

BURN BAN IN
EFFECT, NO
GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

Marfa uses
state-sanctioned
loophole to
mandate masks

By **ABBIE PERRAULT**
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MARFA — The City of Marfa voted on Thursday to require businesses to mandate face coverings for employees and customers in any place where maintaining a constant six feet of distance is not possible. The city’s ordinance stuck closely to the wording of Bexar County’s mask ordinance and passed unanimously in an emergency city council meeting on Thursday, June 18.

Earlier this year, Governor Greg Abbott prevented local governments from requiring its residents to wear a mask, essentially striking down orders like the one City of Presidio passed in April that said residents must wear masks in public.

Then last week, Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff poked around and found a loophole in Governor Greg Abbott’s executive orders, discovering that while local governments could not require their residents to wear masks, they could require local businesses to require masks.

City Attorney Teresa Todd urged council at the emergency meeting to stick as closely to Bexar County’s ordinance. “We don’t want to stray too far because this actually has the governor’s blessing,” she told Marfa’s council at the evening Zoom meeting.

Governor Abbott said Wolff “finally figured it out” and that requiring businesses to require masks was the “plan all along,” despite never indicating that loophole previously.

“I don’t believe that was his original intent,” Todd said, noting that he is now “coming under some heat” as cases rapidly rise in many parts of the state and local governments feel powerless to implement controls.

“As I think y’all know, it’s been very frustrating for cities to not have any enforcement authority when it comes to masks, since it’s been shown they do help prevent the spread of COVID,” the attorney said.

Governor Abbott has previously fought local governments who have put in ordinances that are stricter than his executive orders. His office warned Presidio County at the end of April that they could not keep hotels, motels and short-term rentals closed as a precaution against the pandemic, indicating his orders superseded theirs.

At the Thursday meeting, Councilmember Buck Johnston hoped to strike the part of the ordinance that implied masks weren’t required if six feet of distance could be maintained, saying that it would just cause more people to act defiantly and challenge enforcement, making it harder for businesses to enforce the mask requirements.

But council bristled, including Councilmember Raul Lara who

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC



Photo by Maisie Crow

Magnolia Garza, 5, of Marathon waits with Melissa Garza in the stairwell at the Pete P. Gallego Center at SRSU on Friday to get tested for Covid-19 after officials moved testing inside.

SRSU brings much-needed testing to tri-county — but not without a hitch

By **STEPHEN PAULSEN**
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TRI-COUNTY — Last week, as coronavirus case-counts in the tri-county continued to climb and residents grew more concerned, Pete Gallego, the new president of Sul Ross State University, put in a call to the office of Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

Gallego, who previously served in both the U.S. and Texas House of Representatives, hoped to ramp up testing in the region — and his call paid off. “I have to tell you, the governor’s office was extremely helpful,” Gallego said. “Within 24 hours of my phone call, we had a team on the ground.”

So began the tri-county’s biggest testing push to date. Testing in the region has so far mostly

consisted of day-long mobile testing sites, as well as limited supplies at local clinics and the Big Bend Regional Medical Center. But with hardly a day’s notice, SRSU pulled off two-and-a-half days of back-to-back testing.

Working with Governor Abbott, the National Guard and the Texas Department of Emergency Management, Sul Ross opened testing on Thursday afternoon. Within hours, dozens of cars were lined up in the university parking lot.

On Friday alone, officials managed to test 341 people. They were just seven people shy of breaking Friday’s statewide testing record, Gallego said, which that day went to a Dallas mobile testing site with 348 tests.

By the time testing ended on Saturday, health officials at Sul Ross State University had managed to test more than 750 people. Gallego

was thrilled with the results of the initiative, describing it on social media as “record-breaking turnout” for a small community like Alpine and “amazingly fast constituent service” on the part of state health officials.

Local health workers were also happy with the initiative. “Pete Gallego should be commended for making an attempt to get a reasonable amount of testing,” said Dr. J.P. Schwartz, the local health authority for Presidio County. “The governor has just absolutely abdicated any responsibility.”

The testing numbers from that two-and-a-half day blitz, Schwartz noted, were “more than has been done in the entire region.”

“That’s a heroic thing,” he added. “I hope they can continue.”

