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BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

News in brief

ICE facility set to reopen near Pecos in October

On August 15, the Washington Post took a deep dive into Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) plans to double immigrant detention space after lawmakers approved an unprecedented budget boost for the agency in July as part of President Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill" — "the largest investment in detention in deportation in U.S. history," according to the American Immigration Council.

$45 billion was set aside specifically for detention centers. The Reeves County Detention Facility outside Pecos is the largest detention center on the Post's list, with a capacity of 3,700 single adults and 2,000 in the Reeves Family Facility.

The Reeves County Detention Center lost its federal contract in 2021, after its operator Geo Group "struggled to maintain adequate staff, leading to substandard medical care and inmate riots," the Post reported.

That year, CBS 7 in Midland-Odessa reported on the closing of the facility and included remarks from former Reeves County Judge Leo Hung, who opposed the closure and faced numerous headaches in figuring out where to transfer remaining detainees and staff. "We do not believe that Reeves County has failed to provide adequate care to inmates under its contractual obligations," he said in a statement. "Naturally, we are disappointed that despite our best efforts, the BOP has seen fit to close this facility."

The Reeves County facility has a checkered past and has made national headlines for inmate riots and deaths. In 2013, progressive watchdog Mother Jones ranked the facility in its list of "America's 10 Worst Prisons". They highlighted the case of Jesus Manuel Galindo, a 32-year-old detainee with epilepsy who was repeatedly denied seizure medication in favor of Tylenol and whose corpse was allegedly carried out of the facility in a garbage bag, sparking "the first of several riots in which detainees took hostages and set fire to parts of the mammoth detention complex," Mother Jones reported.

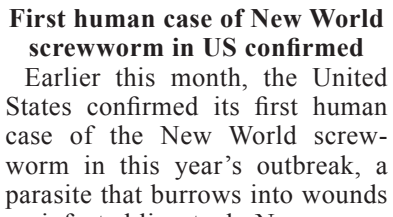
First human case of New World screwworm in US confirmed

Earlier this month, the United States confirmed its first human case of the New World screwworm in this year's outbreak, a parasite that burrows into wounds on infected livestock. News agencies around the country officially broke the story on Monday, but the case had been internally confirmed by the Center for Disease Control on August 4. "The risk to public health in the United States from this introduction is very low," federal Health and Human Services spokesperson Andrew G. Nixon assured in a statement.

This month's case is United States' first confirmed detection of the parasite in decades — and the country's first-ever travel-associated case, affecting a patient who had recently traveled to El Salvador.

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West Texan Media Group, LLC





Photos by Hannah Gentiles / Fotos de Hannah Gentiles

Tuesday evening, the Presidio County Historical Commission held a ceremony unveiling a marker dedicated to the indigenous people of La Junta, where the Rio Conchos and Rio Grande meet. In a moving speech, PCHC President Arian Velázquez-Ornelas spoke to the power of a place that has supported diverse cultures for thousands of years. "Just as the rivers converge, so too have the paths of many tribes intersected at this vital crossroads," she said.

El martes por la noche, la junta celebró una ceremonia para develar un monumento dedicado a los indígenas de La Junta de los Ríos (representada aquí). En un emotivo discurso, la presidenta de la PCHC, Arian Velázquez-Ornelas, destacó el poder de un lugar que ha albergado diversas culturas durante miles de años. "Así como los ríos convergen, también los caminos de muchas tribus se han cruzado en esta encrucijada vital", declaró.

Presidio City Council appoints temporary PMDD members amidst board turnover

By Sam Karas
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PRESIDIO — On Monday afternoon, the Presidio City Council appointed two members from within its ranks to serve 60-day temporary terms on the Presidio Municipal Development District (PMDD). Mayor Pro Tempore Christian Montoya and Councilmember Bianca Martinez Bailon will help the taxing entity fulfill a quorum for the next two months after former Board President Patricia Runyan and Treasurer Juanita Bishop were abruptly removed from the board at last week's meeting without discussion or explanation.

Last Wednesday morning, PMDD Executive Director John Kennedy addressed county officials during the public comment section of last week's commissioners court meeting. The week prior, he alleged that Bishop, her husband and a Presidio County Sheriff's Office deputy entered the PMDD office without board authorization and he would be pursuing legal action. (Bishop, reached by phone that morning, said she had entered the office

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El Ayuntamiento de Presidio nombra a miembros temporales del PMDD en medio de la rotación de la junta

Por Sam Karas
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PRESIDIO — El lunes por la tarde, el Ayuntamiento de Presidio nombró a dos miembros de su propio equipo para cumplir mandatos temporales de 60 días en el Distrito de Desarrollo Municipal de Presidio (PMDD). El alcalde pro tempore, Christian Montoya, y la concejala Bianca Martínez Bailón ayudarán a la entidad tributaria a cumplir con el quórum durante los próximos dos meses, después de que la expresidenta de la junta, Patricia Runyan, y la tesorera, Juanita Bishop, fueran destituidas abruptamente de la junta en la reunión de la semana pasada sin discusión ni explicación.

El miércoles por la mañana, el director ejecutivo del PMDD, John Kennedy, se dirigió a los funcionarios del condado durante la sección de comentarios públicos de la reunión del tribunal de comisionados de la semana pasada. La semana anterior, alegó que Bishop, su esposo y un agente de

(Continúa en la página 3)

Local rancher's human smuggling conviction upheld by appeals court

By Sam Karas
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NEW ORLEANS — On August 14, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the district court's ruling USA v. Larremore, a human smuggling case involving an Alpine-area rancher. "We find no Fourth Amendment violation and accordingly affirm," the majority opinion reads.

James Larremore was arrested on Highway 385 north of Marathon on the afternoon of July 9, 2023, after he was stopped by Brewster County Sheriff's Office Deputy Christopher Colona. Colona testified before the lower court that he was on high alert during a Border Patrol shift change — a small early-afternoon window of time used by savvy smugglers. The deputy never activated his emergency lights, but dashcam footage revealed that he reached speeds of up to 93 miles an hour to catch up with Larremore.

