

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

by order of Presidio County

*Area
Democrats
rally behind
Harris after
Biden exit*

By ROB D'AMICO
rob@bigbendsentinel.com

TRI-COUNTY — Big Bend Democratic activists and their delegates to the Democratic National Convention rallied behind Vice President Kamala Harris this week after President Joe Biden withdrew from the race on Sunday.

Texas Democratic delegates held an online meeting Tuesday and voted overwhelmingly — 260 to 6 — to cast their ballots for Harris to be the new party nominee when the national convention meets in Chicago on August 19. The trend in many other states has been similar with some 3,000 delegates pledging to support Harris by Tuesday afternoon and only 1,976 needed for the nomination.

“This is bound to breathe new life into this electoral season,” said Hilary Beebe, a local Democratic activist. “And for that reason, I'm really optimistic. But the country's extremely polarized, and it's still going to be a whole lot of work. If Kamala Harris is the nominee, it's going to be inspiring, but we've got to get a female candidate of color across the finish line, and I know every Democrat is ready to do that.”

“On Sunday, I was crying, because I felt so sad for President Biden,” said Juanita Martinez, Maverick County Democratic Party chair. “I mean, I've held his hand before, and he was the kindest, nicest person. And to me, he's one of the best presidents that has ever lived.” Martinez, who lives in Eagle Pass, is one of two delegates representing the tri-county area, which is defined by the 23rd Congressional District that includes Far West Texas. She voted to support Harris in Tuesday evening's meeting. The other delegate, Colette Holt of San Antonio, could not be reached for comment.

“It seems to me a really promising outlook for the Democrats,” said Mary Bell Lockhart, Brewster County Democratic Party chair. “It's really kind of a historic position we're in, and it really kills Trump's attack on Biden for being too old.”

A clear, united path for a Harris nomination also lets Democrats forge ahead with campaigning instead of stalling under the uncertainty of whether Biden would remain in the race, she said. “We were on hold as far as the signage,” Lockhart said. “We hadn't ordered any because it was kind of up in the air.”

Martinez said her initial sadness turned to enthusiasm with the idea of Harris at the top of the ticket. “It's already adding energy,” she said and noted that she has recruited 20 new volunteers who started block walking on Wednesday in Eagle Pass.

Beebe said coordination between Presidio, Brewster and activists under the name Big Bend Democrats and its political action committee will also play a key role in registering voters and getting them to the polls.

(Continued on page 2)

West Texan Media Group, LLC



8 0 4 8 7 9 3 6 2 3 5 7



Photo by: Hannah Gentiles / Foto por: Hannah Gentiles

Jorge Avena, pictured here last fall, has been gradually working on finishing a history-inspired mural on O'Reilly Street on the A&C Furniture building.

Jorge Avena, fotografiado aquí el otoño pasado, ha estado trabajando gradualmente en terminar un mural inspirado en la historia en O'Reilly Street en el edificio A&C Furniture

*‘It was like I was haunting
these places’: A Q&A with
Liz Potter*

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — On July 13, the Marfa Studio of Arts celebrated the opening of an exhibition by Liz Potter, an Alpine-based photographer. Potter has a background in photojournalism but started experimenting with more conceptual work after the pandemic, using alternative film processing techniques to create unique, ghostly works of art, mostly pulled from deep in the interior of Big Bend Ranch State Park. “The veil-like images are beautiful and evocative, luring the viewer into works that invoke the spirit of desert life,” the gallery wrote in a press release.

The *Sentinel* sat down with Potter to talk about old cameras, landscapes and the Big Bend backcountry.

How did you come to the Big Bend?

I went to UT Austin and stayed for 30 years after graduating. I loved it, but I felt like I had done what I wanted to do in Austin and decided to create a new chapter in my life. So I sold my house and moved to Alpine. I didn't know anybody.

Before I moved out here, I had started to camp again. That was my first introduction to West Texas. It's ridiculous, I lived in Austin for 30 years

(Continued on page 2)

*Bill by Rep. Gonzales
formally designates Alpine
as federal court venue*

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Tuesday, the office of U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales announced that a bill sponsored by the Big Bend representative would be headed to the White House. If the bill gets President Biden's blessing, the district courthouse in Alpine will be formally designated as a venue for federal court proceedings.