Locals were less effusive, though — and

(Continued on page 2)

As coronavirus case-counts climb in tri-county, Presidio braces for impact

By **STEPHEN PAULSEN**
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PRESIDIO — The City of Presidio saw Presidio County’s first coronavirus case in late May, when a female resident in her 40s was confirmed to have picked up the disease through travel. But as case-counts pick up to the north and south, the border city is starting to look like a refuge, with for a time just one travel-related coronavirus case.

Unfortunately, that sense of relative safety is already starting to erode. On Tuesday, the Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend announced on social media that an employee in Presidio had tested positive, bringing the confirmed case count for Presidio city up to at least two.

Across the Rio Grande in Presidio’s sister city of Ojinaga, Mexican officials recorded the first coronavirus case in April. And the case-count is

rising, hitting at least 39 by Wednesday.

U.S. federal officials last week reimposed their bans on nonessential travelers from Mexico, and car crossings throughout the region have dropped 37%, according to data from Customs and Border Protection. But while Mexican border officials are reportedly taking temperatures of anyone entering the country, U.S. border officials are instead referring anyone with symptoms to local health officials and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention for an “enhanced health screening,” a CBP spokesperson said.

“We are not health care workers and do not perform health screenings,” he added.

The situation isn’t much better stateside, though. In Brewster County, and especially in Alpine, case-counts have soared this week, going from just one case in early June to at least 61.

Marfa’s situation looks similar. Local officials earlier this month announced Marfa’s first case,

along with four family members classified as “probable.”

Days later, they warned that the affected family was “not respecting control measures” and that, therefore, “the probability exists of possible spread.” At press time, there are at least 14 cases in Presidio County, according to the Department of State Health Services.

As outbreaks pick up in the tri-county, officials in Presidio have varying theories for why the border city has so far stayed relatively safe.

“I think you’ve got to attribute a little to luck,” said City Administrator Joe Portillo. But he stressed that he feels Presidio residents are acting responsibly.

“I really think people are being pretty smart,” he said. “Most people — not all — but most. Even though it’s not required, most wear a mask when they go into the store.”

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Rising appraisals hit homeowners, but may help the school district

By **ABBIE PERRAULT**
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — After holding appraisal values steady last year, the Presidio County Appraisal District announced in April that the average home value would increase 58% this year, an adjustment made in hopes of getting local appraisals more in line with the state’s market value data on Presidio County. The district will now hear 400 homeowners contest their appraisals, both over the phone and in-person, starting Monday.

The county has repeatedly struggled to align with the state, most recently failing the State Comptroller’s 2019 Property Value Study, which said the Presidio County Appraisal District was consistently undervaluing its properties last year. The study looks at local appraisal values in comparison to data collected on local home sales, which should be within 5% of each other.

“We were almost 20 percent behind. It was bad,” said Richard Petree, a consultant to the local appraisal district. “Consequently, we’re

having to make big changes. Land was a real big problem; I’m just shocked at the price of land out there.”

Petree said Marfa is exceptional. “I work in 22 counties and I don’t see that kind of stuff going on anywhere else. It’s just a special environment,” he said. The tax rates aren’t higher than other places, but the appraised values are, so the tax bill for homeowners can come out more expensive than in other rural Texas areas, Petree noted.

“I do the work for Brewster County also — in Alpine, they’re probably 30 percent, 40 percent behind Marfa’s numbers for the same property. Then you go over to Fort Stockton and you get a much more normalized market that is typical of West Texas oil towns,” he said.

While it stings to get a high appraisal value in the mail, Cynthia Ramirez, chief appraiser for the PCAD, emphasized, “It’s not a bill.” The appraisals have gone up this year, but it is the taxing entities — Marfa, City of Presidio, the two school boards, the county and the hospital district — that set the tax rate that is applied to your property value. “The taxing entities will be

the ones to decide what you pay, because they’ll vote on their tax rates.”

In setting new tax rates this year, taxing districts will have to find the tax rate that brings in the exact same amount of money as last year. From there, they are capped at how much they can increase it.

While the hospital district can still increase by up to 8% each year, a new law will cap most local taxing entities at a 3.5% increase, down from the previous 8% cap. Any increase over the cap triggers an election where voters can reject that increase entirely.

As COVID hits local budgets already, the entities may be looking for revenues that will pay for their upcoming budgets, meaning they could increase the full 3.5%, or even go higher if they are willing to let residents vote on the tax increase.

