

BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

Geothermal efforts continue building on ‘upside potential’ to attract funders and developers

PRESIDIO — The Geothermal Working Group convened on September 11, 2024, at 5 p.m. to explore financing options for geothermal development in southern Presidio County. The meeting featured a presentation by Jesse Hereford, head of strategic partnerships and stakeholder engagement for the North American Development Bank (NADB), offering insights into potential funding avenues for geothermal.

Hereford introduced NADB as a binational “green bank” established in 1994 to finance environmental infrastructure projects along the U.S.-Mexico border. He highlighted the bank's capacity to provide loans for terms of up to 30 years and its experience in financing renewable energy, including wind, solar and battery projects. “Our mandate is to develop and finance environmental infrastructure that improves the well-being of border residents,” Hereford explained. He emphasized NADB's ability to work with both public entities and the private sector, which could be crucial for Presidio's geothermal project.

In attracting potential investors, Hereford cautioned against being too generous with incentives like tax abatements. “The city and the county need to make sure they're covered. You don't want to give away the farm.” Negotiations should also include benefits for the community, with one potential example being “free energy” for Presidio. This, in turn, could help attract even more investment. “Everything is negotiable,” Hereford said, and leaders need to be savvy about what they ask for. The discussion also touched on NADB's grant-based technical assistance program that could cover the cost of feasibility studies or market analyses. According to Hereford, “We might be able to help from that perspective as well.” John Kennedy, city planning consultant with the Presidio Municipal Development District (PMDD) and City of Presidio, seized on the opportunity for technical assistance funding from NADB and commented that the bank “could play a large role” in propelling these efforts forward.

Energy security emerged as another key topic, with participants discussing recent power outages in Presidio. Trey Gerfers, who has been actively pushing the geothermal initiative in Presidio County, inquired about NADB's experience with geothermal projects in other places. Hereford responded that “geothermal is not something we have done yet,” but detailed several successful battery storage projects NADB has financed in Texas and California.

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Maru Campos, Governor of the State of Chihuahua, embraces Ojinaga Mayor Lucy Marrufo at a security briefing last week. Maru Campos, gobernadora del estado de Chihuahua, abraza a la alcaldesa de Ojinaga, Lucy Marrufo, en una reunión informativa de seguridad la semana pasada.

Photo by the Office of Maru Campos

7 arrested in connection to Ojinaga cartel murders

By SAM KARAS sam@bigbendsentinel.com

NORTHEASTERN CHIHUAHUA — Last Thursday, seven men were apprehended by state and national police for their alleged involvement in a string of shootings in the Ojinaga area.

After receiving a tip about armed civilians, the Chihuahua Department of Public Safety (SSPE) and the federal Department of National Defense (SEDENA) located two white pickup trucks on a dirt road between Ojinaga and Manuel Benavides. The two trucks attempted to flee the scene and opened fire on the officers as they went.

The men were eventually arrested on foot after taking cover in the brush. In the aftermath, law enforcement also seized 15 rifles, 80 magazines, 1500 cartridges, six tactical helmets and two bulletproof vests.

Many people in the city of Ojinaga and the nearby towns of Manuel Benavides and Coyame del Sotol have been sheltering in place since the weekend of September 6, when six people were killed in a string of cartel-related shootings. A special task force of over 300 troops was deployed to Ojinaga on September 9, and the governor of Chihuahua, Maru Campos, visited the border city on September 11 to discuss the enhanced security measures.

While locals have been gradually returning to work and school, there has been widespread confusion on social media about how dangerous the situation in Ojinaga is — and the rest of the state of Chihuahua, which has suffered violent clashes from Juárez to the eastern border. The heavy

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Blackwell School ribbon cutting provides reflection on importance of new park

By ROB D'AMICO rob@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — A dark, overcast sky, cool temperatures and no beating sun rays Saturday afternoon was a blessing for the 100 or so attendees at the National Park Service's ribbon cutting for its newest national park — the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Marfa.

Many Presidio County residents of the Big Bend know pieces of the school's history: A segregated campus for Mexican American students in Marfa from 1909-1965 that finally integrated its students with Anglos 11 years after Brown v. Board of Education declared segregation unconstitutional; the requirement that students not speak Spanish, with punishment (sometimes corporal) for those who did, and forcing students to bury Spanish words on paper in a cigar-box coffin; how the Blackwell School Alliance nonprofit persisted for years in preserving and elevating the site's history. Still, that history could have been lost to many Americans, hidden in this small Far West Texas town.

“If not for this community's devotion to protecting Blackwell's story, its history could have been lost to time altogether,” said U.S. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland at the ceremony, which she noted also lands on the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month. “Thankfully, Blackwell's designation and today's ribbon cutting set its legacy and its lessons firmly into stone. ... As we kick off Hispanic Heritage Month together, I must tell you that there's nowhere else I'd rather be than right here in Marfa with the Blackwell School alumni who made today possible.”

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7 detenidos en relación con asesinatos del cártel de Ojinaga

Por SAM KARAS sam@bigbendsentinel.com

NORDESTE DE CHIHUAHUA — El jueves pasado, siete hombres fueron detenidos por la policía estatal y nacional por su presunta participación en una serie de tiroteos en el área de Ojinaga.

Después de recibir un aviso sobre civiles armados, la Secretaría de Seguridad Pública de Chihuahua (SSPE) y la Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional (SEDENA) federal localizaron dos camionetas blancas en una terracería entre Ojinaga y Manuel Benavides. Las dos camionetas intentaron huir de la escena y abrieron fuego contra los oficiales mientras se alejaban.

Los hombres finalmente fueron arrestados a pie después de refugiarse en la maleza. Posteriormente, la policía también confiscó 15 rifles, 80 cargadores, 1500 cartuchos, seis cascos tácticos y dos chalecos antibalas.

