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BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES
by order of Presidio County

Presidio County declares state of emergency over water supply concerns

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — At Wednesday's meeting, Presidio County commissioners voted to declare a state of emergency in response to concerns about public water supplies in Presidio County's unincorporated communities. The state of emergency officially lasts for 30 days and Commissioners Court can indefinitely renew the declaration if concerns persist.

The item was originally sparked by a water crisis in Shafter: for decades, residents have received safe drinking water free of charge from the nearby silver mine. Aurcana Silver purchased the mine in 2012 and continued providing water — but recent rumors of bankruptcy and pending sale of the mine have sparked concerns that residents might soon be left high and dry.

Since then, problems with water quality in Ruidosa and Candelaria have also surfaced and may require serious and costly intervention. County Judge Joe Portillo reached out to the Texas Department of Emergency Management to confirm that he was able to broaden the declaration to include more than one community — the revised declaration is intended to prevent "hardship and suffering throughout the unincorporated communities of Presidio County."

Portillo explained that the declaration of emergency was "preventative" — if needed, it provided the proper framework for the county to ask for help from the state. Temporary solutions to water quality problems could involve trucking or tractoring in mobile tanks of potable water, but commissioners agreed that isn't a feasible long-term fix, especially if expensive new filtration and pumping systems needed to be installed in the county's most remote communities.

County Emergency Management Coordinator Gary Mitschke explained that the declaration isn't an automatic trigger to receive services from the state and that the county would retain control. "The [Texas Department of Emergency Management] is simply a support," he said. "As long as we say we're in charge, we're in charge."

Precinct 4 Commissioner David Beebe expressed concern that the declaration might still be too broad, even with an initial green light from the state. Portillo said he was confident in their counsel — and that he would ensure that the county exhausted all its options for dealing with the problem independently before asking for outside assistance. "This is a unique animal," he said.

West Texan Media Group, LLC



Staff photo by Sam Karas / Foto por Sam Karas

Maria Luisa Hernandez, Ines Armendariz, Evangelina Olvera and Socorro Franco attended a free gardening workshop on Friday at the Presidio Public Library. READ MORE ON PAGE 2.
María Luisa Hernández, Inés Armendáriz, Evangelina Olvera y Socorro Franco asistieron a un taller gratuito de jardinería el viernes en la Biblioteca Pública de Presidio. LEER MÁS EN PÁGINA 3.

Presidio City Council talks new healthcare grant, funding for EMS training

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — At Monday's meeting, Presidio City Council made strides in working to provide locals with quality healthcare. JD Newsom of the Big Bend Regional Hospital District and Troy Sparks of Presidio EMS both presented agenda items aimed at bolstering the city's cash-strapped medical services.

Newsom updated the crowd on a large grant that was awarded last summer to improve access to healthcare in Presidio and Terlingua. $5.5 million was set aside for both communities, in the hopes of opening a clinic in Terlingua for the first time in 20 years and to extend hours for the existing clinic in Presidio.

Presidio will receive the bulk of the funding. The package has two prongs: the creation of an after-hours clinic that will offer Presidians the opportunity to visit with a doctor on the weekends and a community paramedicine program that will equip existing EMS staff to provide preventative care. "It's going to be transformative for how we think about healthcare in Presidio," Newsom said.

The immediate goal of the grant is diverting south Brewster and Presidio county residents from long and costly ambulance rides to Alpine — the target is reducing transports by 20%, which would benefit both potential patients and the region's ailing ambulance fleet. "If we're taking care of peoples' health here in Presidio, we won't need to transport them," Newsom

(Continued on page 2)

Pilot in plane crash involving undocumented migrants pleads guilty to felony human smuggling charge

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Tobias Penner Peters, the Seminole man who in 2021 crashed a plane carrying undocumented migrants near the Presidio airport, has pleaded guilty to transporting undocumented citizens causing serious bodily injury, a felony that could land him in prison for up to 20 years. He is now awaiting an April sentencing.

Peters was accused of participating in a human trafficking scheme after crashing a plane just beyond the runway at the Presidio-Lely Airport on December 30, 2021. The crash injured five undocumented migrants — one so severely that she was life-flighted to El Paso and "remains in a wheelchair today," per a press release from the Western District of Texas U.S. Attorney's Office.

On the day of the crash, Peters fled the scene — leaving behind a "substantial amount of blood" and taking with him handheld radios, a cell phone, paperwork and "what appeared to be a firearm," per the deposition

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El Ayuntamiento de Presidio habla sobre una nueva subvención de atención médica, financiación para la capacitación de EMS

Por SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — En la reunión del lunes, el Concejo Municipal de Presidio avanzó a pasos agigantados en su trabajo para brindarles a los locales atención médica de calidad. JD Newsom del Distrito Hospitalario Regional de Big Bend y Troy Sparks de Presidio EMS presentaron elementos de la agenda destinados a reforzar los servicios médicos de la ciudad con problemas de liquidez.