There is some reprieve for property owners this year: if a homeowner “homesteads,” making their Marfa home their primary residence, their

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Upcoming
mobile testing
in the Big Bend
region

Testing will continue in the Big Bend region this coming week. Please note that the Presidio testing date has changed since last week’s announcement.

To set up a testing appointment, visit txcovidtest.org or call 512-883-2400.

Marfa
Friday, June 26
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Marfa Visitor Center
302 South Highland Avenue

Fort Davis
Sunday, June 28
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Fort Davis Volunteer Fire
Department
202 Court Avenue

Terlingua
Monday, June 29
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
South Brewster County Emergency
Response Center
23250 FM 170

Presidio
Tuesday, June 30
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
City of Presidio EMS & Fire
Station
100 East FM 170

Early voting
begins Monday for
runoff elections

By **ABBIE PERRAULT**
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — The Republican and Democratic parties will hold their runoff elections on Tuesday, July 14, with early voting beginning this Monday, June 29 at the USO Building in Marfa and the County Annex Building C in Presidio.

The runoffs, originally slated to take place in May, were delayed to July due to the coronavirus pandemic. A legal battle has since ensued over vote-by-mail rights in Texas, with various courts deciding that mail ballots could or could not be requested based on fear of contracting coronavirus at the polls. Currently, vote-by-mail is only available for those over 65, with a disability, with proof of being out of the county for early voting and election day or those confined in jail.

On the Republican ballot, Tony Gonzales — carrying the endorsement of Will Hurd — and Raul Reyes — proud to not have Hurd’s support — face off for the U.S. House of Representatives’ District 23 seat. The winner will go on to face Gina Ortiz Jones in the general election this fall.

On the Democratic ticket, Mary “MJ” Hegar and Royce West face off for a chance to challenge incumbent John Cornyn in the race for a U.S. Senate seat. West, a Dallas-based state senator, faces Hegar, an Air Force veteran.

Also on the Democratic ballot is Chrysta Castañeda challenging Roberto R. “Beto” Alonzo for a chance to join the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates energy industries in Texas.

While Presidio County has recently been required to have more voting for its seven precincts, because of the pandemic, voting locations have been consolidated back down to two locations. The USO Building is at 302 S Highland Avenue in Marfa and the County Annex is located at 300 East O’Reilly Street in Presidio.

Early voting will take place June 29 through July 2 and July 6 through July 10, open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, with election day on July 14.

Marfa masks

(Continued from page 1)

called the proposed ordinance “an excellent, excellent start,” and urged council to not stray from it, for fear that the whole ordinance would be struck down and once again, no requirements would be in place.

Justice of the Peace David Beebe spoke up to remind the council that any business owner can choose to be more strict than the ordinance, because they have the right to set their own rules and refuse service to customers who didn’t meet their requirements.

Along with requiring face coverings for employees and customers, the ordinance has some reasonable exceptions. Children under 10 are not required to wear masks, nor those with written proof of a health issue. Masks are not required while exercising outside, driving alone or with others in your household, while banking (as it interferes with security surveillance), while pumping gas and importantly, while consuming food or drink. Masks are still required at food and drink establishments when entering or exiting the establishment or using facilities such as restrooms.

“What we want is for the police department to be there to back these businesses up,” Attorney Todd told the council. In Marfa, that could look like a business owner warning a maskless person to put on a face covering or leave the premises. If they refused, the police department could be called in to issue a criminal trespass warning. If the person attempted to return to the premises,

they could face trespassing charges.

“It’s on the business; the business has to tell them to put a mask on. If they get in their face, won’t leave, it can be a criminal trespass, or if they’re worse, a disorderly conduct,” said Marfa Police Chief Steve Marquez in an interview this week.

“It’s not about whether the person is wearing a mask anymore, it’s about whether they engaged in criminal behavior,” according to Todd. Under the order, it is businesses who can face penalties though, not individuals. While individuals can be charged for unlawful actions that stemmed from enforcement of the order, businesses can face up to \$1,000 fines for each day they do not require employees and customers to wear masks.

So far, Marfa police have had a couple complaints about one business, and the city is working with its management to implement the mask requirements. The ordinance went into effect Monday and there is a five-day grace period to work with businesses to require masks.

Additionally, the city is holding a workshop tonight at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom to discuss the ordinance, inviting the public to weigh in.

On the night it passed, there were nine cases of COVID-19 in Marfa, with one being contracted due to traveling out of the area, while the eight others were from the disease spreading within the community, often from unidentified sources.