Gonzales was hopeful that the bill would expand “access to justice” for his constituents in the remote reaches of the Big Bend. “Currently, residents of the Big Bend region, including law enforcement, must drive long distances to attend trial proceedings in the nearest federal courthouse,” Gonzales explained in a press release. “That travel is costly, time-consuming, and puts a strain on the public, not to mention law enforcement agencies which have limited resources and face unprecedented issues along our border.”

Texas U.S. Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz spearheaded a companion bill to the Improving Access to our Courts Act in the Senate. Sen. Cruz echoed Gonzales' optimism. “Through this needed addition, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas is now able to provide more efficient service to the people of West Texas, allowing them to seek redress without needing to drive for several hours to the nearest federal

(Continued on page 2)

*“Era como si estuviera
rondando por estos
lugares”: una sesión de
preguntas y respuestas con
Liz Potter*

Por SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — El 13 de julio, el Marfa Studio of Arts celebró la inauguración de una exposición de Liz Potter, una fotógrafa residente de Alpine. Potter tiene experiencia en fotoperiodismo, pero comenzó a experimentar con trabajos más conceptuales después de la pandemia, utilizando técnicas alternativas de procesamiento de películas para crear obras de arte únicas y fantasmales, en su mayoría extraídas de las profundidades del interior del Parque Estatal Big Bend Ranch. “Las imágenes en forma de velo son hermosas y evocadoras, y atraen al espectador hacia obras que invocan el espíritu de la vida en el desierto”, escribió la galería en un comunicado de prensa.

El *Sentinel* se sentó con Potter para hablar sobre cámaras antiguas, paisajes y el campo de Big Bend.

(Continúa en la página 3)

*Proyecto de ley del
Representante Gonzales
designa formalmente a
Alpine como sede de la
corte federal*

Por SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. — El martes, la oficina del representante federal Tony Gonzales anunció que un proyecto de ley patrocinado por el representante de Big Bend se dirigiría a la Casa Blanca. Si el proyecto de ley obtiene la aprobación del presidente Biden, el tribunal de distrito de Alpine será designado formalmente como lugar para los procedimientos judiciales federales.

Gonzales tenía la esperanza de que el proyecto de ley ampliaría el “acceso a la justicia” para sus electores en los confines remotos del Big Bend. “Actualmente, los residentes de la región de Big Bend, incluidas las fuerzas del orden, deben conducir largas distancias para asistir a los procedimientos judiciales en el tribunal federal más cercano”, explicó Gonzales en un comunicado de prensa. “Ese viaje es costoso, requiere mucho tiempo y supone una carga para el público, sin mencionar a las agencias encargadas de hacer cumplir la ley que tienen recursos limitados y enfrentan problemas

(Continúa en la página 3)

*Los
demócratas
del área
apoyan
a Harris
después de
la salida de
Biden*

Por ROB D'AMICO
rob@bigbendsentinel.com

TRI-COUNTY — Los activistas demócratas de Big Bend y sus delegados a la Convención Nacional Demócrata apoyaron a la vicepresidenta Kamala Harris esta semana después de que el presidente Joe Biden se retirara de la carrera el domingo.

Los delegados demócratas de Texas celebraron una reunión en línea el martes y votaron abrumadoramente (260 a 6) para emitir su voto para que Harris sea el nuevo candidato del partido cuando la convención nacional se reúna en Chicago el 19 de agosto. La tendencia en muchos otros estados ha sido similar con algunos 3,000 delegados se comprometieron a apoyar a Harris hasta el martes por la tarde y sólo se necesitan 1.976 para la nominación.

"Esto seguramente dará nueva vida a esta temporada electoral", dijo Hilary Beebe, una activista demócrata local. “Y por eso soy realmente optimista. Pero el país está extremadamente polarizado y todavía habrá mucho trabajo por hacer. Si Kamala Harris es la nominada, será inspirador, pero tenemos que lograr que una candidata de color cruce la línea de meta, y sé que todos los demócratas están listos para hacerlo”.

“El domingo estaba llorando porque me sentía muy triste por el presidente Biden”, dijo Juanita Martínez, presidenta del Partido Demócrata del condado de Maverick. “Quiero decir, le tomé la mano antes y él era la persona más amable y simpática. Y para mí, es uno de los mejores presidentes que jamás haya existido”. Martínez, que vive en Eagle Pass, es uno de los dos delegados que representan el área de los tres condados, definida por el Distrito 23 del Congreso que incluye el Lejano Oeste de Texas. Votó a favor de apoyar a Harris en la reunión del martes por la noche. No fue posible contactar a la otra delegada, Colette Holt de San Antonio, para hacer comentarios.

