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BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

Presidio bridge construction could start as early as July 5

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — There was cause for celebration at Tuesday's Presidio County Commissioners Court meeting: construction on the international bridge is expected to start again in a few weeks. The project has been delayed for years, as a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two countries languished on Governor Abbott's desk. Jake Giesbrecht, executive director of the Presidio International Port Authority (PIPA), expected "boots on the ground" by July 5.

Giesbrecht, who also owns a trucking company that serves both sides of the border, has attended a series of meetings between Mexican and American officials. "That's sort of my role — a liaison between state and federal governments here and in Mexico, and then businesspeople and the private sector," he explained. "There's so many pieces of the puzzle, but you have to keep the communication lines open."

The Presidio bridge is unique in that half of it is owned and administered by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and the other half is administered by CAPUFE, a Mexican agency that administers roads and bridges. No other international bridge in Texas is owned by the state. "We're like their only child," Giesbrecht explained. "It's a negative and a positive."

Construction duties on the bridge were split between the two countries. Texas stopped construction in April 2020, while the Mexican agencies worked through the pandemic to finish their half. The stalled American construction has cinched the western half of the bridge into one lane, congesting customs lines and requiring agents on both sides to conduct traffic in addition to their regular duties.

Presidio officials had been hoping the construction would be finished by the holidays — according to a TxDOT survey, bridge traffic at peak times like Día de los Muertos and Christmas can back up several miles on U.S.-67. A spokesperson for TxDOT estimated in an email to Presidio's mayor, John Ferguson, that the construction itself would take four months to complete once re-initiated.

Presidio County Precinct 1 Commissioner Eloy Aranda had been fielding complaints from constituents for years. "My concern is that the bridge is 90% built — why is the state holding up money to build the bridge?"

Despite having the inside scoop on all the behind-the-scenes political bargaining, Giesbrecht didn't have a simple answer to Aranda's question. "Ultimately, [Abbott] is the governor, and this is his bridge."

Governor Abbott's office did not return a request for comment.

(Continued on page 2)

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Staff photo by Sam Karas

Sophia Piedra tends to a seedling — in a recycled planter she designed herself — in the hanging garden at Presidio Elementary School.
Sophia Piedra cuida una plántula, en una maceta reciclada que ella misma diseñó, en el jardín colgante de la Escuela Primaria Presidio.

Big Bend Conservation Alliance program teaches youth about hydroponic gardening

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Johnery Estolloso's classroom was a flurry of activity on Monday as his students tended their gardens — both indoor and outdoor. Estolloso has partnered with the Big Bend Conservation Alliance (BBCA) to offer an enrichment course on gardening through Presidio ISD's summer program for elementary school students. Each weekday afternoon, the intimate class of four students consider what it means to grow your own food.

BBCA's Presidio community liaison, Elvira Hermosillo, has had a front-row seat to all the fun, providing materials and educational context for the kids to explore. "We're trying to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables," she explained. "This time around, we're focusing on indoor gardening, and then we're doing the outdoor version with the library later this summer."

The star of the show is a hydroponic gardening unit in the classroom — a big pod about the size of a bathroom stall. Hydroponic gardening allows plants to grow without water, expanding the growing season and the variety of plants that can be grown in a place like Presidio, where soil is scarce in the wild.

(Continued on page 2)

Free health screenings available in Ojinaga through the weekend

By SAM KARAS
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OJINAGA — Presidio and Ojinaga residents are invited to stop by the railyard in Ojinaga Wednesday through Sunday for free medical screenings and consultations. "Dr. Wagon," a train equipped with health technicians and supplies, has 17 cars dedicated to different medical specialties, and has been providing care to Mexico's underserved communities for over eight years.

The health fair is partly a celebration of new opportunities coming to Presidio and Ojinaga as a result of expanded rail service. "This effort is courtesy of FerroMex and Grupo Mexico Foundation (Fundación Grupo México), given the re-opening of the new railroad line in the region," explained Stan Meador, vice president of sales and marketing for Texas Pacifico.

Services will be available from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ojinaga time, Wednesday through Sunday. The offerings range from general and internal medicine to pediatrics and gynecology, as well as dentistry, optometry and mental health. Free screenings for conditions like diabetes, STIs, COVID and many more are also provided free of charge.

