

BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

Explainer: Does Customs and Border Protection pay property taxes?

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — At last week’s City Council meeting, Presidio local Javier Hernandez stood up during open comment to ask a question: who owns the housing compound for local Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employees, and do they pay property taxes?

Hernandez was concerned that the agency had struck a sweetheart deal with the city to get out of paying their fair share. Mayor John Ferguson insisted that was not the case. “There’s no conspiracy or anything,” he explained. “It’s just that the federal government owns that property, and it’s not taxable.”

The Presidio CBP compound is located on the north side of town, abutting the Preventative Health Care Services clinic on one side and the Three Palms Inn across the street. The tidy subdivision contains 63 houses, built in two bursts in 1999 and 2013.

A spokesperson for CBP explained that the agency isn’t unique: other federally-owned property, like army bases, is also exempt from local taxation. Tax dollars collected from people who pay federal income taxes trickle down — directly or indirectly — to all federal programs, including CBP and the National Park Service, both of which own property in the tri-county area.

Little did Hernandez know he’d touched a sore spot in city politics. The issue was last reported on by *The Presidio International* in October 2019, when city leaders aired their concerns about how much potential revenue the cash-strapped city could be losing.

At last week’s meeting, Ferguson said that not much had progressed over the past four years. “It’s a point of frustration for the city,” he said. “It’s nothing against [CBP], but our community serves the people who reside there through emergency services and our schools, but yet there’s no taxable income coming out of that subdivision into the city or the county.”

Ferguson said he’d like to see some kind of arrangement like the one between Brewster County and the National Park Service. To compensate for the property taxes that the massive 801,163-acre park would otherwise generate, the Department of the Interior cuts a check to the county on an annual basis through a program called Payment in Lieu of Taxation (PILT). “The law recognizes the financial impact of the inability of local governments to collect property taxes on federally owned land,” the agency’s website explains. “PILT payments are one of the ways the Federal Government can fulfill its role of being a good neighbor to local communities.”

(Continued on page 2)

West Texan Media Group, LLC



Photo courtesy of Elvira Hermosillo / Foto cortesía de Elvira Hermosillo

Presidio Elementary students celebrated Earth Day with a wide range of art projects celebrating nature and environmental causes. [READ MORE ON PAGE 2](#)

Los estudiantes de la Primaria Presidio celebraron el Día de la Tierra con una amplia gama de proyectos de arte que celebran la naturaleza y las causas ambientales. [LEER MÁS EN LA PÁGINA 3](#)

Texas Parks and Wildlife solicits comment on new mountain lion regulations

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

AUSTIN — On Monday, Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) announced that the department will be seeking public comment on a series of proposed regulations that would limit existing laws about the trapping of mountain lions. The regulations would prohibit “canned hunts” — trapping mountain lions with the intent of releasing them for an easier hunt — and would set restrictions on the types of traps that landowners may set.

In 2022, the nonprofit Texans for Mountain Lions, a “coalition of landowners, hunters, biologists, and organizations dedicated to the conservation of the Texan mountain lion,” per their website, submitted a petition to TPWD to advocate for updated trapping regulations.

Texas tracks two mountain lion populations, one in South Texas and the other in the Trans-Pecos. Patricia Harveson — a professor at Sul Ross and a member of Texans for Mountain Lions — co-authored a paper submitted with the group’s petition that explores the challenges facing both populations. Harveson’s paper conservatively estimates there are over 250 mountain lions in the Trans-Pecos.

(Continued on page 2)

City of Presidio celebrates hiring of new police chief

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — At last week’s meeting, the Presidio City Council selected Erik Rodriguez, a graduate of Presidio High School, as the city’s new chief of police in a unanimous vote. Rodriguez has served three years at the Presidio Police Department and has additional experience with the Presidio ISD Police.

Rodriguez stepped up to the plate during a difficult time for the department. In September 2023, former Chief Margarito Hernandez resigned amid concerns about the city’s funding through Operation Lone Star, a state program that provides extra funding for border counties.

Hernandez had been responsible for filing regular reports and paperwork for the money but had fallen behind, leaving the city ineligible for a full grant cycle. Damian Hernandez stepped up to fill the role, but resigned in February, leaving the city once again without a chief.

Mayor John Ferguson said that the city had been making it work in the interim — but deadlines for the same Operation Lone Star and Operation Stonegarden made the appointing of a chief crucial. “What we discovered was that we had to have a chief in place to get our state and federal law enforcement grants,” he explained.

Ferguson said he was grateful for Rodriguez’s experience and familiarity with the community and hoped that he would be able to keep up with the administrative duties that have become increasingly intertwined with police work. “If he can hang around for us, I think it’s going to be a great thing for the department and for the community,” Ferguson said.

Parques y Vida Silvestre de Texas solicita comentarios sobre las nuevas regulaciones para los pumas

Por SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

AUSTIN – El lunes, Parques y Vida Silvestre de Texas (TPWD) anunció que el departamento buscará comentarios públicos sobre una serie de regulaciones propuestas que limitarían las leyes existentes sobre la captura de pumas. Las regulaciones prohibirían las “cacerías enlatadas” (atrapar pumas con la intención de liberarlos para una caza más fácil) y establecerían restricciones sobre los tipos de trampas que los propietarios de tierras pueden colocar.

En 2022, la organización sin fines de lucro Texans for Mountain Lions, una “coalición de terratenientes, cazadores, biólogos y organizaciones dedicadas a la conservación del puma de Texas”, según su sitio web, presentó una petición al TPWD para abogar por regulaciones actualizadas

(Continúa en la página 3)

La ciudad de Presidio celebra la contratación de un nuevo jefe de policía

Por SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — En la reunión de la semana pasada, el Concejo Municipal de Presidio seleccionó a Erik Rodríguez, un graduado de la Escuela Secundaria de Presidio, como nuevo jefe de policía de la ciudad en una votación unánime. Rodríguez ha trabajado tres años en el Departamento de Policía de Presidio y tiene experiencia adicional con la Policía de Presidio ISD.