"Me parece una perspectiva realmente prometedora para los demócratas", dijo Mary Bell Lockhart, presidenta del Partido Demócrata del condado de Brewster. “Es realmente una posición histórica en la que estamos, y realmente acaba con el ataque de Trump a Biden por ser demasiado mayor”.

Un camino claro y unido para una nominación de Harris también permite a los demócratas seguir adelante con la campaña en lugar de estancarse ante la incertidumbre de si Biden permanecería en la carrera, dijo. "Estábamos en espera en cuanto a la señalización", dijo Lockhart. "No habíamos pedido ninguno porque estaba como en el aire".

Martínez dijo que su tristeza inicial se convirtió en entusiasmo con la idea de Harris en la cima de la lista. “Ya está agregando energía”, dijo y señaló que ha reclutado a 20 nuevos voluntarios que comenzaron a caminar en cuadras el miércoles en Eagle Pass.

Beebe dijo que la coordinación entre Presidio, Brewster y los activistas bajo el nombre de Big

(Continúa en la página 3)

Above all, the students learn to perform under pressure. “Building the car is the easy part,” Zubia said.

Liz Potter

(Continuación de la página 1)

¿Cómo llegaste al Big Bend?

Fui a UT Austin y me quedé 30 años después de graduarme. Me encantó, pero sentí que había hecho lo que quería hacer en Austin y decidí crear un nuevo capítulo en mi vida. Entonces vendí mi casa y me mudé a Alpine. No conocía a nadie.

Antes de mudarme aquí, había empezado a acampar de nuevo. Esa fue mi primera introducción al oeste de Texas. Es ridículo, viví en Austin durante 30 años y me tomé ese tiempo llegar al oeste.

Tan pronto como salí de la I-10 pensé: "¿Por qué nunca he estado aquí?"

Fue esa conexión inmediata con el desierto: el clima, el olor. Me encantan las rocas, la tierra y las plantas duras.

¿Eras fotógrafa de paisajes antes de venir aquí?

Cuando vivía en Austin disparaba con una cámara Holga, una lente de plástico, una cámara de formato medio bastante básica. Estaba filmando lo que experimenté. Cuando pienso en Austin, definitivamente no pienso en paisajes.

Cuando llegó la pandemia, me asusté. Vivo solo. Soy trabajadora autónoma. No había más eventos que documentar, no podía simplemente viajar libremente. No quería tomar fotografías de personas con máscaras. Fue demasiado deprimente.

Descubrí que tenía un par de cámaras muy antiguas que nunca había mirado con tanta atención, y una de ellas era una cámara estenopeica.

Estos autorretratos los haría con la cámara estenopeica. Las

exposiciones son muy largas, por lo que tendría tiempo de correr hacia la foto y quedarme quieto durante unos 45 segundos. Estaba creando estas imágenes fantasmales de mí mismo. Era como si estuviera rondando por esos lugares que extrañaba y que solían ser tan abiertos.

Comencé a aprender cómo diferentes formatos realmente podían inspirar diferentes cuerpos de trabajo y comencé a hacer más fotografía conceptual que fotografía documental. Desarrollo mi propia película; Tengo un cuarto oscuro en mi casa. Siempre he creído que cuando filmas en película, si puedes imprimirla tú mismo, esa es la segunda mitad de traducir lo que estás viendo.

Muchas de tus fotografías las tomas en lugares extremadamente remotos. ¿Cómo es tu equipo?

No crecí acampando ni nada por el estilo. Cuando comencé a dedicarme a acampar, literalmente busqué en Google "el mejor equipo para acampar" y pensé: eso es lo que estoy comprando.

Tengo un Toyota 4Runner que compré a propósito sabiendo que quería profundizar cada vez más en el interior del Parque Estatal Big Bend Ranch. Me acerqué a acampar de forma remota de forma gradual, como... está bien, eso fue genial. Ahora estoy listo para desafiarme un poco más.

Te encanta acampar sola. ¿Alguna vez has recibido algún rechazo por estar sola en el campo siendo mujer?