Muchas personas en la ciudad de Ojinaga y en los pueblos cercanos de Manuel Benavides y Coyame del Sotol han estado resguardándose en sus hogares desde el fin de semana del 6 de septiembre, cuando seis personas fueron asesinadas en una serie de tiroteos relacionados con los cárteles. Un grupo de trabajo especial de más de 300 soldados fue desplegado en Ojinaga el 9 de septiembre, y la gobernadora de Chihuahua, Maru Campos, visitó la ciudad fronteriza el 11 de septiembre para discutir las medidas de seguridad mejoradas.

Si bien los lugareños han estado volviendo gradualmente al trabajo

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El corte de cinta de la Escuela Blackwell brinda una reflexión sobre la importancia del nuevo parque

Por ROB D'AMICO rob@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Un cielo oscuro y nublado, temperaturas frescas y rayos de sol sin igual el sábado por la tarde fueron una bendición para los aproximadamente 100 asistentes a la ceremonia de corte de cinta del Servicio de Parques Nacionales para su nuevo parque nacional: el Sitio Histórico Nacional de la Escuela Blackwell en Marfa.

Muchos residentes del condado de Presidio del Big Bend conocen partes de la historia de la escuela: un campus segregado para estudiantes mexicano-americanos en Marfa desde 1909 hasta 1965 que finalmente integró a sus estudiantes con anglosajones 11 años después de que Brown v. Board of Education declarara inconstitucional la segregación; el requisito de que los estudiantes no hablen español, con castigos (a veces corporales) para aquellos que lo hicieran, y obligar a los estudiantes a enterrar palabras en español en papel en un ataúd hecho con una caja de puros; cómo la organización sin fines de lucro Blackwell School Alliance persistió durante años en preservar y elevar la historia del sitio. Aun así, esa historia podría haberse perdido para muchos estadounidenses, oculta en este pequeño pueblo del lejano oeste de Texas.

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Los esfuerzos geotérmicos continúan aprovechando el "potencial alcista" para atraer a financiadores y desarrolladores

PRESIDIO — El Grupo de Trabajo Geotérmico se reunió el 11 de septiembre de 2024 a las 5 p. m. para explorar las opciones de financiamiento para el desarrollo geotérmico en el sur del condado de Presidio. La reunión contó con una presentación de Jesse Hereford, director de asociaciones estratégicas y participación de las partes interesadas del Banco de Desarrollo de América del Norte (BDAN), que ofreció información sobre las posibles vías de financiamiento para la energía geotérmica.

Hereford presentó al BDAN como un "banco verde" binacional establecido en 1994 para financiar proyectos de infraestructura ambiental a lo largo de la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México. Destacó la capacidad del banco para otorgar préstamos por plazos de hasta 30 años y su experiencia en el financiamiento de energía renovable, incluidos proyectos eólicos, solares y de baterías. "Nuestro mandato es desarrollar y financiar infraestructura ambiental que mejore el bienestar de los residentes fronterizos", explicó Hereford. Subrayó la capacidad del BDAN de trabajar tanto con entidades públicas como con el sector privado, lo que podría ser crucial para el proyecto geotérmico de Presidio.

Para atraer a posibles inversores, Hereford advirtió que no se debe ser demasiado generoso con incentivos como las reducciones de impuestos. “La ciudad y el condado deben asegurarse de que estén cubiertos. No se quiere regalar la granja”. Las negociaciones también deben incluir beneficios para la comunidad, con un posible ejemplo de ello sería la “energía gratis” para Presidio. Esto, a su vez, podría ayudar a atraer aún más inversiones. “Todo es negociable”, dijo Hereford, y los líderes deben saber qué piden. La discusión también abordó el programa de asistencia técnica basado en subvenciones del BDAN que podría cubrir el costo de los estudios de viabilidad o los análisis de mercado. Según Hereford, “también podríamos ayudar desde esa perspectiva”. John Kennedy, consultor de planificación urbana del Distrito de Desarrollo Municipal de Presidio (PMDD) y la ciudad de Presidio, aprovechó la oportunidad de obtener fondos de asistencia técnica del BDAN y comentó que el banco “podría desempeñar un papel importante” para impulsar estos esfuerzos.

La seguridad energética surgió como otro tema clave, y los participantes hablaron sobre los recientes cortes de energía en Presidio. Trey Gerfers, que ha estado impulsando activamente la iniciativa geotérmica en el condado de Presidio, preguntó sobre la experiencia del BDAN con proyectos geotérmicos en otros lugares. Hereford respondió que “la geotermia no es algo que hayamos hecho todavía”, pero detalló varios proyectos exitosos de almacenamiento en baterías que el BDAN ha financiado en Texas y California.

La ubicación de Presidio en la frontera con México ya se

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Ojinaga cartel murders

(Continued from page 1)

military presence — including a helicopter with wailing sirens orbiting the city — serves as a constant reminder of the tragic string of events.

Last Thursday, State Attorney General César Jáuregui assured Chihuahuans that conditions were safe enough for all to enjoy Mexico’s annual Independence Day celebrations. A celebration was canceled in the small town of Coyame, but Ojinaga’s new mayor, Lucy Marrufo Acosta, decided to go ahead with a festival in the city plaza.

Not everyone was pleased with the announcement. “We call upon [the mayor] to cancel the Independence Day event and parade in the City of Ojinaga because of the uncertainty we are living through,” an anonymous group of local parents pleaded on Facebook. “Let’s avoid a tragedy.”

Fortunately, the celebration went as planned — with a smaller-than-usual but still enthusiastic crowd dancing to local bands.

