

BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

Presidio to pursue financing for equipment, property

City greenlights debt as opposition to county bond mounts

By Sam Karas sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — At a special meeting on Monday night, Presidio’s City Council voted to pursue certificates of obligation to fund badly-needed maintenance equipment and property investments. Per the notice published on page TK, the city intends to seek financing up to \$1.98 million for “vehicles and equipment ... for the public works department” and property acquisitions that would expand City Hall and provide a new home for Presidio’s first responders. The legal notice also includes “the payment of contractual obligations for professional services” to consultants advising on the projects.

The council’s decision to take on debt marks a shift in the way the city of Presidio views its finances. For more than a decade, the city’s books were in crisis — it took time, money and grit to correct course after a series of failed and incomplete audits.

Now that the city is back on track, local leaders have an opportunity to think outside the box. “Oddly enough, having debt in a city is not actually a bad thing — it’s not like credit card debt,” Mayor John Ferguson explained at a council meeting last week. “This is very different, and having debt actually gives us the flexibility to set our tax rate where we need it.”

Each summer, municipalities, school boards and other local governments sit down to set their budget for the upcoming year. In order to finance that budget, they must also set tax rates, which have a few moving parts: there’s a maintenance and operations rate, which governs the day-to-day ins and outs from the city’s accounts, and the interest and sinking rate, which includes debt payments.

In a city like Presidio, where money is tight, there isn’t a lot of flexibility on the maintenance and operations side. Ferguson gave the example of the EMS department’s community paramedicine program, which offers a suite of home medical services to Presidio’s most vulnerable residents. The program has proven to be an overwhelming success story, and is beloved among its clients, but required the city to put up a large chunk of change in matching funds up front. “This past year, we had obligated \$150,000 towards the program, and that was \$150,000 that came straight out of the budget for one activity,” Ferguson explained. “That kind of money — when you’re looking at the picture of our whole budget — that’s a pretty big bite.”

Monday night’s vote simply authorized City Council to formally announce that they were going to seek certificates of obligation

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Staff photo by Sam Karas / Foto del personal por Sam Karas

Tori Santos and Olivia Ortiz of Tejanas Defend Democracy spoke at last weekend’s LULAC chapter launch in Marfa. Tori Santos y Olivia Ortiz de Tejanas Defend Democracy hablaron en el lanzamiento del capítulo de LULAC el fin de semana pasado en Marfa.

LULAC celebrates Big Bend launch

By Sam Karas sam@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — On Friday night, the brand-new Big Bend chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) celebrated its launch in the community room of the Marfa Public Library. Attendees enjoyed fresh popcorn and lemonade as they swapped stories with experienced organizers hoping to lend some of their expertise to the newest generation of Latino leadership in Far West Texas.

Per the organization’s website, “The mission of the League of United Latin American Citizens is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States.”

LULAC is the oldest and biggest Latino civil rights organization in the United States and boasts over 325,000 active members. It was founded in 1929 and was originally created to serve Hispanic servicemembers returning from WWI who faced discrimination and unfair treatment on the home front. The organization serves Latinos from all ethnic backgrounds through 535 local councils scattered across the United States and Puerto Rico and has been instrumental in a number of causes from school desegregation to immigration reform.

The effort to establish a local LULAC chapter was spearheaded by Ramon Rodriguez Aranda and Hilary Scruggs Beebe, both of whom are leaders in the Presidio County Democrats. They hoped to take advantage of LULAC’s nationwide network to help connect remote Presidio County with people power across the country.

Friday night’s program began with a moving presentation by Tori Santos and Olivia Ortiz of Tejanas Defend Democracy, a “woman-led collective

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Capital Highlights

Abbott: Flooding death toll now at 135

Gov. Greg Abbott said late last week that the statewide death toll from the catastrophic flooding in the Hill Country stands at 135, and the number of persons missing has dropped to three.

The July 4 flooding began when the storm stalled over what is known as “Flash Flood Alley,” *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

The death toll in the Kerrville area now stands at 116, including 27 children and counselors who were at Camp Mystic, an all-girls camp.

Abbott has declared a state disaster in 26 counties across Central Texas, the Hill Country and South Texas, which allows those areas to seek federal aid.

The legislative special session, which began on Monday, aims to create new laws that provide relief funding, enhance disaster preparedness and streamline government responses to disasters.

