

No steel walls for state park —CBP

Physical wall still in the plans to the west. Construction may start in June

Steel border walls have been removed from plans for scenic sections of River Road and popular Rio Grande access points in Big Bend Ranch State Park, according to a message relayed to a local official by Lloyd Easterling, the chief patrol agent for the U.S. Border Patrol's Big Bend Sector.

Steel walls west of the park through Redford, Presidio and up the river to Fort Quitman are still in plans, leaving many landowners concerned that their livelihoods with ranching and farming will be destroyed.

Easterling conveyed the change to Presidio County Commissioner Deirdre Hisler, who attended a meeting with the chief and other county and city elected officials on Friday. The media was not allowed at the meeting. Hisler shared her notes with *Big Bend Sentinel* Sunday evening after fact checking them with Easterling. At Friday's meeting, physical walls in the state park were still planned, including a wall at Colorado Canyon and a wall blocking access to the popular Hoodoos Trail on the river.

A "smart wall" map published by the Department of Homeland Security still showed the park with the possibility of a wall on Monday morning, but Hisler said Easterling told her it would be updated to "detection only," as is Big Bend National Park.

"While the Chief and many members of our local CBP partners are sympathetic to the potential construction of a wall, Easterling made it very clear that they have a job to do and that they do believe that a wall is an essential tool for their operations but that a physical wall is not necessarily appropriate for all areas of the border," Hisler wrote in her notes from the Friday meeting.

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Bullroom hosts Lorca play—free



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Sentinel News Project



The scenic River Road through Big Bend Ranch State Park will have no walls, unless plans change again.

AEP substation now headed for the Marfa City Council

When it comes to decision-making on rezoning a plot of east Marfa land from residential to industrial for a new AEP electric power station, the lack of details on the plan for the site played a key role in officials' decision on whether,

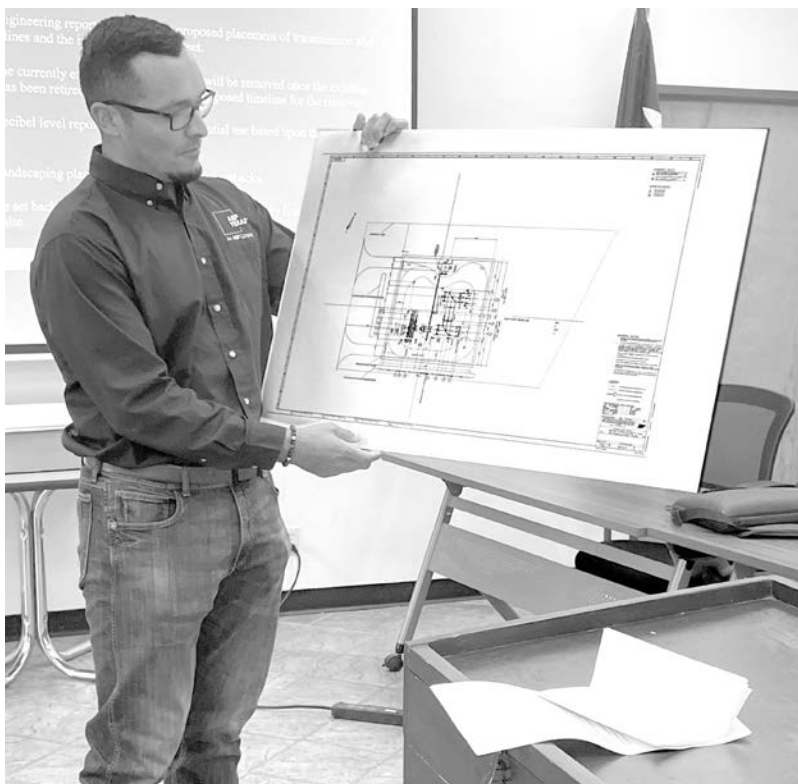
Those details were important to the public too, but a much bigger factor has been whether the proposed substation—intended for a four-acre lot at the corner of Oak and Aparejo streets—should be in Marfa at all, and whether the utility company adequately explored alternatives outside of the city.

On March 17, Marfans and officials had an opportunity to get a much more granular look at the proposal, including schematic drawings of a site plan outlining things like how many power transmission poles would be erected and where, and footprints for the substation overall, at an open house at City Hall. AEP staff and spokespeople were on hand to answer questions amidst a circle of whiteboards justifying the need for the substation. The Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) then held a public hearing afterwards to hear input and discuss the plan.

AEP's proposal involves purchasing an approximately four-acre lot at the corner of Oak and Aparejo streets and erecting a new substation—eight times larger than the existing Oak Street station near Sal Si Puedes and triple the capacity, increasing from 5 MVA to 15 MVA (megavolt-amperes)—an estimated \$7 million to \$10 million endeavor.

The increase in capacity is cited by the company as crucial to meeting both existing and future needs for Marfa's electricity usage. Critics said the utility did not explore options for the substation farther out of town. AEP said it looked at alternatives and none met the criteria it needed for both logistics and cost.

Since the land is zoned residential, AEP needs the rezoning to industrial to proceed with the purchase of the property to build the substation. P&Z members walked through questions about the project one by one—from everything to the types of fences and landscaping surrounding the structure to how many decibels in sound it would emit.



Fred Guerrero, an AEP external affairs manager, displays a schematic of the proposed substation.

Some residents who live across the street from the land, as well as a majority of Marfans speaking at public hearings in the past, objected to the possible impacts of the substation—sound and appearance, for example—and setting a precedent for rezoning that didn't fit the city's comprehensive plan.

They also questioned why AEP didn't do a more thorough study of alternative sites. Others supported the plan, citing the need for additional electric capacity and AEP's history of being a good neighbor.

On the last go around on the issue, the P&Z eventually recommended that the City Council not approve the rezoning last June. In October, council members—not all on the same page regarding the rezoning—unanimously voiced the need for more details and thus, requested that AEP come back with a more detailed application for a special use permit, which would allow officials to list certain mandates to the project before approving it.

"I'm ready to move this on," said P&Z member Lee Mediano in an interview on Saturday. Mediano said the additional detail on the special use permit, the open house, and commission discussions made it unnecessary for the commission to continue endless discussions when the decision

on the rezoning ultimately would be decided by the City Council. Whether "move on" means an actual recommendation by the commission is unclear. But the commission decided to hold one more public hearing on the issue on April 7.

The City Council has set a public hearing on the rezoning for April 14. It could approve the special use permit at that time or continue it for further hearings.

Echoing Mediano was Commission Member Jamey Garza, who said he thought the commission was ready to send its recommendation or views to the City Council at the last meeting. "I think we're at a point where we need to move this forward to the City Council, because that's where the rubber hits the road. Garza said that while the city now has more detailed information, there's still the question of whether this type of rezoning is acceptable.

Quiet on the rezoning are P&Z Chair Stephen "Click" Rabourn, who said he would not comment now on the ongoing process, and members Lauren Meader Fowlkes and Lilliana Fields, who did not respond to a request for comment. For an in-depth look at the history of the rezoning, see [bigbendsentinel.aep-rezone](#).

—ROB D'AMICO

'WE SHOULD BE HEARD' —BORDER LANDOWNERS TO GOVERNOR ABBOTT

Ranchers want a face-to-face meeting with CPB agents

By ROB D'AMICO

Border landowners are rallying behind a demand for Gov. Greg Abbott to convene meetings between them and federal officials for more dialogue and details on the proposed border wall and other security infrastructure.

"Abbott needs to step up and deliver these meetings," said Charlie Angell, who runs a river guide and park expedition company out of Redford on the border. Angell said he now has more than 116 name of landowners who are standing behind that message.

"When we get our meeting with these agencies . . . every single property owner will have their voice heard," Angell said.

Angell said his list is growing larger by the hour as word spreads of the demand, as many landowners are angry, confused and anxious about losing the quality of life they've built on the Rio Grande.

Agencies landowners are seeking to meet publicly with the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection and the Army Corps of Engineers. Landowners believe that Abbott has the influence to help set up the meetings—and that his relatively tame comments on the border wall itself are not sufficient as the top official in Texas.