Those who have coronavirus are ordered by the Department of State Health Services to stay at home and quarantine for two weeks while they recover, and until they can test negative for the

virus. But face coverings are useful because some who have COVID-19 may not show any symptoms but are still able to spread the disease to people who could be seriously harmed by contracting coronavirus.

“The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected,” the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention explains on their site. Because there is no vaccine, preventative measures are society’s only defense against the pandemic’s spread.

“You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick. Everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities,” the CDC site says. Still, face covering isn’t foolproof in preventing spread. “Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing,” the site reads.

Mayor Manny Baeza urged council to pass it as is, speculating that there would be blowback from the state if Marfa chose to make the ordinance any stricter, and saying the city could “tweak whatever needs to be fixed on this ordinance” at the Thursday night workshop. “We can do this little trial run and see what we need to modify.”

The public hearing and regular meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. tonight, and residents can dial in at (346) 248-7799 or watch online at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86169906767?pwd=LE0ZwWEdVWZVpM3pkblY2bjdvNlVHZZz09 Meeting ID: 861 6990 6767 Password: 008534

SRSU testing

(Continued from page 1)

SRSU officials acknowledged the push faced logistical challenges. On Thursday, the high turnout overwhelmed testing officials, leaving residents waiting in their cars for hours. Some complained of running low on gasoline or needing to use the bathroom, Gallego said. Others left without getting tested.

Among them was Brielle Gonzales, a Marfa resident. As case-counts climbed in Marfa, she decided to get tested, just to be safe.

Gonzales showed up early for Thursday’s testing, thinking she could get ahead of the lines. Instead, it was a “total circus,” she said. There were around 100 people already in line, she said, and another dozen soon joined the line behind her.

Gonzales waited in line for hours, but “I was one of the cut-offs,” she added. A testing official came by and said they’d run out of tests. Gonzales left.

Shawn Shields, a Terlingua resident, had a similar experience. One of her friends had exposure to a coronavirus patient, Shields said. She wanted to make sure she didn’t have the disease.

“It was so incredibly weird and not organized,” Shields said of her experience at the SRSU testing site. And after waiting in line for around three hours, she said a National Guard official told her around 4

p.m. that they’d run out of tests. (A Sul Ross official said the site was short on time — not tests — and that any reports of test shortages were likely “a misunderstanding.”)

Hoping to bring better organization, Gallego said on social media on Thursday afternoon that reservations for testing, though not required, were “preferred.” But with such short notice for the initiative, there was no way to book an appointment through Texas’s online testing reservation system, TXCovidTest.org.

By Tuesday, the site was down “due to appointment availability,” according to a statement on the homepage. And meanwhile, the state’s phone reservation system, 512-883-2400, was experiencing two-hour wait times, according to a Sul Ross State University spokesperson.

Then, on Friday morning, officials made the abrupt decision to move testing inside the Pete P. Gallego Center. In a social media post that morning, Gallego cited the hot weather and concerns for the safety of National Guard test-takers. It also allowed officials to split people into two lines, in an effort to speed the process.

Still, the changes also meant that people worried about their coronavirus status were left to congregate not outside in their cars, but inside, in-person, where coronavirus can spread more easily.

And while officials say they tried to maintain social distancing in the main testing area, people in line nonetheless crowded together on stairwells.

On Friday, another Marfa resident came by with several other residents. (He asked not to be named, citing concerns that people might interpret his interest in getting tested as a sign that he was a presumptive patient.) When officials abruptly moved testing inside, that group decided to leave.

“It just felt like they’d changed the procedure without considering safety protocol,” that resident said. Like Gonzales, he’s now also hoping to get tested this week in Marfa.

Shields, the Terlingua resident, also came back to try again on Friday. She waited in line outside for about an hour. But when the line continued on inside — where she worried she could be further exposed to coronavirus — she decided to once again leave.

Shields was angry about the experience. “I’m really mad at myself for walking into that building,” she said. She had spent months taking precautions, and she felt her Friday visit to get tested possibly put her at greater risk than she had experienced “through this entire pandemic.”

Shields was also angry at officials. She questioned why health officials had people congregate inside for coronavirus testing when “you don’t even let 10 people into the gas station.” And she questioned why National Guard testers couldn’t stand outside in West Texas weather for a day when some of them had likely served in the Middle East. “I work outside every day in 110 degree weather,” she said. “This is Texas, y’all.”