Abbott said he is seeking legislation “that will make preparation for these types of events better, make response to these types of events better to make sure that we leave this disaster in a way that puts Texas in a better position going forward than we were before this devastating storm hit our state.”

Residents in the six counties already eligible for aid via the Federal Emergency Management Agency have already filed more than 2,000 applications for assistance, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

18 items on special session agenda so far

Besides dealing with the aftermath of the July 4 flooding, Abbott has called for lawmakers to redraw congressional districts in response to a notification from the Justice Department that four seats now held by Democrats might violate the law, *The News* reported.

While Republicans hope to gain seats at the expense of Democrats, some

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LULAC celebra su lanzamiento en Big Bend

Por Sam Karas sam@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — El viernes por la noche, la nueva sección de Big Bend de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos (LULAC por sus siglas en inglés) celebró su lanzamiento en la sala comunitaria de la Biblioteca Pública de Marfa. Los asistentes disfrutaron de palomitas de maíz recién hechas y limonada mientras intercambiaban historias con organizadores experimentados que esperan aportar su experiencia a la nueva generación de líderes latinos en el lejano oeste de Texas.

Según el sitio web de la organización, “La misión de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos es promover la situación económica, el nivel educativo, la influencia política, la vivienda, la salud y los derechos civiles de la población hispana de Estados Unidos”.

LULAC es la organización latina de derechos civiles más grande y antigua de Estados Unidos y cuenta con más de 325,000 miembros activos. Fue fundada en 1929 y se creó originalmente para servir a los militares hispanos que regresaban de la Primera Guerra Mundial y que sufrieron discriminación y trato injusto en el frente interno. La organización sirve a latinos de todos los orígenes étnicos a través de 535 consejos locales repartidos por Estados Unidos y Puerto Rico, y ha sido fundamental en diversas causas, desde la desegregación escolar hasta la reforma migratoria.

La iniciativa para establecer una sección local de LULAC fue liderada por Ramón Rodríguez Aranda y Hilary Scruggs Beebe, ambos líderes del Partido Demócrata del Condado de Presidio. Esperaban aprovechar la red nacional de LULAC para ayudar a conectar a las comunidades remotas del Condado de Presidio con el poder popular en todo el país.

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Aspectos destacados de la capital

Abbott: El número de muertos por las inundaciones asciende ahora a 135

El gobernador Greg Abbott anunció a finales de la semana pasada que el número de muertos a nivel estatal por las catastróficas inundaciones en la región de Hill Country asciende a 135, y que el número de personas desaparecidas se ha reducido a tres.

Las inundaciones del 4 de julio comenzaron cuando la tormenta se detuvo sobre lo que se conoce como "Flash Flood Alley", informó *The Dallas Morning News*.

El número de muertos en el área de Kerrville asciende ahora a 116, incluyendo a 27 niñas y consejeras que se encontraban en Camp Mystic, un campamento solo para niñas.

Abbott ha declarado el estado de desastre en 26 condados del centro de Texas, la región de Hill Country y el sur de Texas, lo que permite a estas áreas solicitar ayuda federal.

La sesión legislativa especial, que comenzó el lunes, busca crear nuevas leyes que proporcionen fondos de ayuda, mejoren la preparación para desastres y agilicen la respuesta del gobierno ante desastres. Abbott afirmó que busca una legislación que “mejore la preparación y la respuesta ante este tipo de eventos para asegurar que superemos este desastre de una manera que coloque a Texas en una mejor posición de cara al futuro que antes de que esta devastadora tormenta azotara nuestro estado”.

Los residentes de los seis condados que ya son elegibles para recibir ayuda a través de la Agencia Federal para el Manejo de Emergencias (FEMA por sus siglas en inglés) ya han presentado más de 2,000 solicitudes de asistencia, según el *San Antonio Express-News*.

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Presidio buscará financiamiento para equipo y propiedades

El Ayuntamiento aprueba el endeudamiento ante la creciente oposición a los bonos del condado

Por Sam Karas sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — En una reunión especial celebrada el lunes por la noche, el Ayuntamiento de Presidio votó a favor de solicitar certificados de obligación para financiar equipos de mantenimiento e inversiones inmobiliarias muy necesarias. Según el aviso publicado en la página TK, el Ayuntamiento pretende buscar financiamiento por hasta \$1.98 millones para "vehículos y equipo... para el departamento de obras públicas" y la adquisición de propiedades que ampliarían el Ayuntamiento y proporcionarían un nuevo hogar para el personal de emergencias de Presidio. El aviso legal también incluye "el pago de obligaciones contractuales por servicios profesionales" a los consultores que asesoran en los proyectos.