As for the when and where for these meetings, Angell said, "Let them figure it out." He added that it's likely that landowners will convene their own meetings first to discuss the issues.

The governor's office did not reply to a request for comment.

On Monday, the Border Patrol told a local official that Big Bend Ranch State Park would now be "detection technology" only with no physical walls. (See the related story on this page.) That designation eventually was given to Big Bend National Park as well.

Hector Hernandez, who owns land on the river near Alamito Creek where a steel bollard wall is still a possibility, said a federal worker told him they would give

him a gate to access the river and that he would still be able to draw water from the river, which led him to believe officials don't understand his predicament. "I have a herd of horses," he said. "It's not the water. It's the land by the river is their pasture land. What will I do then?"

"Meeting face to face is the West Texas way," Hernandez added. "I want to be able to sit down with someone to get answers."

Some of the landowners in areas designated "detection technology" only also believe that public meetings would offer more assurance on what actually will be the result of CBP's "smart wall" project, meaning a combination of physical walls, lights, patrol roads and sensors.

Most of the landowners have received letters from CBP stating that the government would be seeking land access, leases or acquisitions with the possibility of eminent domain—seizing their land with little legal means to fight it.

Smart wall through cemetery

Raymond Skiles, who has land out by Langtry—171 miles southeast of Marfa on the border—noted that the CBP documents sent to him included a map with a line representing a smart wall going through a cemetery, where his parents are buried, on land adjacent to him. He said he'd like to publicly hear answers on what really is planned and how any roads and detection technology will impact him. He also questions whether CBP will change its mind and install a wall.

Christian Soenen, with land west of Del Rio, has similar concerns, including what lights and other infrastructure could do to the wildlife on his land, where his family camps and sees deer, bears and mountain lions. And he wonders if things will change to even greater infrastructure. "Currently, the plan here is not to build a wall, but to use detection technology," he said. "But they've been pretty clear in saying that that's not a definite thing, that that's just the current plan, and there's no guarantee that it won't refer back. So we're still nervous."

"I would love it if they would directly engage with us, talk through these issues, explain their rationale, get feedback, all of that," Soenen added.

Terlingua businessman indicted for assault

Jeff Leach says he was trying to stop drug dealing to minors

The owner of the Venga Cafe and Basecamp lodgings in Terlingua, Jeff Dean Lynch, 59, was indicted in Brewster County last summer for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon after authorities allege he smashed a man's car with a wooden club then dragged him from a vehicle while brandishing the weapon.

The alleged attack occurred on September 16, 2024, and the indictment was in July, 2025, but it wasn't filed publicly until December 5, 2025. The indictment states Leach did "intentionally or knowingly threaten Terry Allen

Schreier with imminent bodily injury by smashing holes in the front and rear windshields of the vehicle occupied by Terry Allen Schreier with a wooden club resembling a table leg and attempting to drag Terry Allen Schreier from the vehicle ripping off his shirt, and used or exhibited a deadly weapon, namely a wooden club resembling a table leg, during the commission of the assault." The charge is a second degree felony, punishable by two to 20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Reached on Monday afternoon by phone, Leach denied the allegations and said the public should not believe language from a one-sided grand jury indictment statement, because the defendant is not present or allowed to provide evidence in the hearing. He said he was confident he would be vindicated.

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Students draw inspiration from career day

By ARIELE GENTILES

Marfa

When the first bell rang last Wednesday morning, junior high and high school students at Marfa ISD did not shuffle into class as usual but instead assembled in the auditorium to kick off a special event—Marfa Shorthorn Career Fair.

A collaboration between Marfa Education Foundation and Marfa ISD, 36 presenters from 27 area businesses spoke with the students about what they do, how they do it and why.

Ranging from small businesses like Mira Marfa and Big Bend Coffee Roasters, to institutions like Marfa Public Library, the Chinati Foundation, McDonald Observatory, the Department of Homeland Security and everything in between, students received a schedule of talks in advance and got to choose which careers interested them.

Sixth-grader Levi Cashiola enjoyed the rare day off of his

normal schedule and had fun at all the presentations he attended. “I really enjoyed listening to everyone’s stories and how they got to where they are. It was inspiring to listen to them. I’m grateful they took time out of their days to meet with us,” he said.

Presenters from diverse backgrounds, including local entrepreneurs, educators, journalists, scientists, public servants, artists, restaurant and food service managers, law enforcement officers, and more, represented a wide range of careers and invited the students to consider many possible vocations.

Of the success and significance of the Shorthorn Career Fair, Marfa Education Foundation Executive Director Abby Boyd said, “It’s critical to have the community come into our school and connect with young people in Marfa. I think the obvious thing is that it’s a huge benefit to our students, but I also think it’s important for folks to come in and meet these kids



ABBY BOYD

Beck Dugan, baker at Coyote Coffee, speaks to students at Marfa ISD’s Shorthorn Career Fair last Wednesday.

and see the facilities and meet our teachers. There is a pretty big gap between certain parts of our community, and in some ways, our school is isolated from a lot of the people who live here. We need

these kids to get a great education, love where they live, and know they have resources here. They are the future of Marfa.”

“I told the kids, you never know when an important piece



ADELE POWERS

Norma Martinez of the Sul Ross Small Business Development Center speaks to students at Marfa ISD’s Shorthorn Career Fair last Wednesday.

of advice is going to come to you,” Boyd added. “My hope is always that they hear something that makes them consider something differently, or inspires them in some way. Sometimes, a simple

sentence can change the course of someone’s life. I’m always so thankful for the people who show up to give these kids a peek into their world and inspire them to think about their futures.”

Local officials hear from Border Patrol on walls

Continued from page 1

Hisler’s notes also included: “A barrier, such as that of a 30-foot-high/steel bollard wall serves as a physical barrier designed to curb illegal immigration by slowing cross-border activity and allowing for faster response times by Border Patrol Agents, especially in heavily populated areas like that of Presidio/Ojinaga.

The wall will be part of a system that also includes all-weather patrol roads, lighting, cameras and sensors.”

Patrol chief almost “apologetic”

In two days of meetings last week between Easterling and local elected officials, the chief indicated that construction could begin as soon as June 1.

Information from the Friday morning session at the CBP headquarters in Presidio came from Hisler’s notes and sources who attended the meetings, which were invitation-only.

Those sources requested not to be named to protect their ongoing relationships with CBP. However, in addition to Hisler’s notes, Alpine Mayor Catherine Eaves posted to Facebook a summary of her notes from a

Tuesday meeting at CBP headquarters in Alpine. Her notes mirror much of what Presidio County sources and Hisler’s notes outlined.

Invitees for Presidio County included Sheriff Danny Dominguez, County Judge Joe Portillo, Presidio Mayor John Ferguson and all Presidio County commissioners and Presidio City Council members. It’s unclear who was invited in Brewster County, but Sheriff Ronny Dodson confirmed he was in attendance.

As previously reported, Easterling said Big Bend National Park is still marked for “detection technology” only instead of a wall, but at the Presidio meeting, he often commented, “This is the situation today.”

Most of the information from the meetings has been reported before by *Big Bend Sentinel* and others, but hearing it directly from the CBP chief’s mouth should counter many individuals on social media who comment that any reporting on a physical wall is “clickbait,” “lies,” or the liberal media acting like “Chicken Little.”

Some new details did emerge. Easterling told officials CBP

planned to give business owners like river guides access to the Rio Grande with gate codes—something that would no longer be needed if the plans for no wall in the parks remain. (Although recreational paddlers do access the entirety of the river at other points.) A Presidio official had asked him, “What about the public?” since the park is public land, and the chief responded that it was a good question to look into.

Also notable was Easterling’s affirmation that no buoy barriers, the big orange balls chained together, would be used on the Rio Grande.

Easterling also said landowners with walls blocking the river would be given access to the river, but a Presidio official asked, “What about the cattle and the horses, deer and other animals?” to which the chief did not have an answer.

When a Presidio official specifically asked about a wall through Redford, a small community of about 100 people 16 miles east of Presidio, with farmers needing access to the river, Easterling described both the state park and Redford as “hot spots” that could

be subject to change, as was clear with the park by Monday.

The chief also added that once a wall is built through Presidio, the concertina wire lining the banks of the river there would be removed.