Newsom actualizó a la multitud sobre una gran subvención que se otorgó el verano pasado para mejorar el acceso a la atención médica en Presidio y Terlingua. Se reservaron $5,5 millones para ambas comunidades, con la esperanza de abrir una clínica en Terlingua por primera vez en 20 años y ampliar el horario de atención de la clínica existente en Presidio.

Presidio recibirá la mayor parte de los fondos. El paquete tiene dos vertientes: la creación de una clínica fuera del horario de atención que

(Continúa en la página 3)

Piloto en accidente aéreo que involucró a inmigrantes indocumentados se declara culpable de delito grave de contrabando de personas

Por SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Tobias Penner Peters, el hombre seminola que en 2021 estrelló un avión que transportaba inmigrantes indocumentados cerca del aeropuerto de Presidio, se declaró culpable de transportar a ciudadanos indocumentados causándoles lesiones corporales graves, un delito grave que podría llevarlo a prisión por hasta 20 años. Ahora está esperando una sentencia de abril.

Peters fue acusada de participar en un esquema de trata de personas después de estrellarse un avión justo más allá de la pista en el aeropuerto Presidio-Lely el 30 de diciembre de 2021. El accidente hirió a cinco inmigrantes indocumentados, uno tan gravemente que tuvo que volar a El Paso y "permanece en una silla de ruedas hoy", según un comunicado de prensa de la Oficina del Fiscal Federal del Distrito Oeste de Texas.

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Condado de Presidio declara estado de emergencia por problemas de suministro de agua

Por SAM KARAS
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CONDADO DE PRESIDIO: en la reunión del miércoles, los comisionados del condado de Presidio votaron para declarar el estado de emergencia en respuesta a las preocupaciones sobre los suministros públicos de agua en las comunidades no incorporadas del condado de Presidio. El estado de emergencia tiene una duración oficial de 30 días y el Tribunal de Comisionados puede renovar indefinidamente la declaración si persisten las preocupaciones.

El artículo fue provocado originalmente por una crisis de agua en Shafter: durante décadas, los residentes han recibido agua potable segura y gratuita de la mina de plata cercana. Aurcana Silver compró la mina en 2012 y continuó proporcionando agua, pero los rumores recientes de bancarrota y la venta pendiente de la mina han generado preocupaciones de que los residentes pronto podrían quedarse sin agua.

Desde entonces, también han surgido problemas con la calidad del agua en Ruidosa y Candelaria y pueden requerir una intervención seria y costosa. El juez del condado, Joe Portillo, se comunicó con el Departamento de Manejo de Emergencias de Texas para confirmar que pudo ampliar la declaración para incluir a más de una comunidad; la declaración revisada tiene como objetivo evitar "las dificultades y el sufrimiento en las comunidades no incorporadas del condado de Presidio".

Portillo explicó que la declaración de emergencia fue "preventiva"; de ser necesario, proporcionó el marco adecuado para que el condado pidiera ayuda al estado. Las soluciones temporales a los problemas de calidad del agua podrían implicar camiones o tractores en tanques móviles de agua potable, pero los comisionados acordaron que no es una solución factible a largo plazo, especialmente si es necesario instalar nuevos y costosos sistemas de filtración y bombeo en las comunidades más remotas del condado. .

El coordinador de manejo de emergencias del condado, Gary Mitschke, explicó que la declaración no es un disparador automático para recibir servicios del estado y que el condado mantendría el control. "El [Departamento de Manejo de Emergencias de Texas] es simplemente un apoyo", dijo. "Mientras digamos que estamos a cargo, estamos a cargo".

El comisionado del Precinto 4, David Beebe, expresó su preocupación de que la declaración aún podría ser demasiado amplia, incluso con una luz verde inicial del estado. Portillo dijo que confiaba en su consejo y que se aseguraría de que el condado agotara todas sus opciones para abordar el problema de forma independiente antes de solicitar ayuda externa. "Este es un animal único", dijo.

ENGLISH NEWS

Presidio City Council

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said.

The community paramedicine program is an important part of meeting that goal. Such programs train local first responders to make home visits and provide medical services that are typically only offered in a clinic — the logic is that if EMTs are able to provide preventative care, their services won't be needed in as many life-or-death situations.

Mayor John Ferguson and the council members in attendance agreed that this was great news for Presidio. "This is huge in the development of our community," he said.

Next on the agenda, Presidio EMS Director Troy Sparks asked Council for help funding paramedic training for local EMTs. The request applied retroactively to paramedic training for three staff members, but would ideally provide a framework for future EMTs to expand their training in exchange for a contracted two-year stint as a first responder in Presidio.

Council ultimately opted to budget for the past training, and Sparks plans to apply for grants to cover future opportunities.