Rodríguez dio un paso al frente durante un momento difícil para el departamento. En septiembre de 2023, el exjefe Margarito Hernández renunció en medio de preocupaciones sobre el financiamiento de la ciudad a través de la Operación Estrella Solitaria, un programa estatal que proporciona fondos adicionales para los condados fronterizos.

Rodríguez había sido responsable de presentar informes y trámites periódicos para obtener el dinero, pero se había retrasado, lo que dejó a la ciudad no elegible para un ciclo completo de subvenciones. Damián Hernández asumió el cargo, pero renunció en febrero, dejando a la ciudad una vez más sin jefe.

El alcalde John Ferguson dijo que la ciudad había estado haciendo que funcionara mientras tanto, pero los plazos para la misma Operación Lone Star y Operación Stonegarden hicieron que el nombramiento de un jefe fuera

(Continúa en la página 3)

Explicador: ¿La Aduana y Protección Fronteriza paga impuestos a la propiedad?

Por SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — En la reunión del Concejo Municipal de la semana pasada, Javier Hernández, local de Presidio, se puso de pie durante el comentario abierto para hacer una pregunta: ¿quién es el propietario del complejo de viviendas para los empleados locales de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza (CBP) y pagan impuestos a la propiedad?

A Hernández le preocupaba que la agencia hubiera llegado a un acuerdo favorable con el ayuntamiento para evitar pagar su parte justa. El alcalde John Ferguson insistió en que ese no era el caso. “No hay conspiración ni nada”, explicó. “Es sólo que el gobierno federal es dueño de esa propiedad y no está sujeta a impuestos”.

El complejo de Presidio CBP está ubicado en el lado norte de la ciudad, lindando con la clínica de Servicios de Atención Médica Preventiva por un lado y el Three Palms Inn al otro lado de la calle. La ordenada subdivisión contiene 63 casas, construidas en dos ráfagas en 1999 y 2013.

Un portavoz de CBP explicó que la agencia no es única: otras propiedades de propiedad federal, como las bases militares, también están exentas de impuestos locales. El dinero de los impuestos recaudados de las personas que pagan impuestos federales sobre la renta se filtra, directa o indirectamente, a todos los programas federales, incluidos CBP y el Servicio de Parques Nacionales, los cuales poseen propiedades en el área de los tres condados.

Hernández no sabía que había tocado un punto delicado en la política de la ciudad. The Presidio International informó por última vez sobre el problema en octubre de 2019, cuando los líderes del ayuntamiento expresaron sus preocupaciones sobre cuántos ingresos potenciales podría estar perdiendo la ciudad con problemas de liquidez.

En la reunión de la semana pasada, Ferguson dijo que no se había avanzado mucho en los últimos cuatro años. “Es un punto de frustración para la ciudad”, dijo. “No es nada en contra de [CBP], pero nuestra comunidad atiende a las personas que residen allí a través de los servicios de emergencia y nuestras escuelas, pero aún así no hay ingresos sujetos a impuestos provenientes de esa subdivisión en la ciudad o el condado”.

Ferguson dijo que le gustaría ver algún tipo de acuerdo como el que existe entre el condado de Brewster y el Servicio de Parques Nacionales. Para compensar los impuestos a la propiedad que de otro modo generaría el enorme parque de 801,163 acres, el Departamento del Interior emite un cheque al condado anualmente a través de un programa llamado Pago en lugar de impuestos (PILT). “La ley reconoce el impacto financiero de la incapacidad de los gobiernos locales para recaudar impuestos a la propiedad en tierras de propiedad federal”, explica el sitio web de la agencia. “Los pagos PILT son una de las formas en que el Gobierno Federal puede cumplir su función de ser un buen vecino de

(Continúa en la página 3)

ENGLISH NEWS

Mountain lion regulations

(Continued from page 1)

Alongside fellow large predators like bears and wolves, mountain lions were hunted and pushed out of their habitats because of the threat they pose to livestock. In the early 1970s, they were declared a non-game species, meaning that they do not have protected status and may be hunted at any time on private property with a valid hunting license. Other non-game animals include bobcats, ground squirrels, porcupines and armadillos.

Conservationists have been working since the early ‘70s to try to change the status quo. Richard Heilbrun, Wildlife Diversity Program director at TPWD, explained that part of the department’s job is collecting information and opinions from stakeholders, which

include both conservationists and folks in the farming and ranching industry. “Wildlife status is a result of history and tradition,” he explained. “Over time, there have been a couple of requests to change the rules and regulations. That has built the momentum to get us where we are today.”

The proposed regulations would tighten regulations around the trapping of mountain lions, a practice with its origins in both livestock protection and recreational hunting. “Texas does not require traps set for mountain lions to be checked,” a TPWD press release reads. “Concerns have been raised that some mountain lions are left to perish in traps, which many consider to be inhumane and potentially damaging to the reputation of

trapping and hunting.”

If adopted, the new rules would prohibit trapping or keeping mountain lions in a snare for over 36 hours. Hunters can be exempt from these rules if they implement a breakaway mechanism that allows animals over a certain size to free themselves from the trap. “One of the challenges is that a very large coyote trap can still catch a very small mountain lion, or a very small mountain lion trap can still catch a very large coyote,” Heilbrun explained. “The goal of this was to focus the regulation on mountain lion-specific trapping and not impact those who are trapping coyotes.”

So far, Heilbrun had encountered “unanimous support” for the new rules, drafted with a wide array of

stakeholders in mind.

He hoped that folks in the Big Bend would turn out to offer their feedback. “Mountain lions are a powerful symbol of Texas,” Heilbrun said. “This proposal honors that symbol and gives us a chance to update wildlife regulations to reflect the ethical standards of our time — while granting landowners and trappers the flexibility they need to still manage wildlife and livestock.”

To participate in the public comment period, visit: https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/feedback/public-comment/proposals/202405_mountain_lions.phtml. Responses will be accepted until May 22.