The wire has been a chief concern of residents and river guides and officials who assert that flooding, which often comes with a seasonal monsoon, could wash the dangerous wire miles down river.

Easterling also told Presidio officials that plans were for a caliche road—closed to the public—the entire length of the border wall and all the way to El Paso.

Eaves’ post noted: “The Big Bend Sector Border Patrol agents are against a physical wall in this area. It is not needed. Technology alone can handle the very low rate of illegal crossings.”

According to Eaves, Easterling said illegal crossings are still down for the sector, and stats show only 159 “gottaways”—crossers not apprehended—for the fiscal year starting October 1. Although Presidio County sources added that this number of gottaways were of concern to the Border Patrol.

Presidio officials said Easterling often sounded “apologetic” in his remarks but added that much of that tone could be attributed to not meeting with elected officials sooner.

At several points in the Presidio meeting, Easterling mentioned Gov. Greg Abbott, as if he may play a key role in decision-making on the wall, in addition to officials at the Department of Homeland Security.

Eaves added in her post: “An important thing to note from the CBP told us in that meeting to keep signing the petitions and to keep reaching out to our elected officials.

“To focus on the economy and how damaging the park, river access, the night skies, and the wildlife would be devastating to our economy.

“Also, to have friends and family from all over the state of Texas, as well as all over the country and possibly the world, reach out to the same legislators and sign the petitions.

“Border Patrol also said that the map [for Big Bend National Park] was quickly and quietly changed, and that that could happen again, so keep watching it.”

Leach disputes indictment

Continued from page 1

“This individual [Schreier] is selling drugs to underage individuals on my private property, which is a business,” Leach said.

“In this particular case, it was a tiny 2-foot survey stick I had, and I incorrectly overreacted and smacked it on his front windshield. He was not in the car. I never touched him.”

Arrest records were not immediately available, but the indictment noted Leach had a bond of \$10,000.

The long time frame between the incident and indictment is not unusual in the Big Bend, since prosecutors typically spend months working on felony cases before presenting them to grand juries. The length of time for the indictment to become public also is not unusual in Brewster County because defendants are sent certified mail notifying them of the indictment, and the return receipt must be received by the clerk before the filing is made public.

Schreier did not reply to requests for comment.



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CBP: Parque estatal fuera de planes del muro

Muro fronterizo al oeste: construcción iniciaría en junio

Los muros fronterizos de acero han sido eliminados de los planes para las secciones panorámicas de River Road y los populares puntos de acceso al Río Grande dentro del Parque Estatal Big Bend Ranch, según un mensaje transmitido a una funcionaria local por Lloyd Easterling, jefe de patrulla del Sector Big Bend de la Patrulla Fronteriza de los EE. UU.

Los muros de acero situados al oeste del parque —atravesando Redford y Presidio, y siguiendo río arriba hasta Fort Quitman— permanecen en los planes, lo que ha generado gran preocupación entre muchos propietarios de tierras, quienes temen que sus medios de vida, basados en la ganadería y la agricultura, queden destruidos.

Easterling comunicó este cambio a la comisionada del condado de Presidio, Deirdre Hisler, quien asistió el viernes a una reunión con el jefe de patrulla y otros funcionarios electos del condado y de la ciudad. No se permitió el acceso de los medios de comunicación a dicha reunión. Hisler compartió sus notas con el *Big Bend Sentinel* el domingo por la noche, tras haber verificado su exactitud con Easterling. En la reunión del viernes, la construcción de muros físicos dentro del parque estatal todavía figuraba en los planes; estos incluían un muro en Colorado Canyon y otro que bloquearía el acceso al popular sendero Hoodoos Trail, situado junto al río.

Un mapa de la “frontera inteligente” publicado por el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS por sus siglas en inglés) seguía mostrando el lunes por la mañana la posibilidad de construir un muro en el parque; sin embargo, Hisler señaló que Easterling le informó que dicho mapa se actualizaría para indicar la categoría de “solo detección”, tal como ocurre con el Parque Nacional Big Bend.

“Si bien el Jefe de Patrulla y muchos miembros de nuestros socios locales de la CBP se muestran comprensivos ante la posible con-

strucción de un muro, Easterling dejó muy claro que ellos tienen un trabajo que cumplir y que, en su opinión, un muro constituye una herramienta esencial para sus operaciones; no obstante, también reconoció que un muro físico no resulta necesariamente apropiado para todas las zonas de la frontera”, escribió Hisler en sus notas sobre la reunión del viernes.

Las notas de Hisler también incluían lo siguiente: “Una barrera —como, por ejemplo, un muro de bolardos de acero de 30 pies de altura— sirve como obstáculo físico diseñado para frenar la inmigración ilegal al ralentizar la actividad transfronteriza y permitir tiempos de respuesta más rápidos por parte de los agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza, especialmente en zonas densamente pobladas como la de Presidio/Ojinaga. El muro formará parte de un sistema que también incluye caminos de patrullaje aptos para todo clima, iluminación, cámaras y sensores”.

El jefe de la Patrulla Fronteriza sonó casi “a modo de disculpa” durante dos días de reuniones celebradas la semana pasada entre Easterling y funcionarios electos locales, el jefe indicó que la construcción podría comenzar tan pronto como el 1 de junio.

La información relativa a la sesión del viernes por la mañana en la sede de la CBP en Presidio provino de las notas de Hisler y de fuentes que asistieron a las reuniones, las cuales fueron exclusivamente por invitación. Dichas fuentes solicitaron permanecer en el anonimato para proteger sus relaciones actuales con la CBP. Sin embargo, además de las notas de Hisler, la alcaldesa de Alpine, Catherine Eaves, publicó en Facebook un resumen de sus apuntes de una reunión celebrada el martes en la sede de la CBP en Alpine. Sus notas reflejan gran parte de lo expuesto por las fuentes del condado de Presidio y en las notas de Hisler.

Entre los invitados del condado de Presidio se encontraban el sheriff Danny Dominguez, el juez del condado Joe Portillo, el alcalde de Presidio John Ferguson, así como todos los comisionados del condado de Presidio y los miembros del Concejo Municipal de Presidio. No está claro quiénes fueron invitados



CHARLIE ANGELL

Gran parte de la tierra cerca de Redford, en dirección al Río Grande, se ha utilizado históricamente como tierras de cultivo.

por parte del condado de Brewster, aunque el sheriff Ronny Dodson confirmó su asistencia.

Tal como se informó anteriormente, Easterling señaló que el Parque Nacional Big Bend sigue designado únicamente para la implementación de “tecnología de detección” en lugar de un muro; no obstante, durante la reunión en Presidio, comentó con frecuencia: “Esta es la situación a día de hoy”.

La mayor parte de la información surgida de estas reuniones ya había sido reportada con anterioridad por el *Big Bend Sentinel* y otros medios; sin embargo, escucharla directamente de boca del jefe de la CBP debería servir para refutar a muchas personas en las redes sociales que tildan cualquier noticia sobre la construcción de un muro físico de “ciberanzuelo” “mentiras” o de una actitud de “alarmismo” (al estilo de Chicken Little) por parte de los medios liberales.

No obstante, surgieron algunos detalles nuevos. Easterling comunicó a los funcionarios que la CBP tenía previsto conceder a los propietarios de negocios —como los guías fluviales— acceso al Río Grande mediante códigos de entrada; una medida que dejaría de ser necesaria si se mantienen los planes de no construir un muro dentro de los parques. (Aunque los remeros recreativos sí acceden a la totalidad del río en otros puntos). Un funcionario de Presidio le había preguntado: “¿Qué hay de la ciudadanía?”, dado que el parque es terreno público; el jefe respondió que era una buena pregunta que valía la pena analizar.

PROPIETARIOS FRONTERIZOS AL GOBERNADOR ABBOTT: ‘MERECEMOS SER ESCUCHADOS’

Ganaderos quieren una reunión cara a cara con CBP”

Por Rob D’Amico

Los propietarios de las tierras fronterizas se están uniendo en torno a una exigencia dirigida al gobernador Greg Abbott: a convocar reuniones entre ellos y los funcionarios federales para propiciar un mayor diálogo y obtener más detalles sobre el muro fronterizo propuesto y otras infraestructuras de seguridad.