Deputy Colona noticed an open container of alcohol in the cab but didn't acknowledge it right away. Instead, he asked Larremore to "hang on a sec" while he took a look around the trailer. Colona eventually discovered three undocumented immigrants in the trailer's locked tack compartment after

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Tribunal de apelaciones confirma condena por tráfico de personas de ganadero local

Por Sam Karas
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NUEVA ORLEÁNS — El 14 de agosto, el Tribunal de Apelaciones del Quinto Circuito confirmó el fallo del tribunal de distrito en el caso USA v. Larremore, un caso de tráfico de personas que involucra a un ganadero de la zona alpina. "No encontramos ninguna violación de la Cuarta Enmienda y, en consecuencia, confirmamos", dice la opinión mayoritaria.

James Larremore fue arrestado en la carretera 385 al norte de Marathon la tarde del 9 de julio de 2023, tras ser detenido por el agente de la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Brewster, Christopher Colona. Colona testificó ante el tribunal inferior que se encontraba en alerta máxima durante un cambio de turno de la Patrulla Fronteriza, un breve lapso de tiempo al principio de la tarde utilizado por los contrabandistas astutos. El agente nunca activó las luces de emergencia, pero las imágenes de la cámara del tablero revelaron

(Continúa en la página 3)

Noticias breves

Centro de Detención del ICE reabrirá cerca de Pecos en octubre

El 15 de agosto, el Washington Post analizó en profundidad los planes del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE por sus siglas en inglés) para duplicar el espacio de detención de inmigrantes, después de que los legisladores aprobaran en julio un aumento presupuestario sin precedentes para la agencia como parte de la "Gran y Hermosa Ley" del presidente Trump, "la mayor inversión en detención y deportación en la historia de Estados Unidos", según el Consejo Americano de Inmigración.

Se destinaron 45 000 millones de dólares específicamente para centros de detención. El Centro de Detención del Condado de Reeves, ubicado en las afueras de Pecos, es el más grande de la lista del Post, con capacidad para 3700 adultos solteros y 2000 en el Centro Familiar Reeves.

El Centro de Detención del Condado de Reeves perdió su contrato federal en 2021, después de que su operador, Geo Group, "tuviera dificultades para mantener el personal adecuado, lo que provocó una atención médica deficiente y disturbios entre los reclusos", informó el Post.

Ese año, CBS 7 en Midland-Odessa informó sobre el cierre del centro e incluyó comentarios del exjuez del condado de Reeves, Leo Hung, quien se opuso al cierre y enfrentó numerosos problemas para determinar a dónde trasladar a los detenidos y al personal restantes. "No creemos que el condado de Reeves haya incumplido con sus obligaciones contractuales al brindar la atención adecuada a los reclusos", declaró en un comunicado. "Naturalmente, nos decepciona que, a pesar de nuestros mejores esfuerzos, la Oficina de Prisiones haya considerado oportuno cerrar este centro".

El centro del condado de Reeves tiene un pasado turbulento y ha sido noticia nacional por los disturbios y las muertes de reclusos. En 2013, la organización progresista de vigilancia Mother Jones lo incluyó en su lista de las "10 peores prisiones de Estados Unidos". Destacaron el caso de Jesús Manuel Galindo, un detenido de 32 años con epilepsia, a quien se le negaron repetidamente medicamentos anticonvulsivos en favor de Tylenol, y cuyo cadáver fue presuntamente sacado del centro en una bolsa de basura, lo que desencadenó "el primero de varios disturbios en los que los detenidos tomaron rehenes e incendiaron partes del gigantesco complejo de detención", informó Mother Jones.

Se confirma el primer caso humano de gusano barrenador del Nuevo Mundo en EE. UU.

A principios de este mes, Estados Unidos confirmó su primer caso humano de gusano barrenador del Nuevo Mundo en el brote de este año, un parásito que se introduce en las heridas del ganado infectado. Las agencias de noticias de todo el país informaron oficialmente la noticia el lunes, pero el caso había sido confirmado internamente por los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades el 4 de agosto. "El riesgo para la salud pública en Estados Unidos por esta introducción es muy bajo", aseguró el portavoz federal de Salud y Servicios Humanos, Andrew G. Nixon, en un comunicado.

El caso de este mes representa la primera detección confirmada del parásito en Estados Unidos en décadas, y el primer caso asociado a

(Continúa en la página 3)

PMDD

(Continued from page 1)

with a key to grab materials she needed to meet a looming budget deadline.)

In a formal letter shared with the *The Big Bend Sentinel*, Kennedy said that Bishop's conduct "raise[d] serious legal and ethical concerns including but not limited to abuse of authority under color of official capacity, potential civil rights violations, breach of fiduciary duty and violation of PMDD governance norms [and] unlawful entry and/or trespass by third parties under the direction of an elected official." (Bishop declined to comment further for this week's issue because she was in the process of retaining legal counsel.)

PMDD is a taxing entity that skims a small percentage of sales tax off purchases made in Presidio with the goal of boosting local economic development. The laws governing its structure is laid out in the Texas Local Government Code. The PMDD board has seen a lot of shakeups over the past few years. It was almost completely reorganized after controversy over board leadership at the beginning of 2023 and has suffered numerous abrupt resignations since then.

Kennedy got involved with the board in an advisory role in 2024 before taking the reins as executive director, a paid position. In addition to proposing green infrastructure goals for the city, he's helped to spearhead a project that could bring a geothermal power plant to Presidio — "the most significant economic development opportunity in the region's modern history," he wrote in a press release for *The Sentinel* in May.

In this week's editorial section, former PMDD President Patricia Runyan outlines a number of her concerns, including serious allegations of nepotism, corruption and improper use of taxpayer funds. (Kennedy's response is also included on page 5. "This past week [Juanita] Bishop and I were simply trying to do the necessary work of oversight and proper financial management," Runyan wrote. "In no manner did we ever challenge Mr. Kennedy about his actions in such a way as to justify his subsequent behavior towards Judge Bishop and myself."

At Monday's meeting, Kennedy explained that rebuilding the board to fulfill quorum requirements couldn't wait — the board was in the middle of finalizing agreements for the geothermal project. "I think we all agree that it's very important that we get the right people on this board," he said.

Montoya and Bailon will serve for 60 days to keep board business moving along, at which point they can choose to apply to fill one of the three seats with unexpired terms. The city will be seeking applicants from the greater community. Interested applicants must be a resident of the City of Presidio for at least six months and must be eligible to vote.

