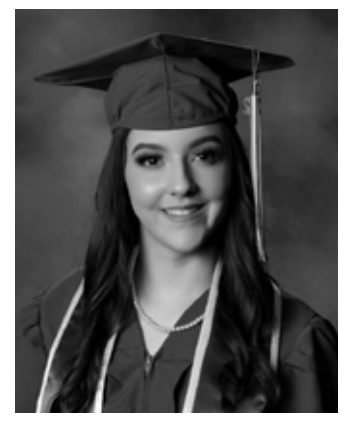

Crystal Cabello

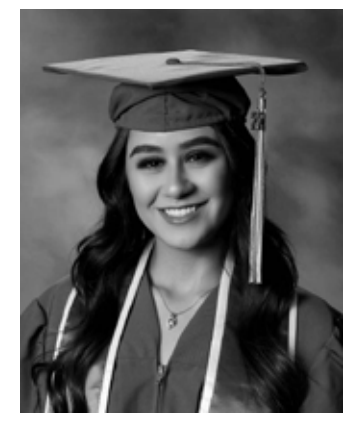

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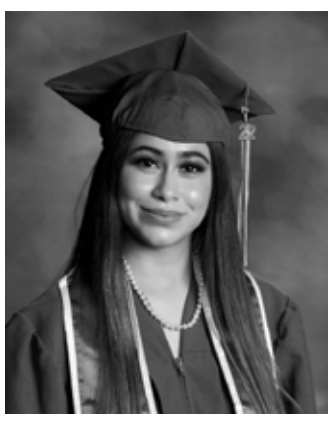

Anays Carnero


Alexandra Carrasco


Uber Carrasco

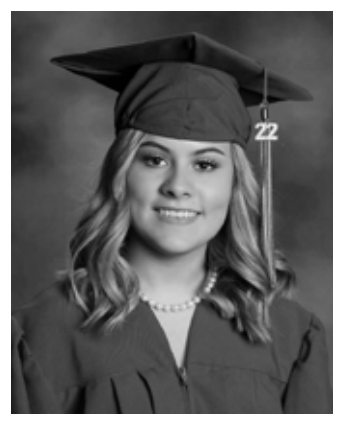

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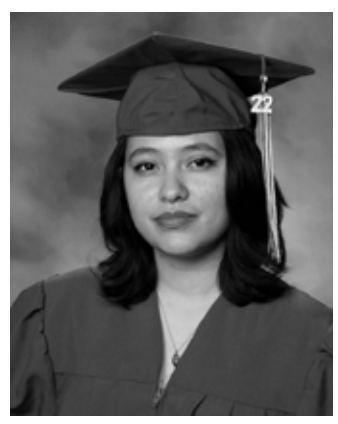

