

**BURN BAN IN  
EFFECT, NO  
GROUND FIRES**

by order of Presidio County

*Agave  
Festival  
starts today  
and promises  
another  
great  
exchange of  
knowledge,  
culture and  
drinks*

The spirits and conversation celebrating the Chihuahua Desert start flowing again today with the fifth Agave Festival Marfa, which runs through Sunday. The annual festival celebrates the agave and its influence on culture through food, film, music, science and spirits.

Festivities begin today at 4 p.m. at the Crowley Theater with a screening of Agave is Life, the film that inspired the festival. Directors Meredith Dreiss and David O. Brown will be there to speak about why they made the film and will answer questions.

Then a whirlwind of activities follows through Sunday, interspersed with opportunities to taste tequila, mezcal and sotol. Authors, poets, researchers, musicians and artists will lead a variety of lectures and discussions, and there's even a hike planned at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute.

See Schedule 2024 at [www.agavemarfa.com](http://www.agavemarfa.com) for a full list of events, times and locations. Unless otherwise noted, all events are free.

Several other Marfa spaces are sponsoring events in conjunction with the festival. Ballroom Marfa and The Capri are hosting a multi-week residency with acclaimed (Michelin star) chef Michael Diaz de Leon, who will be serving food Thursday through Saturday evenings. Also, the great Sultanes del Yonke, from El Paso and Cd. Juarez, will perform at The Capri on Saturday evening for a small cover. "Hey, I Like it Here," located in the lobby of the Hotel Saint George, will be hosting a pop up for Ni En More, a nonprofit social innovation project and clothing line that fosters networks of support between women in Ciudad Juarez.

MAINTENANT and the Chihuahuan Department of Culture will present an installation by Nortejiendo and Proyecciones, two artist collectives based in the state of Chihuahua.

This work is part of the eighth edition of Festival de Arte Nuevo (New Arts Festival). This year's edition, titled "Habitar," meaning "to inhabit," follows the idea of how the spaces in which we live affect us and how we do the same to them, and the importance of every individual piece that forms a whole in a community. The event — Rhizomes Unites Deserts — held on Saturday, June 8, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. — will also feature tasting of Omawari leguchilla and is BYOB.



Staff photo by: Mary Cantrell / Foto del personal por: Mary Cantrell

**The National Rifle Team honors fallen Border Patrol agents and their families with a performance at last week's Centennial Celebration in Marfa.**  
**El Equipo Nacional del Rifle rinde homenaje a los agentes caídos de la Patrulla Fronteriza y a sus familias con una actuación en la Celebración del Centenario de la semana pasada en Marfa.**

**‘A pretty rough bunch of  
cowboys’: the early days of  
the Big Bend Sector  
Border Patrol**

By SAM KARAS  
[sam@bigbendsentinel.com](mailto:sam@bigbendsentinel.com)

MARFA — Last week, the United States Border Patrol (USBP) celebrated its 100th anniversary with a parade through downtown Marfa. The "Mean Green" showed up in style for a patriotic procession led by a pair of bagpipers. City and county officials then gathered by the courthouse for performances by pipe-and-drum and rifle teams.

Today, the Border Patrol is a sub-agency of Customs and Border Protection (CBP), which falls under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security. While all of these entities work closely together, last week's centennial celebration was a chance to reflect on the Border Patrol's unique legacy.

On May 28, 1924, the United States Border Patrol was created through the Labor Appropriation Act, which earmarked \$1 million (around \$18 million today) for a "land border patrol." The original USBP agents were called "inspectors," taking after the "mounted inspectors" — early immigration officers who kept an eye on comings and goings along the southwest border.

The creation of the Border Patrol came on the heels of waves of panic about a perceived flood of undesirables into the United States. "By 1917, the list of persons prohibited from entering the United States included all Asians, illiterates, prostitutes, criminals, contract laborers, unaccompanied

(Continued on page 2)

**Unchecked growth  
around Big Bend sparks  
debate over water — a  
prelude for Texas**

By CARLOS NOGUERAS RAMOS and ELI HARTMAN  
[The Texas Tribune](http://TheTexasTribune)

TERLINGUA — A plume of dust trailed the pickup truck that drove through a maze of caliche roads. The driver and passenger were familiar with the route. Rick and Georganne Bradbury, husband and wife, have navigated it twice a month for four years to deliver hundreds of gallons of water to one of their favorite customers, an art gallery manager with three kids.

Coffee in hand, that customer, Shannon Montague approached the water haulers from the entrance of her single-wide trailer home to greet them.

Rick pulled out a 40-foot hose, hooking one end to a gasoline-powered pump while Georganne dangled the other, a custom-made spout, inside Montague's water tank. The engine sputtered to life, gushing water until it replenished the 750-gallon tank.

"What would we do without you?" Montague said.

Montague is one of the Bradburys' many customers. The duo, both in their 70s, has garnered a reputation among locals as the area's trusted water haulers. In this far-flung corner of West Texas, where municipal infrastructure and services do not exist, access to water for many hinges on Rick and Georganne's ability to deliver it.