Sparks explained that there are several levels of training that EMS providers can attain. EMTBs help package and transport patients, and with additional training they can become EMTAs, who can also provide IVs and certain medications with the approval of the department's medical director.

Paramedics can do it all: directly handle critical patients, provide medication and IV therapy, and intubate patients. They're also qualified to administer and evaluate cardiology assessments — in most cases, using advanced monitoring to diagnose heart attacks during transport. Staff who aren't trained paramedics aren't technically qualified to diagnose heart conditions while en route to the hospital.

The lack of paramedics creates a perfect storm in Presidio, where heart-related conditions are common and hospital transport is long. Heart conditions need to be diagnosed and treated as quickly as possible, which can be life-threatening for folks waiting on an ambulance or air transport. "Cardiac [conditions] down here are tremendous," Sparks said.

The 11-month paramedic course costs around $8,500 per student, but Sparks feels that the investment is worth it — and that there are grant-based opportunities the department is planning to pursue as well.

Providing incentive for potential paramedics to train in the Big Bend could make a big difference in emergency care in Presidio — and around the region, too. "We're short on EMTs — Marfa's short, Terlingua's short," Sparks explained.

To cap off the healthcare updates at Monday's meeting, Newsom also announced that Lynette Brehm would be joining the Big Bend Regional Hospital District team as a community coordinator for Presidio.

The BBRHD will also be hosting a kickoff meeting for the grant-based projects in Presidio at the Health and Human Services office on Tuesday, February 21 at 10 a.m.

Pilot

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of Homeland Security Investigations Task Force Officer Coleman Boring.

Three months later, Peters turned himself in at the Presidio International Bridge. He was booked at the Presidio County Jail and eventually granted conditional release, allowing him to wait out the legal proceedings at his home in Seminole.

Peters last year was indicted by a grand jury on one count of "conspiracy to transport illegal aliens" and one count of "transportation of illegal aliens causing serious bodily injury," to which he entered a not guilty plea. He has now pleaded guilty to one of those two counts, a result of a plea agreement reached with the government.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Amy Greenbaum prosecuted the case. Peters retained two lawyers: Monty Kimball of Alpine and Antonio Rodriguez of Presidio. (None of the attorneys involved responded to requests for comment by press time.)

Peters is currently slated to face sentencing in Alpine on April 25, where he will face a maximum of 20 years in prison.

Presidio High School Band celebrates successful competition results

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Over the past month, Presidio High School Band students have celebrated a string of strong showings at regional competitions. Band students attended the competitive Band and Jazz All Region events and qualified for the state UIL Solo & Ensemble contest.

Students who want to make the cut for the All Region bands must audition solo on their instrument in the hopes of earning a spot in one of three bands composed of the region's top high school musicians. Percussionists Jaeli Nuñez and Benny Escontrias performed at the Band All Region event and Victoria Corrales performed at Jazz All Region on tenor sax.

Last Saturday, Benny Escontrias, Jaeli Nuñez, Imuris Garcia and Luis Sanchez participated in the regional Solo & Ensemble contest as a percussion ensemble and earned a spot at the state competition, which will be held in May. Soloists Domingo Rios, Josselyn Melchor and Ninel Catano also made the cut.

Solo & Ensemble places the emphasis on live individual performance — students can earn one of four ratings and only performers who earn the top rating advance.

To prepare for the January and February events, practice was a family affair — Lucy and John Ferguson helped offer their services to help students with private lessons, and Band Director Molly Ferguson was able to work overtime with the percussion students as a percussionist herself.

Director Ferguson was proud of all of her students, but gave special kudos to the Solo & Ensemble competitors for waking up the morning after the homecoming dance to travel to Monahans and give award-winning performances. "They're all hardworking kids," she said.



Photo courtesy of Molly Ferguson Rodriguez

Soloists Domingo Rios, Josselyn Melchor and Ninel Catano qualified for the state Solo & Ensemble contest in May; Benny Escontrias, Jaeli Nunez, Imuris Garcia and Luis Sanchez will also participate as a percussion ensemble.



Photo courtesy of Molly Ferguson Rodriguez

Percussionists Benny Escontrias and Jaeli Nunez participated at the Band All Region Festival that was held in Big Spring, Texas, on the weekend of January 13.



Photo courtesy of Molly Ferguson Rodriguez

Tenor saxophonist Victoria Corrales participated at the Jazz All Region Festival over the weekend of January 27.

Big Bend Conservation Alliance kicks off free gardening workshop series in Presidio

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Last Friday, the Big Bend Conservation Alliance kicked off a series of free gardening workshops in Presidio, encouraging locals to get dirty and grow their own food. The workshops will continue the first week of each month through the spring and will be conducted in Spanish to encourage all members of the community to participate.