Creo que proviene de una vida bastante larga haciendo cosas solo. Soy simplemente el tipo de persona que — si quiero hacer algo y quiero

que un amigo lo haga, pero el amigo no quiere hacerlo, o no se compromete a hacerlo, o nunca encuentra el tiempo— eso no me va a impedir hacer algo.

Creo que las personas que llegan a la conclusión de que si estás sola, eres una mujer, no están considerando que no eres idiota. Llevo suficiente comida y agua para sobrevivir dos semanas. Mis viajes de campamento son básicamente un gran picnic.

Cuando acampo, estoy en medio de la nada. Me daría mucho más miedo acampar en campings donde hay mucha gente.

¿Hay algún lugar que creas que los lugareños deberían ver?

Le pregunto a la gente todo el tiempo: "¿Solo has estado en el parque nacional?"

Deberías ir al interior [del Parque

Estatal Big Bend Ranch]. Es el mejor. Por supuesto, mucha gente no tiene los vehículos para hacerlo. Creo que es más duro de lo que la gente cree. Vas a tener que hacer caca en una bolsa. No puedes ser valioso con tu vida.

Normalmente voy cada tres semanas aproximadamente. Como puedo ir con tanta frecuencia, realmente puedo prestar atención, puedo detenerme y mirar lo que hay a mi alrededor. No es sólo llegar al camping, es como hacer una pausa en el camino.

Parte de la experiencia es no saber qué va a pasar y lo emocionante que es — ¿qué voy a ver? ¿Qué voy a oír? Todo es simplemente una experiencia divertida, incluso si puede que no lo sea en ese momento.

Presidio High School celebra su gran desempeño en la competencia Solar Car Challenge

Por SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — Los estudiantes de los programas de Educación Técnica y Profesional (CTE) de Presidio ISD tienen mucho que celebrar esta semana, ya que el equipo Solar Car Challenge de la escuela secundaria regresa victorioso de una gran semana en el Texas Motor Speedway. Los estudiantes, que pasaron meses construyendo desde cero y afinando un automóvil pequeño impulsado por paneles solares, quedaron séptimos en su división y reportaron un desempeño sin contratiempos.

Presidio High School es conocida por la excelencia en sus programas extracurriculares y el Solar Car Challenge no es una excepción. Los niños combinan habilidades tradicionales del taller, como soldadura y cableado, con conocimientos de ingeniería, y aprenden mucho sobre el trabajo en equipo a lo largo del camino.

Cada mes de julio, el equipo hace las maletas y se dirige al Texas Motor Speedway, en el margen del metroplex de DFW. Los jueces evalúan el vehículo para tener la oportunidad de participar en el evento final, que consiste en una carrera de vueltas a la pista de un día de duración.

“No nos descompusimos”, dijo el entrenador e instructor de CTE, Jesús Zubia. "Tuvimos muy pocos problemas".

El desempeño de este año marcó un arco de redención del año pasado, cuando el auto del equipo experimentó problemas crónicos antes del gran día. Luego, la competencia que tanto les había estresado fue cancelada en el último minuto, gracias a un brote de COVID entre los jueces de la competencia.

Es el tercer año que Zubia lidera el programa y espera ver un progreso exponencial en los próximos años. Los estudiantes han comenzado a trabajar con software y diseños

eléctricos más sofisticados y están comenzando a aprender a construir sus propias piezas. Las piezas son clave: el vehículo achaparrado parece un cruce entre un auto chocador y un UTV. "No se encuentran rines de dos pulgadas en AutoZone", explicó Zubia. "En Harper [Hardware] no tienen los dispositivos electrónicos adecuados".

El año que viene, espera empezar a trabajar en un coche nuevo al inicio del curso escolar, teniendo uno para fines de demostración y otro para la competición real. El desafío del verano de 2025 se inspirará en el World Solar Challenge, que lleva a corredores

de clase mundial por el interior de Australia. En lugar de canguros y wombats, los niños correrán entre correcominos y remolinos de polvo; la meta estará en Marfa.

Presidio High School está en desventaja económica con respecto a muchos de los otros equipos, que tienen más fácil acceso a dinero en efectivo e ingenieros de nivel universitario. Pero Zubia no cree que eso sea un inconveniente: los niños se vuelven mucho más autosuficientes y conocen el diseño hasta el último detalle. "Mis alumnos lo están construyendo desde cero", dijo. “Están haciendo el diseño, están haciendo la soldadura, están haciendo los

cortes, están haciendo la ingeniería. Lo veo más como una ventaja”.