News in brief

(Continued from page 1)

Ports along the southern border have been closed to cattle importation because of the spread of the parasite, which has been detected within a few hundred miles of the border. On August 15, Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins announced that the department would spend up to $750 million to build a facility in Texas that produces sterile flies to slow the spread of the disease. The USDA "estimated that 500 million flies must be released weekly to push screwworm back south in Latin America," per Reuters.

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Redistricting bill heads to Abbott's desk

Both the Texas House and Senate have passed a mid-decade redistricting bill that positions the GOP to pick up five additional congressional seats next year. Passage came after House Democrats ended their quorum-breaking walkout while still vowing to pursue a legal challenge.

The bill dismantles Democratic strongholds around Houston, Austin and Dallas and increases Republican challenges of also picking up seats in South Texas, *The Texas Tribune* reported.

In response, California lawmakers seeking to counter Texas' redistricting move have approved a special election for their voters to consider a new congressional map that would likely add five Democratic seats in California.

"This fight is far from over," Rep. Gene Wu of Houston, chair of the House Democratic Caucus, said after the map's passage in that chamber. "Our best shot is in the courts. This part of the fight is over, but it is merely the first chapter."

Roy joins crowded race to replace Paxton

U.S. Rep. Chip Roy, a fiscal conservative often critical of President Trump and his fellow Republicans, has entered the race to replace Ken Paxton as Texas attorney general, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

"Texas is under assault – from open-border, radical leftists, and faceless foreign corporations that threaten our sovereignty, safety, and our way of life," Roy wrote. "It's time to draw a line in the sand."

Roy, R-Austin, is in his fourth term in Congress. He joins several other Republican candidates, including state sens. Joan Huffman of Houston and Mayes Middleton of Galveston, as well as Aaron Reitz, a former deputy attorney general under Paxton. Democrats who have announced plans to run include state Sen. Nathan Johnson of Dallas and former Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski, who ran unsuccessfully for the post in 2022.

Paxton has announced plans to challenge incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in the March 2026 GOP primary.

House passes six bills providing flood disaster relief

The Texas House passed six bills last week aimed at addressing disaster relief, emergency communications systems and preparedness. The bills are in response to the catastrophic Hill Country floods over the July 4th weekend. At least 137 people were killed, primarily in Kerr County, including 27 children and staffers from Camp Mystic on the banks of the Guadalupe River.

The Dallas Morning News reported the measures include a requirement that youth camps develop emergency management plans and submit them to the state. Legislation also calls for establishing the Texas Interoperability Council, which would create structure and grant programs for multiple agencies to communicate and coordinate on single disasters. That would include hurricanes and mass shootings.

One of the bill's sponsors, state Rep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, spoke surrounded by a bipartisan group of lawmakers.

"When I speak on this bill, for this bill, I hope I'm not just speaking for myself, but for the lost children, the grieving families who have called us, met with us and shared their heartbreak and grief with us," Darby said.

Former speaker Dade Phelan won't seek reelection

Former Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, announced he would not seek reelection following a failed intra-party attempt to defeat him in the 2024 election and his subsequent stepping down as speaker. The *Houston Chronicle* reported Phelan served his district since 2015 and assumed the speakership in 2021.

In a statement, Phelan wrote on Facebook that "leading the House required tough choices, but I sought to chart a course inspired by the values we share in Southeast Texas. Looking ahead I will seek God's path in mapping out my next chapter."

Both Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Paxton backed Phelan's primary opponent in 2024, following Paxton's impeachment in the House while Phelan was speaker. Paxton was acquitted in the Senate. His successor as speaker, state Rep. Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, praised him.

"Dade is more than a colleague — He is a treasure to Southeast Texas, to the Texas House, and to the great Lone Star State," Burrows said on social media.

Judge blocks law requiring Ten Commandments in classrooms

A San Antonio federal judge has temporarily blocked a Texas law that would require public schools to post the Ten Commandments in every classroom, the *Chronicle* reported. The suit was filed by a group of families who claimed the posting would potentially harm their children's religious development.

"Ultimately, in matters of conscience, faith, beliefs and the soul, most people are Garbo-esque," U.S. District Judge Fred Biery wrote, referencing a line from actress Greta Garbo in a 1932 movie. "They just want to be left alone, neither proselytized nor ostracized, including what occurs to their children in government-run schools."

Paxton, whose office represented most of the school districts named in the suit, said he planned to appeal the ruling.

"The Ten Commandments are a cornerstone of our moral and legal heritage, and their presence in classrooms serves as a reminder of the values that guide responsible citizenship," Paxton said in a statement.



Audit finds problems with winterizing energy grid

A new report from the State Auditor's Office concludes that state oil and gas inspectors are not doing their job to adequately verify that Texas natural gas producers and their delivery systems can hold up under severe winter storms, according to the *Texas Standard*.

Since Winter Storm Uri in 2021 left much of the state's power grid paralyzed, the Railroad Commission has been tasked by law with ensuring all parts of the gas supply chain to power plants can operate adequately in severe winter weather. However, the audit concluded that current rules allow gas companies to decide for themselves what is considered adequate winterization. Of 8,732 inspections conducted by the RRC in the 2024 and 2025 winter seasons, only two violations were issued.

"The Commission stated that it relies on facility operators to determine which weatherization measures are needed and whether those measures are sufficient for that facility," auditors found. "It did not compare facilities' actual weatherization methods to the Commission's best practices."

The commission contends the low number of violations reflects the "successful implementation" of the legislation passed after Uri.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

Comptroller of Public Accounts FORM 50-196 (10-11/4)

Notice of Public Hearing on PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DIST. Budget

The PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2026 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on SEPT. 11, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. at PRESIDIO CAD OFFICE, located at 107 E TEXAS ST., MARFA, TEXAS 79843. A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget.	$ 688,655.00
The total amount of increase over the current year's budget.	$ 32,532.00
The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget.	5
The number of employees compensated under the current budget.	6

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities and towns served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office located at 107 E. TEXAS ST., MARFA, TEXAS 79843.

The phone number of the PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT is: 432-729-3431.
The address is: 107 E TEXAS ST., MARFA, TEXAS 79843.