(Continued on page 4)

**“Un grupo de vaqueros  
bastante rudos”: los  
primeros días de la Patrulla  
Fronteriza del Sector  
Big Bend**

Por SAM KARAS  
[sam@bigbendsentinel.com](mailto:sam@bigbendsentinel.com)

MARFA — La semana pasada, la Patrulla Fronteriza de los Estados Unidos (USBP) celebró su centenario con un desfile por el centro de Marfa. El "Mean Green" se presentó con estilo para una procesión patriótica encabezada por un par de gaiteros. Luego, los funcionarios de la ciudad y el condado se reunieron en el palacio de justicia para las actuaciones de equipos de gaitas y tambores y rifles.

Hoy en día, la Patrulla Fronteriza es una subagencia de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza (CBP), que está bajo el paraguas del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional. Si bien todas estas entidades trabajan en estrecha colaboración, la celebración del centenario de la semana pasada fue una oportunidad para reflexionar sobre el legado único de la Patrulla Fronteriza.

El 28 de mayo de 1924 se creó la Patrulla Fronteriza de los Estados Unidos mediante la Ley de Apropiación Laboral, que destinó 1 millón de dólares (alrededor de 18 millones de dólares en la actualidad) para una "patrulla fronteriza terrestre". Los agentes originales de la USBP fueron llamados "inspectores", siguiendo el ejemplo de los "inspectores montados" (los

(Continúa en la página 2)

**El crecimiento  
desenfrenado alrededor del  
Big Bend genera un debate  
sobre el agua: un  
preludio para Texas**

Por CARLOS NOGUERAS RAMOS y ELI HARTMAN  
[El tribuno de Texas](http://EltribunoDeTexas)

TERLINGUA — Una columna de polvo seguía a la camioneta que circulaba por un laberinto de caminos de caliche. El conductor y el pasajero conocían la ruta. Rick y Georganne Bradbury, marido y mujer, lo han navegado dos veces al mes durante cuatro años para entregar cientos de galones de agua a uno de sus clientes favoritos, el director de una galería de arte con tres hijos.

Con café en mano, esa clienta, Shannon Montague, se acercó a los transportistas de agua desde la entrada de su casa rodante de ancho único para saludarlos.

Rick sacó una manguera de 40 pies y conectó un extremo a una bomba de gasolina mientras Georganne colgaba el otro, un pico hecho a medida, dentro del tanque de agua de Montague. El motor cobró vida, lanzando agua a borbotones hasta llenar el tanque de 750 galones.

"¿Que haríamos sin ti?" Dijo Montague.

Montague es uno de los muchos clientes de los Bradbury. El dúo, ambos de unos 70 años, se ha ganado la reputación entre los lugareños

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**Hoy comienza  
el Festival  
del Agave  
y promete  
otro gran  
intercambio de  
conocimientos,  
cultura y  
bebidas**

Los espíritus y la conversación que celebran el Desierto de Chihuahua comienzan a fluir nuevamente hoy con el quinto Festival del Agave Marfa, que se extenderá hasta el domingo. El festival anual celebra el agave y su influencia en la cultura a través de la comida, el cine, la música, la ciencia y las bebidas espirituosas.

Las festividades comienzan hoy a las 4 p.m. en el Crowley Theatre con la proyección de Agave is Life, la película que inspiró el festival. Los directores Meredith Dreiss y David O. Brown estarán allí para hablar sobre por qué hicieron la película y responderán preguntas.

Luego sigue un torbellino de actividades hasta el domingo, intercaladas con oportunidades para degustar tequila, mezcal y sotol. Autores, poetas, investigadores, músicos y artistas impartirán una variedad de conferencias y debates, e incluso hay prevista una caminata en el Instituto de Investigaciones del Desierto Chihuahuense.

Consulte el Calendario 2024 en [www.agavemarfa.com](http://www.agavemarfa.com) para obtener una lista completa de eventos, horarios y ubicaciones. A menos que se indique lo contrario, todos los eventos son gratuitos.

Varios otros espacios de Marfa patrocinan eventos junto con el festival. Ballroom Marfa y The Capri organizarán una residencia de varias semanas con el aclamado chef (estrella Michelin) Michael Díaz de León, quien servirá comida de jueves a sábado por la noche. Además, los grandes Sultanes del Yonke, de El Paso y Cd. Juárez, actuará en The Capri el sábado por la noche para una pequeña versión. "Hey, I Like it Here", ubicado en el lobby del Hotel Saint George, será el anfitrión de un pop up de Ni En More, un proyecto de innovación social y línea de ropa sin fines de lucro que fomenta redes de apoyo entre mujeres en Ciudad Juárez.

MAINTENANT y la Secretaría de Cultura de Chihuahua presentarán una instalación de Nortejiendo y Proyecciones, dos colectivos de artistas con sede en el estado de Chihuahua.