The Ojinaga railyards are located on the south side of town. Coming from the bridge, the easiest way to get there is to take a left at La Villita, and follow Avenida Morelos to Avenida del Comercio. It's advised to come earlier in the day — there are a limited number of appointments available, and after checking in, each patient will be assigned an appointment time. More information is available via Whatsapp at 55 6144 6696.

El programa Big Bend Conservation Alliance enseña a los jóvenes sobre la jardinería hidropónica

Por SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — El salón de clases de Johnery Estolloso estuvo lleno de actividad el lunes mientras sus estudiantes cuidaban sus jardines, tanto interiores como exteriores. Estolloso se ha asociado con Big Bend Conservation Alliance (BBCA) para ofrecer un curso de enriquecimiento sobre jardinería a través del programa de verano de Presidio ISD para estudiantes de escuela primaria. Cada tarde de lunes a viernes, la clase íntima de cuatro estudiantes considera lo que significa cultivar tu propia comida.

El enlace comunitario de Presidio de BBCA, Elvira Hermosillo, ha tenido un asiento de primera fila para toda la diversión, proporcionando materiales y contexto educativo para que los niños exploren. "Estamos tratando de aumentar el acceso a frutas y verduras frescas", explicó. "Esta vez, nos estamos enfocando en la jardinería de interiores y luego haremos la versión al aire libre con la biblioteca a finales de este verano".

La estrella del espectáculo es una unidad de jardinería hidropónica en el salón de clases: una gran cápsula del tamaño de un baño. La jardinería hidropónica permite que las plantas crezcan sin agua, ampliando la temporada de crecimiento y la variedad de plantas que se pueden cultivar

(Continúa en la página 3)

Exámenes de salud gratuitos disponibles en Ojinaga durante el fin de semana

Por SAM KARAS
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OJINAGA — Se invita a los residentes de Presidio y Ojinaga a pasar por la terminal ferroviaria de Ojinaga de miércoles a domingo para realizarse exámenes y consultas médicas gratuitas. "Dr. Wagon", un tren equipado con técnicos e insumos de salud, cuenta con 17 vagones dedicados a diferentes especialidades médicas y lleva más de ocho años brindando atención a las comunidades marginadas de México.

La feria de la salud es en parte una celebración de las nuevas oportunidades que llegan a Presidio y Ojinaga como resultado de la expansión del servicio ferroviario. "Este esfuerzo es cortesía de FerroMex y Fundación Grupo México, dada la reapertura de la nueva vía férrea en la región", explicó Stan Meador, vicepresidente de ventas y mercadeo de Texas Pacífico.

Los servicios estarán disponibles de 6 a.m. a 2 p.m. Hora Ojinaga, de miércoles a domingo. Las ofertas van desde medicina general e interna hasta pediatría y ginecología, además de odontología, optometría y salud mental. También se brindan exámenes de detección gratuitos para afecciones como diabetes, ITS, COVID y muchas más sin cargo.

Las vías férreas de Ojinaga están ubicadas en el lado sur de la ciudad. Viniendo desde el puente, la forma más fácil de llegar es girar a la izquierda en La Villita y seguir por la Avenida Morelos hasta la Avenida del Comercio. Se recomienda venir más temprano en el día: hay un número limitado de citas disponibles y, después de registrarse, se le asignará una cita a cada paciente. Más información está disponible vía Whatsapp al 55 6144 6696.

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

La construcción del puente de Presidio podría comenzar el 5 de julio

Por SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Hubo motivo de celebración en la reunión de la Corte de Comisionados del Condado de Presidio del martes: se espera que la construcción del puente internacional comience nuevamente en unas pocas semanas. El proyecto se ha retrasado durante años, ya que un memorando de entendimiento (MOU) entre los dos países languidecía en el escritorio del gobernador Abbott. Jake Giesbrecht, director ejecutivo de la Autoridad Portuaria Internacional de Presidio (PIPA), esperaba "botas sobre el terreno" para el 5 de julio.

Giesbrecht, quien también es dueño de una empresa de camiones que da servicio a ambos lados de la frontera, ha asistido a una serie de reuniones entre funcionarios mexicanos y estadounidenses. "Ese es mi papel: un enlace entre los gobiernos estatal y federal aquí y en México, y luego los empresarios y el sector privado", explicó. "Hay tantas piezas del rompecabezas, pero hay que mantener abiertas las líneas de comunicación".