NOTICE OF SEALED BID FOR SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

The City of Presidio, Texas (the "City") is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of the following tract of real property (the "Property"), for commercial development as further described in this Notice of Bid Opening, including the City's special desired considerations:

800 Block of O'Reilly Tract:

Property located at 800 West O'Reilly Street being vacant land consisting of 3.21 acres, more or less, being all of lots 11 and 12, Block 2, Russell Addition; and Tracts 4 and 15, Out Block No. 7, City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas.

On behalf of the City the property was appraised by Ms. Janna Stubbs, P.O. Box 2091, Alpine, Texas 79831. On November 7, 2023, Ms. Stubbs issued an appraisal wherein she found that the market value of the "land only" is $460,000.00. A copy of the full appraisal is available at the Presidio City Hall. For the purposes of this Notice the appraised value meets the statutory requirements of "Fair Market Value" as set forth in the Texas Local Government Code.

The sale of the Property shall be awarded, at the discretion of the City Council, to the bidder submitting a bid in accordance with the terms outlined below and providing the best value to the City.

It is the intention of the City to sell the Property based on the best value bid that is submitted. If, in the judgment of the City Council, the bids submitted do not represent the fair market value of the Property, the Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Should any bid be accepted, within two weeks of an award to a Buyer, the Buyer and the City shall execute a purchase and sale agreement and select a mutually agreed upon title company. Upon execution of the purchase and sale agreement and selection of the title company, Buyer shall deposit $5,000 of earnest money in escrow with the title company within three (3) days of execution of the purchase and sale agreement.

Part of the consideration of "Best Value Bid" will include a description of the intended use of the property along with a timeline for the planned development. In making any award, the City will weigh the bid price along with development plans. Greater weight will be given to any Bidder who is willing to enter into a Development Agreement with the City of Presidio covering the development of the property, including a performance agreement with employment metrics.

Provisions of the sale of the Property shall include:

1. For the purchase of the real property in "as is" condition;

2. For the conveyance of the Property by special warranty deed;

3. For the Buyer to pay all fees, and costs associated with closing the sale of the Property;

4. For the Buyer to assume all responsibility or liability for any environmental condition affecting the Property, or any clean-up or remediation that may be required by law;

5. For the development of the Property for commercial, job producing development, or other project acceptable to the City;

6. Execute, if applicable, a Development Agreement with the City;

7. Execute Contract for Sale and Purchase of Real Property.

The Property will be sold "as is" with no warranties or representations as to suitability for any particular use. Conveyance of the Property will be by special warranty deed. By submitting a bid, each bidder agrees to waive and does hereby waive any claim the bidder has or may have against the City of Presidio, Texas, and the City's respective employees and representatives for the award of damages or attorney fees, arising out of or in connection with the administration, evaluation, or recommendation of any bid, waiver, deletion or amendment of any requirements under this Notice of Bid Opening, acceptance or rejection of any bids, and award of the bid.

By submitting a bid, the bidder specifically waives any right to recover or be paid attorney fees from the City of Presidio, Texas, or any of the City's employees and representatives under any of the provisions of the Texas Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act (Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Section 37.001, et. seq., as amended). The bidder acknowledges and agrees that this is the intentional relinquishment of a presently existing known right and that there is no disparity of bargaining power between the bidder and the City of Presidio, Texas.

By execution and submission of this bid, the bidder hereby represents and warrants to the City that the bidder has read and understands this Notice of Bid Opening and that the bid is made in accordance with the terms stated herein. Bidder acknowledges that it understands all terms herein, which include the waiver provisions, and that it had the right to consult with counsel regarding all applicable documents.

The City reserves the right to waive, delete or amend any of the requirements connected with this bid.

Bids shall be delivered in writing on the attached bid proposal form, signed by the bidder or an authorized representative, and enclosed in a sealed envelope to the City of Presidio, City Administrator, 507 W. O'Reilly Street, Presidio, Texas 79845, or can be delivered in person to City Hall, 507 W. O'Reilly Street, Presidio, Texas 79845. All bids shall be plainly marked "SEALED BID TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY." Bids must be received before 2:59 p.m. on October 10th, 2025, and any bid received after that time will not be considered.

City staff will publicly open, read and tabulate the bids at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, October 10th, 2025, at City Hall, City of Presidio, 507 W. O'Reilly Street, Presidio, Texas 79845. Those bids will then be considered at the October 22nd, 2025, meeting of the City of Presidio City Council.

Bidders may contact the City of Presidio at 432-229-2200 for clarifications and questions.

Tráfico de personas

(Continuación de la página 1)

que alcanzó velocidades de hasta 150 kilómetros por hora para alcanzar a Larremore. El agente Colona notó un envase abierto de alcohol en la cabina, pero no lo reconoció de inmediato. En cambio, le pidió a Larremore que esperara un momento mientras él revisaba el remolque. Colona finalmente descubrió a tres inmigrantes indocumentados en el compartimento cerrado del remolque tras un largo intercambio con Larremore sobre su derecho al debido proceso, durante el cual dudó y no pudo responder preguntas básicas sobre sí mismo y el remolque.

El abogado de Larremore, Shane O'Neal, de Alpine, basó su apelación en el momento en que Colona le pidió a su cliente que esperara un momento, lo que, según él, constituía una detención legal. "Ni el gobierno ni el tribunal de distrito intentan explicar seriamente por qué una persona razonable pensaría que puede irse mientras un agente sujeta su camioneta, asoma la cabeza por la ventanilla y la interroga", escribió en su escrito inicial ante el tribunal de apelaciones. Cada acción que el agente Colona realizó tras acercarse al vehículo de Larremore confirmó, para una persona razonable en su situación, que no podía irse.

La opinión mayoritaria del Quinto Circuito discrepó con O'Neal, argumentando que Colona no le dio a Larremore ninguna razón concreta para creer que estaba detenido. "Un encuentro consensual con la policía no constituye una captura", escribieron. "Ningún caso pertinente sostiene que simplemente seguir a un vehículo en una carretera de libre acceso sea una demostración de fuerza".

La jueza presidenta Jennifer Walker Elrod emitió una opinión separada, "concurriendo en parte y discrepando en parte", que coincidía con la afirmación de O'Neal de que un "espere un segundo" indicaba que Larremore no podía irse. "Puede que el agente Colona no haya ordenado explícitamente a Larremore que se dirigiera a un lugar determinado, pero sí le ordenó que no abandonara un lugar en particular, por muy amable que fuera su tono", escribió. "Según nuestro precedente, eso es suficiente". La disidencia parcial de Elrod no fue suficiente para inclinar la balanza, por lo que la condena original de Larremore —un cargo de transporte de migrantes indocumentados— se mantiene. Según los registros de reclusos del Departamento de Justicia, actualmente cumple el resto de su condena en un programa de reinserción residencial en San Antonio y su liberación está prevista para finales de octubre.