Despite the many disruptions to daily life in the border city, the Presidio Port of Entry has remained open with enhanced security measures on the Mexican side of the bridge. The state of Chihuahua is currently under a travel advisory by the U.S. State Department, urging American citizens to “reconsider” travel due to an increased risk of “crime and kidnapping.”

In an interview with Israel Beltrán of Ojinaga’s BM Radio, Customs Officer Oscar Luis Prado Escobar said that the biggest disruption was to cattle crossings, which were temporarily suspended last week — a first in his tenure.

Prado said that widespread confusion had led many exporters to close and customs officials to skip work, leaving the area’s booming cattle business in limbo. He worried that some companies would route their exports through Juárez instead. “So much alarm and so many lies have already harmed the market here in Ojinaga,” he said. “It’s the first time something like this has happened to us and we hope it will be the last.”

Since last week’s issue of The Sentinel, state officials have been able to confirm a few details that were left up in the air. The names of two more of the men killed have been released: 33-year-old Lorenzo Moreno Aguilar; 47-year-old Mauricio Gonzalez Gonzalez; 33-year-old Jorge Luis Salas Blanco; 44-year-old Misael Peralta

Longoria and Ofrael Olivas Guevara.

The violence is believed to be connected to La Línea, a cartel that operates within the “Ojinaga Triangle” between Coyame del Sotol and Manuel Benavides. Last summer, boss Sergio “El Menchaca” Pizarro was arrested by United States Customs and Border Protection walking along FM 170 near Fort Leaton south of Presidio.

Pizarro has since pleaded guilty to criminal conspiracy and faces life in prison, as well as a money judgment of \$2 million.

Mexican police identified the men arrested this week — although, as custom, using initials for the last part of their names — as: Jairo Emanuel V. C., Francisco Javier R. G., Jesús Valentín O. M., Jesús Valentín O. H., Felipe Salvador A. P. and Jesús Manuel R. O., all of Durango, and

César Alejandro L.M. of Parral, Chihuahua. (While authorities have not yet drawn an explicit link between these men and La Línea, Durango is Menchaca’s home state.)

Jáuregui also doubled down on his comments from last week, quelling rumors that the violence in northeastern Chihuahua is spillover from the Sinaloa Cartel, which is currently waging war in the state capital of Culiacán. He instead believes that violence in the borderlands is an intra-cartel “purge.”

Sources from within the attorney general’s office told El Heraldito de Chihuahua that the two men whose bodies were dumped outside a funeral home in Ojinaga were not relatives of Menchaca, as some locals have speculated.

Geothermal efforts

(Continued from page 1)

Presidio’s location on the border with Mexico has already been recognized in earlier discussions as a major advantage. Hereford concurred, noting the project’s binational potential. “We’re looking at batteries and transmission lines. We’re looking at storing clean energy and moving that clean energy to where it needs to be within our region.” Hank

Habicht, managing co-founder of the Water Finance Exchange, former deputy administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and a founder of the American Council on Renewable Energy, chimed into the discussion by stating that “the fundamentals here are great ... There’s a lot of border crossings, as we know, [and] they’ve got lots of issues

... [But] the attractiveness of having a border crossing that’s not controversial has a lot of upside potential. Even the Republican politicians are very excited about the potential for the Presidio crossing and the potential economic development there.”

Habicht was particularly excited about the opportunities for coupling Presidio’s geothermal

electricity generation with new battery technologies. “It’s the right thing to focus on and there’s a lot of interest in the federal government having a high visibility demonstration.” He also emphasized the timeliness of the project. “Over several decades of being involved in water and energy,” he said, “I’ve watched ideas [with] initial excitement and

then there’s sort of a lag period. Sometimes people call it a ‘Valley of Death,’ where people are excited, but it takes a long time for it to bear fruit. I think geothermal has been through that sort of Valley of Death ... and I think the time is good for [geothermal] right now.”

Looking ahead, the Geothermal Working Group is preparing for

the Geothermal Rising Conference in Hawaii at the end of October. Gerfers and Kennedy will attend the conference to represent Presidio County and connect with leaders, developers and investors from all over the world. For more information on the next meeting of the Geothermal Working Group, contact John Kennedy at john@bigbend.bike.

Blackwell School ribbon cutting

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Photos by David Long

Marfa ISD’s Ballet Folklórico swirls to the music at the Blackwell School celebration.

The celebration was spirited, with a mariachi band, Marfa ISD ballet folklórico dancers, food and drink and recognition given to many of the school’s alumni present. Elected officials mingled with local residents, school alumni and scores of park rangers from throughout the region who were easy to pinpoint with their green and brown uniforms and broad-brimmed, domed hats.

Alumnus Joe Cabezuela told the crowd how his simple idea for a school reunion in 2006 led to the formation of the Blackwell School Alliance and ultimately to the country’s latest national park.

Cabezuela said alumni at the time realized that Marfa ISD planned to sell or tear down the school, which had fallen into “shambles” and needed significant renovation. “Right away, we all said, there’s no way that you’re going to do this,” he said. “That’s our building. That’s the Hispanic history in Marfa. You can’t do that.”

Cabezuela and other alumni made a presentation to the school board to save the building, and he recounted the reaction: “And, the superintendent just stood up and said, ‘Joe, I’ve got good news for you. See if you like it and then you can do whatever you want.’”

He said, “We’ll give you a one-year lease for a dollar a year, but you have to show something in 25 years. If you do not show anything we’re just going to repossess it and do what we have to do with it.”

Years of work and countless fundraisers by the alliance led to then U.S. Rep. Will Hurd and current Rep. Tony Gonzales, along with U.S. Senator John Cornyn, in getting legislation passed to make the school a National Historic Site. President Joe Biden signed the authorization into law in October 2022. In July — after lengthy negotiations with Marfa ISD on the sale of the school — the



Daniel Hernandez, Blackwell School Alliance president.