La decisión del ayuntamiento de endeudarse marca un cambio en la forma en que la ciudad de Presidio ve sus finanzas. Durante más de una década, las cuentas de la ciudad estuvieron en crisis; se necesitó tiempo, dinero y determinación para corregir el rumbo después de una serie de auditorías fallidas e incompletas. Ahora que la ciudad ha recuperado la estabilidad, los líderes locales tienen la oportunidad de pensar de forma innovadora. "Curiosamente, tener deudas en una ciudad no es algo malo; no es como las deudas de tarjetas de crédito", explicó el alcalde John Ferguson en una reunión del consejo la semana pasada. "Esto es muy diferente, y tener deudas nos da la flexibilidad de fijar nuestra tasa impositiva donde la necesitemos".

Cada verano, los municipios, las juntas escolares y otros gobiernos locales se reúnen para establecer su presupuesto para el año siguiente. Para financiarlo, también deben fijar las tasas impositivas, que tienen varios componentes: una tasa de mantenimiento y operaciones, que regula los ingresos diarios de las cuentas municipales, y una tasa de interés y amortización, que incluye el pago de la deuda.

En una ciudad como Presidio, donde el dinero escasea, no hay mucha flexibilidad en cuanto a mantenimiento y operaciones. Ferguson puso como ejemplo el programa de paramédicos comunitarios del departamento de servicios médicos de emergencia (EMS), que ofrece una gama de servicios médicos a domicilio a los residentes más vulnerables de Presidio. El programa ha demostrado ser un éxito rotundo y es muy apreciado por sus clientes, pero requirió que la ciudad aportara una gran cantidad de dinero en fondos de contrapartida por adelantado. "El año pasado, destinamos \$150,000 al programa, \$150,000 que salieron directamente del presupuesto para una sola actividad", explicó Ferguson. "Esa cantidad de dinero, considerando todo nuestro presupuesto, es una cantidad considerable".

La votación del lunes por la noche simplemente autorizó al Ayuntamiento a anunciar formalmente que solicitaría certificados de obligación para ciertos proyectos, pero el monto final y las compras exactas aún no se han confirmado. Las mejoras para el departamento

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LULAC

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rooted in the power of art, politics and fashion as tools of resistance,” per their social media. “We exist to protect democracy, honor our cultural legacy, and amplify Tejana voices through bold visual storytelling and unified public action.” Santos spoke about her mother’s legacy of service and activism, and Ortiz reflected on the power of protest. “They want us to believe we are the conquered, but may we always remember we are the warriors,” Ortiz said. “We are the daughters of resistance and the mothers of revolution ... we

Capital Highlights

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political experts say any alteration of the map could hurt GOP incumbents. The department raised concerns over the legality of four districts in Houston and the Dallas area that have non-white majority populations. Lawmakers also will consider regulating THC products derived from hemp after Abbott vetoed an outright ban on the products that passed during the regular session. He has also called on them to address abortion and “protecting women’s privacy in sex-segregated spaces.” Only the governor can list agenda items for a special session, which lasts 30 days. There is no limit to the number of special sessions he can call between biennial regular sessions.

Fully funding State Flood Plan would cost \$54 billion The State Flood Plan, released in December by the Texas Water Development Board, would cost the state \$54 billion if fully implemented, according to the Texas Standard. If every flood threat were eliminated, it would involve removing more than 840,000 people and 214,000 buildings from 100-year floodplains. To date, the state has committed \$669 million through the Flood Infrastructure Fund, which is approximately 1% of the total required. “That is a drop in the bucket in a lot of ways,” said Derek Boese, general manager of the San Antonio River Authority and chair of the planning group that covers 2.2 million people across 16 counties. “But it’s more than we’ve seen in the past.” The most significant chunk of the \$54 billion would go toward storm surge protection for Galveston Bay at a cost of \$24 billion. Approximately five million Texans reside in areas vulnerable to flooding. The State Flood Plan was developed in response to Hurricane Harvey in August 2017.