Además de las habilidades mecánicas y de ingeniería que requiere, existe una importante curva de aprendizaje mental y emocional. Los estudiantes aprenden a comunicarse con los medios, lo que para muchos significa sentirse más cómodos hablando en público en inglés. Aprenden paciencia, empatía y respeto, ayudando a otros equipos en averías y mal funcionamiento.

Sobre todo, los estudiantes aprenden a actuar bajo presión. "Construir el coche es la parte fácil", dijo Zubia.

Los demócratas locales se manifiestan a favor de Harris

(Continuación de la página 1)

Bend Democrats y su comité de acción política también desempeñará un papel clave en el registro de votantes y llevarlos a las urnas. El presidente del Partido Demócrata del condado de Presidio, Ramón Rodríguez Aranda, anunció esta semana que el partido lanzará “Aseguremos el

Voto” en septiembre, que utilizará una variedad de plataformas, desde redes sociales y comerciales de radio hasta llamadas a puertas a la antigua usanza. tanto en inglés como en español para lograr la votación.

Beebe dijo que ha habido una variedad de emociones desde

el anuncio de Biden, pero que fue la mejor decisión y es otro homenaje más al presidente. “Demostró tanta humildad y está pasando la antorcha y dándole una oportunidad a una generación más joven”, dijo.

EPA to review Texas plan for cleaning up air quality at the state’s national parks after legal settlement

By TRAVIS BUBENIK
Marfa Public Radio

This story was originally published by Marfa Public Radio: www.marfapublicradio.org

The Environmental Protection Agency is set to review Texas’ latest plan for cleaning up air quality in Big Bend and Guadalupe Mountains national parks within the next year as part of a settlement finalized last week in a lawsuit brought by environmental groups.

The advocacy groups — which include the Sierra Club and the National Parks Conservation Association — have for years criticized the EPA for not moving faster in reviewing multiple states’ plans for reducing haze pollution in national parks, a requirement under the Clean Air Act.

Haze pollution contributes to reduced visibility in national parks across the U.S., in addition to posing health risks. While haze can be caused by things like wildfires and dust, the EPA says most of it comes from industrial sources like power

plants, cars and manufacturing facilities.

Under the settlement deal, the EPA will have to review Texas’ haze plan by May 30, 2025. The agency could decide to approve the plan in full, require further modifications or reject it and instead issue federal requirements in place of the state plan.

Texas has seen years of back-and-forth plans and legal fights on the issue.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality submitted its latest plan for reducing haze in the state’s two national parks back in 2021. Environmental groups have criticized the plan, saying it wouldn’t sufficiently improve air quality in the parks because it would not require stricter pollution controls at the state’s coal plants.

State regulators argued that new pollution controls would not significantly reduce haze in the parks.

“The TCEQ determined that it is not cost effective nor reasonable to implement additional measures to only improve visibility to a degree that is imperceptible to the human

eye,” the agency wrote.

Last year, the EPA rejected part of the Texas plan and proposed a new rule that would require new pollution controls at a handful of power plants.

In a statement announcing last week’s settlement, the Sierra Club called the state’s 2021 proposal a “do-nothing” plan.

“There are cost-effective, readily available, common sense pollution controls that the state could be adopting,” Sierra Club attorney Joshua Smith said in an interview. “At every turn, they’ve refused to do what the Clean Air Act requires.”

A TCEQ spokesperson said the agency is not a party to the settlement deal and therefore had no comment on it.

“EPA has not proposed any action on the regional haze plan referenced in the consent decree and we can’t speculate on what its action will be,” spokesperson Victoria Cann said.

Representatives for Big Bend and Guadalupe Mountains national parks did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

rest or search warrants based on affidavits of probable cause submitted by the sheriff’s office.

“I understand the importance of accurate and thorough reporting, and I believe there has been a significant misunderstanding or misrepresentation of the facts,” Dodson wrote. “The dismissing of one or any PC affidavit(s)/Warrant(s) has absolutely nothing to do with the failure in communication between JP Wasserman and myself.” Dodson did not respond to a request for additional comment on the conflict.

Tribunal federal Alpine

(Continuación de la página 1)

sin precedentes a lo largo de nuestra frontera".