National Park Service made it an official national park. Additional renovations will be ongoing at the site, but visitors can tour the school room and band hall to view a variety of photos and accounts that show that even though segregated, the students and staff retained a close-knit community that excelled in academics, sports and other activities.

While many talked of the countless fundraisers and preservation efforts by the alliance, Saturday’s event focused even more on what the park status means to Marfa, the school’s alumni, and our nation as a whole.

Highlights from speakers at the Blackwell event:

“Too many either don’t know or don’t remember from their history books, perhaps because it’s not in a lot of history books, what a de facto segregation looked like and felt like for the communities nationwide. They don’t realize that entire communities were targeted simply for not being white or for speaking a different language. They might not understand that this era of segregation wasn’t all that long ago, or that it happened as recently as their own family members’ lifetimes. They may not appreciate that racial discrimination didn’t disappear when the laws that upheld it were overturned.”

— Deb Haaland, U.S. Secretary of the Interior

“I have a passion for a donor — an old man that used to do a lot of yard work here in Marfa. You could tell that he was poor and he didn’t have any money. But when we had one of our hamburger fundraisers, he showed up and he and his wife ordered two hamburgers. ... He pulls out a twenty and says, ‘It’s for Blackwell.’ I said, ‘Oh my god.’ That really energized me to think that if this old man that has no money comes out of his pocket with a twenty-dollar bill, we are doing something right.”

— Joe Cabezuela, Blackwell School alumnus and first president of the Blackwell School Alliance

“I am so proud and we are so proud of this community, of this work ... that this was almost lost and the community was able to pull together, that the coalition was able to come together and make sure that this history gets told. ... That it’s left Marfa, it’s left Texas, it went to D. C. and now what we’re standing in front of is going to be a site of pilgrimage. People from all over the world will come to this site to learn about this history.”

— David Lamfrem, vice president of Regional Programs for the National Parks Conservation Association

“I think about my grandparents, Memo and Aurora, my dad’s parents, and my mom’s mama, Susana, who all attended the Blackwell School — and what it would mean to them to be standing on these grounds today, to see this special place and to know that their history is now part of the eternal story of America. This land is filled with such opportunity and the Blackwell School Alliance and everybody that came on afterwards took that opportunity. They ran with it. They lit a torch and they did not let it extinguish until they reached this ultimate goal.”

— Daniel Hernandez, Blackwell School Alliance president

“Our goal is for the Blackwell School to remain a symbol of progress in the nation’s journey towards a more inclusive historic narrative. Sites like Blackwell School allow Mexican Americans to see themselves in U. S. history, highlighting their achievements and their resilience. The park will also provide future generations with a more inclusive and comprehensive history of America.”

— Charles “Chuck” Sams, National Park Service director

“I’m sorry, I’m kind of touched, but Blackwell has a big part in my heart. Now I wasn’t lucky, since I only spent three years here, and most of all of my friends were here for eight years. But I was still part of this. And now with this national park designation, I realize I’m part of history.

— Tony Cano, Blackwell School alumnus

Presidio ISD parents encouraged to attend next week’s Title I presentation

PRESIDIO — Next week, Presidio ISD will continue hosting a series of meetings for district parents to learn about the school’s Title I status and how they can help the district thrive. The district is required to host the meeting in order to receive federal funds.

A Title I school district is a district that has been identified by the federal government to have a minimum of 40% of its students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Higher numbers of economically at-risk students qualify the district for additional funding, focused on helping underserved populations like English-language acquisition students, homeless students, students

with disabilities and children of migrant working families.

Title I funding requires that the district set aside 1% of its additional funding to engage with parents and families and enlist their help in making each school year a success. Per the Every Student Succeeds Act, signed into law by President Obama in 2015, each Title I district must “jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan.”

Part of that engagement is notifying parents of their specific rights and opportunities to be

involved in their child’s education. This involves activities like volunteering in classrooms, assisting in the writing of and execution of school policy and serving on parental advisory boards.

Parents can choose to attend one of the following meetings: Thursday, September 19 at 10 a.m. at the Lucy Rede Franco Middle School Cafeteria; Monday, September 23 and 10 a.m. in the Presidio Elementary School Conference Room; Tuesday, September 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Presidio Elementary School Cafeteria, or Thursday, September 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lucy Rede Franco Middle School Cafeteria.

Reminding Texans there is still time to register to vote

AUSTIN — In honor of National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 17, Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson reminds Texans there is still time to register to vote ahead of the November General Election.

“Texans have just a few short weeks left to register to vote, and I want to ensure all eligible Texans who want to make their voices heard are registered and prepared to do so,” Nelson said.

Eligible Texans are encouraged to make a plan for voting. Directions on how to register to vote and how to update existing voter registrations can be found at VoteTexas.Gov. Texas voters must be registered to vote at least 30 days before an upcoming election date, and voters do not have to declare a party affiliation when registering. Registered voters can check their status on the Secretary of State’s

My Voter Portal website.

To be eligible to vote, you must be:

- A United States citizen
- A resident of the county where you register
- At least 18 years old on Election Day

Important dates to remember this election season include:

- Oct. 7: Last day to register to vote

- Oct. 21: Early voting begins
- Oct. 25: Deadline to apply for ballot by mail
- Nov. 1: Early voting ends
- Nov. 5: Election Day

For official information, including registration and vote-by-mail deadlines, please visit VoteTexas.gov or call 1-800-252-VOTE.