“Abbott tiene que dar un paso al frente y hacer posible estas reuniones”, afirmó Charlie Angell, quien dirige una empresa de guías fluviales y expediciones por parques con sede en Redford, en la zona fronteriza. Angell señaló que ya cuenta con más de 116 nombres —muchos de ellos facilitados al *Big Bend Sentinel* junto con sus números de teléfono— de propietarios que respaldan este mensaje. “Cuando consigamos nuestra reunión con estas agencias... la voz de cada uno de los propietarios será escuchada”, aseguró Angell.

Angell comentó que su lista crece por horas a medida que se difunde la noticia de esta exigencia, dado que muchos propietarios se sienten enojados, confundidos y angustiados ante la posibilidad de perder la calidad de vida que han construido a orillas del Río Grande.

Entre las agencias con las que los propietarios buscan reunirse públicamente se encuentran el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS por sus siglas en inglés), la Oficina de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza (CBP por sus siglas en inglés), y el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército. Los propietarios están convencidos de que Abbott posee la influencia necesaria para, al menos, intentar gestionar dichas reuniones, y consideran que sus comentarios —relativamente tibios— sobre el muro fronterizo en sí mismo resultan insuficientes para quien ostenta

el cargo de máximo funcionario de Texas.

En cuanto al lugar y la fecha de estas reuniones, Angell respondió: “Que lo averigüen ellos”. Y añadió que es probable que los propios propietarios convoquen sus propias reuniones de antemano para debatir los temas en cuestión.

El lunes, la Patrulla Fronteriza comunicó a un funcionario local que el Parque Estatal Big Bend Ranch pasaría a ser una zona basada exclusivamente en «tecnología de detección», sin muros físicos de por medio. (Véase el artículo relacionado en esta misma página). Posteriormente, esa misma designación se aplicó también al Parque Nacional Big Bend.

Héctor Hernández, propietario de tierras a orillas del río, cerca de Alamito Creek —zona donde la construcción de un muro de bolardos de acero sigue siendo una posibilidad—, relató que un funcionario federal le aseguró que se instalaría una puerta para acceder al río y que podría seguir extrayendo agua del mismo; un comentario que llevó a Hernández a concluir que las autoridades no comprenden la verdadera magnitud de su difícil situación. “Tengo una manada de caballos”, explicó. “No es una cuestión de agua; el problema es que las tierras situadas junto al río son sus pastizales. ¿Qué haré entonces?”. “Reunirse cara a cara es el estilo del oeste de Texas”, añadió Hernández. “Quiero poder sentarme con alguien para obtener respuestas”.

Algunos de los propietarios de tierras en las zonas designadas exclusivamente para el uso de “tecnología de detección” también creen que las reuniones públicas ofrecerían una mayor certeza sobre cuál será, en realidad, el resultado del proyecto del “muro inteligente” de la CBP, el cual consiste en una combinación de muros físicos, iluminación, caminos de patrullaje y sensores. La mayoría de los propietarios han recibido cartas de la CBP indicando que el gobierno bus-

caría obtener acceso a las tierras, celebrar contratos de arrendamiento o realizar adquisiciones, con la posibilidad de recurrir a la expropiación forzosa —es decir, la incautación de sus tierras con escasos recursos legales para oponerse a ello—.

Raymond Skiles, quien posee tierras cerca de Langtry —a 171 millas al sureste de Marfa, en la frontera—, señaló que los documentos de la CBP que recibió incluían un mapa con una línea que representaba un muro inteligente atravesando un cementerio —donde están sepultados sus padres—, situado en un terreno adyacente al suyo. Afirmó que le gustaría escuchar públicamente respuestas sobre qué es lo que realmente se tiene planeado y de qué manera los caminos y la tecnología de detección podrían afectarle. También se cuestiona si la CBP podría cambiar de opinión e instalar finalmente un muro.

Christian Soenen, propietario de tierras al oeste de Del Río, comparte inquietudes similares; entre ellas, la preocupación por el impacto que la iluminación y otras infraestructuras podrían tener sobre la vida silvestre de su propiedad, un lugar donde su familia suele acampar y avistar venados, osos y pumas. Asimismo, se pregunta si la situación podría derivar en la construcción de infraestructuras aún más imponentes. “Actualmente, el plan en esta zona no contempla la construcción de un muro, sino el uso de tecnología de detección”, comentó. “Sin embargo, han sido bastante explícitos al señalar que no se trata de una decisión definitiva; que es simplemente el plan vigente en este momento y que no existe garantía alguna de que no se revierta la decisión. Por lo tanto, seguimos inquietos”.

“Me encantaría que interactúen directamente con nosotros, que dialoguen sobre estos temas, que nos expliquen sus fundamentos y que recaben nuestras opiniones; en definitiva, que mantuvieran una comunicación abierta”, añadió Soenen.

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OBITUARY

DMR resident, firefighter loved the peace of fishing

RONALD DAVID Davis age 78, of Ft. Davis, Texas, formerly Bloomer, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully in his sleep March 20, 2026, at Pecos County Memorial Hospital in Fort Stockton, Texas, from Lewy body dementia/ lymphoma cancer. He was born September 29, to Malcolm and Doris (Bauer) Davis, at home in Dallas, Wisconsin.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 57 years, Cindy Lou Davis, who cared for him with all her heart and stayed by his side until he passed over. Children: Tammy Davis, Tracey Davis. Grandchildren: Logan Moschkau, Trinity Davis, Clarissa (Cal) Kraegenbrink, Amelia Moschkau. Great-grandchildren: Nataya Davis, Wren, Lark, & Reed Kraegenbrink. Siblings: Lloyd Davis, Dana Davis, Dennis Joe Davis, Susan Rosenbrook. Many beloved cousins, nieces and nephews, extended family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his son, Todd Davis; parents Malcolm and Doris (Bauer) Davis; siblings Lois Fluegel, Norman Davis, Francis Davis, Darline Cole, Joyce Bohl, Jerry Davis; and "son in his heart," Steve Baumann.

Ronald was a graduate of Chetek High School, class of 1965. He married Cindy in 1969 and they began raising their family in Wisconsin. His faith and family have always been a priority in his life, and he adored his grandchildren. He had the mind of an engineer,



and it seemed he could fix just about anything. He had multiple businesses/careers throughout his life, owning Dairyland Silo, Davis Trucking, and Alpine Diesel. He also worked as a lookout in the fire towers near Chetek, Wisconsin. He loved the view so much from above the trees, and knew Cindy would as well, so they both began working it.

He also worked as a bulk mail hauler for the U.S. Post Office. In Fort Davis, he worked for the Davis Mountain Property Owner's Association, and was a long-term volunteer fire fighter for the Davis Mountains Resort. He also hauled water in his army truck, "Rambo 2," for many years with their dog Bandit at his side. Always willing to lend a hand, countless people were fortunate to have him stop alongside them on the road and help them on their way again. He loved music and to sing and was asked to

share his voice since his youth. He had an infectious smile, the "gift of gab," and strangers were friends he just hadn't met yet.

He especially enjoyed fishing, and some of his happiest times were spent taking his family and friends out on his houseboat, where we would fish while singing along to oldies music of the '50s, visiting, grilling out, and enjoying the peacefulness of being on the lakes in Northern Wisconsin. In 1995 Ronald and Cindy fell in love with the Davis Mountains, and decided to make them their home. Ronald was a devoted family man, a friend to the community, and remained an unwavering admirer of the beauty that surrounded him. He will be greatly missed.

Funeral services will be held at Fort Davis United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 11 a.m. The graveside Services will follow at Davis Mountain Community Cemetery, Fort Davis, at 1 p.m. A celebration of life will be held at a later date in Wisconsin.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at Mobile Mortician of Texas' web site: www.mmofortexas.com.

To publish an obituary in Sentinel, send by email to: editor@bigbendsentinel.com. Please accompany your message with a photograph. There is no charge. Copy received by the end of the day Friday will appear in the following week's paper.