CBP property tax

(Continued from page 1)

Last fiscal year, the Department of the Interior cut a check of over \$1.4 million to the county.

Big Bend National Park’s Chief of Interpretation Tom VandenBerg explained that people who live in the national park don’t pay property taxes — but they also don’t own any property. Their rent is determined by a federal algorithm, standard in parks across the country, that generates a fair price for housing based on costs in comparable communities like Alpine and Presidio.

VandenBerg said that development close to the park — as with everywhere else in the Big Bend — had made home ownership nearly impossible for folks on a federal salary. “In the past, a fairly significant number of Big Bend employees rented or owned housing in Terlingua or Study Butte,” he said. “Today with most housing very expensive or converted to nightly rentals, that is not really an option.”

There is no equivalent PILT program for CBP, but

Presidio city leadership insists they’ll keep looking into the issue.

One of the first steps is to get tax-exempt properties in Presidio County appraised. Chief Appraiser Cynthia Ramirez said that her office had made progress on appraising properties for the Rio Grande Council of Governments, but it was slow-going. “We just haven’t had the manpower,” she said.

She said that taking the time to appraise properties

— even if they can’t generate revenue for the county or city — still helps landowners by providing a definitive value that tax-exempt entities can use for insurance purposes.

Mayor Ferguson said he planned to reignite conversations to explore Presidio’s options. “We’ve been talking about this for a long time,” he said.

Presidio Elementary students create Earth Day art exhibit

By BRENDA MUÑOZ

PRESIDIO — The Presidio Elementary School art classes put on an Earth Day display. The exhibition includes collages made by fourth- and fifth-graders, watercolors of marine species for grades 1 and 2, and pastel paintings of a bird known as the black-capped vireo, painted by third-grade students. The objective of the exhibit is to promote the recycling of materials.

The collages were made with the Japanese Chigiri-e technique, which uses torn colored paper. Students created desert landscapes, mountains and ocean sunsets, among others, all emerging from the artists’ fantastic imaginations.

The first- and second-grade projects were done with watercolor and crayons. In this technique, the area colored with wax crayon repels the watercolor, while paper that was not covered with wax absorbs the paint. Students drew and colored marine species of their choice using crayons. Then, with watercolor, they painted the space that represents water, adding details such as algae or corals.

For the pastel paintings of the black-capped vireo, the artists were inspired by the work of the Fauves. This artistic movement emerged in France at the beginning of the 20th century and is characterized by the use of bold colors, textured brush strokes and non-naturalistic representations.

The exhibition culminated with a mural that was made with the participation of all grades, in activities such as selection of the theme, contribution of material, design, assembly, and pasting. It was made with plastic containers and represents the black-capped vireo. This bird, endemic to the region, was classified as an endangered species, but its recovery contributed to its exclusion from the list in 2018. For this reason, it was chosen as the spirit of nature’s resilience in which humans can participate.

The art exhibit is displayed in the campus cafeteria. The mural is displayed on the north face of the PES kindergarten and pre-kindergarten building.

The project developed thanks to the PES community with the support of Big Bend Conservation Alliance and the Mexican Consulate in Presidio.



Photo courtesy of Elvira Hermosillo / Foto cortesía de Elvira Hermosillo.

Presidio Elementary students celebrated Earth Day with a wide range of art projects celebrating nature and environmental causes.
Los estudiantes de la Primaria Presidio celebraron el Día de la Tierra con una amplia gama de proyectos de arte que celebran la naturaleza y las causas ambientales.

READ MORE AT
BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM

Presidio High students advance in rocketry challenge

PRESIDIO — Two teams from Presidio High School are among 100 national finalists in the American Rocketry Challenge, which had a record-breaking 922 teams from 45 states enter this year.

The 100 finalists will compete at the National Finals Fly-off on May 18 in The Plains, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C. Teams are competing for the title of “National Champion” and an all-expense paid trip to the International Rocketry Challenge at the Farnborough Air Show in England as well as \$100,000 in prizes. The

top 25 teams will automatically receive invitations to NASA’s Student Launch workshop.

Texas has 10 teams heading to the national finals this year. Presidio High School has competed in the finals every year since 2010. The two teams from Presidio HS headed to national finals this year are: Team 1 – Sunlebu, eight students advised by Archie Saludes; Team 2 – Red Lion, six students advised by Archie Saludes.

For 2024, each team was required to design, build, and launch model rockets that safely carry one large hen

egg to an altitude of 820 feet, stay airborne for between 43 and 46 seconds, and return the rocket to the ground safely. The rocket must separate into two parts after apogee — one section of the rocket must contain the egg and altimeter, and the second the rocket motor(s) — and both parts must land with their own parachutes.

The list of all 100 national finalists and the press release can be found here.

The American Rocketry Challenge is sponsored by the Aerospace Industries Association, the National

Association of Rocketry, and more than 20 industry partners. It is the aerospace and defense industry’s flagship program designed to encourage students to pursue studies and careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Now in its 22nd year, the competition has inspired nearly 95,000 middle and high school students to explore education and careers in STEM fields.

Parade, library celebration scheduled for this week

PRESIDIO — April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Presidio Police Department, the Presidio Municipal Court and the Children’s Advocacy Center of the Big Bend invite you to participate in the Third Annual Siren Sound-Off Against Child Abuse.

Line up for the parade will begin on Thursday,

April 25, at 5:30 p.m. outside the UETA store. The parade will take off at 6 p.m. and end at Manuel O. Hernandez Stadium. Contact Program Manager Guadalupe Carrera with any questions: 432-229-4515.

On Tuesday, April 30, the Consulate of Mexico

in Presidio and the Presidio Public library invite everyone to join in a celebration of “Día de los Ninos, Día de los libros” (Day of the Children, Day of the Book).

The event will take place from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the library. Refreshments will be served and children

will get to take home a free book.

To support the event, you can donate new (not used) children’s books to the Presidio Library. Contact Librarian Carmen Elguezabal with any questions: 432-229-3317.