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Asesinatos del cártel de Ojinaga

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y a la escuela, ha habido una confusión generalizada en las redes sociales sobre cuán peligrosa es la situación en Ojinaga, y en el resto del estado de Chihuahua, que ha sufrido enfrentamientos violentos desde Juárez hasta la frontera oriental. La fuerte presencia militar, incluido un helicóptero con sirenas aullando que orbita la ciudad, sirve como un recordatorio constante de la trágica serie de eventos.

El jueves pasado, el Procurador General del Estado, César Jáuregui, aseguró a los chihuahuenses que las condiciones eran lo suficientemente seguras para que todos disfrutaran de las celebraciones anuales del Día de la Independencia de México. Se canceló una celebración en el pequeño pueblo de Coyame, pero la nueva alcaldesa de Ojinaga, Lucy Marrufo Acosta, decidió seguir adelante con la conmemoración en la plaza de la ciudad.

No todos estuvieron contentos con el anuncio. “Hacemos un llamado [a la

alcaldesa] para que cancele el evento y desfile del Día de la Independencia en la Ciudad de Ojinaga debido a la incertidumbre que estamos viviendo”, suplicó un grupo anónimo de padres locales en Facebook. “Evitemos una tragedia”.

Afortunadamente, la celebración se desarrolló según lo planeado, con una multitud más pequeña de lo habitual, pero aún así entusiasta, bailando al ritmo de bandas locales.

A pesar de las muchas interrupciones en la vida diaria en la ciudad fronteriza, el puerto de entrada de Presidio ha permanecido abierto con medidas de seguridad mejoradas en el lado mexicano del puente. El estado de Chihuahua se encuentra actualmente bajo una advertencia de viaje del Departamento de Estado de EE. UU., que insta a los ciudadanos estadounidenses a “reconsiderar” viajar debido a un mayor riesgo de “crimen y secuestro”.

En una entrevista con Israel Beltrán de la

radio BM de Ojinaga, el oficial de aduanas Oscar Luis Prado Escobar dijo que la mayor interrupción fue en los cruces de ganado, que se suspendieron temporalmente la semana pasada, la primera vez en su mandato.

Prado dijo que la confusión generalizada había llevado a muchos exportadores a cerrar y a los funcionarios de aduanas a faltar al trabajo, dejando en el limbo el floreciente negocio ganadero de la zona. Le preocupaba que algunas empresas enrutaran sus exportaciones a través de Juárez. “Tanta alarma y tantas mentiras ya han dañado el mercado aquí en Ojinaga”, dijo. “Es la primera vez que nos pasa algo así y esperamos que sea la última”.

Desde la edición de la semana pasada de The Sentinel, los funcionarios estatales han podido confirmar algunos detalles que quedaron en el aire. Se han publicado los nombres de otros dos de los hombres asesinados: Lorenzo Moreno Aguilar, de 33 años; Mauricio González González, de

47 años; Jorge Luis Salas Blanco, de 33 años; Misael Peralta Longoria, de 44 años, y Ofrael Olivas Guevara.

Se cree que la violencia está relacionada con La Línea, un cártel que opera dentro del “Triángulo de Ojinaga” entre Coyame del Sotol y Manuel Benavides. El verano pasado, el jefe Sergio “El Menchaca” Pizarro fue arrestado por la Oficina de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza de los Estados Unidos mientras caminaba por la FM 170 cerca de Fort Leaton al sur de Presidio.

Desde entonces, Pizarro se declaró culpable de conspiración criminal y enfrenta cadena perpetua, así como una sentencia monetaria de \$2 millones.

La policía mexicana identificó a los hombres arrestados esta semana, aunque, como es costumbre, utilizando las iniciales para la última parte de sus nombres, como: Jairo Emanuel V. C., Francisco Javier R. G., Jesús Valentín O. M., Jesús Valentín

O. H., Felipe Salvador A. P. y Jesús Manuel R. O., todos de Durango, y César Alejandro L. M. de Parral, Chihuahua. (Si bien las autoridades aún no han establecido un vínculo explícito entre estos hombres y La Línea, Durango es el estado natal de Menchaca).

Jáuregui también reafirmó sus comentarios de la semana pasada, desmintiendo los rumores de que la violencia en el noreste de Chihuahua es una consecuencia del Cártel de Sinaloa, que actualmente libra una guerra en la capital del estado, Culiacán. En cambio, cree que la violencia en la zona fronteriza es una “purga” dentro del cártel.

Fuentes de la Procuraduría General de la República dijeron a El Heraldo de Chihuahua que los dos hombres cuyos cuerpos fueron arrojados afuera de una funeraria en Ojinaga no eran familiares de Menchaca, como han especulado algunos lugareños

Esfuerzos geotérmicos

(Continuación de la página 1)

ha reconocido en discusiones anteriores como una gran ventaja. Hereford estuvo de acuerdo y destacó el potencial binacional del proyecto. “Estamos considerando baterías y líneas de transmisión. Estamos considerando almacenar energía limpia y trasladar esa energía limpia a donde debe estar dentro de nuestra región”. Hank Habicht, cofundador y gerente de Water Finance Exchange, ex administrador adjunto de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos y fundador del Consejo Estadounidense de Energía Renovable, intervino en el debate al afirmar

que “los fundamentos aquí son excelentes... Hay muchos cruces fronterizos, como sabemos, [y] tienen muchos problemas... [Pero] el atractivo de tener un cruce fronterizo que no sea controvertido tiene mucho potencial alcista. Incluso los políticos republicanos están muy entusiasmados con el potencial del cruce de Presidio y el desarrollo económico potencial allí”.