City debt

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for certain projects, but the final amount and exact purchases have yet to be set in stone. Upgrades for the public works department could include new dump trucks, a grappler truck and a vacuum trailer; property investments could expand the footprint of City Hall and finally seal the deal on a long-discussed move for the city’s first responders and municipal court. The final price tag for any of these investments could vary — advisor Thomas Lastrapes of Tijerina Financial Consulting provided mock-ups of a few different scenarios to city council, adjusting the potential bill if the city were to opt for used equipment instead of new or wanted to pursue plans with shorter-term payoffs. The \$1.98 million figure quoted in the legal no-

know historically that women are creators of change.” LULAC Texas State Director Gabriel Rosales had the last word and used it to reflect on his own family’s legacy of revolutionary thinking. He reminded the fledgling Latino community leaders in the room that there’s strength in numbers — nationwide, Latinos have a purchasing power greater than some countries’ economies. “If you’ve got economic power, you’ve got power,” he said. Rosales talked about the importance of leading a movement that has a

Vigilance urged after 4 children die in parked vehicles Four children have died in hot automobiles in a two-week period, and the Texas Department of State Health Services is urging vigilance. The deaths surpass the three hot car deaths recorded in all of 2024 in Texas. “The temperature inside a vehicle can rise nearly 20 degrees in 10 minutes, and heatstroke will occur when a child’s body can’t cool itself quickly enough. Children — and pets — should never be left in the car for any length of time,” DSHS Commissioner Jennifer A. Shuford said. Suffering heatstroke in a parked car is the second-leading cause of vehicle-related deaths in children under 15, behind car crashes. DSHS recommends never leaving a child alone in a vehicle, even if the car and air conditioner are running. Always check the back seat before getting out of the car and call 911 immediately if you see a child alone in a vehicle.

Court orders Uvalde officials to release shooting records A San Antonio state appeals court has ordered Uvalde County and the Uvalde school district to release records relating to the 2022 mass shooting at Robb Elementary, the Express-News reported. The records include unseen body camera footage from responding officers, radio communications, internal emails and text messages. The county and district repeatedly have denied Public Information Act requests from a coalition of local and national news outlets. In a 22-page ruling, Justice Velia Meza wrote the county and district did not provide a valid legal or factual justification for withholding public information. “Exceptions to disclosure cannot be used to justify blanket secrecy over government actions; rather, they must be specifically authorized by

place for everyone, regardless of race, gender, class, disability or sexual orientation. He urged respect for the history of civil rights struggles big and small, but cautioned against getting stuck in the past. Instead, activists needed to be ready for whatever challenges the state and federal government might throw their way. “This is the time when true courage stands up,” Rosales said. law and supported by evidence,” Meza wrote. It is unclear if the county and district plan to appeal the ruling to the Texas Supreme Court.

Big money shaping GOP statewide primaries The two open races for attorney general and comptroller are sure to bring in millions of dollars in campaign funds in the GOP primary races, The Texas Tribune noted. In the attorney general’s race, former U.S. Justice Department lawyer Aaron Reitz raised \$2.1 million in the first three weeks of his campaign. State Sen. Mayes Middleton of Galveston has kicked in \$10 million of his own money, while state Sen. Joan Huffman of Houston has \$3 million in her campaign account. In the comptroller’s race, Texas Railroad Commission Chair Christi Craddick outraised interim comptroller Kelly Hancock by almost \$1.5 million. A third contender, former state senator Don Huffines reported raising \$15 million, with two-thirds of that coming from a personal loan. Former comptroller Glenn Hegar was named chancellor of the Texas A&M University System and left his post on July 1. Hancock, a former state senator, was named acting comptroller. Attorney General Ken Paxton is not seeking reelection in order to challenge U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in the primary.

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tice is the “most expensive scenario,” but could be whittled down if the city is able to strike deals along the way. “We tend to be conservative, so that’s what our scenarios are based on,” Lastrapes explained. “You could realistically buy all of your [items] new, pay for the bonds and remain under that ‘not-to-exceed’ amount.” Council members will meet on Tuesday, September 16, to cast their final votes on the certificates of obligation. The vote will take place over the course of a regular City Council meeting, held at 6 p.m. at the Presidio Activities Center. The announcement that the city intends to take on debt comes hot on

the heels of an outcry against the county doing the same. At last week’s meeting, Council Member Fernando Juarez confirmed that a petition he’d circulated protesting the county’s intent to seek certificates of obligation for courthouse renovations and new equipment for the county’s road and bridge department had garnered enough support to trigger an election. (Details about that vote are forthcoming.) Lastrapes said that Monday night’s vote was just the first step of many. “This is just the step to issue the Notice of Intent so we can get the ball rolling for y’all,” he explained.