Noticias breves

(Continuación de la página 1)

un viaje en el país, que afecta a un paciente que viajó recientemente a El Salvador.

Los puertos a lo largo de la frontera sur han estado cerrados a la importación de ganado debido a la propagación del parásito, que se ha detectado a pocos cientos de kilómetros de la frontera. El 15 de agosto, la secretaria de Agricultura, Brooke Rollins, anunció que el departamento invertiría hasta 750 millones de dólares en la construcción de una planta en Texas que produce moscas estériles para frenar la propagación de la enfermedad. El USDA "estimó que se deben liberar 500 millones de moscas semanalmente para repeler el gusano barrenador del ganado hacia el sur en Latinoamérica", según Reuters.

PMDD

(Continuación de la página 1)

la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Presidio ingresaron a la oficina del PMDD sin autorización de la junta y que emprendería acciones legales. (Bishop, contactada por teléfono esa mañana, declaró haber entrado en la oficina con una llave para recoger los materiales que necesitaba para cumplir con una fecha límite presupuestaria inminente).

En una carta formal compartida con The Big Bend Sentinel, Kennedy afirmó que la conducta de Bishop "planteó serias preocupaciones legales y éticas, incluyendo, entre otras, abuso de autoridad bajo pretexto de cargo oficial, posibles violaciones de derechos civiles, incumplimiento del deber fiduciario y violación de las normas de gobernanza del PMDD, así como entrada ilegal y/o allanamiento por parte de terceros bajo la dirección de un funcionario electo". (Bishop declinó hacer más comentarios para la edición de esta semana porque estaba en proceso de contratar un asesor legal).

El PMDD es una entidad tributaria que deduce un pequeño porcentaje del impuesto sobre las ventas de las compras realizadas en Presidio con el objetivo de impulsar el desarrollo económico local. Las leyes que rigen su estructura se establecen en el Código de Gobierno Local de Texas. La junta del PMDD ha experimentado numerosos cambios en los últimos años. Se reorganizó casi por completo tras la controversia sobre el liderazgo de la junta a principios de 2023 y ha sufrido numerosas renuncias abruptas desde entonces.

Kennedy se incorporó a la junta como asesor en 2024 antes de asumir el cargo de director ejecutivo, un puesto remunerado. Además de proponer objetivos de infraestructura verde para la ciudad, ha ayudado a impulsar un proyecto que podría traer una planta de energía geotérmica a Presidio: "la oportunidad de desarrollo económico más significativa en la historia moderna de la región", escribió en un comunicado de prensa para *The Sentinel* en mayo.

En la sección editorial de esta semana, la expresidenta del PMDD, Patricia Runyan, describe varias de sus preocupaciones, incluyendo graves acusaciones de nepotismo, corrupción y uso indebido de fondos públicos. (La respuesta de Kennedy también se incluye en la página 5. "La semana pasada, [Juanita] Bishop y yo simplemente intentábamos realizar la labor necesaria de supervisión y una gestión financiera adecuada", escribió Runyan. "De ninguna manera cuestionamos al Sr. Kennedy sobre sus acciones de manera que justificara su comportamiento posterior hacia el Juez Bishop y hacia mí".

En la reunión del lunes, Kennedy explicó que la reconstrucción de la junta para cumplir con los requisitos de quórum no podía esperar; la junta estaba en medio de la finalización de los acuerdos para el proyecto geotérmico. "Creo que todos estamos de acuerdo en que es muy importante que tengamos a las personas adecuadas en esta junta", dijo.

Montoya y Bailon servirán durante 60 días para mantener la junta en marcha, momento en el cual podrán optar por postularse para ocupar uno de los tres puestos con mandatos vigentes. La ciudad buscará solicitantes de la comunidad en general. Los interesados deben ser residentes de la ciudad de Presidio durante al menos seis meses y deben ser elegibles para votar.

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Proyecto de ley de redistribución de distritos llega a la mesa de Abbott

Tanto la Cámara de Representantes como el Senado de Texas aprobaron un proyecto de ley de redistribución de distritos a mediados de la década que posiciona al Partido Republicano para obtener cinco escaños adicionales en el Congreso el próximo año. La aprobación se produjo después de que los demócratas de la Cámara de Representantes pusieran fin a su huelga, rompiendo el quórum, mientras seguían prometiendo presentar una demanda.

El proyecto de ley desmantela los bastiones demócratas en torno a Houston, Austin y Dallas y aumenta las dificultades para que los republicanos también obtengan escaños en el sur de Texas, informó *The Texas Tribune*.

En respuesta, los legisladores de California, que buscan contrarrestar la iniciativa de redistribución de distritos de Texas, aprobaron una elección especial para que sus votantes consideren un nuevo mapa del Congreso que probablemente añadiría cinco escaños demócratas a California.

"Esta lucha está lejos de terminar", declaró el representante Gene Wu de Houston, presidente del Caucus Demócrata de la Cámara, tras la aprobación del mapa en esa cámara. "Nuestra mejor opción es recurrir a los tribunales. Esta parte de la lucha ha terminado, pero es solo el primer capítulo".

Roy se une a la concurrida contienda para reemplazar a Paxton

El representante estadounidense Chip Roy, un conservador fiscal a menudo crítico del presidente Trump y sus correligionarios republicanos, se ha unido a la contienda para reemplazar a Ken Paxton como fiscal general de Texas, según informó *The Dallas Morning News*.

"Texas está bajo ataque: por parte de izquierdistas radicales, defensores de la frontera abierta y corporaciones extranjeras anónimas que amenazan nuestra soberanía, seguridad y nuestro estilo de vida", escribió Roy. "Es hora de poner fin a la situación".

Roy, republicano por Austin, está en su cuarto mandato en el Congreso. Se une a varios otros candidatos republicanos, entre ellos las senadoras estatales Joan Huffman, de Houston, y Mayes Middleton, de Galveston, así como Aaron Reitz, ex fiscal general adjunto de Paxton. Entre los demócratas que han anunciado sus planes de postularse se encuentran el senador estatal Nathan Johnson, de Dallas, y el exalcalde de Galveston, Joe Jaworski, quien se postuló sin éxito para el cargo en 2022.