Los senadores estadounidenses de Texas, John Cornyn y Ted Cruz, encabezaron un proyecto de ley complementario a la Ley para mejorar el acceso a nuestros tribunales en el Senado. El senador Cruz se hizo eco del optimismo de Gonzales. "A través de esta necesaria adición, el Tribunal de Distrito de los EE. UU. para el Distrito Oeste de Texas ahora puede brindar un servicio más eficiente a la gente del oeste de Texas, permitiéndoles buscar reparación sin necesidad de conducir durante varias horas hasta el tribunal federal más cercano". el escribio.

Los tribunales de distrito conocen de una amplia gama de casos: delitos penales, contiendas electorales, casos civiles más costosos y quiebras. La sala del tribunal de Alpine pertenece a la División Pecos del Tribunal del

Distrito Oeste de Texas. La enorme División de Pecos escucha casos de la región de Big Bend, así como de los condados de Culberson, Hudspeth, Pecos, Reeves, Ward, Winkler y Loving.

A pesar de su tamaño (y su número de casos relativamente alto), la División Pecos no tiene su propio juez de distrito. El juez de distrito David Counts también conoce casos en las divisiones vecinas de Midland-Odessa y Del Rio.

Actualmente, el tribunal de distrito de Alpine está designado como tribunal de primera instancia, que normalmente conoce los primeros pasos de un caso pero no se ocupa de los procedimientos finales, como las sentencias y los juicios. El magistrado federal David Fannin escucha casos en Alpine y ayuda a hacer avanzar el expediente a medida que los procedimientos penales avanzan

CBP announces expanded operations targeting transnational criminal organizations

EL PASO — U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recently provided an update on its ongoing enforcement efforts against Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) and announced new efforts to expand enforcement activities against these organizations.

Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner Troy A. Miller announced the expansion of Operation Plaza Spike to the El Paso and Juarez region, as well as a new counter-fentanyl surge operation — called Apollo X — to bring the full force of CBP across the southwest border, from El Paso to San Diego. In making the announcement at the Bridge of the Americas in El Paso, Mr. Miller was joined by the local CBP leadership team: Chief Patrol Agent Scott Good, Director of Field Operations Hector Mancha, and Air and Marine Operations Branch Director Efren Gonzalez, further demonstrating the “all-of-CBP” approach in the fight against fentanyl.

“These ruthless criminal organizations peddle chaos and profit from human suffering. They traffic illicit drugs into our country that make their way into our communities. They exploit vulnerable migrants, leaving them for dead in the unforgiving desert. And they cause cross-border violence that puts border communities — and our law enforcement personnel — at risk. They are sophisticated, innovative, and relentless. But so are the men and women of Customs and Border Protection,”

said Troy A. Miller, CBP senior official performing the duties of the commissioner. “We are continually enhancing how — and where — we combat this issue. These enhanced enforcement efforts leverage CBP’s position on the frontline against fentanyl and are just the latest in our efforts to disrupt criminal supply networks and keep fentanyl out of our nation’s communities – alongside partners at the federal, state, and local level.”

Operation Plaza Spike targets the plaza bosses and cartels that facilitate the flow of deadly fentanyl as well as its analogs, precursors, and tools to make dangerous drugs. It is designed to disrupt operations in the “plazas,” cartel territories located directly south of the United States that are natural logistical chokepoints within the cartels’ operations.

To do so, Operation Plaza Spike employs multiple tactics, including seizing illicit proceeds and scrutinizing related cross-border business entities and cross-border trade. Plaza bosses control and profit from all illicit activity through the plazas – including extortion, kidnapping, and the smuggling of humans, dangerous drugs, and firearms. CBP is leveraging partnerships, authorities, and resources of other government agencies in our efforts to gather intelligence, disrupt and degrade illicit operations, and deliver legal consequences.

Apollo X is the new southwest border-wide surge operation that

will bring the full suite of resources and personnel from across CBP to bear. The agency will use actionable intelligence to not only find and seize fentanyl, but also uncover the supply chains to determine where the contraband is coming from and where it’s headed. The information will be shared with CBP’s state and local partners in an effort to find and stop the TCO networks.

While in El Paso, Mr. Miller convened a meeting with law enforcement partners to discuss enhanced collaboration. “We’re working closely with our federal, state, and local partners – along the southwest border and now specifically in El Paso. We are using all of our collective intelligence and operational capabilities to focus pressure and disruption operations on these TCOs,” said Miller. “These partnerships are critical in all of our enforcement efforts. CBP is proud to lead the federal government’s efforts in the fight against fentanyl. We bring our unique position and authorities — and we are even more impactful when working together.”