El puente Presidio es único en el sentido de que la mitad es propiedad y está administrado por el Departamento de Transporte de Texas (TxDOT), y la otra mitad es administrada por CAPUFE, una agencia mexicana que administra caminos y puentes. Ningún otro puente internacional en Texas es propiedad del estado. "Somos como su único hijo", explicó Giesbrecht. "Es un negativo y un positivo".

Las tareas de construcción del puente se dividieron entre los dos países. Texas detuvo la construcción en abril de 2020, mientras que las agencias mexicanas trabajaron durante la pandemia para terminar su mitad. La construcción estadounidense estancada ha ceñido la mitad occidental del puente en un solo carril, congestionando las líneas de aduanas y requiriendo que los agentes de ambos lados realicen el tráfico además de sus funciones regulares.

Los funcionarios de Presidio esperaban que la construcción estuviera terminada para las fiestas; según una encuesta de TxDOT, el tráfico del puente en horas pico como el Día de los Muertos y Navidad puede acumular varias millas en la U.S.-67. Un portavoz de TxDOT estimó en un correo electrónico al alcalde de Presidio, John Ferguson, que la construcción en sí tardaría cuatro meses en completarse una vez reiniciada.

El Comisionado del Precinto 1 del Condado de Presidio, Eloy Aranda, había estado recibiendo quejas de los electores durante años. "Mi preocupación es que el puente está construido en un 90 %, ¿por qué el estado está reteniendo dinero para construir el puente?"

A pesar de tener información privilegiada sobre todas las negociaciones políticas detrás de escena, Giesbrecht no tenía una respuesta simple a la pregunta de

(Continúa en la página 3)

ENGLISH NEWS

Hydroponic gardening

(Continued from page 1)

It's Estolloso's first time partnering with BBCA, and he's enjoyed being able to teach his students complicated scientific concepts in a hands-on way. "It's such a big responsibility to have one baby [plant] you have to monitor, you have to have patience as well," he explained. "Every morning we check the pH level of the water, and then we check the temperature as well."

Their hard work has been paying off: a few weeks into the program, plants like lettuce and kale are starting to show off their leaves. The kids have also been constructing planters out of recycled materials like soda bottles to hang from the fence around the school. They water the plants with a spray bottle at least once a day, mostly resisting the urge to spray each other throughout the process.

When the program ends, the kids will be able to take home their plants to their families, providing an opportunity to encourage older folks in their lives to take up gardening. Part of the fun is getting to pick their plants. Miah Rodriguez chose cucumbers and yellow onions; Sophia Piedra added beets and thyme to her Gatorade-bottle garden.

The program is funded through a generous donation by Amerigroup, who has worked to advocate for the health of Presidio residents through expanded telemedicine options and other projects. For Greg Thompson, president and CEO of Amerigroup Texas, supporting the elementary school's garden was a no-brainer. "It's our mission to help people get healthy and stay healthy," he said. "It's important to educate our youth about healthy eating habits."

Hopefully, empowering young Presidians to start gardening will have a ripple effect far beyond getting to enjoy the taste of a home-grown pepper or squash. "Somewhere around 43% of all of the residents in Presidio are below the poverty level," Thompson said. "It can be expensive to buy fresh produce from the grocery store. That's why it's so important to understand how easy it is to grow your own produce."

The hydroponic garden in Estolloso's classroom is expected to grow around 25 pounds of food every four weeks — one Amerigroup-funded pilot program generated 394 pounds of produce in total from a hydroponic growing unit just like the one in Presidio. "It's important to nourish the community," Thompson said. "It's a lifeline."

Presidio bridge

(Continued from page 1)

The bridge project is part of a larger push to increase trade between the Permian Basin, Chihuahua and beyond. MOTRAN, the Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance, has been a vocal supporter of bridge improvements. "Our area is the most prolific oil and gas-producing area in the entire world," MOTRAN President James Beauchamp wrote in a letter to officials from the state of Chihuahua on June 7. "MOTRAN … has a long history and connection to Chihuahua and Sinaloa. Connections to other economies provide tremendous economic opportunities."

With a new rail bridge in the works just downstream from the motor vehicle bridge, the linked economies of Presidio and Ojinaga are primed for takeoff. The timeline for resumption of rail service between the two countries has yet to be determined, but could provide an avenue for job creation and increased trade.

At Tuesday's meeting, Giesbrecht explained that the governor of Chihuahua, Maru Campos, was excited about the bridge sparking another kind of economic development: tourism. "She's really looking more at the tourism side and the trade side of the project, with Big Bend National Park — that's what she's always talked about," he explained. "There's been a dream of connecting the Big Bend with Copper Canyon."