Coahuila native, Presidio resident became owner of Plaza Puerto Rico

MARIA GUADALUPE Hinojos de Aranda, 70, of Presidio, Texas, passed away on March 14, 2026. Maria Guadalupe was born in Salada, Coahuila, to Ruben Hinojos and Maria Hinojos on December 22, 1955. She married Homero Aranda on January 21, 1973, in Santa Elena. They had been in love since they were just children, building a life filled with love and family.

Maria was a true entrepreneur, proudly owning and working at Plaza Puerto Rico for 36 years, leaving behind a legacy of dedication, strength, and love for her family.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Homero Aranda; her children, Linda Molinar and husband Cerjio Molinar, Jessica Cabello and husband Ricardo Cabello, and Jesus Omero Aranda and wife Noemy Aranda. She is also survived by her grandchildren: Cerjio Molinar, Janelle Molinar, Ricardo Cabello, Enrique Cabello, Erick Cabello, Narely Aranda, Nyleen Aranda, and Homero Aranda; her sister, Ninfa Huerta; and her mother, Maria Hinojos.

Maria Guadalupe was preceded in death by her father, Ruben Hinojos; her son, Homero Aranda; and her siblings, Jose Luis Hinojos, Oscar Hinojos, and Ruben Hinojos.

Special message: We thank God for the gift of her life, for every moment shared, for her unconditional love, and for the lessons she left in each of us. Today her absence is deeply felt, but her memory will live on forever in our hearts. We find comfort in having had her, in being blessed by her presence, and in knowing that her love will continue to guide us. The time God allowed us to have her was a treasure we will carry with us for the rest of our lives.

With eternal love, she will forever live within us. May she rest in peace.

Funeral Services: Visitation was held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Sunset Memorial Gardens and



Le sobreviven su esposo, Homero Aranda; sus hijos, Linda Molinar y su esposo Cerjio Molinar, Jessica Cabello y su esposo Ricardo Cabello, y Jesús Omero Aranda y su esposa Noemy Aranda.

También sus nietos: Cerjio Molinar, Janelle Molinar, Ricardo Cabello, Enrique Cabello, Erick Cabello, Narely Aranda, Nyleen Aranda y Homero Aranda; su hermana, Ninfa Huerta; y su madre, María Hinojos.

Fue precedida en la muerte por su padre, Rubén Hinojos; su hijo, Homero Aranda; y sus hermanos, José Luis Hinojos, Oscar Hinojos y Rubén Hinojos.

Mensaje especial:

Agradecemos a Dios por el regalo de su vida, por cada momento compartido, por su amor incondicional y las enseñanzas que dejó en cada uno de nosotros.

Hoy su ausencia duele, pero su recuerdo vivirá por siempre en nuestros corazones. Nos queda el consuelo de haberla tenido, de haber sido bendecidos con su presencia y de saber que su amor seguirá guiándonos.

El tiempo que Dios nos permitió tenerla fue un tesoro que llevaremos con nosotros toda la vida.

Con amor eterno, siempre vivirá en nosotros. Que descanse en paz.

El velorio tendrá lugar el jueves 19 de marzo de 2026, de 5:00 p. m. a 8:00 p. m., en Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home. El Rosario se rezará ese mismo día, de 6:00 p. m. a 7:00 p. m.

El velorio se celebró el viernes 20 de marzo de 2026, de 10:00 a. m. a 12:00 p. m. La Misa fúnebre se celebrará el viernes 20 de marzo de 2026, de 1:00 p. m. a 2:00 p. m., en la Iglesia Católica St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, ubicada en: 7601 N Grandview Ave, Odessa, TX 79765.

Posteriormente, la procesión partió hacia el cementerio para dar sepultura al difunto mediante un entierro cristiano. Las donaciones en memoria de María Guadalupe pueden dirigirse a la caridad de su preferencia. Habrá sobres disponibles y también pueden enviarse a Hohner Funeral Home.

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BIG BEND

Sentinel

Published by Sentinel News Project, a Texas non-profit organization

Artists to collaborate on pieces reflecting on a border wall

Artists are invited to gather and create at “Artists Against the Wall” on Saturday, March 28, from 1-9 p.m. at the Rio Grande Village group campsite in Big Bend National Park, with optional camping afterwards. The intention is to create an archive that speaks to what could be lost to a border wall—“shaping works and moments that honor the sacred land in its wholeness, its beauty, and its fragility,” says Alpine artist, designer and coordinator of the event, Hannah-Kate Schaeffer. “Our creations will stand as both memory and offering, ex-

panding the list of what is at stake, resisting erasure, and giving voice to the lives and systems bound to the sacred course of the Rio Grande.” Schaeffer says artists are invited to engage in whatever way feels natural—whether “creating in solitude, exchanging ideas and inspiration, or collaborating in the open air.” Those interested in attending should RSVP at hannahkateschaeffer.com/artinbig-bend. The site also has a link to reserve a tent campsite if you wish to stay overnight at Group Campsite D.



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Sul Ross newspaper racks up awards

SKYLINE
This weekend, *Skyline* advisor Sid Balman and Copy Chief Viviana Sanchez traveled to Denton, Texas, to represent Sul Ross State University's online publication at this year's Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA) Convention. The paper received eight awards across various categories. The TIPA Convention is held each spring in various locations around the state and attracts anywhere from 300 to 600 students as well as faculty advisors. The convention features a plethora of events including workshops, presentations, live contests, a career fair and an awards ceremony. Since its start in 1909, the convention has grown to be recognized as one of the largest and most respected collegiate groups in the country. In the five years that advisor Sid Balman has been with the paper, this is the most awards the Skyline team has received. “Awards, although at eight this is the most ever, are a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our staff. I can't think of another time in our history when the transparency of a robust media is more impor-

tant,” said Balman. “We at *Skyline* know that and clearly so does the administration at Sul Ross.” The success at this year's convention showcases the reputation being built and sustained by the *Skyline* staff; it marks a very proud moment in the program's history.

Awards:

First Place: Alyn Covington, Division 4, in Cartoon Strip/Panel

Third Place: Alyn Covington, Division 4, in Cartoon Strip/Panel

Second Place: Maya Tinajero, Division 4, in Critical Review

Second place: Eliya Alvidrez, Division 4, in Breaking News

Second Place: Viviana Sanchez, Division 4, in General Column

Honorable Mention: Eliya Alvidrez, Division 4, in General Column

Honorable Mention: Eliya Alvidrez, Maya Tinajero, Sid Balman, Division 4, Overall Design-Newspaper

First Place: Viviana Sanchez, translated by Carles Guerrero, All Divisions, Spanish News Story



Skyline Copy Chief Viviana Sanchez receives the newspaper's eight awards.

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MEMORIAL

Terlingua firefighter stood ready to help neighbors in need

TERLINGUA FIRE & EMS, Inc. mourns the loss of one of our own, Firefighter Chris Rogers #302. Chris began serving with Terlingua Fire & EMS in 2023 and answered the call to serve the community of South Brewster County with dedication, pride, and professionalism. Through his service, he stood ready to help his neighbors in their time of need and represented the spirit of commitment and service that keeps rural departments strong.

Those who served alongside Chris remember him not only as a firefighter but as a friend and brother. His willingness to step forward in the service of others will not be forgotten by the members of this department or the community he served.

In recognition of his service, the flag at the Terlingua Fire & EMS station has been lowered to half-staff, and a Texas flag was flown over the Texas State Capitol in his honor. Firefighter Rogers' unit number, 302, will also be retired in remembrance of his service to the department and the community.

Firefighter Chris Rogers answered his last alarm on March 10. His passing is a tremendous loss to our department and the Terlingua community.

Terlingua Fire & EMS held a Full Honors Memorial Service for Firefighter Rogers on Saturday, March 21, at 1 p.m. at Terlingua Fire & EMS. Members of the public, as well as fellow fire, EMS, and law enforcement agencies, attended to honor Chris' life and service.