Viva Big Bend features new venues in 14th year

By Jennifer Pittinger
For The Big Bend Sentinel

The Big Bend Sentinel sat down on Tuesday with Stewart Ramser, the producer of Viva Big Bend, to ask him about this year’s music festival, which started yesterday and runs through Sunday. Ramser, a Fort Worth native who now lives in Austin and part time in Alpine, talked about how much the festival has grown since its humble origins 13 years ago with the first event in 2012.

What’s new and exciting this year? We’ve got a bunch of new venues this year that should provide a lot of fun — the pool at the Saint George in Marfa, Casa Agave in Presidio, The Desert Ghost Distillery and Ritchey Brothers in Marathon, Skelton’s Runway, the 5th Street Gallery and The Ritchey in Alpine and the Rendezvous in Fort Davis.

What year was your favorite year to date and why? The first year in 2012. I remember walking around that year and telling people it would still be fun but low attendance. I was surprised by the end of the week, though. People turned up in the last week and it was a huge success. Every year it just gets bigger and better.

What are you looking forward to the most this year? The reaction from the fans ... and well, Bob Schneider, who did the first festival in 2012 and is back again this year.

How do you select the bands? I have a grid of local bands and popular bands. I try to match the bands with the venues — what band fits best with the local venue. I look for bands that have fun with the crowds, that interact with festival goers.

How do you select the art for the theme or the poster? Our artist David Loyola has done several years of art for us. We have had other artists over the years, but David has done the last 4 or 5 years of art for Viva. He’s done an amazing job at capturing the spirit of Far West



Photo By Jennifer Pittinger

Stewart Ramser gets ready to shepherd the Viva Big Bend music festival again this year.

Texas in his work.

What should newbies to the festival know? There are also free shows in every town hosting events this year, for those on a budget. Everyone should be able to enjoy Viva Big Bend! Don’t forget to check out the free ukulele class with Kevin Carol at Planet Marfa on Saturday, July 26, from 2-3 p.m. For box office locations and hours please go to VivaBigBend.com for more info on tickets, venues, events and a full schedule.

Stowaway bat returns home

FORT DAVIS — On Friday, July 25, representatives from Austin Bat Refuge in Austin, Texas, will be on-site at McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis, Texas, to release a big free-tailed bat back into the wild. Named Hubble after the famous astronomer, he is thought to have accidentally hitched a ride from the observatory to Austin in some astronomy gear. Big free-tailed bats do not live in Central Texas but are a common sight in the Big Bend region, where the observatory is located.

Hubble was found, with thumb claws worn down to the nub, in UT Austin’s Physics, Math, and Astronomy Building in November 2024. From there, he was taken to Austin Bat Refuge, where he was nursed back to health. Now that his thumb claws have regrown — and he has been cleared for travel by the Texas Department of State Health Services — representatives from the nonprofit will return him to his native habitat. The bat release will take place

during one of McDonald Observatory’s evening Star Parties, which feature constellation tours and telescope viewings. When it’s time for Hubble to return to the sky — anticipated around 10:30 p.m. — his handlers will choose a place with a clear pathway for flight that allows him to avoid any crowds. Bat experts will be available to answer any questions about Hubble and other big free-tailed bats. Tickets for the July 25 Star Party are sold out.



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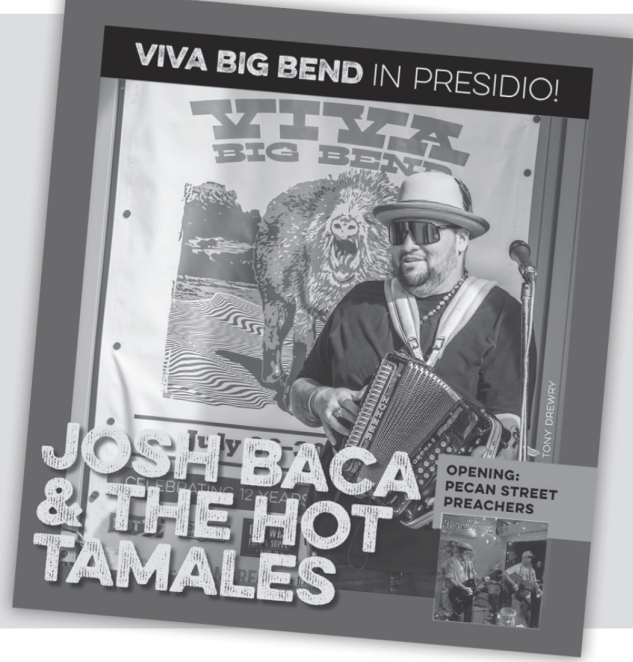
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‘Blackwell Blueprint’ to drive growth for Blackwell School