Félix Vázquez Santa Cruz led the workshop — this session was dedicated to starting a garden on a budget. She started with the basics: the focus would be on growing vegetables instead of ornamental flowers and other plants.

The group tackled typical problems that Presidians face in starting and keeping a garden: nutrient-poor and rocky soil, soaring summer temperatures and wild neighbors like javelinas, rabbits and outdoor cats. Santa Cruz advised working with the land, rather than against it — too many pesticides or other interventions could harm rather than help the cause.

Santa Cruz and BBCA Community Liaison Elvira Hermosillo broke the attendees up into groups and handed out free egg carton planters, soil and seeds. Everyone got to pick which seeds they wanted to plant, but they were advised to be intentional in their choices — there would be a friendly competition measuring the progress of everyone's garden in the next session.

Hermosillo explained to the fledgling gardeners that the exercise wasn't just about picking up a new hobby: it was an act of self-reliance and keeping in touch with the past. "It's all about growing your own food — our ancestors grew their own food," she said.

Santa Cruz also emphasized that you don't need a lot of specialized knowledge to get into gardening — there are plenty of free resources online to help beginners get started. She recommended YouTube videos as a great place to learn from more experienced folks. "This is to motivate y'all — it can be done," she said.

Beyond her practical tips, Santa Cruz also offered a pep talk. "I have a theory [behind my success] — I make it fun for myself," she said. "Gardening is love."

The next installment of BBCA's gardening series will be held on Friday, March 3, at 10 a.m. — the theme will be using what you already have at home to set up your garden. All classes will be held at the Presidio Public Library, are open to all, and are free of charge.

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.*

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NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL

Ayuntamiento de Presidio

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ofrecerá a los presidentes la oportunidad de visitar a un médico los fines de semana y un programa comunitario de paramedicina que equipará al personal de EMS existente para brindar atención preventiva. “Va a ser transformador en la forma en que pensamos sobre la atención médica en Presidio”, dijo Newsom.

El objetivo inmediato de la subvención es desviar a los residentes del sur de Brewster y del condado de Presidio de los largos y costosos viajes en ambulancia a Alpine; el objetivo es reducir los transportes en un 20 %, lo que beneficiaría tanto a los pacientes potenciales como a la debilitada flota de ambulancias de la región. “Si estamos cuidando la salud de las personas aquí en Presidio, no necesitaremos transportarlos”, dijo Newsom.

El programa de paramedicina comunitaria es una parte importante para lograr ese objetivo. Dichos programas capacitan a los socorristas locales para que realicen visitas domiciliarias y brinden servicios médicos que normalmente solo se ofrecen en una clínica; la lógica es que si los técnicos de emergencias médicas pueden brindar atención preventiva, sus servicios no serán necesarios en tantas vidas o vidas. situaciones de muerte.

El alcalde John Ferguson y los miembros del consejo asistentes coincidieron en que esta era una gran noticia para Presidio. “Esto es enorme en el desarrollo de nuestra comunidad”, dijo.

A continuación en la agenda, el director de EMS de Presidio, Troy Sparks, solicitó al Concejo ayuda para financiar la capacitación de paramédicos para los EMT locales. La solicitud se aplicó retroactivamente a la capacitación de paramédicos para tres miembros del personal, pero idealmente proporcionaría un marco para que los futuros EMT amplíen su capacitación a cambio de un período contratado de dos años como socorristas en Presidio.

El consejo finalmente optó por presupuestar la capacitación anterior y Sparks planea solicitar subvenciones para cubrir futuras oportunidades.

Sparks explicó que hay varios niveles de capacitación que pueden alcanzar los proveedores de EMS. Los EMTB ayudan a empacar y transportar a los pacientes, y con capacitación adicional pueden convertirse en EMTA, que también pueden proporcionar IV y ciertos medicamentos con la aprobación del director médico del departamento.

Los paramédicos pueden hacerlo todo: manejar directamente a los pacientes críticos, administrar medicamentos y terapia intravenosa e intubar a los pacientes. También están calificados para administrar y evaluar evaluaciones de cardiología; en la mayoría de los casos, utilizan monitoreo avanzado para diagnosticar ataques cardíacos durante el transporte. El personal que no es paramédico capacitado no está técnicamente calificado para diagnosticar afecciones cardíacas mientras se dirige al hospital.

La falta de paramédicos crea una tormenta perfecta en Presidio, donde las condiciones relacionadas con el corazón son comunes y el transporte al hospital es largo. Las afecciones cardíacas deben diagnosticarse y tratarse lo más rápido posible, lo que puede poner en peligro la vida de las personas que esperan una ambulancia o un transporte aéreo. “Las [condiciones] cardíacas aquí abajo son tremendas”, dijo Sparks.