Ismael Flotte

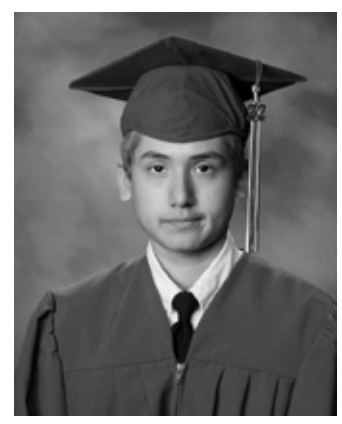

Mauricio Garcia

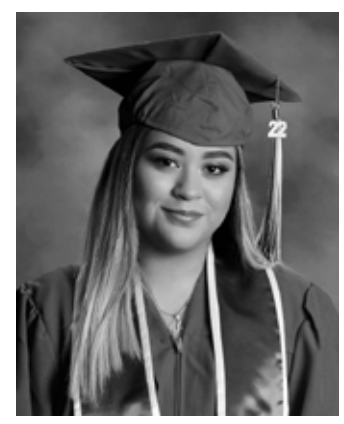

Roberto Garcia

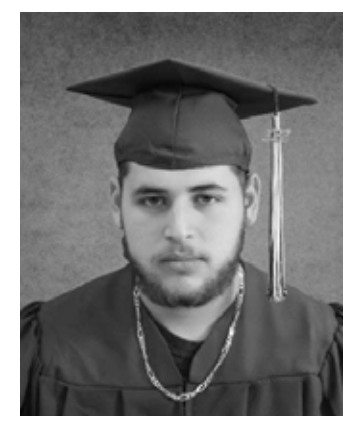

William Garzon


Zabdiel Gener


Guiselle Guerrero


Matt Guerrero


Amarantha Hernandez-Rios


Alberto Hernandez


Alexis Hernandez


Jason Hernandez


Michael Hernandez


Nohemi Hernandez


Jason Lara Garcia

Adolfo Levario

Jonathan Leyva

Marcell Linares

Aile Loya

Bernardo Loyola

Maricela Lujan

Jaden McCall

Divinia Mireles

Jocelyn Molina

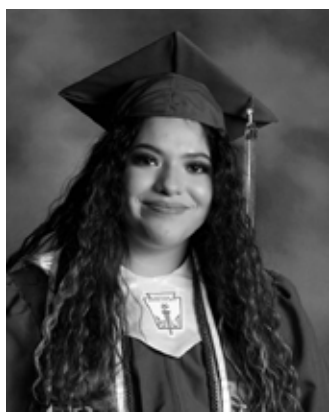
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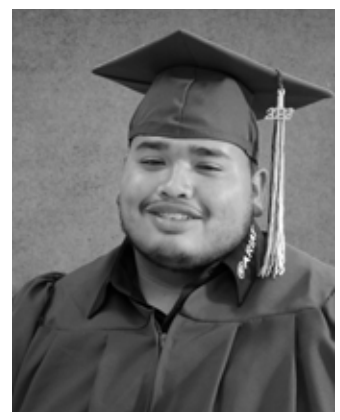
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Guadalupe Ortiz



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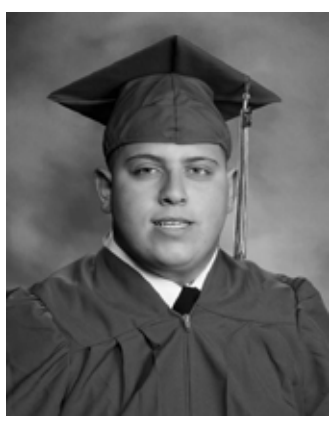
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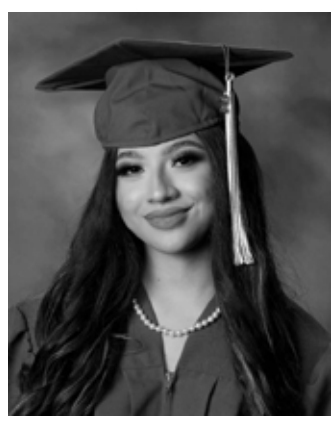
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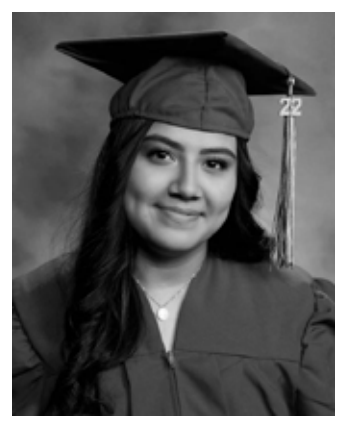
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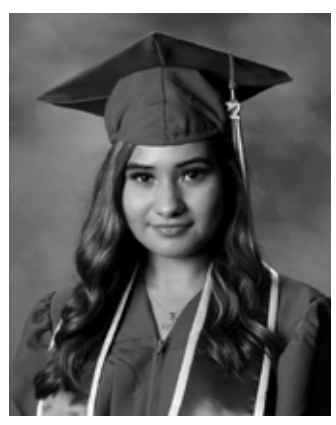
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Joel Salazar