In his interview, SRSU President Gallego acknowledged that there had been issues with the testing push. “Logistically, an operation this size is always a challenge,” he said.

And as for the biggest criticism — regarding people waiting indoors for testing — Gallego said the National Guard, and not SRSU, had

made that request. (The National Guard did not respond by press time to a request for comment about this decision and whether local safety was considered in making it.)

Last week’s scene further reflects the high demand and short supply for testing in the region. Texas has the seventh worst testing rates in the country, even as Governor Greg Abbott has continued with his “reopening” plans.

So far, the main way tri-county residents have been able to get tested has been through mobile testing sites that show up once every one or two weeks. It’s a situation Schwartz has called “sporadic.”

In a phone call on Tuesday, Schwartz said that benefits of increased testing outweigh any issues.

“We are so behind on testing. The state has totally dropped the ball,” he said. “I don’t see anybody but Pete Gallego attempting to do anything about it.”

He also defended health officials for their decision to move testing inside, noting that “heat stroke is a real thing.” And while some residents complained of crowding indoors, Schwartz said all residents in that line also had a personal responsibility.

“This is like wartime,” he said. “The authorities can do as reasonable a job as they think they can. But with COVID, you’ve got to take care of yourself.”

Gonzales, the Marfa resident, thought the high local demand for testing had added to the chaos.

“They thought maybe 20 people would come — maybe,” she said. “And the whole county showed up, and they didn’t know what to do.”

Like others who had tried and failed to get tested, she was annoyed with the experience. But when Gonzales realized the extent that local school officials went to organize the testing push, she was more understanding of the challenges.

“I’m glad Sul Ross at least stepped up to do something about it,” she said. “It’s a step in the right direction.”

Alpine passes limited mask ordinance

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
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ALPINE — On Tuesday evening, Alpine became one of the latest Texas cities to consider using the “Texas mask loophole” to require masks in businesses.

At the end of a virtual city council meeting on Tuesday, though, Alpine scaled back their proposed ordinance — instead requiring that businesses post a sign saying whether masks are mandatory or not.

The Texas mask loophole involves Governor Greg Abbott’s shifting directives on how cities and counties should respond to the coronavirus pandemic. At the start of the crisis, he encouraged local cities and counties to develop their own responses and safety guidelines.

As he started reopening the state, though, he clarified that his executive orders superseded local ones. Those new rules overturned a range of local safety ordinances, from the short-term rental ban in Marfa to face-covering requirements in Presidio and Houston.

As the crisis has worsened in Texas, Abbott has continued with his phased reopening plans and has proven unwilling to impose any further statewide safety ordinances. Last week, though, Nelson Wolff, the county judge in Bexar County in San Antonio, tried a loophole.

Rather than requiring face coverings, Wolff required that businesses require their customers to wear face coverings. And to the surprise of many observers, Abbott was fine with those rules, describing them as “authorized” and part of the “plan in place all along.”

Countless cities have since responded by making use of that loophole, including big cities like Houston and small towns like Marfa, which passed a nearly identical ordinance last week. After *The Big Bend Sentinel* went to press on Wednesday, the City of Presidio was expected to consider such an ordinance as well.

Such an ordinance was also on the agenda in Alpine, when the city council met for a virtual emergency session on Tuesday evening.

Alpine city leaders started the meeting by considering the challenges of such a rule. There would be possible “pushback” and “political implications.” The city could get sued. And further complicating matters, the Brewster County Sheriff’s Office had said on social media as far back as April that they wouldn’t enforce any mask ordinances.

Then, of course, there were the positives. “There’s a growing body of evidence that masks are key to halting the spread,” said City Manager Erik Zimmer. He pointed to a study out of Missouri, where a mask-wearing barber had not

infected customers despite later testing positive for coronavirus.

City leaders were uncomfortable with the fact that the proposed ordinance would fine violating businesses. “My only problem is penalizing the business,” said Mayor Andy Ramos, “And not penalizing the person who is not wearing [a mask].”

Unfortunately for Ramos, Abbott has made it clear that Texas citizens can’t be fined or penalized for violating mask ordinances. And while Abbott could eventually change his opinion on that as well, imposing threats of fines on businesses — and not customers — is part of the loophole, for now at least.

Ramos also noted that mask requirements had led to physical altercations in other places, citing videos he had seen online. “We can’t have a mask patrol,” he said.