The PIPA board is currently soliciting bids for a firm to help write a master plan for the Presidio Port of Entry, prioritizing projects that will take advantage of all the new opportunities expected in the wake of both bridge projects. County Judge Cinderela Guevara, who also sits on the PIPA board, floated the idea of more air commerce. "I'd like to see the [Presidio] airport actually used as an international airport," she said.

Giesbrecht said that officials in Ojinaga had also expressed interest in building their own international airport, and were hoping to kickstart beef exports from the Big Bend region to Chihuahua. The commissioners were tickled by his description of one mode of international cattle transport pitched by Grupo Mexico. "They're willing to design something like the electric walkway they have at airports. The cattle get on it, and it starts moving," Giesbrecht said.

The bridge update — and all the possibilities for growth it entailed— were a breath of fresh air for the commissioners. "We just wanted to hear all the good news," said Commissioner Brenda Bentley.

Coalition files petition with Texas Parks and Wildlife in an effort to regulate, conserve state mountain lion populations

By MARY CANTRELL
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Courtesy of Deep in the Heart Film

Texans for Mountain Lions, a newly-formed coalition, filed a petition recently with Texas Parks and Wildlife, the first of many steps in its effort to gain conservation protections for the state's mountain lion populations.

AUSTIN — Texans for Mountain Lions, a newly-formed alliance of conservationists, biologists and landowners, recently filed a petition with Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) to advocate for greater protections for the state's mountain lion population, which they say is in danger due to a lack of hunting regulations.

"Action should be taken to ensure a future for our mountain lions in Texas," said Ben Masters, a member of the coalition and director of the recently released wildlife film Deep in the Heart. "Mountain lions are an iconic wildlife species in Texas. Without any science or a management plan, mountain lion populations in some areas of the state may not be viable into the future."

Texas is the only state with breeding mountain lion populations that does not carry out any formal monitoring programs or conservation management plans. Found primarily in South and West Texas, mountain lions are classified by TPWD as nongame species, meaning trapping and harvesting is permitted to take place year-round and is not subject to hunting seasons, harvest limits or harvest reporting requirements.

The petition outlines the coalition's asks, which include conducting a study to learn more about the state's mountain lion population, requiring harvest reporting and a 36-hour trap check time to prevent mountain lions from dying of exposure, limiting harvests in South Texas to five or fewer annually until more data is gathered, prohibiting canned hunting — killing of mountain lions that violates fair chase — and the formation of a stakeholder advisory group to collaborate with TPWD on a mountain lion management plan moving forward.

The petition makes the case for protecting Texas' mountain lions, stating the state's growing human population is expected to increase from 30 to 50 million over the next three decades and animals would encounter increased habitat fragmentation due to infrastructure and roads. Mountain lions, in addition to being powerful symbols of Texas' identity, utilized in various forms as mascots and more, are critical to the state's ecosystems, the petition states.

The group is advocating that discussion of the petition be included in a late August TPWD commission meeting. TPWD, who has yet to announce a decision on the matter, can either deny the petition or opt to include it on the meeting agenda.

Dr. Patricia Harveson, who lives in Alpine, co-authored a scientific paper titled "It's time to manage mountain lions in Texas," which was released in conjunction with the petition to provide further background on the current status and history of mountain lions in the states. Harveson, who is a member of Texans for Mountain Lions, previously served as the head of the carnivore research program at the Borderlands Research Institute for 15 years.

Harveson said the purpose of the paper, which contains internal TPWD documents obtained from open records requests, was to detail previous and current concerns regarding the lack of information available about Texas mountain lions raised by external and internal TPWD stakeholders.

"Our hope is that the paper will provide context to the situation and clarify our reasons for submitting a petition to TPWD for the research and management of mountain lions in Texas," said Harveson.

The paper discusses past attempts, all of which have been unsuccessful, to change the status of the state's nonexistent mountain lion regulations. But Texans for Mountain Lion's newly-filed petition differs in a number of ways, said Harveson, and has evolved over time from conversations held with landowners, livestock producers and hunters. Because Texas is 96% private land, the everyday management of mountain lions by and large falls on private landowners.