El curso de paramédico de 11 meses cuesta alrededor de $8500 por estudiante, pero Sparks cree que la inversión vale la pena, y que hay oportunidades basadas en subvenciones que el departamento planea aprovechar también.

Brindar incentivos para que los paramédicos potenciales se capaciten en Big Bend podría marcar una gran diferencia en la atención de emergencia en Presidio, y también en toda la región. “Nos faltan EMT: el corto de Marfa, el corto de Terlingua”, explicó Sparks.

Para culminar las actualizaciones de atención médica en la reunión del lunes, Newsom también anunció que Lynette Brehm se uniría al equipo del Distrito del Hospital Regional de Big Bend como coordinadora comunitaria de Presidio.

El BBRHD también organizará una reunión inicial para los proyectos basados en subvenciones en Presidio en la oficina de Salud y Servicios Humanos el martes 21 de febrero a las 10 a. m.

Piloto

(Continuación de la página 1)

El día del accidente, Peters huyó de la escena, dejando atrás una “cantidad sustancial de sangre” y llevándose consigo radios de mano, un teléfono celular, documentos y “lo que parecía ser un arma de fuego”, según la declaración de Investigaciones de Seguridad Nacional. Oficial de la Fuerza de Tarea Coleman Boring.

Tres meses después, Peters se entregó en el Puente Internacional de Presidio. Fue reservado en la Cárcel del Condado de Presidio y finalmente se le otorgó la libertad condicional, lo que le permitió esperar a que terminaran los procedimientos legales en su casa en Seminole.

El año pasado, Peters fue acusado por un gran jurado de un cargo de “conspiración para transportar inmigrantes ilegales” y un cargo de “transporte de inmigrantes ilegales que causan lesiones corporales graves”, a los que se declaró inocente. Ahora se ha declarado culpable de uno de esos dos cargos, como resultado de un acuerdo de culpabilidad alcanzado con el gobierno.

La fiscal federal adjunta Amy Greenbaum procesó el caso. Peters contrató a dos abogados: Monty Kimball de Alpine y Antonio Rodríguez de Presidio. (Ninguno de los abogados involucrados respondió a las solicitudes de comentarios al cierre de esta edición).

Actualmente, Peters está programado para enfrentar una sentencia en Alpine el 25 de abril, donde enfrentará un máximo de 20 años de prisión.

Presidio High School Band celebra los resultados exitosos de la competencia

Por SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Durante el último mes, los estudiantes de Banda de la Escuela Secundaria de Presidio han celebrado una serie de presentaciones sólidas en competencias regionales. Los estudiantes de banda asistieron a los eventos competitivos de banda y jazz de toda la región y calificaron para el concurso estatal UIL Solo & Ensemble.

Los estudiantes que quieran hacer el corte para las bandas de toda la región deben hacer una audición en solitario en su instrumento con la esperanza de ganar un lugar en una de las tres bandas compuestas por los mejores músicos de la escuela secundaria de la región. Los percusionistas Jaeli Nuñez y Benny Escontrias se presentaron en el evento Band All Region y Victoria Corrales se presentó en Jazz All Region en saxo tenor.

El sábado pasado, Benny Escontrias, Jaeli Nuñez, Imuris García y Luis Sánchez participaron en el concurso regional Solo & Ensemble como conjunto de percusión y ganaron un lugar en la competencia estatal, que se realizará en mayo. Los solistas Domingo Ríos, Josselyn Melchor y Ninel Catano también hicieron el corte.

Solo & Ensemble pone énfasis en la actuación individual en vivo: los estudiantes pueden obtener una de las cuatro calificaciones y solo los artistas que obtienen la calificación más alta avanzan.

Para prepararse para los eventos de enero y febrero, la práctica fue un asunto familiar: Lucy y John Ferguson ayudaron a ofrecer sus servicios para ayudar a los estudiantes con lecciones privadas, y la directora de la banda, Molly Ferguson, pudo trabajar horas extras con los estudiantes de percusión como percusionista.

La directora Ferguson estaba orgullosa de todos sus alumnos, pero felicitó especialmente a los competidores de Solo y Ensemble por despertarse la mañana después del baile de bienvenida para viajar a Monahans y ofrecer actuaciones galardonadas. “Son todos niños trabajadores”, dijo.