Terlingua Fire & EMS extends our deepest condolences to Firefighter Rogers' family, friends, and

all who knew him. We ask the community to keep them, and our members, in their thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Betty Ruth Gibson Gaddis Yndo

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AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thursday March 26

Boxing at Maintenant
7:30am-9:00am
Maintenant, 825 Rabbits Rd.
Marfa, TX



Hike with Homeless Dogs
10:00am-11:00am
Davis Mountains State Park
Park Rd 3
Fort Davis, TX

Paint & Sip Couples Ed.
6:00pm-9:00pm
Alcove Social, 211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Friday March 27

Live Music: Jerialice
6:30pm-9:30pm
Alcove Social, 211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Film Screening
El patio de mi casa
by Carlos Hagerman
7:30pm
Locker Plant, 135 E. Oak St.
Marfa, TX

Saturday March 28



Open viewing
Oscar Hagerman:
Sillas de México
1:00pm-3:00pm
Chinati Foundation, 1 Cavalry Row
Marfa, TX

Book Talk Martha Deese:
"It was simple furniture, you see, and we were makers of it"
4:00pm
Crowley Theater, 98 S. Austin St.
Marfa, TX

Live Music: Charlie Cope
7:00pm-10:00pm
Alcove Social, 211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Sunday March 29



Boxing at Maintenant
9:00am-11:00am
Maintenant, 825 Rabbits Rd.
Marfa, TX

Sunday Slow Stretch with Bailey
4:00pm-5:00pm
La Sala Studio, 207 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Open Mic Night: Music
5:00pm-8:00pm
Alcove Social, 211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Tuesday March 31

Happy Meower for Alpine Humane Society
4:00pm-8:00pm
Alcove Social, 211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Trivia Tuesday!
7:00pm-9:00pm
Alcove Social, 211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Wednesday April 1

Karaoke Night
7:00pm-10:00pm
Alcove Social, 211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

CROSSWORD

Ice Cream Sandwich
By Charlie Dean

3/26

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- Edited by David Steinberg
- ACROSS**
- 1 Part of a process
 - 5 First name in 2024 politics
 - 11 Slalom, say
 - 14 Remove the rind from
 - 15 Tranquil
 - 16 Emptied one's hand first, in Uno
 - 17 What to say if you're on fire? (In this answer, note letters 2-5)
 - 19 "Please, dig in!"
 - 20 Emotionally demanding
 - 21 Nickname that rhymes with "Ray"
 - 22 Word after "yard" or "garage"
 - 23 Space mission launch site (... letters 3-7)
 - 27 Yogurt addition
 - 29 Battering
 - 30 Prime Video option
 - 31 Variety of M&Ms
 - 34 Tactic in a war of attrition
 - 38 Hoppy brew
 - 39 Made exhausted (... letters 2-5)
 - 41 Straight pretzel shape
 - 42 Sabin vaccine target
 - 44 Front page filler
 - 45 Lily pad visitor
 - 46 Male swan
 - 48 Sea otter's snack
 - 50 "Creature" that might "attack" a child (... letters 5-9)
 - 55 Exclusively
 - 56 Ax thrower's asset
 - 57 Hajj destination
 - 60 Kerfuffle
 - 61 Exclusive information, and a theme hint
 - 64 Sermon topic
 - 65 Attacked by mosquitoes
 - 66 Undo's menu
 - 67 Shirt fired from a cannon
 - 68 with (teased)
 - 69 Remote locations?
- DOWN**
- 1 Swivel
 - 2 Control, as frizzy hair
 - 3 Waterway not supported by Jefferson or Madison
 - 4 Necklace dangle
 - 5 Metric speed meas.
 - 6 The "A" of 38-Across
 - 7 "Zoom-Zoom" automaker
 - 8 Squirrel's nut
 - 9 Like the equation y = 3x - 20
 - 10 Suffix with "Gator"
 - 11 Trigger a bleep
 - 12 Stuffed "bear" sold in an Australia airport
 - 13 Big name in chips
 - 18 Feature of his clue
 - 22 Frozen Four game
 - 24 Muppet who refers to himself in the third person
 - 25 Terrier type
 - 26 Boundless
 - 27 Tennis racket hold
 - 28 Seized auto
 - 32 Formerly known as
 - 33 Early caucusing
 - 35 404 Not Found, for one
 - 36 "Continue ..."
 - 37 Border
 - 39 Cashmere or angora
 - 40 Common PC ports
 - 43 Like Brussels sprouts, to many kids
 - 45 Swindled
 - 47 Babies
 - 49 PIN requesters
 - 50 A "ting, ting, ting" may signal its start
 - 51 Like Sundance films
 - 52 Personal copy?
 - 53 Waterfall sprays
 - 54 Fails to mention
 - 58 Makeshift screwdriver
 - 59 Many NYC homes
 - 61 Pioneer in chess engines
 - 62 Poor grade
 - 63 This clue's position

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

B	A	H	T		P	W	N	S		S	H	O	R	T
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SUDUKO

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

3/26

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

SOLUTION:

3/19

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LETTERS

The feds are coming to take it

BIG BEND National Park and Big Bend Ranch State Park are, without question, the most rugged and the most wild places in Texas. And arguably the most beautiful. I know it's easy to say this or that is the most beautiful place, but if you haven't been there I urge you to ask someone who has or Google some photos.

The Big Bend geology is some of the most complex, convoluted and fascinating in the entire world. Unique and dramatic canyons that rise an astonishing 1,200 feet virtually straight up. Because of the sky island effect creating numerous different habitats, combined with a major migrating flyway, the Big Bend boasts an astonishing 480 different bird species. Combine that with over 80 species of mammals and hundreds of reptiles, and you have some of the most diverse wildlife in all of North America. It seems like everything about this special place is fabulous. More di-

nosaur fossils are found here than anywhere in the country.

The Big Bend also has a claim to be one of the oldest continuous settlements in the country and the extremely rich archaeology along the river to go with it. Another feature of this place is the extremely rare dark skies here are unmatched in the entire U.S. The Big Bend is indeed one of the treasures of Texas.

But now, the federal government has come here claiming there is an emergency and waved all 28 regulations where the public could have a chance to weigh in. So, with virtually no input from the local politicians, law enforcement or the people of the region, they decree they will build a wall. This 150-mile stretch has, by orders of magnitude, the least illegal crossings of the entire border with Mexico. The cost of this 18-to-30-foot-high wall, with roads on both sides, and lights

will be stunningly expensive, for a problem that doesn't even exist.

So the question that people in the Big Bend Region and across Texas are asking is: "Where is the Texas Pride that we hear so much about?" Wherever I travel in Texas I see "Don't Tread on Me" flags and "Come and Take It" flags with the cannon emblem. Well guess what? The Feds are coming and they are taking. And they are taking one of the best places in Texas.

All the local judges and sheriffs in the region have spoken out against the wall. But we have heard nothing from other elected Texas politicians like Senators Cornyn and Cruz and Congressman Gonzales and Governor Abbott.

If they want to save this phenomenal place, they better take some action soon because construction is set to begin in June.

—SEAN MCGUIRE
Terlingua, Texas 79852

It's time to stop lying about Herrera

AS A LIFELONG Texas resident, I'm so tired of all the fighting and the lies. I've met Brandon Herrera in person, and he's such a great and genuine guy. His opponents trying to smear him as a Nazi and a Confederate is just sad and desperate.

Herrera has a strong appreciation for the preservation of all sides of history, and they act like that's somehow a bad thing.

For that, I'm doubling down. I'm getting all of my friends and neighbors to vote in November just so that we can give him a little

more boost against these lies. I've never met someone willing to give so much of himself just to help our country, and we as Texans should at least give a little time to make sure he gets to Congress.

—JOHN FUENTES
San Antonio

CLASSIFIEDS AND PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

AUCTION AND SALE OF ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES

Pursuant to the authority granted under the Texas Transportation Code, Section 683.011, and/or Section 683.031: and having complied with the notification procedures required on Section 683.012 of this Article, the Sheriff, Presidio County, Marfa, Texas, shall conduct an auction and sale of abandoned motor vehicles at 10:00 A.M., Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the following location: outside the Marfa Airport Impound Lot, Hwy 17 N, Marfa, TX 79843.