Habicht estaba particularmente entusiasmado con las oportunidades de combinar la generación de electricidad geotérmica de Presidio con nuevas tecnologías de baterías. “Es lo correcto en lo que centrarse y hay

mucho interés en que el gobierno federal tenga una demostración de alta visibilidad”. También enfatizó la oportunidad del proyecto. “Durante varias décadas de estar involucrado en el agua y la energía”, dijo, “he observado las ideas [con] entusiasmo inicial y luego hay una especie de período de retraso. A veces la gente lo llama un “Valle de la Muerte”, donde la gente está entusiasmada, pero lleva mucho tiempo que dé frutos. Creo que la energía geotérmica ya ha pasado por ese tipo de Valle de la Muerte... y creo que ahora es un buen momento para [la energía geotérmica]”.

De cara al futuro, el Grupo de Trabajo sobre Energía Geotérmica se está preparando para la Conferencia Geotérmica en Auge en Hawái a finales de octubre. Gerfers y Kennedy asistirán a la conferencia para representar al condado de Presidio y conectarse con líderes, desarrolladores e inversores de todo el mundo. Para obtener más información sobre la próxima reunión del Grupo de Trabajo sobre Energía Geotérmica, comuníquese con John Kennedy en john@bigbend.bike.

Corte de cinta de la escuela Blackwell

(Continuación de la página 1)

“Si no fuera por la devoción de esta comunidad por proteger la historia de Blackwell, su historia podría haberse perdido en el tiempo por completo”, dijo la Secretaria del Interior de los EE. UU., Deb Haaland, en la ceremonia, que señaló que también coincide con el comienzo del Mes de la Herencia Hispana. “Afortunadamente, la designación de Blackwell y el corte de cinta de hoy fijaron su legado y sus lecciones firmemente en piedra. ... Al comenzar juntos el Mes de la Herencia Hispana, debo decirles que no hay otro lugar en el que prefiera estar que aquí en Marfa con los exalumnos de la Escuela Blackwell que hicieron posible este día”.

La celebración fue animada, con una banda de mariachis, bailarines de ballet folklórico de Marfa ISD, comida y bebida y reconocimiento a muchos de los exalumnos de la escuela presentes. Los funcionarios electos se mezclaron

con los residentes locales, ex alumnos de la escuela y decenas de guardabosques de toda la región que eran fáciles de localizar con sus uniformes verdes y marrones y sombreros de ala ancha y abovedados.

El ex alumno Joe Cabezuela le contó a la multitud cómo su simple idea de una reunión escolar en 2006 condujo a la formación de la Blackwell School Alliance y, en última instancia, al último parque nacional del país. Cabezuela dijo que los ex alumnos en ese momento se dieron cuenta de que Marfa ISD planeaba vender o derribar la escuela, que había caído en “ruinas” y necesitaba una renovación significativa. “De inmediato, todos dijimos, no hay manera de que vayan a hacer esto”, dijo. “Ese es nuestro edificio. Esa es la historia hispana en Marfa. No pueden hacer eso”.

Cabezuela y otros ex alumnos hicieron una presentación ante

la junta escolar para salvar el edificio, y él contó la reacción: “Y, el superintendente simplemente se puso de pie y dijo: 'Joe, tengo buenas noticias para ti. “Veamos si te gusta y luego puedes hacer lo que quieras”, dijo. “Te daremos un contrato de arrendamiento de un año por un dólar al año, pero tienes que demostrar algo en 25 años. Si no demuestras nada, simplemente lo recuperaremos y haremos lo que tengamos que hacer con él”.

Años de trabajo e innumerables recaudaciones de fondos por parte de la alianza llevaron al entonces representante estadounidense Will Hurd y al actual representante Tony Gonzales, junto con el senador estadounidense John Cornyn, a lograr que se aprobara una legislación para convertir la escuela en un sitio histórico nacional. El presidente Joe Biden firmó la autorización

como ley en octubre de 2022. En julio, después de largas negociaciones con Marfa ISD sobre la venta de la escuela, el Servicio de Parques Nacionales la convirtió en un parque nacional oficial. Se realizarán renovaciones adicionales en el sitio, pero los visitantes pueden recorrer el salón de la escuela y el salón de la banda para ver una variedad de fotos y relatos que muestran que, aunque estaban segregados, los estudiantes y el personal conservaron una comunidad unida que se destacó en lo académico, los deportes y otras actividades.

Aunque muchos hablaron de las i n n u m e r a b l e s recaudaciones de fondos y los esfuerzos de conservación de la alianza, el evento del sábado se centró aún más en lo que significa el estatus de parque para Marfa, los ex alumnos de la escuela y nuestra nación en su conjunto.

A continuación, se incluyen algunos puntos destacados de los oradores del evento:

“Muchos no saben o no recuerdan de sus libros de historia, tal vez porque no está en muchos libros de historia, cómo se veía y se sentía una segregación de facto para las comunidades de todo el país. No se dan cuenta de que comunidades enteras fueron atacadas simplemente por no ser blancos o por hablar un idioma diferente. Es posible que no comprendan que esta era de segregación no fue hace tanto tiempo, o que sucedió tan recientemente como la vida de sus propios familiares. Es posible que no aprecien que la discriminación racial no desapareció cuando se revocaron las leyes que la sustentaban”.

— Deb Haaland, Secretaria del Interior de EE. UU.

“Siento pasión por un donante, un anciano que solía hacer mucho trabajo de jardinería aquí en Marfa. Se notaba que era pobre y no tenía dinero. Pero cuando hicimos una de nuestras recaudaciones de fondos con hamburguesas, apareció y él y su esposa pidieron dos hamburguesas... Sacó un billete de veinte y dijo: ‘Es para Blackwell’. Yo dije: ‘Dios mío’. Eso realmente me dio energía para pensar que si este anciano que no tiene dinero saca de su bolsillo un billete de veinte dólares, estamos haciendo algo bien”.