Esta obra forma parte de la octava edición del Festival de Arte Nuevo. La edición de este año, titulada "Habitar", que significa "habitar", sigue la idea de cómo nos afectan los espacios en los que vivimos y cómo hacemos lo mismo con ellos, y la importancia de cada pieza individual que forma un todo en una comunidad. El evento, Rhizomes Unites Deserts, se llevó a cabo el sábado 8 de junio de 7 p.m. a 10 p.m. — también incluirá una degustación de leguchilla Omawari y es BYOB.







# ENGLISH NEWS

## Terlingua water

(Continued from page 1)

Day after day, the Bradburys deliver truckloads of nondrinkable water from their private well to customers across this vast region. Rick backs his truck into the back of a customer’s property, Georganne readies the hose. Once the customer’s tank is full, Georganne texts the next one — they’re on their way up and down mountains and across dirt trails that barely pass for roads.

For decades, the Terlingua community has survived by obeying the arid ways of the desert, conserving every trickle of water, and knowing its reserves won’t always be full.

In recent years, the area’s remote allure has attracted waves of tourism — and development. Short-term rentals shaped like bubbles, yurts, tipis and A-frames ornament what used to be vacant mountainsides.

And with that unchecked growth, the demand for water has dramatically increased. But no official map shows precisely where to find it or how much lies within the rock thousands of feet beneath the ground.

Residents, including Rick and Georganne, say the region’s wells are running dry. Meanwhile, developers and local officials promise there is plenty of water to sustain the desert town — and its visitors — for decades to come. The changing landscape in Far West Texas, 110 miles south of Marfa, has raised questions about whether efforts to conserve the area’s precious resource will ensure its longevity.

And it offers a prelude to the rest of the state. As Texas’ population booms, the need for clean and reliable water is outpacing the supply. And the finite resource faces additional duress from an increase of hotter days and aging infrastructure. By 2070, demand is expected to outpace supply during severe drought, according to the state’s water plan.

Between the 1880s and the 1940s, Terlingua was a mining town rich with cinnabar deposits, a source of mercury. The population boomed to more than 1,000 people and production peaked in the 1920s. An estimated 40% of the quicksilver mined in the United States came from Terlingua, according to the Texas State Historical Association.

When the mines ran dry, the workers left.

Then Terlingua became a recluse’s paradise — and a playground for the ultra-rich. El Paso, 300 miles west — an almost five-hour drive — is the closest major city. Most homes are tucked away secretly in the folds of the mountains stretching into northern Mexico. If there were a neighborhood, it would be almost impossible to tell. At night, stars glimmer vividly against the pitch black of night, preserving its reputation as the country’s largest dark sky reserve along with the rest of Big Bend.

The first modern developments began in the 1960s when automotive designer Carroll Shelby amassed 200,000 acres of ranch land, where he and his friends famously shot their gun barrels empty and raced cars in the desert. By the end of the decade, the land was divided and sold door-to-door as vacation developments and hunting leases.

Shelby named it Terlingua Ranch. Today, Terlingua Ranch is a fully-fledged enterprise. More than 5,000 people own some part of the desert. Most don’t live there, and the number of full-time residents changes frequently, said Hayley DeArman, property services manager for Terlingua Ranch. Alongside private property owners, the ranch offers short-term cabin rentals. There is a restaurant, the Bad Rabbit Cafe, a community pool, an RV park and a campground.

Governing the ranch is a nine-member board of directors. The board sets policies, including water limits, and dues. The ranch collects just under \$3 million annually, which it uses to fund daily maintenance and staff salaries.

The ranch also provides water. Within the ranch’s boundary, five wells pump drinking and nondrinking water daily. Dues-paying property owners can purchase the water, but there are limitations. The association’s charter says property owners can purchase 1,000 gallons of nondrinking water monthly. Each gallon costs 10 cents — \$50 if they take the full amount. The association also provides 25 gallons of free drinkable water every week. Anything above that is 25

cents per gallon.

The board is planning to reduce the amount of water it sells to owners.

“We’ve created a dependency,” said Larry Sunderland, the association’s water committee chair. Sunderland said that residents shouldn’t rely on the ranch wells because they weren’t drilled to sustain the ranch’s existing population.

Only one of the five ranch wells supplies drinking water and supports ranch operations. It was purchased from a property owner after another went dry in 2011. A second keeps the community pool filled. The third well provides nonpotable water the association sells. A fourth well feeds nondrinking water into the tourists’ cabins. A fifth well is completely dry.

“It’s a finite resource and infinite demand,” Sunderland said. “It’s not a great scenario.”

The board does not impose consumption limits for tourists who book the cabins, which are essential to the ranch’s business, Sunderland said.

The board has encouraged property owners whose homes are on the ranch premises to develop their own independent sources of water.

“The fact is that there are a lot more people here than there used to be,” Sunderland said. “There is just so much more demand on the system.”

But the alternatives in the desert are few.

One option is water catchment, a method dependent on rainfall. Drilling a well is another alternative — albeit an expensive one. Local drilling companies can charge \$45 per foot, raising the cost of one well up to \$30,000, depending on the depth. And there is no guarantee the well will produce water.