In a mental health crisis, Big Bend residents have options for help

Direct Hotline 988 is in place, but few know of its existence

By ROB D’AMICO
rob@bigbendsentinel.com

TRI-COUNTY — Few Americans are aware of a relatively new service that is intended to be like 911 for emergency services but is designated as 988, a direct hotline named the “Lifeline” for mental health, suicide and crisis intervention. The 988 Lifeline system came online in 2021 and was available nationwide by July 2022, but it has not been widely promoted in the Big Bend, partially because the tri-county area has long had a hotline administered by PermiaCare that provides mental healthcare services locally.

“In concept, 988 is awesome because it provides a universal number that [people] don’t even have to think about,” said Todd Luzadder, director of mental health services and chief operating officer for PermiaCare. Those facing a crisis have the choice of speaking on the phone, texting or chatting online at 988Lifeline.org.

PermiaCare’s Crisis Intervention/Suicide Prevention Hotline is 1-844-420-3964. It’s not as easy to remember as 988, but Luzadder said that there are some advantages to using local numbers instead of 988, which usually covers large regions. “The problem is if those regional 988 sites are not adequately staffed the call could get routed to a site that’s not familiar with local services,” he said.

Luzadder said the good news for the Big Bend is that the system responding to 988 calls here goes to the Emergency Health Network in El Paso, a crisis center familiar with tri-county services.

In addition to providing immediate help, PermiaCare’s crisis center also works to direct callers to follow-up resources, he said. The PermiaCare hotline center is accredited by the American Association of Suicidology (AAS). All 988 centers have to meet standards for accreditation from select organizations like AAS.

Noreen Jaramillo, Emergence Health Network’s communications director, said the organization’s transition to accepting 988 calls has been smooth, since staff are already trained in the necessary counseling. Emergence will get “overflow” calls from areas like Dallas occasionally as well, she said.

Jaramillo said different regions and states have approached the marketing of 988 differently. New Mexico, for example, had a big rollout with its own website, commercials and a news conference, she said. Emergence has simply started listing its existing hotline number next to 988, although Jaramillo said the local TV stations often opt to promote 988.

Luzadder said that when 988 debuted, crisis centers were taking it slow in participating in the network or promoting it to ensure it had time to ramp up and serve a large number of calls. By spring of 2023, a Pew

Research poll showed that only 13% of Americans had heard of the Lifeline. But by the summer of 2023, after more marketing nationally, that number rose closer to half of all Americans.

The Lifeline has come under criticism for long hold times for callers, which translated into a large number of people abandoning a call — something that could be devastating for those facing suicidal thoughts. The science-oriented investigative podcast “Radiolab” recently explained how the 988 system underwent an extensive effort of surveys and research in an attempt to find the perfect hold music that would keep callers from hanging up. (Callers had complained about a jazzy, upbeat music clip first used. The result was a piano-based piece that did improve the hang-up rate, although minimally.)

Media stories in 2022 reported callers complaining of being on hold for 15 minutes or longer. However, as the 988 system grew with additional crisis centers and tried to perfect its process, stats for answered calls have grown and abandoned calls have dropped, according to statistics kept by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services administration. In July 2022, the Lifeline answered 84% of calls with an average wait time of one minute and 33 seconds and 16% of calls abandoned. By March 2024, 91% of calls were answered with an average wait time of 40 seconds and

9% of calls abandoned.

Lifeline has received 9.6 million calls, texts and chats since it started in 2022, with 482,528 in March of this year alone. The system is paid for by a combination of federal funds and state grants allocated to Texas crisis centers. Callers can choose if they want to be routed to a veterans crisis line or a Spanish language counselor, and the hearing impaired can use their TTY relay service or dial 711 and then 988.

Luzadder said some people facing a crisis may prefer a number they’ve contacted before or have seen promoted when they get mental healthcare services, even if they have to look it up. But he said the more options the better. “It’s always better to have more resources available,” he said.

It remains to be seen whether the Big Bend will do more to promote the number. “Everyone across the nation is doing 988 in their own way,” Luzadder said. He added that the beauty of 988 is that you could be visiting somewhere far from home, and if you face a crisis, you can always dial 988.

This story is part of a series on mental health in the Big Bend funded by the Presidio Community Fund.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL

Regulaciones del puma

(Continuación de la página 1)

sobre captura.

Texas rastrea dos poblaciones de pumas, una en el sur de Texas y la otra en Trans-Pecos. Patricia Harveson, profesora de Sul Ross y miembro de Texans for Mountain Lions, fue coautora de un artículo presentado con la petición del grupo que explora los desafíos que enfrentan ambas poblaciones. El artículo de Harveson estima de manera conservadora que hay más de 250 pumas en Trans-Pecos.

Junto con otros grandes depredadores como los osos y los lobos, los pumas fueron cazados y expulsados de sus hábitats debido a la amenaza que representan para el ganado. A principios de la década de 1970, fueron declaradas especies no cinegéticas, lo que significa que no tienen estatus de protección y pueden ser cazadas en cualquier momento en propiedad privada con una licencia de caza válida. Otros animales que no son de caza incluyen gatos monteses, ardillas terrestres,

puercoespines y armadillos.

Los conservacionistas han estado trabajando desde principios de los años 70 para intentar cambiar el status quo. Richard Heilbrun, director del Programa de Diversidad de la Vida Silvestre de TPWD, explicó que parte del trabajo del departamento es recopilar información y opiniones de las partes interesadas, que incluyen tanto a conservacionistas como a personas de la industria agrícola y ganadera. "El estado de la vida silvestre es el resultado de la historia y la tradición", explicó. "Con el tiempo, ha habido un par de solicitudes para cambiar las reglas y regulaciones. Eso ha generado el impulso para llegar a donde estamos hoy".

Las regulaciones propuestas endurecerían las regulaciones sobre la captura de pumas, una práctica que tiene su origen tanto en la protección del ganado como en la caza recreativa. "Texas no exige que se revisen las trampas colocadas para los pumas", se

lee en un comunicado de prensa del TPWD. "Han surgido preocupaciones de que algunos pumas mueran en trampas, lo que muchos consideran inhumano y potencialmente perjudicial para la reputación de la captura y la caza".