MARFA — The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is proud to unveil a brand-new “Blackwell Blueprint,” in partnership with the Blackwell School Alliance and Visit Marfa. This groundbreaking plan sets the stage for the future of Blackwell School National Historic Site in Marfa, which is the second national park site in the country dedicated to contemporary Latino history. NPCA, the Blackwell School Alliance, and Visit Marfa celebrated this visionary new plan at a community gathering at the historic USO Building in Marfa on Friday, July 19.

The Blackwell Blueprint is the product of community collaboration, informed by a three-day workshop at Blackwell School in October 2024. The purpose of this workshop was to engage in discussions with architects, planners, historians and community members about enhancing the necessary visitor improvements while using this new national park to advance important community development goals. About 40 people from Marfa and throughout Texas participated in the workshop in person at Blackwell School. In addition, the project team conducted more than two dozen interviews to capture all the ideas people were willing to offer. Visitors to the national historic site also happened by during the workshop — including several Blackwell alumni — and offered their ideas, experiences and thoughts.

The Blackwell Blueprint identifies park needs and offers key recommendations that will help this new national park site and the community thrive together, as well as an action plan for how to make those recommendations a reality. Some key findings include (but are not limited to):

- There is a need to “create a sense of place,” for park visitors to Blackwell. To accomplish this, the community must work with the National Park Service to repair, restore, and interpret the Blackwell School building, grounds and campus. This includes fortifying the existing original 1909 schoolhouse as well as designing new signage, walkways and interpretive displays that tell more stories on the playground or other school grounds.
- Most urgently, Blackwell School National Historic Site needs full-time National Park Service staff, a fair budget, and more resources. Without more federal resources, Blackwell will not be able to connect visitors to Latino history in Texas and across the country, and many priceless stories could be lost forever.
- Blackwell School history is closely intertwined with Latino history



Drawing courtesy of the National Park Service

An architectural rendering shows how Blackwell School Improvements could look.

and culture in Marfa, a booming tourist destination in West Texas that forms the gateway to Big Bend National Park. The Blackwell Blueprint recommends steps to better connect downtown Marfa’s vibrant arts district, local hotels, and other points of interest to Blackwell. This could include new bike paths, signage, and partnership opportunities.

The report also includes high-resolution imagery, from architectural renderings of what improvements could look like at this park site to detailed maps and diagrams of the town of Marfa.

In communities across the Southwest, school districts once enforced “de facto segregation,” forcing Mexican American children to attend separate schools from their white peers. The Blackwell School was one such institution. Mexican American children at Blackwell were given outdated textbooks and shoddy equipment and in many cases were punished for speaking in their native language.

But despite those painful memories, many Blackwell alumni retain a mix of positive and negative sentiment for their experiences at the school.

Many former students proudly recall their time in the marching band and on the football team, viewing the school as a flawed institution that nonetheless had a powerful impact on their lives.

That’s why in 2006, alumni rallied to save Blackwell School from possible destruction. They founded the Blackwell School Alliance, arranging for the school to be turned into a local museum and landmark. Beginning in 2018, the Alliance partnered with the National Parks Conservation Association for a public, grassroots campaign to obtain National Park Service protection and recognition for the school.

Following extensive advocacy by the Blackwell School Alliance, NPCA, and park advocates in Texas and around the country, President Biden signed the Blackwell School National Historic Site Act into law in 2022. This bipartisan bill was originally introduced by former Congressmen Will Hurd and Filemón Vela of Texas. Rep. Tony Gonzales, Sen. John Cornyn of Texas and Sen. Alex Padilla of California brought the bill across the finish line. The park was formally dedicated in 2024, with a special ribbon cutting presided over by then-Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland.

Cristóbal López, Texas field representative for the National Parks Conservation Association, said: “The Blackwell Blueprint was a true labor of love. Together, we listened to Blackwell alumni, hearing their stories of hardship, discrimination, hope, and resolve. Our project team spent days poring over city documents, meeting with architects, planners, and historians. We were united under the common cause of protecting and interpreting Latino history for generations to come. We are grateful to everyone who raised their hand to help create this visionary plan for the little park that could, the Blackwell National Historic Site.”