AW3-2a
Prescribed by Secretary of State
Section 141.040, Texas Election Code
11/2020

NOTICE OF DEADLINE TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR PLACE ON THE BALLOT

(AVISO DE FECHA LÍMITE PARA PRESENTAR UNA SOLICITUD PARA UN LUGAR EN LA BOLETA)

Notice is hereby given that an application for a place on the City of Presidio
(name of political subdivision/party)

Regular/Special/Primary Election ballot may be filed during the following time: as stated below
(Circle one)

(Se da aviso por la presente que una solicitud para un lugar en la boleta de la Elección

Regular/Especial/Primaria de Cuidad de Presidio se pueden presentar
(marcar una con círculo) (nombre de la subdivisión política/partido)

durante el siguiente horario: como indica a continuacion)

Filing Dates and Times:
(Fechas y Horario para Entregar Solicitudes)

Start Date: January 18, 2023 (Fecha Inicio)
End Date: February 17, 2023 (Fecha Límite)

Office Hours: 8am - 5pm
(Horario de la Oficina)

Physical address for filing an application in person for place on the ballot:
(Dirección a física para presentar una solicitud en persona para un lugar en la boleta)
507 W O'Reilly St., Presidio, Texas 79845

Address to mail an application for place on the ballot (if filing by mail):
(Dirección a donde enviar una solicitud para un lugar en la boleta (en caso de presentar por correo))
PO Box 1899, Presidio, Texas 79845

Email or Fax Number to send an application for place on the ballot:
(Dirección de correo electrónico o número de fax para enviar una solicitud para un lugar en la boleta)
bornelas@presidiotx.us or FAX 432-229-3505

Signature of Filing Officer
(Firma del Oficial de Archivos)

BrendaLeeAcuña
Printed Name of Filing Officer
(Nombre en letra de molde del Oficial de Archivos)

January 6th, 2023
Date Posted
(Fecha archivada)

Big Bend Conservation Alliance inicia una serie de talleres de jardinería gratuitos en Presidio

Por SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — El viernes pasado, Big Bend Conservation Alliance inició una serie de talleres de jardinería gratuitos en Presidio, alentando a los lugareños a ensuciarse y cultivar sus propios alimentos. Los talleres continuarán la primera semana de cada mes hasta la primavera y se llevarán a cabo en español para alentar a todos los miembros de la comunidad a participar.

Félix Vázquez Santa Cruz dirigió el taller: esta sesión se dedicó a comenzar un jardín con un presupuesto. Comenzó con lo básico: el enfoque sería cultivar vegetales en lugar de flores ornamentales y otras plantas.

El grupo abordó los problemas típicos que enfrentan los presidentes al comenzar y mantener un jardín: suelo rocoso y pobre en nutrientes, temperaturas veraniegas elevadas y vecinos salvajes como jabalinas, conejos y gatos al aire libre. Santa Cruz aconsejó trabajar con la tierra, en lugar de contra ella: demasiados pesticidas u otras intervenciones podrían dañar la causa en lugar de ayudarla.

Santa Cruz y la Enlace Comunitario de la BBCA, Elvira Hermosillo, dividieron a los asistentes en grupos y entregaron macetas de cartón de huevos, tierra y semillas gratis. Todos pudieron elegir qué semillas querían plantar, pero se les aconsejó que fueran intencionales en sus elecciones: habría una competencia amistosa para medir el progreso del jardín de todos en la próxima sesión.

Hermosillo les explicó a los jardineros novatos que el ejercicio no se trataba solo de adquirir un nuevo pasatiempo: era un acto de autosuficiencia y mantenerse en contacto con el pasado. “Se trata de cultivar tu propia comida: nuestros antepasados cultivaron su propia comida”, dijo.

Santa Cruz también enfatizó que no necesita muchos conocimientos especializados para comenzar a trabajar en jardinería; hay muchos recursos gratuitos en línea para ayudar a los principiantes a comenzar. Recomendó videos de YouTube como un excelente lugar para aprender de personas más experimentadas. “Esto es para motivarlos a todos, se puede hacer”, dijo.

Más allá de sus consejos prácticos, Santa Cruz también ofreció una charla motivadora. “Tengo una teoría [detrás de mi éxito]: lo hago divertido para mí”, dijo. “La jardinería es amor”.

La próxima entrega de la serie de jardinería de BBCA se llevará a cabo el viernes 3 de marzo a las 10 a. m.; el tema será usar lo que ya tienes en casa para configurar tu jardín. Todas las clases se llevarán a cabo en la Biblioteca Pública de Presidio, están abiertas a todos y son gratuitas.



CLASSIFIED

OP-ED

Far West Texas will have a strong voice in key Senate committees

By SENATOR CÉSAR J. BLANCO

Fully staffed offices, constituent-filled halls, eager lawmakers, and assigned Senate committees — The Texas Capitol is buzzing again and the 88th Texas Legislature is officially in session.

Recently, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick announced Senate committee appointments for this session, and Far West Texas won big with our assignments! I am truly honored to have been appointed to The Senate committees on Health & Human Services; Natural Resources & Economic Development; Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs; Veteran Affairs; and Border Security. Membership on these committees will give Far West Texas a strong voice on key issues impacting our region.

Too often, rural communities are left behind — but I am committed to ensuring that that is not the case for our rural communities in Far West Texas. Texas is stronger when rural Texas is stronger!