“You might as well have gone to Vegas and put it on red because you can spend upwards of \$30,000 to go 600 feet or more and not hit water,” DeArman said.

Bill Ivey was one of the first to recognize Terlingua’s potential.

In the 1980s, he inherited a tract of land known as the Ghost Town.

He spent the following years repairing a dilapidated building, turning it into a restaurant and entertainment venue called the Starlight Theatre. Next to it, he opened a general store where he sells artisan jewelry, handmade nativity scenes and apparel. Locals and tourists sit on a long porch facing both businesses, which they have blessed as the heart of town. A few steps down the porch, Ivey rents out space to a gallery and a coffee shop. Farther down the road, a Mexican restaurant.

“It’s gonna keep changing because it’s a cool place,” Ivey said.

Short-term rentals have tripled in a seven-year span, said Bram Gallagher, an economist with AirDNA, a data analytics firm tracking short-term rental data in the U.S. There were 133 short-term rental properties in 2018. In 2024, that number soared to 399.

The bookings have followed. In 2018, there were 71 bookings per night. In March 2024, there was an average of 225 bookings per night.

“It’s not a grotesque number, but the growth has been very swift and picked up after the pandemic, perhaps because of the renewed interest in the outdoors,” Gallagher said.

Booking prices have almost doubled since 2018. The average cost per night for a short-term rental was \$130 in 2018. It is \$250 today.

“That does seem to suggest to me that there is a sort of tourist element that we’re trying to attract with nice amenities,” Gallagher said.

While most tourists saw Terlingua as a quick escape, some saw it as a business opportunity created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ziad and Emily Almufti traveled to Terlingua in December 2020, seeking a getaway from the city. The Detroit natives drove a camper van, following a stargazing trail. Their road trip eventually led them to Big Bend National Park. What began as imagining off-grid living soon became a business plan.

“We loved Big Bend National Park and knew that it was getting discovered in a new way,” Emily, 28, said.

The two had business acumen. In Michigan, Emily worked in mortgage banking. Ziad, 33, was a real estate agent with experience flipping properties. They purchased 80 acres of land in Terlingua. Inspired by glamorous camping, or glamping, the couple invested

hundreds of thousands of dollars into the lot, transforming it into a modern campsite, complete with dome-shaped structures boasting expansive panoramic views.

They chose the lot for its distance from everywhere else, hoping to avoid artificial lighting. “The domes were just super appealing,” Emily said. “You know, we’ve never stayed in a round structure. And we just thought it was super cool.”

Emily and Ziad said they rely on local water haulers to sustain the restroom faucets, toilets and showers, requiring up to 6,000 gallons of water every month when bookings are high. The couple stores up to 9,000 gallons of water. They switched to bulk hauling every month to reduce the number of necessary deliveries to one a month, they said.

Emily and Ziad do not have strict limits on how much water their guests may consume. Rather, they educate their visitors on water usage. They also installed components that control the water flow and lessen the output. They’ve reduced water consumption by roughly 20% since the start of 2024, they said.

Other short-term rental owners follow similar practices.

Slava Chupryna owns Space Cowboys. His rentals — geodesic domes and safari tents — sit on a hill made of volcanic rock. At night, the path between domes pulses red from the sky-safe lighting he installed. The 32-year-old Ukrainian formerly owned a beverage company in San Francisco that sold locally sourced juices to corporate offices. He was forced to ditch the venture when the pandemic upended in-office culture. Unemployed, he started gallivanting through national parks until he came across Terlingua.

The town left its mark.

Chupryna returned and purchased 10 acres of land, transforming his portion of the desert into an intergalactic getaway. Statues of aliens dot the land like garden gnomes. A rocket ship serves as public art.

“We try, to a certain degree, to keep the thrilling, well, weird vibe,” he said.

Chupryna enlists the help of haulers who deliver water to him in a cadence that depends on the booking demand, which changes by season. Like most, he does not regulate usage for people staying on his property. Outside where the restrooms and showers are, he nails signs to the doors asking guests to limit their showers and flushing.

Chupryna said he acknowledges that tourism in Terlingua has increased. He said he tries to maintain a connection with the community. On weekends, he hangs out at Ivey’s Ghost Town, sitting inside a cramped shed with other locals. Known by locals as the Gas Shack, the shed contains a wooden table and an upright piano. When he’s not managing his rentals or communing at the shack, he lends his time to the county’s volunteer fire department.

“Terlingua is one of those places that is just getting really popular really fast and has experienced a lot of pretty brutal changes,” he said.

Not everyone shares the concern about the region’s source of water. Jeff Leach, an Austin native who permanently relocated to Terlingua a decade ago, has visited the region since he was a young adult. He’s hiked every trail in Big Bend National Park, he said.

Leach has earned a reputation in Terlingua as one of the area’s ambitious entrepreneurs, overseeing the businesses he has accumulated over the years, which many locals frequent.

Short-term rentals, a coffee shop, plots of vacant land and a vineyard are just some of his ventures. He rents out low-cost housing for his employees and other residents, a side business he said is not profitable.