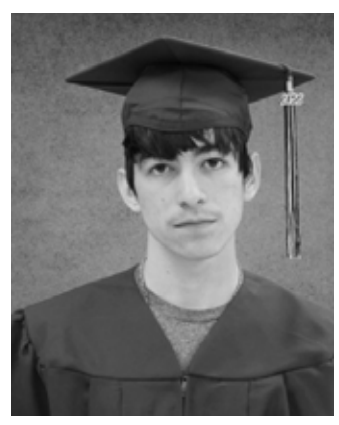
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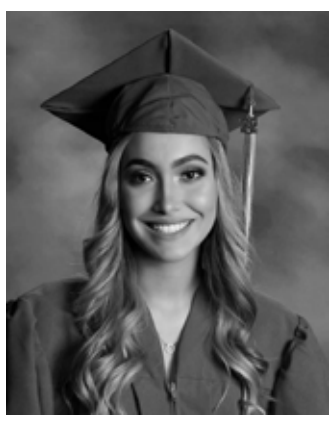
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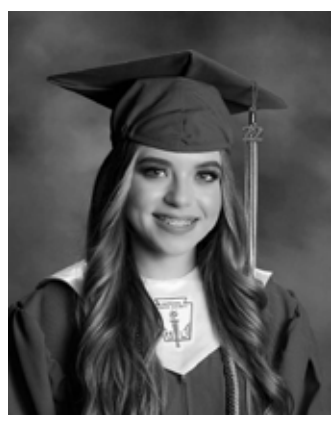
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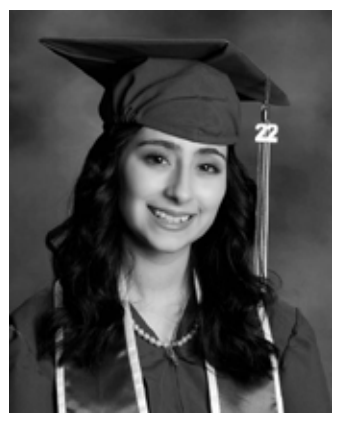
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CLASSIFIED

Texas wildlife film 'Deep in the Heart' advocates for conservation of the state's wildlife, waterways

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

TEXAS — The newly-released wildlife film, *Deep in the Heart*, coming to theaters across the state this Friday, takes movie-goers on a journey into the state's natural wonders — to the underground waters of the Edward's Aquifer to see rare footage of the Texas blind salamander, to Bracken Cave to experience the world's largest colony of Mexican free-tailed bats, all the way to the Big Bend Region of Far West Texas for stories of mountain lions, bighorn sheep and black bears.

"It was all over Texas. There was a lot of driving time, anywhere from the coast to West Texas to Central Texas waterways to Caprock State Park and everywhere in between," said cinematographer Austin Alvarado, who traveled consistently for the past two years to film wildlife. "This is very much a call to action at the root of it. This is by Texans for Texans."

The film was written and directed by Ben Masters, who released the film, *The River and the Wall*, an investigation into potential environmental impacts of the border wall, in 2019. Crew members for *Deep in the Heart* include Terlingua-based Alvarado as well as producers Katy Baldock and Jay Kleberg, Democratic candidate for Texas land commissioner. Texas actor Matthew McConaughey lent his distinct voice to narrate the film.

Deep in the Heart showcases a different species in each of Texas' ecoregions and follows the flow of water around the state, from the Balcones escarpment to the state's numerous springs and rivers. Masters, 33, is originally from Amarillo and grew up with an appreciation for nature shows and studied wildlife biology at Texas A&M University. He said the idea to do a Texas-based wildlife film has been on his mind for a number of years, but was in part spurred forward into existence by the 2019 series *Our Planet*, which chronicled how climate change was affecting a variety of earth's wildlife.

"There was also this moment where I realized that there's a big demand for this [type of film]," said Masters. "Texas is cool as shit and you take it for granted if you just kind of live here. For me, falling back in love with my home and seeing it in a new way was really exciting, and I learned a tremendous amount in the production."

Texas' biological diversity and numerous challenges related to the rapid development of the state make for a compelling film. One of the film's opening scenes details the "great slaughter," a near-elimination of the bison population in Texas in the 1800s. Today, due to conservation efforts, bison herds are thriving in Caprock Canyons State Park in North Texas.

"Throughout the film it shows different animals that recovered, different opportunities for us to get involved in recovery, as well as the bigger challenge of how do we ensure that our watersheds, our rivers and our landscape stay healthy enough to where the wildlife coexist with all of us," said Masters.