Paxton ha anunciado sus planes de desafiar al senador estadounidense John Cornyn en las primarias republicanas de marzo de 2026.

La Cámara de Representantes aprueba seis proyectos de ley que brindan ayuda ante desastres por inundaciones

La Cámara de Representantes de Texas aprobó la semana pasada seis proyectos de ley destinados a abordar la ayuda ante desastres, los sistemas de comunicación de emergencia y la preparación. Los proyectos de ley responden a las catastróficas inundaciones en Hill Country durante el fin de semana del 4 de julio. Al menos 137 personas murieron, principalmente en el condado de Kerr, incluidos 27 niños y miembros del personal del Campamento Mystic, a orillas del río Guadalupe.

The Dallas Morning News informó que las medidas incluyen el requisito de que los campamentos juveniles desarrollen planes de gestión de emergencias y los presenten al estado. La legislación también exige el establecimiento del Consejo de Interoperabilidad de Texas, que crearía una estructura y programas de subvenciones para que varias agencias se comuniquen y coordinen ante desastres individuales. Esto incluiría huracanes y tiroteos masivos.

Uno de los patrocinadores del proyecto de ley, el representante estatal Drew Darby, republicano por San Angelo, habló rodeado de un grupo bipartidista de legisladores.

"Al hablar sobre este proyecto de ley, en nombre de este proyecto de ley, espero no solo hablar por mí mismo, sino por los niños perdidos, las familias en duelo que nos han llamado, se han reunido con nosotros y han compartido su dolor y angustia con nosotros", dijo Darby.

El ex orador Dade Phelan no buscará la reelección

El expresidente de la Cámara de Representantes de Texas, Dade Phelan, republicano por Beaumont, anunció que no buscará la reelección tras un intento fallido de su partido para derrotarlo en las elecciones de 2024 y su posterior renuncia como presidente. El *Houston Chronicle* informó que Phelan sirvió en su distrito desde 2015 y asumió la presidencia en 2021.

En un comunicado, Phelan escribió en Facebook: “Liderar la Cámara requirió tomar decisiones difíciles, pero busqué trazar un rumbo inspirado en los valores que compartimos en el sureste de Texas. De cara al futuro, buscaré el camino de Dios para trazar mi próximo capítulo”.

Tanto el vicegobernador Dan Patrick como Paxton respaldaron al oponente de Phelan en las primarias de 2024, tras el juicio político de Paxton en la Cámara mientras Phelan era presidente. Paxton fue absuelto en el Senado. Su sucesor como presidente, el representante estatal Dustin Burrows, republicano por Lubbock, lo elogió.

“Dade es más que un colega: es un tesoro para el sureste de Texas, para la Cámara de Representantes de Texas y para el gran Estado de la Estrella Solitaria”, declaró Burrows en redes sociales.

Juez bloquea ley que exige los Diez Mandamientos en las aulas

Un juez federal de San Antonio bloqueó temporalmente una ley de Texas que exigiría a las escuelas públicas exhibir los Diez Mandamientos en todas las aulas, informó el *Chronicle*. La demanda fue presentada por un grupo de familias que alegaron que la exhibición podría perjudicar el desarrollo religioso de sus hijos.

"En última instancia, en materia de conciencia, fe, creencias y alma, la mayoría de la gente es Garbo-esca", escribió el juez federal de distrito Fred Biery, haciendo referencia a una frase de la actriz Greta Garbo en una película de 1932. "Solo quieren que los dejen en paz, ni que los hagan proselitismo ni los excluyan, incluyendo lo que les ocurre a sus hijos en las escuelas públicas".

Paxton, cuya oficina representó a la mayoría de los distritos escolares mencionados en la demanda, declaró que planeaba apelar el fallo.

“Los Diez Mandamientos son una piedra angular de nuestro legado moral y legal, y su presencia en las aulas sirve como recordatorio de los valores que guían la ciudadanía responsable”, declaró Paxton en un comunicado.

Auditoría detecta problemas con la preparación invernal de la red eléctrica

Un nuevo informe de la Oficina del Auditor Estatal concluye que los inspectores estatales de petróleo y gas no están haciendo su trabajo para verificar adecuadamente que los productores de gas natural de Texas y sus sistemas de suministro puedan resistir tormentas invernales severas, según el *Texas Standard*.

Desde que la tormenta invernal Uri de 2021 paralizó gran parte de la red eléctrica del estado, la Comisión de Ferrocarriles tiene la responsabilidad legal de garantizar que todos los eslabones de la cadena de suministro de gas a las centrales eléctricas puedan operar adecuadamente durante el clima invernal severo. Sin embargo, la auditoría concluyó que las normas actuales permiten a las compañías de gas decidir por sí mismas qué se considera una preparación invernal adecuada. De las 8732 inspecciones realizadas por la RRC durante las temporadas de invierno de 2024 y 2025, solo se registraron dos infracciones.

"La Comisión declaró que depende de los operadores de las instalaciones para determinar qué medidas de climatización son necesarias y si son suficientes para cada instalación", concluyeron los auditores. "No comparó los métodos de climatización actuales de las instalaciones con las mejores prácticas de la Comisión".

La comisión sostiene que el bajo número de infracciones refleja la "implementación exitosa" de la legislación aprobada después del caso Uri.

Gary Borders es un veterano y galardonado periodista texano. Publicó varios periódicos comunitarios en Texas durante 30 años, incluyendo periódicos en Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin y Cedar Park. Correo electrónico: gborders@texaspress.com.

La cuenca de Chisos permanecerá abierta durante la temporada de invierno de 2025

Del Servicio de Parques Nacionales

Proyectos de construcción comenzarán el 1 de mayo de 2026

PARQUE NACIONAL BIG BEND, TX – Las autoridades del parque anunciaron que la zona de la Cuenca de Chisos permanecerá abierta este año durante los meses de invierno más concurridos. Las obras en la Cuenca para reemplazar el Chisos Mountains Lodge y todo el sistema de distribución de agua tendrán una fecha de inicio revisada para el 1 de mayo de 2026. A principios de mayo, generalmente comienza la temporada de calor en Big Bend, y las visitas al parque suelen disminuir considerablemente en esa época.