These operations are just the latest in CBP’s efforts to stem the flow of illicit opioids, including fentanyl, and cracking down on the TCOs that traffic them. In speaking directly to the threat posed by TCOs, Miller added, “If you are making or moving fentanyl across our borders ... we know who you are and we are bringing the full force of the federal government to shut you down.”

OUR WATER MATTERS

Engaging the land in Far West Texas

By TREY GERFERS

According to “Texas Land Trends,” a report by the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, “Texas will experience the largest intergenerational land transfer and potential change in land use to date. Aging rural landowners in Texas will soon transfer working lands to younger generations and first-time landowners.” The report warns that these new landowners “may have less experience or connection with the land, lack basic knowledge of agricultural operations and management, or lack the financial capital to maintain the land once inherited.” The Big Bend region is no exception. But in this merciless, arid environment, even experienced landowners can run into issues with how best to steward their lands. At the Water in the Desert conference at Sul Ross State University this past January, land stewardship expert Steve Nelle pointed out that in order to “prioritize success,” it is necessary to understand three major principles: the “land stewardship ethic (the heart),” a “knowledge of ecological principles (the mind),” and “selection/implementa-

tion of practices (the hands).“ According to Nelle, “too often we tend to jump to the work” before we know what we’re doing. “Genuine land stewardship” is really about “the relationship between a person and the land ... It’s about applying [stewardship] techniques properly.” Casey Wade, president and CEO of the Dixon Water Foundation and an Alamito Foundation board member, also participated on the land stewardship panel at the Water in the Desert conference. He worried that some landowners may not have a solid understanding of their environment and the need to “take advantage of every drop [of rainwater] that comes onto our land.” He emphasized that “it’s important to think holistically” about these complex systems when considering how to manage them. Landowners need to manage “toward a healthy system,” he said, “instead of managing away from things they don’t want, like mesquite and weeds.” The key is for landowners to have a healthy goal in mind instead of basing management decisions on negative aspects they want to eliminate. Toward that end, the Alamito Foundation is partnering with the Dixon Water Foundation to offer “Far West Texas 101: A Workshop for Engaging the Land in Far West Texas” on Friday, August 2, at the USO/AmVets building in Marfa. Alamito Foundation Board Mem-

ber Lynn Loomis is a soil scientist who worked with the USDA in Marfa for 31 years. He attributes the inspiration for the workshop to Garey Willbanks, owner of the Alamito Ranch in central Presidio County. Willbanks created the Alamito Foundation to provide educational opportunities to Big Bend youth and to “execute rangeland and riparian restoration projects on Alamito Ranch,” according to Loomis. “For years, Mr. Willbanks has owned a ranch in South Texas. He purchased the 3,500-acre Alamito Ranch in 2020. Since then, he has been learning how to run a ranch in the Chihuahuan Desert. The purpose of the Far West Texas 101 workshop is to introduce other new landowners to the complexities of the Chihuahuan Desert and help them reach their land management goals more quickly.” The Dixon Water Foundation is co-sponsoring the event, according to Philip Boyd, vice president of science and research, because Dixon “was started with a goal to help conserve water resources in the state of Texas, with an emphasis on how what happens on the ground impacts both the surface and underground water cycles.” The Dixon Water Foundation “also stewards two ranches along the Alamito Creek watershed [which] ... extends from the foothills of the Davis Mountains, where one of our ranches is located, down through the Alamito Valley and all the way to the Rio Grande. It is such a large and important watershed ... that we thought it could benefit from a collective conservation effort ... This workshop seemed like a great



opportunity to discuss the ecology and character of this area in a way that would be constructive towards these conservation goals.” Workshop participants can look forward to presentations on how the climate of Far West Texas differs from the rest of the state, how to quickly access soil and weather information, and how the vegetation in the Big Bend region has changed (or not) from the 1880s to the present, among many other fascinating topics. The program will also include an optional field trip to the Alamito Valley on Saturday, August 3., where participants can witness some practical applications of the knowledge covered at the workshop.

Visit www.alamito.org/fwt101 to register and learn more.