"Texans for Mountain Lions is approaching this effort with respect for the hunting and ranching community that is responsible for the on-the-ground management of most of our mountain lions in Texas," said Harveson. "Our petition requests are very reasonable and far less than the regulations that have already been adopted by other western states."

Harveson noted too that public perception of mountain lions was changing and she believed the majority of Texans would be in favor of the proposed measures outlined in the petition. The paper cites a study in which 70% of respondents agreed efforts should be made to ensure the survival of mountain lions in Texas.

"Today, public attitudes toward predators have changed as their importance in the health and

function of our ecosystems has been realized," Harveson said.

The practice of trapping mountain lions in West Texas has traditionally been done in order to protect livestock populations such as sheep, goat and cattle, but has persisted despite the fact that the area's tradition of livestock production has waned over time, said Harveson. Because traditional ranches have turned to recreational hunting as a means of income, mountain lions are still being trapped to preserve numbers of deer and bighorn sheep, said Harveson.

The current number of ranches in the tri-county area utilizing mountain lion traps to control populations is unknown, said Harveson, as is whether or not any area ranches practice canned hunting. Harveson said harnessing that information will be vital moving forward in order to sustain local mountain lion populations. West Texas, which is home to the highest population of the state's mountain lions, might even help repopulate species in South Texas, which are more critically endangered.

"Past genetics research has shown that the South Texas population is isolated from the West Texas population," said Harveson. "One way to address this would be to allow mountain lions from the west to travel and disperse into South Texas. This could be done by enhancing landscape connectivity through voluntary conservation programs that allow mountain lions safe movement through corridors."

Texans for Mountain Lions is urging citizens to submit letters of support for the petition, which will be sent to a number of public officials on the state level, via their website. The Big Bend Sentinel will continue to report on this issue as it develops.

To sign the petition, visit texansformountainlions.org/take-action/

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Big Bend native makes headlines with record-breaking catch

By SAM KARAS
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AUSTIN — A man from Terlingua has been making the rounds on Central Texas news outlets after breaking a fishing record on Lady Bird Lake. The lucky catch — a whopping 64-pound buffalo — happened back in February, after a long day of sitting and waiting.

Cassady Douglas and his friend had been fishing from the shore on a small island in the lake for over nine hours, and the sun was starting to set. "We'd been out there since the crack of dawn, pretty much camped out," he recalled.

There was so little action the two took a nap at one point. All of a sudden, Douglas started to feel a tug on his line. "It was a real subtle bite, which is crazy for such a big fish. It felt like I had a tiny little catfish on there," he remembered. "Suddenly it was like, 'Game on.' If I don't do something now, this fish is going to get snagged."

Douglas quickly got in his john boat and followed his catch out into open water. "It was a fight getting that thing up because it was stuck in the depths, I'd say under twenty feet of water," he said. After a wrestling match of about a half an hour, he was able to get the fish out of the water and onto the scale.

The fish weighed in at 64 pounds — the largest catch ever recorded on the lake. "Buffalo fish are interesting because they're the largest North American sucker fish, and they get mistaken for carp a lot," Douglas explained. "There's just not a whole lot that's known about them. They're bottom feeders, and they have a lot of longevity."

Buffalo fish can live to be over 110 years old. "It's like the ultimate connection with nature when you catch something like that, because it's an ancient fish. That one was probably eighty years old," he speculated. "It was pristine — a very, very healthy fish. Not even a scrape on it."

Douglas's angling career began young, setting jug lines on the Rio Grande for catfish. As he got older, he became interested in bass fishing. "For a long time I was kind of biased, like I just wanted to catch a huge bass," he recalled.

A move to Austin pushed him to expand his angling horizons. "Town Lake is recognized as one of the number one fisheries for carp in the US. A lot of people go there from Europe to fish for carp," he explained. "I wanted to dive into it and try to get the hang of it. It's such an interesting way to fish because they're big game, they put up a crazy fight."

Douglas maintains an active social media presence around his fishing career and takes learning new techniques very seriously. "Bass takes a super active approach to fishing, and carp are very elusive and very smart," he said. "It's a longer fishing session. I treat it like an eight-hour work shift."

Douglas emphasized that while he loves eating and cooking fish, most of his sessions end in a catch-and-release, including with his record-busting buffalo.

"He's still out there," he said. "He'll live to see another day. Safe handling of fish is very important to me."

He's moving to Durango, Colorado at the end of the month, and is hoping that his angling achievements and know-how will grow into a full-time business. "I would like to eventually have a guide service and make it a lucrative thing. I really enjoy doing it and want other people to have fun doing it with me," he said.