Las instalaciones que permanecerán abiertas durante el otoño, el invierno y principios de la primavera incluyen el centro de visitantes de la Cuenca de Chisos, el campamento de la Cuenca de Chisos y todo el sistema de senderos de las Montañas Chisos. La concesionaria del parque, Casa Grande Hospitality, LLC, subsidiaria de Aramark, continuará ofreciendo servicios a los visitantes en la Cuenca, como servicios de comida y la tienda para caravanas. Las opciones de alojamiento también reabrirán en la Cuenca. Los visitantes deben consultar directamente con Casa Grande Hospitality, LLC, subsidiaria de Aramark, la disponibilidad de estos servicios visitando su sitio web: www.chisosmountainslodge.com. Las reservas para acampar deben hacerse en www.recreation.gov.

El próximo verano, gracias a la financiación del Fondo de Restauración del Legado de la Ley de Grandes Actividades al Aire Libre de Estados Unidos (GAOA), se espera que las obras de construcción para mejoras significativas en la Cuenca de Chisos del parque comiencen el 1 de mayo de 2026 y continúen durante aproximadamente dos años. A medida que comiencen las obras, la Cuenca de Chisos permanecerá cerrada al acceso de visitantes. Esto incluye Basin Road, las unidades de alojamiento, el Campamento de Basin, el restaurante, el centro de visitantes del Servicio de Parques Nacionales (NPS), la tienda para campistas y los senderos dentro de la Cuenca. Estas obras afectarán SOLO la Cuenca de Chisos del Parque Nacional Big Bend. A medida que se completen los componentes principales, los administradores del parque evaluarán qué áreas pueden reabrirse de forma segura al acceso público regular. Durante las obras en la Cuenca de Chisos, el Parque Nacional Big Bend permanecerá abierto todo el año, con más de 800,000 acres de cañones, desierto, sitios históricos, fauna diversa, rutas panorámicas, caminos rurales y más de 150 millas de senderos para el disfrute de visitantes de todo el mundo.

Actualización de información en: https://go.nps.gov/chisosbasinfuture



Cortesía del Servicio de Parques Nacionales

Representación artística del proyectado Chisos Basin Lodge.

Human smuggling

(Continued from page 1)

a long back-and-forth with Larremore about his rights to due process — during which he hesitated and was unable to answer basic questions about himself and the trailer.

Larremore's lawyer, Shane O'Neal of Alpine, built his appeal around the moment Colona asked his client to "hang on a sec," which he believed constituted a detention under the law. "Neither the government nor the district court seriously attempts to explain why a reasonable person would think they could drive off while an officer holds onto their truck, sticks his head in the window, and questions them," he wrote in his opening brief to the appeals court. "Every action that Deputy Colona took after approaching Larremore's vehicle confirmed, to a reasonable person in Larremore's position, that he was not free to leave."

The Fifth Circuit's majority opinion disagreed with O'Neal, arguing that Colona gave Larremore no concrete reason to believe that he was detained. "A consensual encounter with police is not a seizure," they wrote. "No pertinent case holds that simply following a car on a freely accessible highway is a show of force."

Chief Judge Jennifer Walker Elrod wrote a separate opinion "concurring in part and dissenting in part" that agreed with O'Neal's assertion that "hang on a sec" signalled that Larremore was not free to leave. "Deputy Colona may not have explicitly ordered Larremore to a certain location, but he did direct Larremore to not leave a particular location — no matter how friendly his tone," she wrote. "Under our precedent, that is enough."

Elrod's partial dissent wasn't enough to tip the scales, so Larremore's original conviction — one count of transporting undocumented migrants — stands. Per inmate records from the Department of Justice, he is currently serving out the rest of his sentence in a "residential re-entry" program in San Antonio and is set to be released at the end of October.

Chisos Basin to remain open for Winter 2025 Season

From the National Park Service

Construction projects to begin May 1, 2026

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK, TX – Park officials have announced that the Chisos Basin area of the park will remain open this year throughout the park's busy winter months. Construction projects in the Basin to replace the Chisos Mountains Lodge and the entire water distribution system will have a revised start date of May 1, 2026. The beginning of May generally marks the start of Big Bend's hot season, and visitation to the park traditionally begins to greatly decrease at that time.

Facilities that will remain open during the upcoming fall, winter, and early spring include the Chisos Basin visitor center, Chisos Basin campground, and the entire Chisos Mountains trail system. The park's concessioner, Casa Grande Hospitality, LLC, subsidiary of Aramark, will continue to offer visitor services in the Basin such as food services and the camper store. Lodging options will also reopen in the Basin and visitors should check directly with Casa Grande Hospitality, LLC, subsidiary of Aramark, for availability of these amenities by visiting their website at www.chisosmountainslodge.com. Reservations for campsites should be made at www.recreation.gov.

Next summer, thanks to funding from the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) Legacy Restoration Fund, construction work on significant improvements to the Chisos Basin area of the park is expected to begin on May 1, 2026, and continue for approximately two years. As work begins, the Chisos Basin area will be closed to visitor entry. This includes the Basin Road, lodging units, Basin Campground, restaurant, NPS visitor center, camper store, and trails within the Basin area. This work will ONLY affect the Chisos Basin area of Big Bend National Park. As major components are completed, park managers will assess which areas can be safely reopened to regular public access.

During the work in the Chisos Basin, Big Bend National Park will remain OPEN year-round with over 800,000 acres of canyons, desert, historic sites, diverse wildlife, scenic drives, backcountry roads, and over 150 miles of hiking trails for visitors from around the world to enjoy.

Information updates at: https://go.nps.gov/chisosbasinfuture

OPINION

Before my appointment as executive director of the Presidio Municipal Development District, I began as a surveyor and researcher for the Presidio Industrial Park and was later competitively selected by the city to lead our economic development and community resiliency strategy. I came to the Big Bend as a recovering bureaucrat after a career of service at all levels of government— from advising President Barack Obama on infrastructure policy to federal executive roles at the U.S. Department of Transportation to work with local governments in Texas and across the country. That breadth of experience, paired with surveying and city planning here in Presidio, equips me to help navigate the very real barriers to development our community faces.