— Joe Cabezuela, exalumno de Blackwell School y primer presidente de Blackwell School Alliance

“Estoy muy orgulloso y estamos muy orgullosos de esta comunidad, de este trabajo... que esto casi se perdió y que la comunidad pudo unirse, que la coalición pudo unirse y asegurarse de que se cuente esta historia. ... Que se fue de Marfa, se fue de Texas, fue a D.C. y ahora lo que tenemos delante va a ser un sitio de peregrinación. Personas de todo el mundo vendrán a este sitio para aprender sobre esta historia”.

— David Lamfrem, vicepresidente de Programas Regionales de la Asociación de Conservación de Parques Nacionales

“Pienso en mis abuelos, Memo y Aurora, los padres de mi papá y la mamá de mi mamá, Susana, quienes asistieron a la Escuela Blackwell, y lo que significaría para ellos estar hoy en este terreno, ver este lugar especial y saber que su historia ahora es parte de la historia eterna de Estados Unidos. Esta tierra está llena de oportunidades y la Blackwell School Alliance y todos los que vinieron después aprovecharon esa oportunidad. La aprovecharon. Encendieron una antorcha y no la dejaron apagar hasta que alcanzaron este objetivo final”.

— Daniel Hernández, presidente de la Blackwell School Alliance

“Nuestro objetivo es que la Escuela Blackwell siga siendo un símbolo de progreso en el camino de la nación hacia una narrativa histórica más inclusiva. Sitios como la Escuela Blackwell permiten a los mexicanos estadounidenses verse a sí mismos en la historia de los Estados Unidos, destacando sus logros y su resiliencia. El parque también brindará a las generaciones futuras una historia más inclusiva y completa de los Estados Unidos”.

— Charles “Chuck” Sams, director del Servicio de Parques Nacionales

“Lo siento, estoy un poco conmovido, pero Blackwell ocupa un lugar importante en mi corazón. No tuve suerte, ya que solo pasé tres años aquí, y la mayoría de mis amigos estuvieron aquí durante ocho años. Pero aun así fui parte de esto. Y ahora, con esta designación de parque nacional, me doy cuenta de que soy parte de la historia.

— Tony Cano, exalumno de la Escuela Blackwell

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POR FAVOR RECICLE ESTE PAPEL

Form 50-876

Statements required in notice if the proposed tax rate exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate but does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate, as prescribed by Tax Code §52b.00(b)-(2).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON TAX INCREASE

This notice only applies to a taxing unit other than a special taxing unit or municipality with a population of less than 30,000, regardless of whether it is a special taxing unit.

PROPOSED TAX RATE

\$.066091

per \$100

NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE

\$.063041

per \$100

VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE

\$.068133

per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Big Bend Regional Hospital District from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that Big Bend Regional Hospital District may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Big Bend Regional Hospital District is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 25, 2024 at Presidio Municipal Development District 608 O'Reilly Street, Presidio, TX 79845

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Big Bend Regional Hospital District is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Directors of Big Bend Regional Hospital District at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:
Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

FOR the proposal:
AGAINST the proposal:
PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT:

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

Form developed by: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Property Tax Assistance Division For additional copies, visit: comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homesteaded by Big Bend Regional Hospital District last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homesteaded by Big Bend Regional Hospital District this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	.066091	.066091	There is no change in the tax rate.
Average homestead taxable value	\$100,000	\$158,358	Increase of 58.358%
Tax on average homestead	\$66.10	\$104.66	Increase of \$38.56, or 58.34%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,472,795.80	\$1,585,158.20	Increase of \$112,362.40 or 7.63%

Recordando a los texanos que todavía hay tiempo para registrarse para votar

AUSTIN — En honor al Día Nacional de Registro de Votantes el 17 de septiembre, la Secretaria de Estado de Texas, Jane Nelson, recuerda a los texanos que todavía hay tiempo para registrarse para votar antes de las Elecciones Generales de noviembre.

Se anima a los texanos elegibles a hacer un plan para votar. Las

instrucciones sobre cómo registrarse para votar y cómo actualizar los registros de votantes existentes se pueden encontrar en VoteTexas. Gov. Los votantes de Texas deben estar registrados para votar al menos 30 días antes de la próxima fecha de elección, y los votantes no tienen que declarar una afiliación partidaria al registrarse. Los votantes registrados

pueden verificar su estado en el sitio web My Voter Portal de la Secretaría de Estado.

-Las fechas importantes para recordar en esta temporada electoral incluyen:

-7 de octubre: Último día para registrarse para votar

- 21 de octubre: Comienza la votación anticipada

- 25 de octubre: Fecha límite para solicitar una boleta por correo

- 1 de noviembre: Finaliza la votación anticipada

- 5 de noviembre: Día de la elección

Para obtener información oficial, incluidas las fechas límite para registrarse y votar por correo, visite VoteTexas.gov o llame al 1-800-252-VOTE.

Photo courtesy of Alex Alcantar

Presidio first responders and their families pose for photos after the commemorative annual 9/11 ruck march.

‘Marfa Garden: A Field Guide to Plants of the Chihuahuan Desert’ Set to bloom on November 5

MARFA — A field guide to more than a 100 plants of the Chihuahuan Desert Nature and gardening enthusiasts have reason to celebrate this fall as the highly anticipated edition of Marfa Garden: A Field Guide to Plants of the Chihuahuan Desert is set to hit bookshelves on November 5.

This compact field guide, a companion to the lavishly illustrated coffee table book Marfa Garden: The Wonders of Dry Desert Plants, offers readers an intimate look at more than hundred flowering plants native to North America’s largest hot desert. The guide is authored by Jim Fissel, Jim Martinez, Mary Lou Saxon and Martha

Hughes and published by Trinity University Press.