Terlingua’s more pressing issue, Leach said, is housing and blight.

“People don’t want to see more development, so they go after the water company, saying, ‘Oh, you must be running out of water.’ We live in a desert. The second group of people don’t want more development because they’re in the rental business. They don’t want to see more rentals,” Leach said.

Many local officials agree with Leach — there is no water shortage. And so, they are turning their attention to development.

Brewster County Judge Greg Hennington is one of them. Hennington, the county’s highest-



**Terlingua Ghost Town, a former mining town abandoned by the 1930s, was revitalized in the 1980s. It has become a destination for tourists visiting the nearby Big Bend National Park.**

ranking elected official, said there is no water crisis in Terlingua but that the county needs to be “extremely careful and methodical with our water usage.”

“There’s no way we can say, ‘There’s unlimited water supply, everyone come and take whatever you want,’” he said.

Hennington rose to county judge in 2021, his first term and political role. He’d spent his former years running a tourism company in Terlingua, Far-Flung Outdoor Center, offering river trips and tours from Jeeps and all-terrain vehicles.

“I don’t think we ever expected it to be this. It caught us all by surprise. But we’re not going to stick our heads in the sand,” Hennington said.

One way local and state officials can measure water supply is by measuring aquifers, water that flows through rocks underneath the surface. Hennington has no plans of asking private water well owners to do that. It would be an invasion of privacy and go against the rugged individualism and small government ethos of the Wild West.

Still, he said the county should start to consider how much water the area can continue to supply should growth — and the accompanying tourism — continue at the pace it has.

“How do you solve the problem of the tourist that wants to come out and take a long shower? How do you fix that?” Hennington said. “I don’t ever want to get to a point where we have to tell people what to do.”

The Study Butte Water Supply Corporation is a nonprofit established in 1988 under the Texas Water Code to centralize water services in an area next to Terlingua called Study Butte. It serves about 200 customers within a defined geographic boundary. The corporation owns five wells.

The corporation said its concern isn’t water scarcity. Instead, it is beginning to focus on the ability to expand the infrastructure to support the growth. At the supply corporation’s annual meeting in January, the water board said it would use its million-dollar budget to put in place a plan to upgrade its infrastructure and hire a firm to study the water levels.

It has doubled the amount of water it supplies in the last decade, according to records provided to The Texas Tribune. In 2014, water managers piped water into 227 taps hooked up to its tanks, selling 8.4 million gallons of water. In 2023, the number of taps did not significantly increase, but the amount of water did, with 18 million gallons sold.

“I think we always need to prepare for anticipated growth,” said Bill Gilles, president of the corporation’s board. “And we’re doing that now.”

Terlingua’s has drawn the attention of water experts who are seeking a clearer idea of how much water is underneath the ground.

The Texas Water Development Board, the state agency charged with collecting information on Texas’ water supply, wants to closely study the Santa Elena limestone — one of the state’s unofficial aquifers — underneath Terlingua. The endeavor will require the collaboration of local officials and the Brewster County Groundwater Conservation District.

The agency and water district are a long way from formalizing a plan.

“I like to think of an aquifer as a bank account, where the money is stored, how much water is there,

and how is it being used,” said Natalie Ballew, the water board’s groundwater division director.

Robert Mace, executive director at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, said aquifers help scientists and legislators locate usable water.

The state uses water monitoring technology to measure the fluctuation of the water and its quality. Ideally, scientists would place the monitors in wells that don’t pump out water frequently. Another way scientists monitor groundwater is by installing technology that stores information about the activity underground every hour.

Another way to measure groundwater already used across the state involves private water well owners who allow scientists to install recording equipment. In Terlingua, it would take years to create a general understanding of the water through this process.

Texas has mapped the water sources for major cities, but this is not the case in Terlingua. The last report studying the groundwater in south Brewster County was in 1990.

At the time, researchers described the rock making up the Santa Elena Limestone as “massive and hard,” estimating the layer of rock to be 1,000 feet thick. The water was salty, dense and laden with chemicals including chloride and fluoride, at the time exceeding safe drinking standards, researchers wrote. They also detected significant radioactivity. The report did not provide conclusions about the amount of water available to the area.

Since then, the agency has installed monitoring technology in two wells: one in Terlingua Ranch and another at the Study Butte Water Supply Corporation. These wells collect data from other water formations previously studied, but not the larger aquifer.

The water board said there is not enough data to form an accurate measurement for south Brewster County.

Mapping the Santa Elena limestone presents challenges, said Cody Bjornson, a hydrologist and water level supervisor at the water development board. The sedimentary rock is generally deeper and more complex in form than other neighboring rock formations, making it difficult and expensive to locate.

Bjornson said the area’s population plays a key role. The more wells there are, the more data they can collect.

“Maybe we will be getting more monitoring out these ways, especially with the population growth,” Bjornson said.

Bjornson and Ballew suggested that the state could help the water district access grants to offset some of the costs of acquiring data about the limestone.