Si se adoptan, las nuevas reglas prohibirían atrapar o mantener a los pumas en una trampa durante más de 36 horas. Los cazadores pueden quedar exentos de estas reglas si implementan un mecanismo de separación que permita a los animales de cierto tamaño liberarse de la trampa. "Uno de los desafíos es que una trampa para coyotes muy grande aún puede atrapar a un puma muy pequeño, o una trampa para leones de montaña muy pequeña aún puede atrapar a un coyote muy grande", explicó Heilbrun. "El objetivo de esto era centrar la regulación en la captura específica de pumas y no afectar a quienes capturan coyotes".

Hasta ahora, Heilbrun había encontrado "apoyo

unánime" a las nuevas reglas, redactadas teniendo en cuenta a una amplia gama de partes interesadas.

Esperaba que la gente de Big Bend viniera a ofrecer sus comentarios. "Los leones de montaña son un símbolo poderoso de Texas", dijo Heilbrun. "Esta propuesta honra ese símbolo y nos brinda la oportunidad de actualizar las regulaciones sobre vida silvestre para reflejar los estándares éticos de nuestro tiempo, al tiempo que otorga a los propietarios de tierras y tramperos la flexibilidad que necesitan para seguir manejando la vida silvestre y el ganado".

Para participar en el periodo de comentarios públicos, visite: https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/feedback/public_comment/proposals/202405_mountain_lions.phtml. Se aceptarán respuestas hasta el 22 de mayo.

Impuesto a la propiedad CBP

(Continuación de la página 1)

las comunidades locales".

El año fiscal pasado, el Departamento del Interior emitió un cheque por más de \$1,4 millones para el condado.

El Jefe de Interpretación del Parque Nacional Big Bend, Tom VandenBerg, explicó que las personas que viven en el parque nacional no pagan impuestos a la propiedad, pero tampoco poseen ninguna propiedad. Su alquiler está determinado por un algoritmo federal, estándar en los parques de todo el país, que genera un precio justo para la vivienda basado en los costos en

comunidades comparables como Alpine y Presidio.

VandenBerg dijo que el desarrollo cerca del parque, como en cualquier otro lugar del Big Bend, había hecho que ser propietario de una vivienda fuera casi imposible para las personas con un salario federal. "En el pasado, un número bastante significativo de empleados de Big Bend alquilaban o eran propietarios de viviendas en Terlingua o Study Butte", dijo. "Hoy en día, cuando la mayoría de las viviendas son muy caras o se convierten en alquileres nocturnos, esa no es realmente una opción".

No existe un programa PILT equivalente para la CBP, pero los líderes de la ciudad de Presidio insisten en que seguirán investigando el tema.

Uno de los primeros pasos es tasar las propiedades exentas de impuestos en el condado de Presidio. La jefa de tasaciones Cynthia Ramírez dijo que su oficina había logrado avances en la tasación de propiedades para el Consejo de Gobiernos de Río Grande, pero que avanzaba lentamente. "Simplemente no hemos tenido la mano de obra", dijo.

Dijo que tomarse el tiempo para tasar las propiedades,

incluso si no pueden generar ingresos para el condado o la ciudad, todavía ayuda a los propietarios al proporcionar un valor definitivo que las entidades exentas de impuestos pueden utilizar para fines de seguro.

El alcalde Ferguson dijo que planeaba reavivar las conversaciones para explorar las opciones de Presidio. "Hemos estado hablando de esto durante mucho tiempo", dijo.

Estudiantes de Presidio Elementary crean exposición de arte del Día de la Tierra

Por BRENDA MUÑOZ

PRESIDIO — Las clases de arte de la Escuela Primaria de Presidio realizaron una exhibición del Día de la Tierra. La exposición incluye collages realizados por alumnos de cuarto y quinto grado, acuarelas de especies marinas para los grados 1 y 2, y pinturas al pastel de un pájaro conocido como vireo de gorra negra, pintadas por estudiantes de tercer grado. El objetivo de la exposición es promover el reciclaje de materiales.

Los collages fueron realizados con la técnica

japonesa Chigiri-e, que utiliza papeles rasgados de colores. Los estudiantes crearon paisajes desérticos, montañas y puestas de sol en el océano, entre otros, todos ellos surgidos de la fantástica imaginación de los artistas.

Los proyectos de primer y segundo grado se realizaron con acuarela y crayones. En esta técnica, la zona coloreada con crayón de cera repele la acuarela, mientras que el papel que no fue cubierto con cera absorbe la pintura. Los estudiantes dibujaron y colorearon especies marinas de su elección usando crayones. Luego, con acuarela, pintaron el espacio que

representa el agua, agregando detalles como algas o corales.

Para las pinturas al pastel del vireo de gorro negro, los artistas se inspiraron en la obra de los fauves. Este movimiento artístico surgió en Francia a principios del siglo XX y se caracteriza por el uso de colores llamativos, pinceladas texturizadas y representaciones no naturalistas.

La exposición culminó con un mural que se realizó con la participación de todos los grados, en actividades como selección del tema, aporte de material, diseño, montaje y pegado. Fue elaborado con recipientes de

plástico y representa el vireo de gorra negra. Esta ave, endémica de la región, fue catalogada como especie en peligro de extinción, pero su recuperación contribuyó a su exclusión de la lista en 2018. Por ello, fue elegida como el espíritu de resiliencia de la naturaleza en la que el ser humano puede participar.

La exhibición de arte se exhibe en la cafetería del campus. El mural se exhibe en la cara norte del edificio de jardín de infantes y prejardín de infantes de PES.

El proyecto se desarrolló gracias a la comunidad PES con el apoyo de Big Bend Conservation Alliance y el Consulado de México en Presidio.