- Abandoned vehicles to be sold are:
- YEAR & MODEL UNKNOWN, CARRY ON TRAILER, PARTIAL VIN ONLY
1994 FORD PK, VIN: 1FTJW35G2REA46245
1999 GMC UT, VIN: 1GKEK13R2XJ704614
2000 GMC PK, VIN: 1GTEK19T1Y1E127180
2002 CHEV PK, VIN: 3GNEK13T82G137012
2003 BUIC UT, VIN: 3G5DA03E93S551683
2003 CHEV PK, VIN: 1GCEC14X83Z249284
2005 CHEV 2D, VIN: 2G1WW12E359198392
2005 CHEV VN, VIN: 1GNDV23L05D266923
2008 FORD PK, VIN: 1FTSX21R08ED31723
2011 DODG AM, VIN: 3D6WA7EL8BG503903
2012 FORD PK, VIN: 1FTFX1ET2CKD44775
2014 CHEV 4D, VIN: 1G1125S32EU108938
2017 TOYT LL, VIN: JTMRJREV8HD102888
2019 CHEV UT, VIN: 3GNCJLSB5K188196

Danny Dominguez, Sheriff, Presidio County Sheriff's Office, P.O. Drawer V, Marfa, Texas
(432) 729-4308

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Bobby Lee Donaldson Jr. were issued on 02/24/2026, in Docket No. 2073, pending in the County Court of Presidio County, Texas, to Bobby Lee Donaldson III. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:
c/o John Fowlkes
127 W. Texas St.
PO Box 1470
Marfa, TX 79843

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The City of Marfa City Council has scheduled a Public Hearing for April 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the Casner Room, City Hall, 113 S. Highland Ave., Marfa, Texas, regarding Special

Use Permit Application No. 2026-01 submitted by AEP Texas, Inc. for the construction of an electrical substation located on a property of 4.0388 acres of land situated at 102 and 104 N. Aparejo Street and at the corner of N. Aparejo Street and E. Oak Street, also described as Parcel 1: S ½ of Block 103, Original Townsite of Marfa; Parcel 2: N ½ of Block 103, Original Townsite of Marfa; Parcel 3: a 3.57-acre tract in Section 244, Block 8, G.H. & S.A. Ry. Co. Survey, City of Marfa, Presidio County, State of Texas. For additional information, contact City of Marfa, 432-729-4315.

HELP WANTED

THE CITY OF PRESIDIO IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF ONE UTILITY WORKER WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. THIS IS A FULL-TIME POSITION. THIS POSITION WORKS UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR. A UTILITY WORKER PERFORMS VARIOUS WORK ASSIGNMENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT.

- CANDIDATES MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**
- MUST BE LEGAL TO WORK IN THE US
 - MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE
 - VALID COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE WITH A PROVEN GOOD DRIVING RECORD
 - MUST HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR EQUIVALENT

APPLICATION AND COMPLETE JOB DESCRIPTION AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL. APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE www.presidiotx.us
A CITY OF PRESIDIO EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION IS REQUIRED TO BE

CONSIDERED FOR THE POSITION. THE CITY OF PRESIDIO IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

Please submit your application to the address below:
City of Presidio
City Secretary
P.O. Box 1899
Presidio, TX 79845

Physical Address:
507 W. O'Reilly St., Presidio, Texas
THE CITY OF PRESIDIO IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. THIS POSITION IS OPEN UNTIL MARCH 20, 2026

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THE STATE OF TEXAS	COUNTY COURT
COUNTY OF PRESIDIO	
CITATION BY PUBLICATION	
IN THE ESTATE OF: JOSE A. RODRIGUEZ CAUSE: 2070	
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF <u>JOSE A. RODRIGUEZ, Deceased</u> , Docket No. <u>2070</u> , County Court, Presidio County, Texas <u>APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND APPLICATION FOR DEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION</u> filed in the County Court of Presidio County, Texas, on the <u>16th</u> day of <u>September, 2025</u> .	
Said application may be heard and acted on by said Court at 10 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publishing this citation, at the County Courthouse in Marfa, Texas.	
All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.	
All interested persons are further advised that they have the right to employ an attorney and that if they or their attorney fail to file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of ten days after the publishing of this citation, the court may enter orders with binding effects upon said persons.	
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Marfa, Texas, this the <u>19th</u> day of <u>March, 2026</u>	
Carolina A. Catano Clerk of the County Court, Presidio County, Texas By: <u>Melissa DeRonde</u> Deputy Clerk's Address: P.O. Box 789 Marfa, Texas 79843	

OUR WATER MATTERS



A rendering of a proposed desalination plant that was never constructed.

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

Corpus Christi approaches Day Zero

K NOWN AS the “Sparkling City by the Sea,” Corpus Christi provides water from three reservoirs supplied by the Nueces River to about 600,000 people in seven counties within the Coastal Bend region of Texas. It is also a port on the Gulf of Mexico with enormous industrial capacity that supplies much of the state’s gasoline and jet fuel.

In the coming months, Corpus Christi could become the first major U.S. city to suffer a “Day Zero Drought,” which scientists define as “a prolonged dry period that collides with growing water demand and shrinking reservoirs,” according to “Day Zero apocalypse explained” in *The Economic Times*. As volumes dwindle, the pressure within a supply system falls below a level sufficient to deliver water to end users. Taps run dry, commerce shuts down, and people are forced to seek water elsewhere.

Corpus Christi’s predicament has unfolded within the context of revolutionary developments in the methods available to recover oil and gas from tight shale formations found in the Eagle Ford region of South Texas and elsewhere. The resulting oil boom in the 2010s led to a push in Congress to lift the

national ban on oil exports enacted in response to the oil shocks of the 1970s. The ban was lifted in late 2015 as part of a grand bargain to pass the federal budget, and the resulting growth in exports made Corpus Christi “the nation’s largest energy export gateway,” according to Port Corpus Christi’s website.

Thanks to aggressive recruiting by Corpus Christi officials, industry giants like ExxonMobil and Saudi Basic Industries Corporation soon expanded operations in the area with a plastics plant that requires 25 million gallons of water per day. Steel Dynamics established a steel mill requiring 6 million gallons a day. A lithium refinery owned by Tesla could use up to 10 million gallons per day, while Avina Clean Hydrogen “has secured rights to 5.5 million gallons per day,” according to superb reporting by Dylan Baddour in *Inside Climate News*. But these multibillion-dollar facilities “are built to run at a steady rate and can’t simply throttle down production in accordance with water availability,” writes Baddour. “They consume large volumes of water primarily in cooling towers to prevent excessive heating and explosions.”

Rather than meaningfully diversifying its water supplies, as cities like El Paso and San Antonio have

done, Corpus Christi city staff announced plans in 2019 to build a single seawater desalination facility. Desalination uses reverse osmosis and other methods to produce freshwater by separating salt and other minerals from seawater. The resulting byproduct, known as brine, can be “nearly twice as salty as seawater because about 40-45% of the freshwater is removed,” according to Water Corporation of Western Australia, one of the world’s largest desalination plant operators.

Brine is usually released several miles offshore to allow sufficient dilution in the ocean. This prevents damage to coastal ecosystems and the industries that depend on them. But Corpus Christi’s proposal sought to release this super-salty brine into Corpus Christi Bay, “a shallow, almost stagnant body of water,” according to Baddour.

Since it can take about a year for the contents of Corpus Christi Bay to be replaced by new water, scientists and activists sought to modify the plant’s design to pipe the brine a few miles offshore and release it into the deeper waters of the Gulf. But developers refused, arguing the modification would be too expensive. As opposition hardened, the project became mired in delays, and costs skyrocketed.

Mismanagement of available resources should have been evident as early as 2017, when the city had allocated all the water in its 50-year water plan about 13 years ahead of schedule, according to Baddour. Foreseeable industrial demand has continued to diminish the city’s reservoirs as drought conditions and record-high temperatures persist. Adding further uncertainty to a volatile situation, the city council

voted to kill the desalination project—despite millions of dollars in previous investment—at a contentious meeting in September of last year. With no major precipitation expected, the city could find itself at an “emergency” conservation stage as early as this summer. This will require even industrial users to “steeply curtail water consumption, causing major economic disruption,” writes Baddour.