Mace said the money to do this is already there. “We already have taxes that pay for that service. Why not take advantage of that service?”

Shannon Montague and her husband, Waylon Montague, uprooted their life in New Braunfels for Terlingua nine years ago to be closer to Waylon’s family.

The family moved into a 1970s mobile home. Waylon is a maintenance technician and student at Sul Ross University. Shannon is a gallerist and runs the Tin Barn

Gallery & Forge, a two-story building made of reclaimed tin sourced in Marfa, two hours north of Terlingua exhibiting local artists. She also sells the art.

After work, Shannon drives home to the sound of wheels crunching over the caliche. At home, her kids play on the property, making the most of the remoteness surrounding them for miles. The only noise heard for hours is a breeze caressing the prickly pear cacti and the Yucca trees — plant species native to West Texas. It’s a peaceful routine, and the family enjoys the solitude.

But the lifestyle asks for concessions.

The running water exclusively comes from the Bradburys because drilling is too expensive to consider. Montague has come to rely on Rick and Georganne’s water hauling business for her weekly supply, which supports the whole family. Sometimes, Montague said, she has to make difficult calls.

“Reality hits you pretty fast when you have to decide between doing dishes or laundry one day or bathing the whole family because you’re getting low on your tank,” Montague said. “It’s stressful. It’s absolutely stressful. You are counting your gallons.”

The family has grown accustomed to every aspect of their lives, however fragile: conserving water and relying on generators for electricity. She wouldn’t give it up for the world, she said, not even one where you can run hot water on a bathtub without thinking twice about how much of it you have left.

There is an irony that residents like the Montagues track every drop of water they use, while no one measures the water use for the region as a whole.

She trusts the Bradburys, who deliver water weekly to her home 21 miles north of them.

But the Bradburys aren’t sure how much longer they’ll deliver to Shannon and other customers. Water hauling isn’t lucrative, and they put back what they make into the business without cutting much of a profit.

Like many residents in the region, the Bradburys said they aren’t fond of the proposals introduced by the Water Development Board. Rick would rather the agency find other ways of measuring the bed of water that doesn’t include monitoring their personal water well, he said.

“I don’t care to let them monitor my well, I can monitor it myself,” he said. The couple does not trust the bureaucracy and said down the line, they wouldn’t be surprised if they started charging them for monitoring the well next, they said. The couple would be open to participating in the volunteer program.

The Water Development Board has said it would not charge residents.

Rick says some residents see them as contributing to water insecurities by selling water to customers who use it for their Airbnbs. But to Rick and Georganne, their business is the mark of a longtime Texas philosophy — that the water belongs to them and they do with it what they like. In their case, that’s hauling it to families like Shannon’s, in addition to the short-term rentals.

In Terlingua, where the culture of water conservation grapples with uncertainty regarding its supply, he said he’s willing to take the risk.

“I’m not making enough money to worry about it,” he said.

Dear Presidio,

Thank you so much for your excitement during the opening weekends of Casa Agave. Your presence meant a lot to us and we are extremely grateful for the enthusiasm you showed towards our food and live music performances. We are excited to announce that Casa Agave is moving into its second phase. You can expect a larger and even more delicious menu, and a much wider array of our fantastic cocktails to come in the following weeks. To make this happen, we will be closed for the following dates: June 7th through June 13th, until our grand re-opening on June 14th, 2024 with live music from Roxy Cabello Friday night and Javier Venegas Saturday night 9 pm-12 am.

We thank you for your patience, and for your continued support as we work to give you the best dining and venue experience possible. We look forward to welcoming you back soon.

*Casa Agave*

Estimado Presidio,

Muchas gracias por su entusiasmo durante los fines de semana de apertura de Casa Agave. Su presencia significó mucho para nosotros y estamos extremadamente agradecidos por el entusiasmo que se mostró hacia nuestra comida y presentaciones de música en vivo. Nos complace anunciar que Casa Agave pasa a su segunda fase. Puede esperar un menú más amplio e incluso más delicioso, y una variedad mucho más amplia de nuestros fantásticos cócteles en las próximas semanas. Para que esto suceda, estaremos cerrados durante las siguientes fechas: del 7 al 13 de junio, hasta nuestra gran reapertura el 14 de junio de 2024 con música en vivo de Roxy Cabello el viernes por la noche y Javier Venegas el sábado por la noche de 9 p. m. a 12 a. m.

Les agradecemos su paciencia y su continuo apoyo mientras trabajamos para brindarle la mejor experiencia gastronómica posible. Esperamos poder darles la bienvenida de vuelta pronto.

*Casa Agave*



# Aqua Terlingua

(Continuación de la página 3)

conduce a casa y escucha el sonido de las ruedas crujendo sobre el caliche. En casa, sus hijos juegan en la propiedad, aprovechando al máximo la lejanía que los rodea a kilómetros de distancia. El único ruido que se escucha durante horas es la brisa que acaricia los nopales y los árboles de yuca, especies de plantas nativas del oeste de Texas. Es una rutina pacífica y la familia disfruta de la soledad.