“I don’t see what’s so hard about wearing a mask,” he added. “I really don’t. It’s like putting a shirt on.”

Councilmember Rick Stephens proposed a compromise that would “let the individual make their own decision.” Rather than an across-the-board requirement for masks at businesses, he instead proposed that businesses be required to post one of two signs, which the city would provide for free.

One sign would say that customers were required to wear masks. Another would say that masks — though not required in the business — did help reduce the spread of coronavirus.

Not all city officials were thrilled with the weaker rules. “I liked how it was written in the first place,” Councilmember Maria Curry said. Councilmember Betty Fitzgerald agreed.

In the end, though, city leaders did adopt Stephens’ proposed change to the ordinance. And with those changes, the ordinance passed.

Plenty of residents tuned in to watch the city council meeting. But perhaps fearing that the meeting could descend into a bickering match, city leaders required anyone interested in making a public comment to send an email to the city ahead of the meeting.

Only one person — Amy Hardy — a co-owner of the Crystal Bar — signed up. She used the comment period to express her displeasure at mask requirements.

“We should be able to let the individuals make their own choice,” she said. “I do not feel right making my customers put on something that they’re not comfortable wearing.”

Mayor Ramos acknowledged the issues of personal liberty and responsibility. “To each their own,” he said. But those issues are more complicated when it comes to communicable diseases, where “one person could infect a bunch of people.”

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Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

This is a quote from the Centers for Disease Control (cdc.gov) website: “We now know from recent studies that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (‘asymptomatic’) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (‘pre-symptomatic’) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms.”

I share this to encourage people to wear masks when indoors in public places.

Wearing a mask only on the chin or below the nose, while breathing through the nose, makes the mask useless.

Please, let’s endure a little discomfort to help keep each other safer.

Pam Gaddis
Alpine

...

Dear Editor,

This Thursday they set-up a testing site in the humble little town of Alpine, TX. I would like to share with you my disappointing and troublesome experience. I have to hopefully ensure that things will change. To start, I am a resident of South Brewster, the red-headed stepchild of the county. As to date we have had one, yes, just one testing site set up in Terlingua this entire time.

Monday I was made aware I was exposed to someone who could potentially have COVID-19. So, with due diligence I sought out the test site that started at 1 p.m. on Thursday at the Sul Ross campus. I took off work at 11:30 a.m. and headed towards Alpine. By 12:45, I was trying to navigate the already large mess of vehicles, some of which were already blocking the highway median for a good bit. After being directed multiple times to multiple lines, I finally seemed to be in the “real” line. Then I was directed to call 512-883-2400. After 54 minutes on hold, I was received by a man who had no clue we were even a test site in the state. Minutes later he figured it out and I was given an appointment number.

Three hours go by ... I was told to leave my windows up in my vehicle. I am grateful to have a/c in my truck, but I could not imagine having an older vehicle and waiting for that length with my windows up or better yet with children or elderly folks, for that matter. At 4:15 p.m., a lady in scrubs starts walking down the line and says, “Sorry, we have run out of tests for the day.” You can only imagine how frustrating this was for not just me, but the other stretch of cars behind me. So, I drove back home with a large sense of defeat.

Six a.m. Friday morning, I depart once again from Terlingua. This time with a better sense of what I am about to get into, or so I thought. Arriving at 7:30 a.m., an hour and a half before the testing is even to begin, there is already a line. It was at the time way more encouraging, since I was only 12 cars deep. Trying to stay patient, I saw that right around 8:45, cars were pulling in, parking and forming a line outside of the college building. There was no staff to direct anyone or attend to enforcing social distancing to be seen. In fact, I saw several folks headed to the line without a mask at all. With a large amount of reluctance, I parked my truck and headed towards the line to follow suit.

Now I was there in a line with 40 to 50 people waiting at the door to get in. One hour of sitting in the sun, thank goodness I had a hat, but most people were cooking. Yes, it was a warm morning for Alpine in the sun. Multiple elderly folks were being escorted to the front of the line just to get them inside. By then the line was only getting longer. Then it was doubled up and we were all standing side-by-side with only as much as an arm-length distance between us.