“In order to fulfill our mission, enact the blueprint’s recommendations and build a better Blackwell together, we are going to need people,” Lopez continued. “Since January, the Trump administration has taken steps to gut the National Park Service, freezing funding and discarding its talented staff. In the last seven months, nearly one in four National Park Service staff have departed the agency under duress. This is completely unacceptable. We need these talented staff and these invaluable resources to protect our parks, and in the case of Blackwell, help this park thrive. The Blackwell Blueprint is a rallying cry for the Park Service, one we hope that the administration takes to heart. Support the Park Service, and help our country’s national parks flourish for future generations.”

Murciélago polizón regresa a casa

FORT DAVIS — El viernes 25 de julio, representantes del Refugio de Murciélagos de Austin, Texas, estarán en el Observatorio McDonald de Fort Davis, Texas, para liberar a un gran murciélago de cola de ratón. Llamado Hubble en honor al famoso astrónomo, se cree que viajó accidentalmente del observatorio a Austin con equipo astronómico. Los murciélagos de cola de ratón grandes no viven en el centro de Texas, pero son comunes en la región de Big Bend, donde se ubica el observatorio.

Hubble fue encontrado, con las garras de sus pulgares desgastadas hasta la punta, en el Edificio de Física, Matemáticas y Astronomía de la Universidad de Texas en Austin en noviembre de 2024. Desde allí, fue trasladado al Refugio de Murciélagos de Austin, donde fue atendido hasta que recuperó la salud. Ahora que sus gar-

ras han vuelto a crecer y el Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Estado de Texas le ha dado autorización para viajar, representantes de la organización sin fines de lucro lo devolverán a su hábitat natural.

La liberación del murciélago tendrá lugar durante una de las Fiestas de las Estrellas vespertinas del Observatorio McDonald, que incluyen visitas a las constelaciones y observaciones con telescopios. Cuando llegue el momento de que el Hubble regrese al cielo, previsto para las 22:30, sus cuidadores elegirán un lugar con una vía despejada para su vuelo, evitando las aglomeraciones. Expertos en murciélagos estarán disponibles para responder cualquier pregunta sobre el Hubble y otros murciélagos grandes de cola libre. Las entradas para la Fiesta de las Estrellas del 25 de julio están agotadas.

CBP makes more port-of-entry busts

Officers stop internal carrier smuggling fentanyl

EL PASO — U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers working at the Bridge of the Americas international port of entry seized 132.4 grams of fentanyl July 18. The drugs were concealed in the rectum of a 56-year-old male U.S. citizen.

“Smuggling fentanyl internally is exceptionally dangerous, and we would advise anyone considering this to think twice and not risk their life or liberty,” said CBP El Paso Port Director Ray Provencio. “CBP has multiple layers of enforcement to identify and stop these smuggling attempts.”

The seizure was made shortly before 4 a.m. when the man presented himself for inspection at the BOTA pedestrian area. A CBP canine officer performing a sweep of arriving people received a positive alert for the presence of narcotics when his dog searched the man.

An initial exam indicated that the man could be concealing drugs internally. The man was transported to

a local medical facility for an exam, which confirmed the presence of foreign objects in his rectum.

About 90 minutes after the confirmation, the man passed two condom-wrapped bundles. One contained a white powder which tested positive for fentanyl. The weight was 81.6 grams. A second bundle contained blue pills which also tested positive for fentanyl. The weight was 50.8 grams.

CBP officers arrested the driver. He was turned over to Homeland Security Investigations to face charges associated with the failed smuggling attempt.

Officers seize cocaine load at Ysleta port

YSLETA — U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers working at the Ysleta international port of entry seized 42 pounds of cocaine July 20. The drugs were concealed in a vehicle being driven by a 21-year-old female U.S. citizen.

“Homeland security is our primary

mission; but the tools and techniques we employ often help us stop drug smugglers in their tracks,” said CBP Ysleta Port Director Arnie Gomez. “This is yet another example of how the work performed by CBP helps keep our communities safe.”

The seizure was made shortly before 4 p.m. when a 2001 Ford Explorer with a single female occupant arrived from Mexico. CBP officers selected the vehicle for a secondary exam after a low energy portal scan identified anomalies in the appearance of the SUV.

A CBP drug sniffing dog searched the vehicle and alerted the officers to the presence of narcotics. CBP officers continued their exam and located a hidden compartment below the rear seat containing 10 bundles. The contents of the packages tested positive for cocaine.