Estudiantes de Presidio High avanzan en desafío de cohetes

PRESIDIO — Dos equipos de Presidio High School se encuentran entre los 100 finalistas nacionales del American Rocketry Challenge, en el que este año participaron un récord de 922 equipos de 45 estados.

Los 100 finalistas competirán en el Fly-off de las Finales Nacionales el 18 de mayo en The Plains, Virginia, en las afueras de Washington, D.C. Los equipos compiten por el título de "Campeón Nacional" y un viaje con todos los gastos pagos al International Rocketry Challenge en el Salón Aeronáutico de Farnborough en Inglaterra, así como 100.000 dólares

en premios. Los 25 mejores equipos recibirán automáticamente invitaciones al taller de lanzamiento para estudiantes de la NASA.

Texas tiene 10 equipos que se dirigen a la final nacional este año. Presidio High School ha competido en las finales todos los años desde 2010. Los dos equipos de Presidio HS que se dirigieron a las finales nacionales este año son: Equipo 1 – Sunlebu, ocho estudiantes asesorados por Archie Saludes; Equipo 2 – Red Lion, seis estudiantes asesorados por Archie Saludes.

Para 2024, cada equipo debía diseñar, construir y lanzar modelos de cohetes que transportaran de manera segura un huevo de gallina grande a una altitud de 820 pies, permanecieran en el aire entre 43 y 46 segundos y regresarán el cohete al suelo de manera segura. El cohete debe separarse en dos partes después del apogeo (una sección del cohete debe contener el huevo y el altímetro, y la segunda los motores del cohete) y ambas partes deben aterrizar con sus propios paracaídas.

La lista de los 100 finalistas nacionales y el comunicado de prensa se pueden encontrar aquí.

Desfile y celebración de la biblioteca prevista para esta semana

PRESIDIO — Abril es el Mes de la Prevención del Abuso Infantil. El Departamento de Policía de Presidio, el Tribunal Municipal de Presidio y el Centro de Defensa de los Niños de Big Bend lo invitan a participar en el Tercer Sonido Anual de Sirena Contra el Abuso Infantil.

La alineación para el desfile comenzará el jueves 25

de abril a las 5:30 p.m. afuera de la tienda UETA. El desfile comenzará a las 6 p.m. y finalizará en el Estadio Manuel O. Hernández. Comuníquese con la Gerente del Programa Guadalupe Carrera si tiene alguna pregunta: 432-229-4515.

El martes 30 de abril, el Consulado de México en

Presidio y la biblioteca pública de Presidio invitan a todos a unirse a la celebración del "Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros".

El evento se desarrollará a partir de las 17 horas. a 6 p. m. en la biblioteca. Se servirán refrigerios y los niños se llevarán a casa un libro gratis.

Nuevo jefe de policia

(Continuación de la página 1)

crucial. "Lo que descubrimos fue que teníamos que contar con un jefe para obtener nuestras subvenciones estatales y federales para el cumplimiento de la ley", explicó.

Ferguson dijo que estaba agradecido por la experiencia y familiaridad de Rodríguez con la comunidad y

esperaba poder mantenerse al día con las tareas administrativas que se han entrelazado cada vez más con el trabajo policial. "Si puede quedarse con nosotros, creo que será algo grandioso para el departamento y para la comunidad", dijo Ferguson.

Dove mortality occurring across Texas due to trichomoniasis

AUSTIN — The National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) has confirmed several doves collected across Texas, including the Trans-Pecos and Rolling Plains, tested positive for trichomoniasis.

Trichomoniasis is an infectious disease affecting birds caused by a protozoan (single-celled) parasite, *Trichomonas gallinae*. It affects mostly pigeons and doves, but other species, such as finches, may also become infected. In addition, birds of prey feeding on infected doves may also become infected. The disease does not always cause mortality. *Trichomonas gallinae* does not pose a human health risk.

Generally, sick birds appear weak and have a "fluffed up" appearance. The parasite causes inflammation of the linings of the crop and mouth. As the disease progresses, affected birds have difficulty swallowing or breathing as the inflammation creates plaques which affect the airways and esophagus. Food and water sources, such as backyard bird feeders and birdbaths, can become contaminated from the mouths of infected birds.

TPWD recommends practicing appropriate biosecu-

rity protocols to reduce wildlife contact with backyard flocks. If landowners see sick or dead doves or pigeons on their property, TPWD recommends discontinuing the use of bird feeders or bird baths until affected birds are gone from the area.

As a general best-practice, all bird feeders and baths should be cleaned frequently using a weak solution of household bleach (10% solution of sodium hypochlorite, or 1 part bleach to 9 parts water). Feeders and baths should be rinsed well and dried before reuse. It is recommended to periodically clean and disinfect bird feeders and bird baths, even if sick or dead birds have not been seen on property, as this can help prevent future disease outbreaks.

Use bird feeders that prevent the seed from getting wet. Bird seed exposed to rain or that becomes wet provides a more suitable environment for parasite survival.

Those who locate birds with signs consistent with trichomoniasis should contact their local TPWD wildlife biologist.

Poindexter honored as West Texas conservation leader

PRESIDIO COUNTY — Cibolo Creek Ranch owner John B. Poindexter was honored recently at a Houston event for his conservation contributions in West Texas. The Borderlands Research Institute (BRI) celebrated the Third Annual West Texas Conservationist of the Year award ceremony at the River Oaks Country Club on April 10, which was hosted by the Borderlands Research Foundation, the charitable arm of the institute.

Poindexter, a steward of the land and history, is a third-generation Texan whose passion for conservation shines through his meticulous care of Cibolo Creek Ranch. This 30,000-acre expanse, steeped in natural beauty and historical significance, merited inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. His commitment extends beyond Texas to Virginia, where through the Tidewater and Big Bend Foundation he breathes life into pre-Civil War era properties, inviting the public to step back in time.

His military service, distinguished by earning two Silver Stars and a Presidential Unit Citation, is a testament to his dedication to his country. The same spirit drives his conservation efforts, through the John B. Poindexter Endowed Fellowship for Desert Quail Research, established to deepen the understanding and ensure the conservation of these iconic species of the Texas landscape. In recognition of his relentless pursuit of preservation and conservation, the Museum of the Big Bend bestowed upon him the Heritage Award in 2018.