Pero el estilo de vida exige concesiones. El agua corriente proviene exclusivamente de los Bradbury porque la perforación es demasiado costosa. Montague ha llegado a depender del negocio de transporte de agua de Rick y Georganne para su suministro semanal, que sustenta a toda la familia. A veces, dijo Montague, tiene que tomar decisiones difíciles.

“La realidad te golpea bastante rápido cuando tienes que decidir entre lavar los platos o lavar la ropa un día o bañar a toda la familia porque te estás quedando sin tanque”, dijo Montague. “Es estresante. Es absolutamente estresante. Estás contando tus galones”. La familia se ha acostumbrado a todos los aspectos de sus vidas, por frágiles que sean: conservar agua y depender de generadores para obtener electricidad. Ella no lo renunciaría por nada del mundo, dijo, ni siquiera uno en el que puedas dejar correr agua caliente en una bañera sin pensar dos veces en la cantidad que te queda. Es una ironía que residentes como los Montague realicen un seguimiento de cada gota de agua que utilizan, mientras que nadie mide el uso del agua en la región en su conjunto. Confía en los Bradbury, quienes

entregan agua semanalmente a su casa, ubicada a 21 millas al norte de ellos. Pero los Bradbury no están seguros de cuánto tiempo más entregarán a Shannon y otros clientes. El transporte de agua no es lucrativo y devuelven lo que ganan al negocio sin recortar muchas ganancias. Como muchos residentes de la región, los Bradbury dijeron que no les gustan las propuestas presentadas por la Junta de Desarrollo del Agua. Rick preferiría que la agencia encontrara otras formas de medir el lecho de agua que no incluyan monitorear su pozo de agua personal, dijo. "No me importa dejar que controlen mi pozo, puedo controlarlo yo mismo", dijo. La pareja no confía en la burocracia y dijo que no les sorprendería que a continuación comenzaran a cobrarles por

monitorear el pozo, dijeron. La pareja estaría abierta a participar en el programa de voluntariado. La Junta de Desarrollo del Agua ha dicho que no cobrará a los residentes. Rick dice que algunos residentes ven que contribuyen a la inseguridad hídrica al vender agua a clientes que la usan para sus Airbnbs. Pero para Rick y Georganne, su negocio es la marca de una antigua filosofía de Texas: que el agua les pertenece y que hacen con ella lo que quieran. En su caso, se trata de trasladarlo a familias como la de Shannon, además de los alquileres a corto plazo. En Terlingua, donde la cultura de conservación del agua enfrenta la incertidumbre sobre su suministro, dijo que está dispuesto a correr el riesgo. "No estoy ganando suficiente dinero para preocuparme por eso", dijo.

Public Notice  
Nominations for voting membership Region E Far West Texas Water Planning Group  
**The Far West Texas Water Planning Group** is seeking nominations to fill four voting positions on the Far West Texas Water Planning Group. The positions are as follows:  
Tourism - Term expires December 2025  
Economic Development (Urban) – Term expires December 2025  
Economic Development (Rural) – Term expires December 2025  
Electric Generating Utilities – Term expires December 2025  
**Conditions of Membership:** To be eligible for voting membership on the Planning Group, a person must represent the interest for which a member is sought, be willing to participate in the regional water planning process, and abide by the Bylaws of the Region E Far West Texas Water Planning Group.  
**Nominations** (Nomination letter and a Résumé or biography of nominee are required) must be received by June 21, 2024, addressed to:

Annette Gutierrez Administrative Officer  
Far West Texas Water Planning Group 8037 Lockheed Drive, Suite 100  
El Paso, Texas 79925 Or  
By email to: [annetteg@riocog.org](mailto:annetteg@riocog.org)

EMAIL  
[ADS@BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM](mailto:ADS@BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM)  
FOR ADVERTISING RATES

### Presidio, Texas is seeking a Chief of Police

**JOB TITLE:** Chief of Police  
**DEPARTMENT:** Police

**JOB SUMMARY:**  
Under general administrative direction of the City Administrator; directs and coordinates activities of the Municipal Police Department in accordance with authority delegated by City ordinance. Promulgates rules and regulations for the department as authorized by statute. Sets policy for delivery of police services; and administers daily police activities. Coordinates internal investigations of members of department for alleged wrongdoing; discipline members of the force for infractions of rules or inefficiency. Directs activities of maintaining police records and recruiting staff; manages police budget; manages and oversees the defense of litigation affecting police department for State and Federal courts. Prepares requests for government agencies to obtain funds for special operations or for purchasing equipment for department; perform related duties as required.

**ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:**  
Assumes full responsibility for the functioning of the department. Responsible for the operation of Animal Control Department and kennel facility; assist and work with code enforcement on activities, such as abandoned vehicle ordinance enforcement. Interact effectively and professionally with other State, Local and Federal Officials. Attend special meetings of civic groups and other organizations to inform public of goals and operation of department. Prepare and review reports to the City Administrator, news media, citizens and other City of Presidio Departments and other law enforcement agencies. Communicate effectively with media, citizens and employees, both verbally and in writing; hear in normal range; serve as Emergency Management Coordinator at the will of the Mayor. Attend training and coordinate with County, State and local emergency management personnel. Identify deficiencies and malfunctions related to delivery of police services; develop and implement corrective action. Understand and implement administrative instructions and orders from office of City Administrator. Meet the continuing education requirements of TCOLE; hiring of new department personnel; participate in promotional interviews for the appointment of personnel in the Department. Direct business meetings with departmental staff; respond to major incidents and assume command when and where warranted. Make moral and ethical decisions that conform to law and other applicable regulations; attend court and deliver appropriate testimony; attend council meetings as directed by City Administrator. Perform duties acceptably after long hours without sleep during emergencies; shoot a pistol, rifle or shotgun; demonstrate competent weapon proficiency and the ability to maintain weapons for maximum performance. Communicate clearly orally and in writing and make effective oral presentations before groups of various sizes and ages. Plan, direct, coordinate and control complex operations involving multiple subordinate supervisors and their work groups; load and unload police equipment from a vehicle, including lifting objects 50 pounds or less from trunk, back seat, etc.; must not pose a threat to the health and safety of self or others.

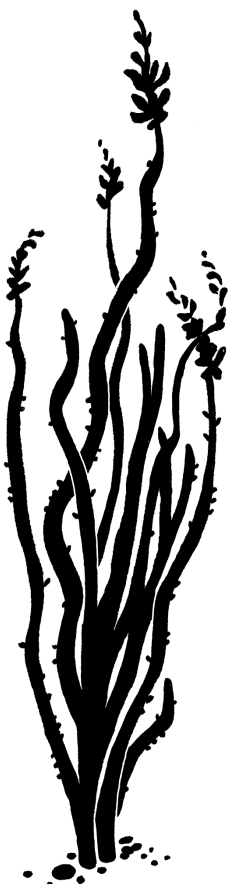
**OTHER JOB FUNCTIONS:**  
Personal computer skills, use of Internet, electronic mail, police department records software. Provide services to the general public when emergency conditions warrant it, either in preparation for, or as a reaction to, one or more disastrous events such as: a civil disturbance, tornado, earthquake, flood, ice storm, fire, chemical accident including a hazardous material spill, possible public exposure to hazardous conditions, or other disasters which threaten the safety of the citizens.

**REQUIRED EDUCATION, DEGREES, CERTIFICATES AND/OR LICENSES:**  
High School Diploma required; Bachelor’s degree or equivalent is preferred; maintain at minimum an intermediate or advanced level of TCOLE Certificate; must possess a valid Texas Driver’s License; must be a United States Citizen.

**EXPERIENCE, TRAINING, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:**  
Some management level experience with a Local, State of Texas or a Federal Law Enforcement Agency. A working knowledge of Federal guidelines and court decisions regarding equal employment opportunities for personnel matters and civil liabilities; working knowledge of State and Federal funding agency guidelines and procedures; knowledge of the principles and practices of modern police administration and methodology; possess experience in supervision, motivation, performance review and employee development.  
Bi-lingual Spanish skills (written and oral) strongly preferred.  
Ideal Candidate  
A Public Servant who makes thoughtful and data-driven decisions.  
A Leader of Heart & Mind who enhances focus on the "Customer Service" of policing.  
An Approachable, Optimistic, and Actively Engaged Ambassador with Availability through an Open-Door Policy for the City of Presidio.  
A Mentor that develops Leadership in others through Opportunity, Education and Community Service.

**Compensation & Benefits**  
The City of Presidio will offer a competitive salary and benefits commensurate with qualifications and experience. If you are interested please submit a cover letter and a copy of your resume to the City Administrator, Pablo Rodriguez, P.O. Box 1899, Presidio, Texas 79845 or email [prodriguez@presidiotx.us](mailto:prodriguez@presidiotx.us). If you have any questions regarding details of the position, please feel free to call at (432) 229-3517.

THE CITY OF PRESIDIO IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.  
THIS POSITION IS OPEN UNTIL FILLED





## 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](https://bit.ly/BBRC-Survey)



**bigbendrc.org**  
**@bbreproductivecoalition**



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The City of Presidio is requesting Letters of Interest from the public for their two open seats to the Presidio Planning & Zoning Commission. Applications are available at the City’s website [www.presidiotx.us](http://www.presidiotx.us) – Civic Board Application.

Please submit your application and Letter of Interest to the address below:

City of Presidio  
City Secretary  
P.O. Box 1899  
Presidio, TX 79845  
Physical Address: 507 W. O’Reilly St., Presidio, Texas

The Presidio Municipal Development District is requesting Letters of Interest from the public for one open seat to their board. PMDD Applications and Questionnaire available at the City’s website [www.presidiotx.us](http://www.presidiotx.us)

Please submit your application and Letter of Interest to the address below:

City of Presidio  
City Secretary  
P.O. Box 1899  
Presidio, TX 79845  
Physical Address: 507 W. O’Reilly St., Presidio, Texas

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