While traveling across the district, I had numerous conversations with constituents and local leaders in rural Far West Texas who don't care about partisan issues, but kitchen table issues that impact them every day. In our region, the tourism industry is booming. Marfa, for example, has hosted over 50,000 visitors per year, more than 25 times its population of 1,800 residents. This wave of tourism is great for the economy, but it puts added pressure on our local taxpayers and infrastructure. Our rural communities don't have the local tax base to support needed improvements to our infrastructure to keep up with growing demand. By expanding the use of hotel occupancy taxes, we can fund critical infrastructure projects such as roads, drainage and water infrastructure for safer communities, property tax relief, and economic development. I'm looking forward to having a seat at the table on the Senate committee of Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs to invest in water infrastructure for our rural communities — who, to this day, still struggle with access to clean water — as well as fight for better healthcare closer to home, broadband connectivity and technology to prepare our kids for the workforce of tomorrow. All while directly supporting our farmers, ranchers and agricultural industries.

Across the over 15,000 square miles that make up Senate District 29, quality healthcare is not easily accessible for residents, making our region historically medically underserved. I've repeatedly heard from constituents that "West Texas is a great place to retire, but a bad place to grow old," because healthcare is often hundreds of miles away. By sitting on Health and Human Services for my second session, I will continue working towards meaningful solutions. A heavy focus will be placed on bolstering our healthcare workforce to address the medical profession shortage; expanding healthcare for new moms to reduce the maternal mortality rate; addressing food insecurity; and expanding Medicaid.

Senate District 29 includes both urban and rural communities, vast natural resources, and beautiful landscapes. From the Franklin Mountains, Hueco Tanks, Big Bend, Balmorhea and others, our district has the most state park land in all of Texas, serving as a major economic engine in our region. We need to protect our public lands and invest in maintenance and acquisition efforts to grow our state park system for future generations.

Our region also produces abundant energy resources, and as a result, plays a critical role in supporting our state's energy security, keeping the lights on for all Texas families and driving down energy costs. On the Senate committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development (NRED), I will work to ensure Texas builds on its status as the ninth largest economy in the world, a global energy leader, and a national leader in creating new jobs, while being good stewards of our environment. Locally, I will continue to advocate for policies that bring investment and good-paying jobs to our communities.

Over 48,000 veterans call our region home, and I'm proud to be included in that number as a Navy veteran. For that reason, sitting on the Senate committee on Veterans Affairs is near and dear to me. We need to continue supporting those who have served and ensure veterans make a successful transition from service to civilian life by providing better access to healthcare, housing, higher education, employment, food security and economic security. Two sessions ago, I passed a law that added mental health first aid in the Texas Veterans Mental Health Program, and we will build on that progress to continue to address mental health and veteran suicides.

One of the more defining traits of Senate District 29 is the fact that we are a border community that spans over 350 miles along the Texas-Mexico border. In recent years, Texas has been ground zero for the immigration and border security debate amongst record migrant crossings and drug seizures. Although immigration and border security are the responsibility of the federal government, Texas has prioritized border security spending with little oversight and accountability. But despite record state spending, crossings are at a record high. If Texas is going to be in the business of border security, we need to make sure that we are being good stewards of rural Texans' tax dollars.

As a member of the Senate committee on Border Security, I will continue to push for smart border security, NGO support and private property owner protections. By modernizing our ports of entry and implementing smart strategies supported by fiber optic technology, drones, motion sensors and cameras, border security could be accomplished at a fraction of the cost of a physical wall while bolstering real time monitoring. By the same token, we need to ensure border communities and NGOs on the front lines have the support and financial resources needed to provide humanitarian assistance and to compensate private property owners who are victims of property damage caused by human traffickers and smugglers.

These committee appointments are a huge win for Far West Texas, and I look forward to delivering results for our families and communities. Let's get to work!

Senator César J. Blanco proudly represents the people of Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties in the Texas Senate.

Valentine Post Office announces 2023 Valentine's Day Postmark

VALENTINE — The Valentine Post Office will again offer a customized pictorial postmark to add a unique touch to Valentine's Day greeting cards.

Every year, starting in early January, the Valentine Post Office receives an abundance of cards to be stamped and sent to valentines all over the country and around the world. According to Valentine Postmaster Ismelda Ornelas, an average of 10,000 to 12,000 valentines are received annually. Ornelas hand-cancels every single one herself.