An author of works reflecting his deep connection to history and the land, Poindexter is fluent in the lan-

guage of conservation. His comprehensive efforts to protect our shared heritage aptly merit his acclaim as "West Texas Conservationist of the Year."

"Conservation is not only about preserving land; it's about safeguarding our nation's shared heritage for future generations to come," said Poindexter. "The Tidewater and Big Bend Foundation is making a significant impact through its restoration projects in West Texas and Tidewater Virginia to enhance natural landscapes and preserve the rich historical legacy each location holds."

Several BRI students enrolled in Sul Ross State University graduate and undergraduate programs attended the event to share information about their research on West Texas wildlife, including quail, mule deer, black bears, aoudad, grassland birds and more.

Support from land stewards is an essential component of that research, enabling access to the wilderness and wildlife upon which these studies depend. The annual event celebrates and supports West Texas wildlife and conservation research.

"John's commitment to West Texas is evident in his beloved Cibolo Creek Ranch," said Dr. Louis Harveson, who is founder and director of the Borderlands Research Institute and associate provost of research and development at Sul Ross State University. "It is one of the spectacular ranches in West Texas where he has meticulously restored the history, culture, and natural resources of the region, and we are proud to honor him and Cibolo Creek Ranch as the 2024 West Texas Conservationist of the Year."

**SUBSCRIBE
TODAY!**

Call (432) 729-4342 or
email billing@bigbendsentinel.com
You can also subscribe
online at bigbendsentinel.com/subscribe



Infinite Hellscape Festival showcases bands, art and culture in the Big Bend

TRI-COUNTY — The Infinite Hellscape Festival will be held May 3 through May 5 in the Far West Texas communities of Marathon, Marfa and Alpine. Infinite Hellscape is a DIY, volunteer-run music festival that brings together creatives from across Texas for a collaborative event that focuses on fostering connections between the creative communities of Austin and Far West Texas and celebrates the unique qualities of each art and music scene. Infinite Hellscape is a festival for everyone, with a primary goal of providing equitable pay to participating artists while ensuring ticket prices remain affordable. Born from the close friendship

between artists based in Far West Texas and Austin and the mutual appreciation between the indie rock band The Infinities and experimental noise band Blank Hellscape, Infinite Hellscape began as a small getaway show at the French Co Grocer in Marathon in the summer of 2021. Enthused by the experience and eager to repeat it on a larger scale, Infinite Hellscape evolved into a 3-day festival hosting an array of artists from diverse genres, including punk, experimental electronic, cumbia, rock, ambient and folk. Infinite Hellscape offers an alternative to for-profit, corporate-sponsored festivals by uplifting underrepresented creatives and balancing art-

ists from Austin and beyond with talent local to the Big Bend region.

Infinite Hellscape 2024 will host 25 musical acts, art installations and local food vendors. A festival kick-off show will be held at the French Co Grocer in Marathon on the evening of May 3. A full-day festival will be held at The Pony in Marfa on May 4, and a daytime event programmed to be family-friendly will be held at the Ritchey in Alpine on May 5. Weekend passes are \$30 for tri-county residents and \$45 for non-residents. Day passes will also be available at the door. See bit.ly/infinite-hellscape for more information.

Permian Basin Area Foundation to present on its nonprofit grant program

TRI-COUNTY — In 1989 West Texas leaders envisioned a public foundation that would sustain the spirit of philanthropy in our local communities for years to come. With a charitable investment of \$400,000, the Permian Basin Area Foundation (PBAF) was established. Its mission: to partner with donors in creating permanent charitable funds to enrich the quality of life in West Texas communities.

Join Jeff Davis County and Big Bend Community citizens at the Fort Davis Community Center on Saturday, May 4, at 10 a.m., to meet and hear PBAF Director Guy McCrary showing how the Big Bend Region has benefited eco-

nomically from the foundation's work and what is planned for the future. Also discussed will be how your community can gain support from the foundation for needed future projects.

PBAF has grown permanent assets to an estimated \$280 million through 2021. Since its inception, the foundation has returned more than \$150 million to West Texas communities through grants and scholarships. PBAF makes grants to qualified nonprofit organizations that support a broad range of philanthropic purposes: animal services, arts and culture, community development, education, environmental, health and mental health, housing and shelter, hu-

man and social services, and youth development.

In 2023, numerous nonprofits in our tri-county area received grants. Examples are Big Bend Conservation Alliance, Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, McDonald Observatory, Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend, Friends of the Jeff Davis County Library, and Museum of the Big Bend among others. PBAF also plays a vital role in student scholars. This meeting will be devoted to answering your questions about the foundation's work and application process. The meeting is being sponsored by the Jeff Davis County Democratic Party.



Marfa Saturday Market seeks new vendors for opening season

MARFA — The Marfa Saturday Market is seeking new vendors for its upcoming season opening soon. A new venue for the market also will be announced soon.

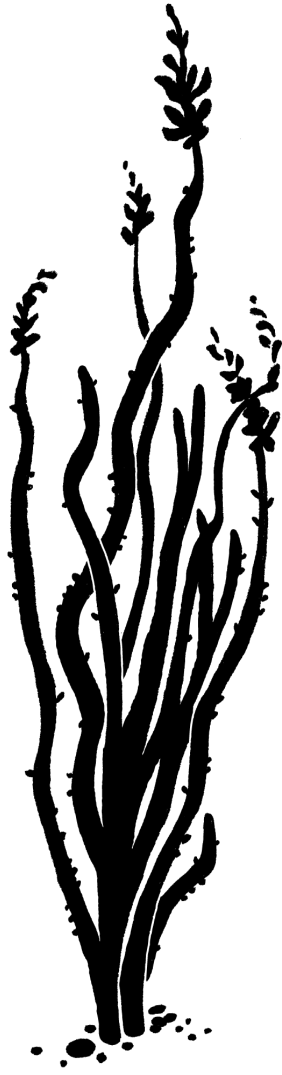
Anyone living within 100 miles of Marfa is welcome to join with their wares. All products must be locally made, harvested, collected or produced in the area — this includes local foods, vegetables,

fruits, canned goods, eggs, honey, jelly, jams, baked goods, hot or cold home- or locally-prepared foods.