CBP officers arrested the driver. She was turned over to Homeland Security Investigations to face charges associated with the failed smuggling attempt.

RIO GRANDE WRECKER SERVICE
406 E. COMMERCE ST.
PO BOX 628
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 2024, Make- Volkswagen, Model- Jetta, License Plate- A625A0, State- Missouri, Color-Black, VIN # 3VW5M7BU2RM003010. This unit was impounded on 07-16-25 total amount owed for Unit #1 as of 07-16-25 is \$636.00. 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.

Year 2006, Make- Yamaha, Model- TT-R230, License Plate- No Tags, State- Unknown, Color-Blue, VIN # 9C6CG19Y260010618. This unit was impounded on 07-17-25 total amount owed for Unit #2 as of 07-17-25 is \$150.00. 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.

Year 2021, Make- Yamaha, Model- YZ125, License Plate- No Tags, State- Unknown, Color-Blue, VIN # JYACE16C-3MA045645. This unit was impounded on 07-12-25 total amount owed for Unit #3 as of 07-12-25 is \$636.00. 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.

Year 2007, Make- Honda, Model- CRF230F, License Plate- No Tags, State- Unknown, Color-Red, VIN # 9C2ME09057R005345. This unit was impounded on 07-17-25 total amount owed for Unit #4 as of 07-17-25 is \$150.00. 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.

Rio Grande Wrecker Service
Osvaldo Acosta
406 E. Commerce St.
Presidio, TX 79845
Phone: (432) 229-3312

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION

NOTICE is hereby given that it is the intention of the City Council of the City of Presidio, Texas (the “City”) to adopt one or more ordinances providing for the issuance of one or more series of interest-bearing Certificates of Obligation of the City to be designated and known as the “CITY OF PRESIDIO, TEXAS CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION, SERIES 2025” (the “Certificates”) for the purpose of providing for the payment of contractual obligations to be incurred for the design, planning, acquisition, equipping, construction, and renovation of public property, and designated infrastructure and for other public purposes specifically being (1) vehicles and equipment including trash trucks, dump truck, grapple truck, a vacuum trailer, a backhoe, and a jetter trailer for the public works department; (2) property for expansion of existing City Hall; (3) purchase of property and land for first responders/public safety facility; and (4) the payment of contractual obligations for professional services in connection with such projects (including, but not limited to, financial advisory, legal, architectural, and engineering). The City Council tentatively proposes to authorize the issuance of the Certificates at its regular meeting place at the Presidio Activity Center, 1200 East O’Reilly Street, Presidio, Texas, at a Regular Meeting of the City Council to be commenced at 6:00 p.m., on the 16th day of September, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$1,980,000. The City Council proposes to provide for payment of the Certificates from a pledge of an annual ad valorem tax, as well as an additional limited pledge of \$1,000 of the surplus revenues of the City’s waterworks and sewer system. The Certificates are to be issued, and this notice is given, pursuant to Section 271.041, *et seq.*, Texas Local Government Code.

In accordance with the provisions of Subchapter C of Chapter 271, Texas Local Government Code, as amended (“Chapter 271”), the following information has been provided by the City. The principal of all outstanding debt obligations of the City is \$2,455,000, the combined principal and interest required to pay all currently outstanding debt obligations of the City on time and in full is \$3,269,838, the estimated combined principal and interest required to pay the Certificates on time and in full is \$2,802,800, the estimated interest rate for the Certificates is 5.00% and the maximum maturity date of the Certificates will not exceed the maximum allowed by law. Market conditions affecting interest rates vary based on a number of factors beyond the control of the City, and the City cannot and does not guarantee a particular interest rate associated with the Certificates.

/s/ John Ferguson
Mayor, City of Presidio, Texas

PCHS - Now Hiring

Full /Part Time

Sterilization Tech, Dental Hygienist, Dental Assistant

For our Presidio location:
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JOB OPENING

The Presidio County Appraisal District is seeking a full-time Data Processor Clerk for our Marfa office. Bi-lingual preferred. Must be able to work M-F, 8:00 am- 5:00 pm. High School/GED required. Please submit applications/resume to the Presidio CAD Office, P O Box 879, Marfa, Texas 79843 or by email cramirez@presidiocad.org . . All applications must be submitted by August 1, 2025 . The Presidio CAD is an equal opportunity employer.

07/03,07/10,07/17,07/24-2025

The
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EI

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