"There's something really fascinating about fish for me because I grew up in the desert," he continued. "Going to all these lakes, there's this whole underwater world that you can see. It's just so intriguing because you never know what you're gonna catch."

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NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL

La jardinería hidropónica

(Continuación de la página 1)

en un lugar como Presidio, donde el suelo escasea en la naturaleza.

Es la primera vez que Estolloso se asocia con la BBCA y disfruta poder enseñar a sus alumnos conceptos científicos complicados de una manera práctica. “Es una gran responsabilidad tener una [planta] bebé que debes monitorear, también debes tener paciencia”, explicó. “Todas las mañanas comprobamos el nivel de pH del agua y luego también comprobamos la temperatura”.

Su arduo trabajo ha dado sus frutos: unas pocas semanas después del programa, plantas como la lechuga y la col rizada comienzan a mostrar sus hojas. Los niños también han estado construyendo maceteros con materiales reciclados, como botellas de refrescos, para colgarlos de la cerca que rodea la escuela. Riega las plantas con una botella rociadora al menos una vez al día, resistiendo la tentación de rociarse entre sí durante todo el proceso.

Cuando finalice el programa, los niños podrán llevar sus plantas a sus familias, lo que brindará la oportunidad de alentar a las personas mayores en sus vidas a dedicarse a la jardinería. Parte de la diversión es recoger sus plantas. Miah Rodríguez eligió pepinos y cebollas amarillas; Sophia Piedra agregó remolacha y tomillo a su jardín de botellas de Gatorade.

El programa está financiado a través de una generosa donación de Amerigroup, que ha trabajado para abogar por la salud de los residentes de Presidio a través de opciones ampliadas de telemedicina y otros proyectos. Para Greg Thompson, presidente y director ejecutivo de Amerigroup Texas, apoyar el jardín de la escuela primaria fue una obviedad. “Nuestra misión es ayudar a las personas a estar saludables y mantenerse saludables”, dijo. “Es importante educar a nuestros jóvenes sobre hábitos alimenticios saludables”.

Con suerte, empoderar a los jóvenes presidentes para que comiencen a trabajar en el jardín tendrá un efecto dominó mucho más allá de poder disfrutar el sabor de un pimiento o calabaza cultivados en casa. “Alrededor del 43% de todos los residentes de Presidio están por debajo del nivel de pobreza”, dijo Thompson. “Puede ser costoso comprar productos frescos en el supermercado. Por eso es tan importante entender lo fácil que es cultivar tus propios productos”.

Se espera que el jardín hidropónico en el salón de clases de Estolloso produzca alrededor de 25 libras de alimentos cada cuatro semanas: un programa piloto financiado por Amerigroup generó 394 libras de productos en total de una unidad de cultivo hidropónico como la de Presidio. “Es importante nutrir a la comunidad”, dijo Thompson. “Es un salvavidas”.



Staff photo by Sam Karas

BBCA’s Presidio coordinator, Elvira Hermosillo, helps Sophia Piedra read the instructions on a packet of seeds so they can be planted properly.
La coordinadora del Presidio de BBCA, Elvira Hermosillo, ayuda a Sophia Piedra a leer las instrucciones en un paquete de semillas para que puedan plantarse correctamente.

Puente de Presidio

(Continuación de la página 1)

Aranda. “En última instancia, [Abbott] es el gobernador, y este es su puente”.

La oficina del gobernador Abbott no respondió a una solicitud de comentarios.

El proyecto del puente es parte de un impulso mayor para aumentar el comercio entre la Cuenca Pérmica, Chihuahua y más allá. MOTRAN, la Alianza de Transporte de Midland-Odessa, ha sido un partidario vocal de las mejoras del puente. “Nuestra área es la zona productora de petróleo y gas más prolífica del mundo”, escribió el presidente de MOTRAN, James Beauchamp, en una carta a los funcionarios del estado de Chihuahua el 7 de junio. “MOTRAN… tiene una larga historia y conexión con Chihuahua y Sinaloa. Las conexiones con otras economías brindan tremendas oportunidades económicas”.

Con un nuevo puente ferroviario en construcción justo aguas abajo del puente para vehículos motorizados, las economías vinculadas de Presidio y Ojinaga están preparadas para el despegue. El cronograma para la reanudación del servicio ferroviario entre los dos países aún no se ha determinado, pero podría proporcionar una vía para la creación de empleo y un mayor comercio.