The Chihuahuan Desert, spanning northern Mexico, West Texas, and parts of New Mexico and Arizona, comes to life through stunning photography that captures plants in their year-round cycles.

Key features of the new edition include comprehensive coverage of more than 100 Chihuahuan Desert plants, photographs showcasing plants through every season, detailed botanical information for each species, practical gardening tips and USDA classifications, dedicated space for personal gardening notes and a visual appendix

with close-up botanical illustrations.

Whether you’re an everyday gardener, a naturalist, a landscape designer, or simply someone with an interest in dry gardens or the Southwest, Marfa Garden: A Field Guide to Plants of the Chihuahuan Desert promises to be an essential and joyful addition to your library. The book will be available for purchase at local bookstores and online retailers starting November 5. Paperback copies cost \$29.95.

For more information, visit tupress.org.

RD Instruction 1942-A
(Guide 19) (Attachment 1)

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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South Addition to Presidio County Medical Clinic

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of (briefly describe nature, scope, and major elements of the work) South addition to Presidio County Medical Clinic located at 1501 North Erma Ave, Presidio, TX 79845. The scope of work, without any force or effect, involves a 3,167 sq. ft. addition to an existing building. This includes new exam rooms, a nurse station, a laboratory, providers' offices, restrooms, and the expansion of the existing pharmacy.

will be received by Linda Molinar CEO

at the office of Preventative Care Health Services
1605 North Fort Davis Hwy Ste B, Alpine, TX 79830

until 2:00 PM., (Mountain Standard Time) Friday, December 6th, 2024

, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

New Republic Architects, 7100 Westwind Dr Ste 150, El Paso, Texas 79912

or Bidders can request digital PDF copies by emailing Angel Ramos at angel@nraia.com For any other inquiries, please contact him at (915) 585-7028.

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of New Republic Architects located at 7100 Westwind Dr Ste 150, El Paso, Texas 79912

upon payment of \$300.00 for each set.

(1-15-79) SPECIAL PN
RD Instruction 1942-A
(Guide 19) (Attachment 1) (Page 2)

Any BIDDER, upon returning the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS promptly and in good condition, will be refunded the payment, and any non-bidder upon so returning the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be refunded \$ 150.00 .

09/12/24
DATE

RIO GRANDE WRECKER SERVICE
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PRESIDIO, TX 79845
BUSINESS NUMBER (432) 229-3312
TDLR # 0644720VSF TDLR CERTIFICARE # 006178940C

FIRST NOTICE
Notice by Publication provided under section 2303.152 www.tdlr.texas.gov notice to owners and lienholders. This vehicle is located and can be claimed at our storage yard facility,

Year 2001, Make- Freightliner, Model- FLD132, License Plate- No Tags, State- California, Color-Red, VIN # 1FUJAPCGX1PA98297. This unit was impounded on 09-13-24 total amount owed for Unit #1 as of 09-13-24 is \$100.00. Storage accruing daily at \$20.00 + 8.25% pre day. This unit was picked up in Presidio County pre order of the Presidio Police Department, storage fees accruing daily.

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Presidio, TX 79845
Phone: (432) 229-3312

Public Notice

The Presidio County Appraisal District is seeking proposals for Financial Auditor for year ending December 2024. Any and all proposals to be submitted to the Presidio CAD office at 107 E. Texas, P O Box 879, Marfa, Texas, (432)729-3431, email cramirez@presidiocad.org. All proposals must be received by October 15, 2024. The Board of Directors of the Presidio CAD reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal.

09/12,09/19,09/26,10/03

Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with Texas Local Government Code - LOC GOV'T § 212.134 Presidio County will hold a public hearing at 10:00a.m. on September 25th, 2024, at the Presidio Municipal Development District (PMDD) 608 West O'Reilly Street, Ste D, Presidio, Tx 79845. Regarding the Presidio-Ojinaga International Bridge. The purpose of this meeting is to give citizens an opportunity to hear a presentation and then join a discussion on the future of the Presidio-Ojinaga International Bridge. Presidio County encourages citizens to participate in the development of Presidio County and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Jose Portillo, Presidio County Judge at (432) 729-4452 at Presidio County Courthouse 300 Highland St. Marfa, TX 79843. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact the Judge's Office at (432) 729-4452 Presidio County Courthouse 300 Highland St. Marfa, TX 79843 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact the Presidio County Courthouse at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Participants can join the meeting using this link via computer or mobile device:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87593472254>

Meeting ID: 875 9347 2254

Passcode:477477

Or Join by phone dial: 346-248-7799

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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

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SEEKING APPRAISAL REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Presidio County Appraisal District is in search of new Appraisal Review Board members for the 2025-2026 Appraisal year. The Appraisal Review Board is a citizen board that meets periodically to hear property owner protest that cannot be resolved administratively. If you would like to keep busy during the summer months of June-July and part of August and get paid \$150 per day then this might just be for you.

Qualifications follow:

- 1) You must currently reside in Presidio County and must have resided in Presidio County for at least the last two years.
- 2) You cannot be a current employee, officer or member of the Board of Directors of Presidio County Appraisal District.
- 3) You cannot be a current member of the governing body, an officer or an employee of a taxing unit in Presidio County. This includes part-time employment.
- 4) You cannot be a current employee of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.
- 5) Experience in law, property appraisal, or real estate preferred but not required.

PLEASE CONTACT THE PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT, 107 EAST TEXAS ST. MARFA, TEXAS 79843 (432)729-3431 OR EMAIL cramirez@presidiocad.org for an application and more information.

THANK YOU,

Cynthia Ramirez
Chief Appraiser, RPA