The film crew worked closely with land owners, biologists and more, who were able to guide them to filming locations as well as assist with timing the filming of seasonal animal behavior, said Masters. And tips sometimes came from unlikely sources, said Masters. Film sequences shot in the Chisos Mountains of black bears, which have been successfully repopulating Texas from Northern Mexico since the '80s after being over hunted and nearly eliminated 40 years prior, were achieved, in part, due to a tip from a maintenance worker in the park.

"We were consulting with the national park biologists, with the Borderlands Research Institute, former employees of the park service — and then the really awesome footage that we got, it didn't come from any of the professionals in their field," said Masters.

Cinematographer Alvarado said the film was primarily shot in real time by camera crews with long lenses, but features some camera trapping sequences, like the footage of the elusive ocelot, captured in South Texas. According to Texas Parks and Wildlife, only 80 to 120 ocelots are known to exist in the state. Alvarado said capturing the pivotal moments of wildlife behavior, like an alligator emerging from water to capture a large bird in its mouth, took patience, resilience and a deep understanding of how wildlife behaves in order to capture the particular tasks they perform.

"To build a confidence and a comfort amongst wildlife, a lot of times that means spending a lot of time around wildlife. It's one thing to get a really pretty scenic shot with an animal in the frame, but that doesn't tell a story of behavior," said Alvarado.

Maintaining a steady hand on the camera and relying on one's technical skills is key when witnessing a spectacular, long-awaited wildlife occurrence, said Alvarado.

"It's so exciting, you have your adrenaline pumping, and everything that's supposed to happen in front of you is happening now," said Alvarado.

Masters said it was difficult to strike an emotional balance with the film, between humor, drama and the desire to be realistic, but not too grim, about the environmental challenges facing the state.

"The biggest faults that I find with many environmental organizations and news reporting is that it can be so doom and gloom," said Masters. "I don't think audiences respond to that. I think it turns people off. If you look at Texas, there's a lot of shining examples, people across the state doing amazing work to help out wildlife."

One of the film's darker moments details the threats mountain lions face in Texas. Mountain lions are classified as a non-game animal by Texas Parks and Wildlife and are therefore not subject to a regulated hunting season or bag limit. Filmmakers who were consistently filming a young male mountain lion in the Davis Mountains noticed one day he appeared to have been severely injured by a trap, and then the animal disappeared altogether, said Masters.

Masters set up a disabled trap, which a mountain lion walks into on film, to demonstrate for audiences how easy it is for the animals to be trapped. He said it wasn't the story they intended to tell in the film originally, but after discovering the aggressive predator control in the Trans-Pecos region and beyond, he felt it was important to incorporate.

"We felt like it was true to the story and true to the animal to show this trapping sequence and the realities of what they face," said Masters.

Film crews also encountered a bear that chewed off its leg to escape from a trap, which makes an appearance in the film. As a Big Bend resident of around 10 years, Alvarado said he hopes the film impresses on Texans in the Big Bend region and beyond the need to come together to protect natural resources on both private and public lands and keep conservation top of mind when planning for the future growth of the state.

"We need to have a bit more forethought," said Alvarado. "That's not to say that we can enjoy the things we've always enjoyed. It's to understand that the growth is happening and we just need to be a bit more intentional."

Masters said funding to make the dream of *Deep in the Heart* a reality was tough, and they relied on grants, foundations and individuals to finance the film, but were "chronically underfunded throughout the entire process." He said he's grateful for the hundreds of people who were involved with creating the film, and hopes it can compete with box office hits *Top Gun: Maverick* and *Jurassic World: Dominion*, which are also currently in theaters.

"It is just an absolute dream come true for a filmmaker to get to play their movie in theaters across their state," said Masters. "It's not just a movie about characters or an action movie. It's a movie about something that that I care really deeply about and I hope that it makes a big difference."

To watch the Deep in the Heart *trailer, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNZ71xjAE0U. To view a list of screenings, some of which are taking place in Alpine and El Paso, visit https://www.deepintheheartwildlife.com/watch. The film will screen later this summer on streaming platforms including Apple TV, Amazon Prime and Google Play.*

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