En la reunión del martes, Giesbrecht explicó que la gobernadora de Chihuahua, Maru Campos, estaba emocionada porque el puente generaría otro tipo de desarrollo económico: el turismo. “Ella realmente está mirando más el lado del turismo y el lado comercial del proyecto, con el Parque Nacional Big Bend, de eso es de lo que siempre ha hablado”, explicó. “Ha habido un sueño de conectar el Big Bend con las Barrancas del Cobre”.

La junta de PIPA actualmente está solicitando ofertas para una empresa que ayude a escribir un plan maestro para el Puerto de Entrada de Presidio, priorizando proyectos que aprovecharán todas las nuevas oportunidades que se esperan a raíz de ambos proyectos de puentes. La jueza del condado Cinderela Guevara, quien también forma parte de la junta de PIPA, planteó la idea de más comercio aéreo. “Me gustaría ver que el aeropuerto [Presidio] realmente se use como un aeropuerto internacional”, dijo.

Giesbrecht dijo que los funcionarios en Ojinaga también habían expresado interés en construir su propio aeropuerto internacional y esperaban impulsar las exportaciones de carne de res desde la región de Big Bend a Chihuahua. A los comisionados les hizo cosquillas su descripción de un modo de transporte internacional de ganado presentado por Grupo México. “Están dispuestos a diseñar algo como la pasarela eléctrica que tienen en los aeropuertos. El ganado se sube y comienza a moverse”, dijo Giesbrecht.

La actualización del puente —y todas las posibilidades de crecimiento que conlleva— supuso un soplo de aire fresco para los comisarios. “Solo queríamos escuchar todas las buenas noticias”, dijo la comisionada Brenda Bentley.

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CLASSIFIED

Big Bend Telephone (BBT) Receives National Smart Rural Community and Gig-Capable Certification

ALPINE – Big Bend Telephone (BBT) was recognized by NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, as a Smart Rural Community (SRC) provider in 2015 and most recently a Certified Gig-Capable Provider for delivering gigabit broadband speeds and enabling technological innovation in West Texas communities.

SRC is a national network of communities powered by innovative rural broadband providers that are building a brighter future for small-town America. The program promotes rural broadband and its role in supporting innovative economic development, effective education, efficient energy distribution and use, state-of-the-art healthcare and other important issues for rural America.

As a Certified Gig-Capable Provider, BBT joins a national campaign to build awareness and industry recognition of community-based telecom providers that have built communications networks capable of delivering Internet speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second, which is 100 times faster than those currently available in many U.S. households.

"BBT has been committed to providing the best, available communications services to its customers for over 60 years. Our investment in a fiber infrastructure is another way of showing our continued growth in providing robust, scalable voice and broadband services for the next generation." said Rusty Moore, BBT General Manager/COO.

In order to receive recognition as an SRC provider, BBT was required to affirm that it offers 100 Mbps broadband to at least 50% of its service area; that it has broadband subscription rates of at least 50%; and that it is committed to program principles of collaboration and innovation.

To achieve certification as a Gig-Capable Provider, BBT showed that gigabit technology is currently commercially available within 95% of one or more exchanges within its serving territory and that such service can be provided without new trenching or stringing new aerial facilities. This statement must be confirmed by a letter from an engineering firm or other independent source involved in the company's network planning, deployment or operation.

BBT gigabit Internet is offered throughout BBT's service territory where fiber is available. The communities of Sanderson, Sheffield, Comstock & Langtry are 100% served by synchronous gigabit fiber Internet service with Presidio scheduled for completion this year.

About BBT

BBT has provided quality voice, high-speed broadband, and advanced business services to thousands of customers in West Texas's vast remote territory for over 60 years. BBT is the only fiber-based provider in the many rural communities served, and its service area covers 18,000 square miles, including 485 miles of border with neighboring Mexico. BBT is committed to providing the fastest speeds and most reliable voice service possible.

About NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association

The Rural Broadband Association is the premier association representing nearly 850 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural and small-town America. NTCA members are leading the technological evolution for rural consumers, delivering robust and high-quality services over future-proof networks that make rural communities vibrant places in which to live and do business.

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COALICIÓN REPRODUCTIVA DEL
BIG BEND
REPRODUCTIVE COALITION

BIG BEND REPRODUCTIVE COALITION
provides educational materials and resources to West Texans that want more information about abortion and miscarriage management.