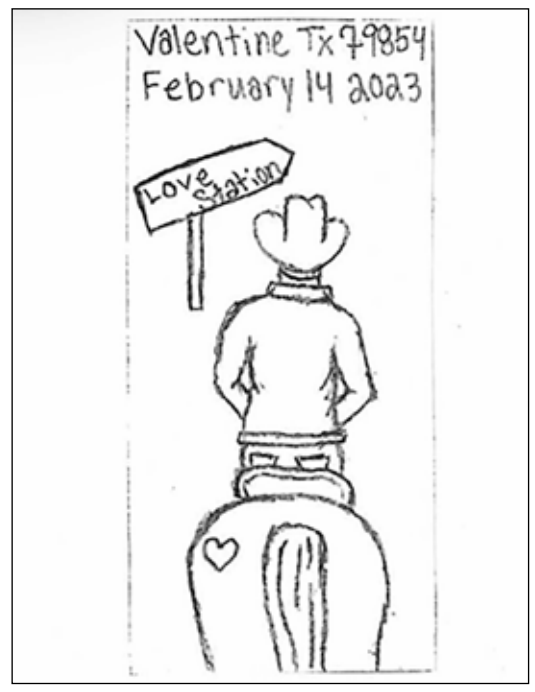
"I look forward to seeing where all the valentines come from and where they are going. Knowing I play a role in sending someone a small token of love from another person, with a hand-stamp from Valentine, TX, is truly special," says Ornelas.

The 2023 postmark design was drawn by 12th-grader Jordan Miller, winner of the annual postmark drawing contest held among local Valentine Independent School District students. She is a repeat winner, having won the contest in 2019. Miller grew up on a ranch and said her inspiration came from riding behind her father and uncle during family trail rides. Miller raises cattle and horses, and recently won Grand Champion Mare at the 2023 Big Bend Livestock Show with her horse Spider John.

A mail-in request for the customized postmark is simple. Address a greeting card to that special person(s), affix a First-Class Mail postage stamp to each, and place in a larger envelope, also with appropriate postage. Address the larger envelope to:

VALENTINE'S DAY POSTMARK
POSTMASTER
311 W CALIFORNIA AVE
VALENTINE, TX 79854-9998

There is no charge for requests of up to 50 Valentine, TX cancellations. Requests for more than 50 cancellations will be charged five cents for each additional cancellation.



Notice:

Dr. Katie Rays last day of seeing patients at Preventative Care Health Services (dba) Presidio County Health Services, Inc. is February 28, 2023

"It has been my great pleasure getting to know you and be a small part of your life for these last 10 years. Wishing you the best, Dr. Katie Ray"

Her patients may:
• Remain as a patient at PCHS and be referred to another practicing provider at this clinic.
Make an appointment with Dr. Edith Simmons, Dr. Patrick Daly, Dr. Mark Dwinell, Dr. Emily Sliz and William Mason-FNP today.
• Obtain your medical records from this office.
•Request a medical records transfer release to another health care provider.

AVISO:
El último día de la Dr. Katie Rays de ver a los pacientes en Preventative Care Health Services (dba) Presidio County Health Services, Inc. es 28 de febrero de 2023

Sus pacientes pueden:
• Permanecer como paciente en PCHS y ser cita con otro proveedor practicante en esta clínica. Haga una cita con la Dr. Edith Simmons, el Dr. Patrick Daly, el Dr. Mark Dwinell, la Dr. Emily Sliz o William Mason-FNP hoy.
• Obtenga sus registros médicos de esta oficina.
• Solicitar una liberación de transferencia de registros médicos a otro proveedor de atención médica.

"Ha sido un gran placer conocerte y ser una pequeña parte de tu vida durante estos últimos 10 años. Deseándole lo mejor, Dr. Katie Ray"

Notice:

Dr. John Rays last day of seeing patients at Preventative Care Health Services (dba) Presidio County Health Services, Inc. is February 17, 2023

His patients may:
• Remain as a patient at PCHS and be referred to another practicing provider at this clinic.
Make an appointment with Dr. Edith Simmons, Dr. Patrick Daly, Dr. Mark Dwinell, Dr. Emily Sliz and William Mason-FNP today.
• Obtain your medical records from this office.
•Request a medical records transfer release to another health care provider.

AVISO:
El último día de la Dr. John Rays de ver a los pacientes en Preventative Care Health Services (dba) Presidio County Health Services, Inc. es 17 de febrero de 2023

Sus pacientes pueden:
• Permanecer como paciente en PCHS y ser cita con otro proveedor practicante en esta clínica. Haga una cita con la Dr. Edith Simmons, el Dr. Patrick Daly, el Dr. Mark Dwinell, la Dr. Emily Sliz o William Mason-FNP hoy.
• Obtenga sus registros médicos de esta oficina.
• Solicitar una liberación de transferencia de registros médicos a otro proveedor de atención médica.

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PRESIDIO SPORTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10:
PHS Basketball Boys @ Alpine

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11:
PHS Baseball Varsity @ El Paso
PHS Softball JV/Var @ Seminole Scrimmage

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13:
LRFMS Basketball Boys @ Alpine
LRFMS Basketball Girls vs Alpine @ Presidio

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14:
PHS Softball Var/JV @ Ft. Stockton, Var 5:00pm, JV 6:30pm

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