What emerged on the PMDD Board, with some turnover of appointments, was a pattern of abuse of power in addition to toxic and self-serving behavior. The truth is that when it comes to these important volunteer leadership roles in our community, there are not many answering the call. By having two city council members step in for two months, the council has acted prudently to stabilize the district while we put out a competitive call for anyone interested and qualified to serve without a personal agenda. Respect must go both ways, and this work has to be done in the spirit of collaboration.

Evidence of misconduct was presented to city leadership, which acted decisively to preserve the important work underway. That includes projects like the geothermal initiative now moving toward fruition— work too important to be jeopardized by ego and greed.

The PMDD has nothing to hide. Our community deserves an institution that puts Presidio first; building trust, transparency and tangible progress. That is the standard we are holding ourselves to, and the work we remain committed to delivering.

John T. Kennedy V (Kennedy-Rohana)
info@presidiotxmdd.org
Presidio

In the moment when I raised my right hand to be sworn in as a new Presidio Municipal Development District (PMDD) board member, I felt a wave of excitement. In the 10 years since moving to Presidio, this was the realization of a dream of giving to the community the benefits of experience that can come with 20 years of working in economic development and grant management.

As a fourth generation of the Daly and the Armendariz families, I live in the home built here in 1918 by my great-grandfather after he fled with the family from the El Toro ranch in Mexico to escape the wrath of Pancho Villa. I feel the sense of safety that this home provided my grandmother when she played on the porch with her doll. It is easy to imagine my mother, as a child, coming to visit her grandparents and hiding from the pinching fingers of her bisabuelo.

In our first formal PMDD meeting with me as president, I sought to emphasize the importance of creating local jobs by recruiting businesses to Presidio. Businesses that will compliment our long-term growth strategies, such as the international rail trade, at least one new hotel, senior living, affordable housing and the geothermal opportunities.

But then, abruptly, everything changed, I was threatened and slandered… and then removed from the board without a semblance of respect from Mayor Ferguson and the city council members.

Since last Tuesday I have been told that two of the city council members have others in mind they'd like to put on the board. Additionally, Dr. Laura Portillo, wife of Judge Joe Portillo, is already sworn in as a board member. Because there are only five seats, two of us had to go and that turned out to be Judge Juanita Bishop and myself.

PMDD controls a substantial amount of taxpayer money, and it is reasonable to believe that the city and the county want to dictate how that money is allocated. Especially when they are in need of additional funding.

Here is a copy of the statement I prepared for council, but was not allowed to read. It is my hope that others will feel motivated to learn more.

Dear Mayor Ferguson and Members of the Presidio City Council:
The four current members of the PMDD Board were appointed by the Presidio City Council as directed by the authorizing legislation. Two of us have barely served one month. Because there are only four of us, we each accepted the responsibility of leadership by serving as executive officers of the PMDD board. Clear responsibilities come with such acceptance. While the authorizing legislation does allow for board members to be removed at any time without cause, one can easily determine that there is more to the story regarding our possible removal. Especially if our removal implies that we have failed in meeting the requirements of appointment to the PMDD board. I most certainly did not want my neighbors to look at me and wonder to themselves what I did wrong, especially if our removal is on the front page of *The Big Bend Sentinel*!

This past week Judge Bishop and I were simply trying to do the necessary work of oversight and proper financial management. In no manner did we ever challenge Mr. Kennedy about his actions in such a way as to justify his subsequent behavior towards Judge Bishop and myself.

In addition, as the days have passed, new and disturbing information has become evident. We have reason to believe that potentially serious fraudulent financial transactions may have been taking place within PMDD that indicate distribution of agency funds for personal use. We are obligated to investigate this information as PMDD board members. Our removal would send a message that a potential cover-up is being orchestrated.

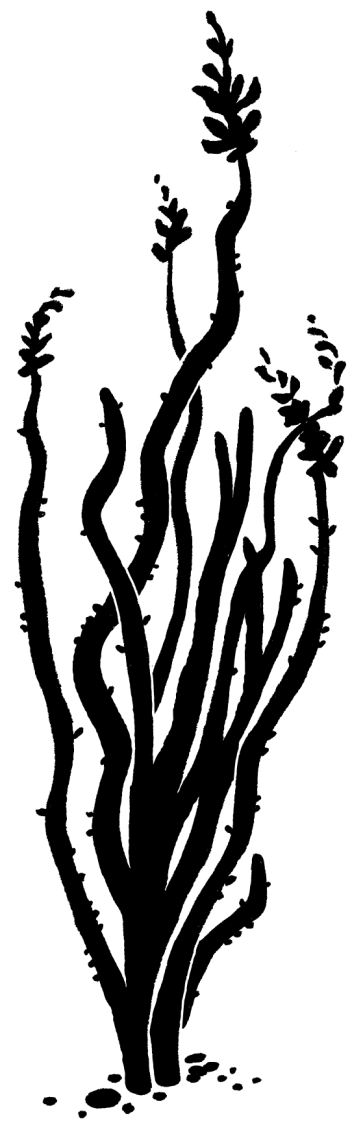
With due respect for the awkward breakdown in communications that has occurred, I urge council to drop item one from tonight's proceedings and let's move forward with the mission of PMDD to create viable, sustainable jobs while building a local economy that allows Presidio families to live together in reasonable prosperity. I invite the community to observe our meetings in person or via ZOOM. I urge the council to meet with the board for the purpose of better understanding our financial infrastructure and our potential for growth.

Thank you.
Patricia Runyan
Former President, PMDD

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The City of Presidio is calling out for Letters of Interest from the public for one seat to the Planning & Zoning Commission, three seats to the Presidio Municipal Development District. Last day to submit your Letter of Interest, PMDD Application, PMDD Questionnaire no later than October 24, 2025 at 5pm. PMDD APPLICATION & QUESTIONNAIRE ARE ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE www.presidiotx.us UNDER SERVICES-PUBLIC NOTICES

Must be a registered voter of the municipality and reside at said city for at least six-months, pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 22.032.

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

City of Presidio
CitySecretary
P.O. Box 1899
Presidio, TX 79845

Physical Address: 507 W. O'Reilly St., Presidio, Texas or email to: bornelas@presidiotx.us

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$700.00 per month two hours a night. Must have dependable transportation and good work ethics. Call Tony 972-333-6502. Start date September 1st, 2025.



The International El

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