Trey Gerfers is a San Antonio native and serves as general manager of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District. He has lived in Marfa since 2013 and can be reached at tgerfers@pcuwcd.org.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Presented by



www.marfainsurance.com • 432-729-4306

October 25, 1940

GYMNASIUM BUILDING APPROVED BY ROOSEVELT MORE WORK AT ARMY POST

Construction of a gymnasium for use by Marfa school students may be under way within the next few weeks, according to information received this week.

President Roosevelt Monday approved a Work Projects Administration for such a building, allotting \$15,189 in federal funds for the building. The project calling for Marfa Independent

School District expenditure of \$24,995, was approved by the state administrator September 24.

The building, it is said, will be constructed south of the high school-elementary building, an area used as a playground.

The President approved Friday a Work Projects Administration \$11,156 undertaking to provide Fort D. A. Russell improvements consisting of a fence around the Quartermaster Corps area, west on U.S. Highway 90, the shaping of roadbed and realignment of railroad spur grading, and the grading and leveling of grounds.

November 22, 1940

MARFA PEOPLE KNOW THEM

As a result of Work Projects Administration activity in Marfa, people here have become well acquainted with the trio shown here. Left to right, they are: Richard (Dick) Schwartz, G. D. McLean, J. Paul Henderson. Mr. Schwartz supervised Blackwell Junior High School building work, Mr. McLean is division director of operations for the Work Projects Administration activity.

The picture was taken by a Sentinel representative at the time of the Blackwell school dedication program recently.

Excavation work was begun this week which will provide space for footings for the new school gymnasium to be built alongside the high-school-elementary building by the Work Projects Administration and the Marfa Independent School District.

Supervising the work is Richard (Dick) Schwartz, who was in charge of the work at the Blackwell Junior High School where a building was completed recently. He said Tuesday that he had eleven men working but that he hoped to increase the force by about seventeen Monday.

The building, expected to cost the school district \$24,995 and the government agency \$15,189,

Will be thirty feet from the present school building. "Overall" dimensions of it are 73 feet, 8 inches by 110 feet. Seven tiers of concrete bleachers accommodating a large number of people will be built along the inner wall of the building. At each end of the bleachers unit will be a refreshment, or concession, room.

Dressing rooms and shower baths for boys and for girls will be under the bleachers. A storage-office room, an office for the coach of athletics, rest rooms and an admission tickets booth will be other facilities included in the structure which Mr. Schwartz hopes to see completed by about the middle of May. Although nine months has been set up as the construction period it is not believed that it will take that long.

Large, steel sash windows will be used in the south side of the building, with large windows of similar type in the north wall above the bleachers height. Lower in the wall will be smaller windows providing ventilation and light for the dressing room units.

Adobe blocks will be used in the basic construction work on the building, Mr. Schwartz said. As a whole the gymnasium will be an attractive building which will add greatly to the school plant which at present consists of the high school-elementary building, football stadium and tennis courts. The heating plant that is being used at present also will serve the gymnasium, according to plans.

CLASSIFIEDS

Big Bend Regional Hospital District Employment Opportunity

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

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

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

For more information call 432-837-7051.

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

The City of Presidio, Texas is calling for Letters of Interest to the Vacant City Council Seat, pursuant to Texas Local Gov't Code, Section 22.010. Must be a registered voter of the municipality and reside at said city for at least six-months, pursuant to Texas Local Gov't Code Section 22.032. Please submit your Letters of Interest to: City of Presidio City Secretary PO Box 1899 507 W. O'Reilly Street Presidio, TX 79845 or email Letter of Interest to: bornelas@presidiotx.us

10 Lots for sale in Presidio, TX. Each 125 ft. x 40 ft

Sell 10 together or 5 and 5, Block 37 Kelly addition #1, Lots 1-5, & Lots 20-24. \$97,500 all.

Text Bob Adams 512 203 7584

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER



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

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

*Se aplican términos y condiciones

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

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



SCHOOL GYMNASIUM BUILDING UNDER WAY; PORTION OF PLAYGROUND USED



The International

Maisie Crow	Editor-in-Chief
Max Kabat	Publisher
Rob D'Amico	Managing Editor
Sam Karas	Reporter
Mary Cantrell	Reporter
Ariele Gentiles	Copy Editor
Tyler Sousa	Designer / Advertising
Mary Etherington	Office Manager
Maria Gerardo	Distribution
Marisa Chacon	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.



PRINT IS NOT DEAD

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM AT
THESENTINELMARFA.COM