Big Bend Reproductive Coalition does not give medical or legal advice. This information is an educational resource.

COALICIÓN REPRODUCTIVA DEL BIG BEND *proveé materiales y recursos educacionales a los habitantes de West Texas, los cuales quieran informacion acerca del manejo del aborto y aborto espontáneo.*

La Coalición Reproductiva del Big Bend no brinda asesoramiento médico ni legal. Esta información es un recurso educativo.

BigBendRC@proton.me
@BBReproductiveCoalition



JOBS

Available jobs: Full Time Dental Hygienist, Nurse (NA, CNA, LVN or RN)

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

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.

JOB OPPORTUNITY
Big Bend Regional Hospital District

The Big Bend Regional Hospital District is now accepting applications and resumes for a full-time **Patient Advocate position at our office in Presidio, Texas.**

The Patient Advocate will assist clients with enrollment in state and local assistance programs. Job requirements include: high school diploma or equivalent, proficiency in English and Spanish, computer literacy, high attention to detail, and a 2 years' experience (professional or volunteer) in social services, customer service, case management, or other related experience. Occasional travel in company provided vehicle is required to our Alpine office and regional training events. Salary commensurate with experience. Benefits include: 100% company sponsored health insurance, generous PTO and paid holiday schedule, and retirement contributions.

Applications are available at www.bbrhd.com or can be requested in person at 602 W. O'Reilly St., Presidio, TX.

Please send a resume, cover letter, and completed application to jd@bbrhd.com or they can be dropped off at the Presidio office.

For more information call 432-837-7051.

The Big Bend Regional Hospital District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PCHS is seeking a full-time Chief Financial Officer to oversee the financial responsibility of a federally qualified community health center.

Requirements: Minimum 2 – 5 years of healthcare high-level accounting experience, preferable in a FQHC based setting working in a financial management capacity; knowledge of grant management, accounting and fiscal systems, prepare and present monthly financial budgeting reports, monthly profit and loss by division, fund raising and strategic planning is required; Bachelors' degree in Accounting, Health Care Administration or related field. Masters' degree highly desirable.

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

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Presidio Police Department is looking for two full time Police Officers to perform a variety of law enforcement duties and maintain public safety.

JOB SUMMARY:
This Is general duty police work on an assigned shift involving the protection of life and property. To perform a variety of duties in the enforcement of laws and the prevention of crimes; to control traffic flow and enforce State and local traffic regulations; and to perform a variety of technical and administrative tasks In support of the Department.

REQUIRED EDUCATION, DEGREES, CERTIFICATES, AND/OR LICENSES:
- Must possess a high school diploma or equivalency.
- Must meet the minimum requirements for State licensure as established by T.C.O.L.E.
- Graduation from an accredited police academy.
- Must possess, at the time of employment and continuously throughout employment, a valid Texas driver's license.
- Possession of a T.C.O.l.E. Basic Peace Officer License.

Salary: Depending on Qualifications and Experience.

Benefits: Medical Insurance, Retirement Plan, Accrued Vacation, Accrued Sick Leave

Applications can be picked up at the Presidio Police Department, 501 E. Orielly, Presidio, Texas 79845, from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Position close date: June 27, 2022 @ 5:00pm

The City of Presidio Is an Equal Employment Opportunity.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Presidio Independent School District is accepting "Sealed Bids" for Student Accident Athletic/Activity Insurance for school year 2022-2023

Bids will be accepted until July 12, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. CST. Prospective bidders may secure further information and specifications from Raquel H. Baeza at rbaeza@presidio-isd.net.

The Presidio ISD reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive all formalities and irregularities in bidding.
The Sealed Bids will be publicly opened on July 12, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. CST. However, the bids will not be publicly exposed.
Any bid received thereafter will not be considered and will be returned to the proposer unopened.
Facsimiles will be accepted prior to the specified deadline.

Presidio ISD reserves the right to postpone, to accept or to reject any or all bids as it deems to be its best interest and to waive formalities and reasonable irregularities in proposing.

BID MUST BE ADDRESSED TO:
Presidio ISD
Business Office
ATTN: Raquel H. Baeza
P.O. Box 1401
701 East Market Street
Presidio, Texas 79845
432-229-3281/fax

Plainly Marked:
Bid – Student Accident Athletic/Activity Insurance

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