Also, beverages such as coffee, tea, juices, etc. are allowed. Local arts and crafts are also encouraged; anything commercially made is not allowed except goods designated to support a local community group. This could be goods made to raise funds for the community group like

T-shirts, coffee mugs, etc. Determination if the vendor's goods meet the guidelines will be on a case-to-case basis. No fees are charged, but occasionally a donation for PR materials may be requested.

For more information or to sign up as a vendor, email marfasatmarket@gmail.com.



Share Your Thoughts About **REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH NEEDS** in the Big Bend Area

REGIONAL SURVEY

Big Bend Reproductive Coalition wants to know your opinion about reproductive health needs in the Big Bend Region. Participation in this anonymous digital survey will help to inform the services that we provide to our communities. Your voice matters, and your experience matters to us.

Use the QR Code to right or follow the link below to access the **BBRC Community Needs Assessment Survey**:

bit.ly/BBRC-Survey



COALICIÓN REPRODUCTIVA DEL
BIG BEND
REPRODUCTIVE COALITION

bigbendrc.org

@bbreproductivecoalition



EMAIL ADS@BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM FOR ADVERTISING RATES

REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

Presidio Independent School District requests competitive sealed proposals for construction of:

- “Elementary and Middle Schools HVAC Upgrades”
 - Elementary School
 - Lucy Rede Franco Middle School
- Presidio, TX

100% Performance and Payment Bonds required if the bid is over \$25,000.

BID DEADLINE : 2:00 p.m. CST, on April 30, 2024. All bids shall be electronically submitted to Steve Kanetzky @ skanetzky@skaneng.com

Bid Instructions, copies of drawings, specifications and contract documents, addenda (if any) and other documents related to this Request for Bids, are available in the office of the project engineer.

Steve L. Kanetzky, P.E.
skanetzky@skaneng.com
S. Kanetzky Engineering, LLC
14425 Falconhead Blvd.
Building B, Suite 100
Austin, TX 78738
512-657-6192
www.skaneng.com

PRE-BID CONFERENCE : 9:00 a.m., CST, on April 24, 2024 at the Administration Office, 701 East Market Street, Presidio TX. Attendance of the Pre-bid meeting is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. Presidio ISD may consider a Bidder's attendance of the pre-bid conference in its determination of best value of each Bid submitted. Ruben Armendariz, Director of Facilities, will be the point of contact for the Pre-Bid Meeting.

PISD reserves the right to waive any minor irregularities or informalities and to accept or reject all proposals in whole or in part.



VELOCIDADES DE FIBRA PARA CONEXIONES CONFIABLES

VE MÁS ALLÁ DEL BANDA ANCHA
CON INTERNET FIBRA RÁPIDA, POTENCIADO POR BBT



CONÉCTATE CON NOSOTROS HOY <escanea aquí>

LLAMA 800.592.4781
O VISITA bigbend.com

1 GIG ↓↑
INTERNET FIBRA
desde solo al mes
\$95⁹⁵ por los primeros 12 meses*

LOS NUEVOS CLIENTES AHORRAN \$120 EXTRA EN SU PRIMER AÑO

LOS NUEVOS CLIENTES AHORRAN \$120 EXTRA EN SU PRIMER AÑO

*Se aplican términos y condiciones

PLEASE
RECYCLE
THIS
PAPER

Rio Grande Council of Governments Public Notice

The RIOCOG planning region is responsible for ranking CDBG-eligible project activities by priority based on the region's unique needs and stakeholder feedback. These “Regional Project Priorities” will account for 25% of the total points in scoring 2025-2026 CD applications. There will be a Public Meeting on Public Meeting on Friday, May 3, 2024, 10:00 - 12:00 P.M., MDT, at the Hudspeth County Courthouse, 109 Millican Street, Sierra Blanca, Texas 79851. The meeting is in-person with a virtual option. Virtual TEAMS Meeting Link: Meeting ID: 222 819 227 006, Passcode: SDaB7J. Call or email Judy Cisneros at 915-533-0998, ext. 134, or at judyc@riocog.org.



NEWSPAPER • COFFEE • COCKTAILS

SERVING FOOD DAILY

BREAKFAST FROM 7:30 AM - 3 PM
LUNCH FROM 11 AM - 3 PM

209 W EL PASO ST, MARFA, TX 79843

Harper Hardware, LLC. Est 1929

From AC Repair Parts to Plumbing.
For all of your Commercial and Residential needs.

701 O’Riley St.
Presidio, TX 79845
432-229-3256



The International EI

Maisie Crow
Max Kabat
Rob D’Amico
Sam Karas
Mary Cantrell
Ariele Gentiles
Tyler Sousa
Mary Etherington
Maria Gerardo
Marisa Chacon

Editor-in-Chief
Publisher
Managing Editor
Reporter
Reporter
Copy Editor
Designer / Advertising
Office Manager
Distribution
Distribution

Office: 209 1/2 W. El Paso St., Marfa, Texas
Mail: PO Box P, Marfa, TX 79843
Telephone: 432.729.4342
Email: editor@bigbendsentinel.com
Advertising: max@bigbendsentinel.com
www.presidiointernational.net

The Presidio International (USPS 003-592) is published weekly, on Thursdays, 50 times a year by West Texan Media Group, LLC, Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843. Annual subscription rates are \$50 in Presidio, Brewster & Jeff Davis counties, and \$60 elsewhere in Texas and the United States. Special rates apply abroad. Periodicals class postage paid at Marfa, Texas 79843. Postmaster: Send address changes to Box P, Marfa, TX 79843.