In another bizarre twist, Corpus Christi’s perfect storm of increased water demand, decreased water supply, and poor decision-making has developed within a rapidly destabilizing environment fueled by the state’s own emissions. With “massive concentrations of super-emitting refineries and petrochemical plants” lining the Gulf Coast, Texas is a direct contributor to “its own whipsaw weather extremes as

the undisputed national leader in greenhouse gas emissions,” according to an analysis of the U.S. Climate Vulnerability Index by the investigative website Capital and Main.

James Dodson, a former director of Corpus Christi’s water department during the expansion of the city’s water supply in the 1990s, told Baddour: “It’s the very worst scenario that I’ve ever seen.” He said the city had repeatedly failed to develop groundwater import projects “as it maintained a singular and fruitless focus on desalination,” writes Baddour. The crisis was summed up best by another local water official who told Baddour: “They’ve been kicking the can down the road for a long time, and they’ve finally run out of road.”

Visit insideclimatenews.org for more on this developing story.

—TREY GERFERS

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NEW YORK CITY PLAYERS

The New York City Players perform *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* at 101 Greenwich in 2024.

Ballroom Marfa to present *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* in the Bullroom

All-female cast features New York City Players and locally-cast performers in a play directed by Richard Maxwell

WHEN FEDERICO García Lorca was only 8 years old, he began eavesdropping on neighbors’ conversations from the shared well that served his aunt Matilde’s home in Valderubbio, Spain. There, the curious and voyeuristic child gathered fragments of conversation between a domineering widow, Frasquita Alba, and her forlorn, enigmatic daughters. Unknowable to him at the time, these overheard exchanges would later inspire the character Bernarda Alba—the formidable matriarch in his most acclaimed play, *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*, a cornerstone of 20th-century Spanish theatre.

Next month, Ballroom Marfa will present *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*, directed by Richard Maxwell of New York City Players, at the Bull Room on April 10–11.

Lorca’s last play tells the story of Bernarda, an unbending mother obsessed with appearances, who, after the death of her second husband, imposes eight years of mourning on her five daughters and confines them within their home in a small Spanish village. Though set in a time and place where men boldly reign, they are never seen on stage; the play explores love, familial ties and control as an all-female cast transforms the home

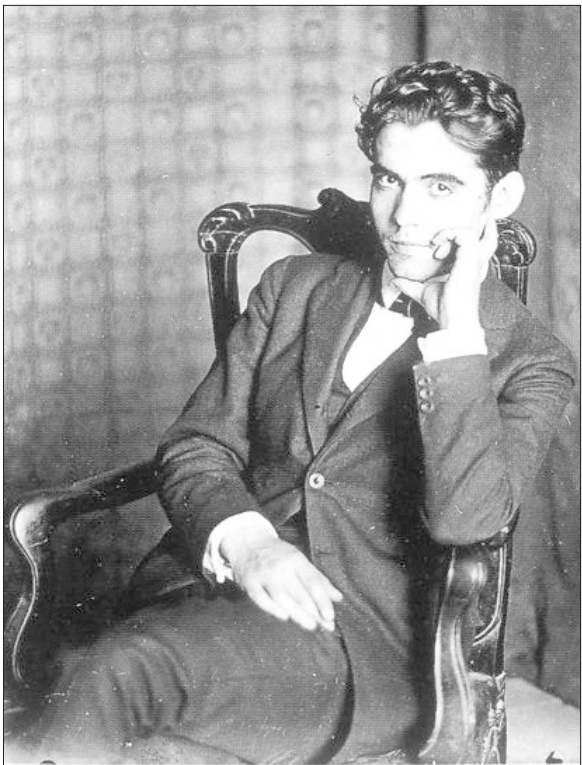
into a pressure chamber of power, longing and surveillance.

New York City Players is a nonprofit New York City-based experimental theatre company founded in 1999 by Maxwell to present his work. Since its founding, the company has produced around 30 new plays in New York and has toured in more than 20 countries worldwide.

The show was developed in collaboration with the New York City Players’ Incoming Theater Division, a program led by Maxwell’s partner, Tory Vazquez, and originally launched at Liberty High School Academy, a Manhattan school serving new immigrants. Vazquez, who also plays Bernarda, is committed to creating space for newcomers to develop their performance skills. Presented entirely in Spanish, the production features both members of New York City Players and locally-cast performers, curated by Carolyn Pfeiffer and Fatima Anaza.

Maxwell, born in Fargo, North Dakota, and a New York resident for over two decades, was an artist in residence at the Chinati Foundation in 2018. During his time in Marfa, he presented two works: *Ads*, a performance featuring approximately 30 local community members in an unoccupied section of Chinati’s Ice Plant building during Chinati Weekend; later that year, he directed his musical theater piece *Ode to the Man Who Kneels*, staged on the slab of an old fort building on the Chinati grounds.

“Every year my visits to Marfa got longer and longer,” says Maxwell, who owns a home in town and returned this past July to scout the Bull Room for the performance—one of the most exciting aspects of the production. “It’s a rural story, and



Federico García Lorca at age 21.

Spanish language is a part of that story, very obviously ... So to do this play in Marfa—in a former bull barn, when there’s mention of ‘the corral’ in the play ... The correspondences are hard to deny.”

The production speaks to West Texas’ deep-rooted Spanish-speaking and Latinx communities, affirming the importance of seeing one’s own language and culture reflected on stage. While the production’s arrival in the U.S./Mexican borderlands feels timely, Maxwell emphasises that his desire to bring the play to Far West Texas is personal. “I keep going back to how much I loved doing theatre in Marfa—in a way it’s a dream come true to have a collaboration with our New York production and local people.”

Maxwell cites Vance Knowles’ enthusiasm for the show and his “intention to preserve the essential character of the Bull Room as they convert it into a performance venue” as key in making the production possible. “I’m proud to continue and contribute to this experiment.”

Maxwell likewise attributes part of this story to Christopher Wool, whom he met during his first trip to Marfa in 2016. Wool later approached him about creating a play to accompany his exhibition *See Stop Run*, which opened in a vacant, raw office building at 101 Greenwich in the Financial District of Lower Manhattan in March 2024. Ultimately, Wool’s show was staged on the 19th floor, and

the production premiered on the ground floor that June, selling out for three consecutive weeks during its month-long run. The performance was staged alongside two of Wool’s tangled barbed wire sculptures, and his work will also be featured in the Marfa production. “A lot of strands in this story are coming together in a really meaningful way,” Maxwell says.

Federico García Lorca wrote *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* on the eve of the Spanish Civil War and never saw it produced; two months after completing the play, he was assassinated by Nationalist forces in the conflict’s early weeks. Though he never witnessed a public staging, he specifies white walls in his stage directions, perhaps intuiting how powerfully the black mourning dresses would register with an audience—their light-absorbing intensity forming a stark contrast with the bright, bare walls.

Smitten with Lorca’s characters, Maxwell wrote a sequel to *La Casa* entitled *Galicia*, which was translated into Ukrainian and premiered at the Ivan Franko National Academic Drama Theater in Kyiv in August 2025. “I began to wonder what would happen the day after this tragic play ends,” Maxwell says. The production featured a Ukrainian cast drawn both from Maxwell’s Theater for Beginners workshop—held in Kyiv earlier that year—and through street casting.

“Theatre is off the hook—really popular there,” he says. “And since the full-scale invasion, other art forms aren’t like that, really ... I like to think it’s because people want to be together during this time of war. The show sold out in minutes. I think it’s a testament to the value of live theatre.”

Galicia has been translated into Spanish, and Maxwell hopes to present it alongside *La Casa* as a double bill in the near future.

With respect to *La Casa*, one might readily note correspondences between its themes of surveillance and contemporary events, or the timeliness of staging a rural Spanish play within the context of the U.S./Mexican borderlands. “I’m interested in what happens to human behavior when it meets that kind of oppression. Not just oppression within the house but also a kind of societal pressure,” Maxwell says, regarding his enduring fascination in telling Lorca’s story. “And you can draw all kinds of parallels, which I’m reluctant to do, because I really prefer that the audience find them themselves.”

La Casa de Bernarda Alba will run two performances, Friday, April 10, and Saturday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Bull Room. The show is to be performed in Spanish with English supertitles. This program is free to attend. Tickets are required and available at Ballroom Marfa’s website.

—ALEXIS WOLFE