Then I realized that we were all headed inside, all of us. Let’s say if we are lowballing the number of people, probably 100. Everyone around me verbalized in some form or fashion about their level of discomfort. Time frame, it was then 9:45 a.m. It wasn’t until about 10:30 a.m. when my name was called, just for me to go stand in another line closer to people than the last line I was in. Once again, no one was enforcing distance or wearing their mask properly. By this time, I realized that I had at least two more hours of being stuffed in this building with COVID-19 potentials.

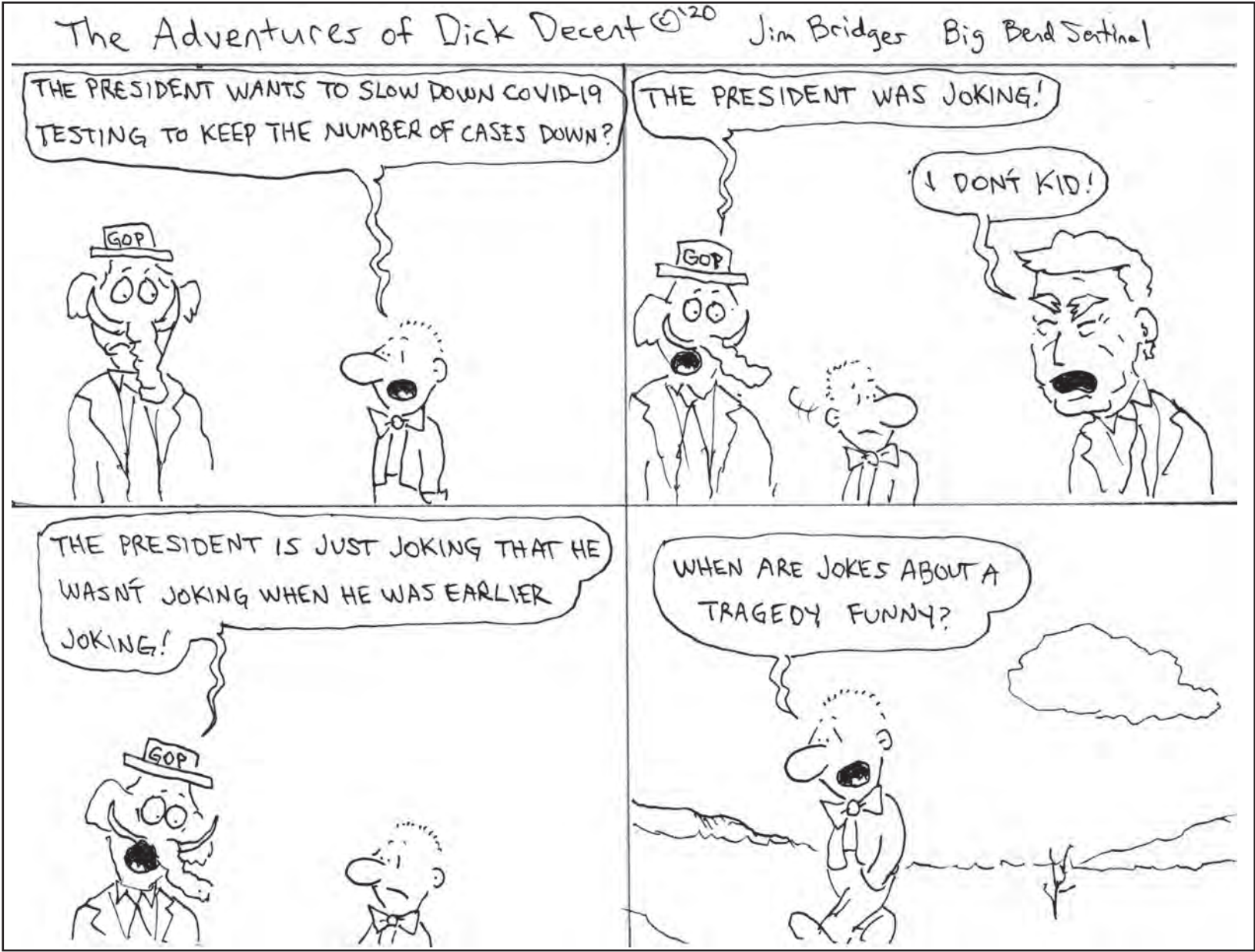
As defeating as it was, I decided my health was at risk now more than maybe ever through this entire pandemic, and so I left. Now I am two days, 360 miles of driving, six hours short of work and still uneasy about whether I am a positive COVID-19 case or not. Let us be honest, if I didn’t have it before, I might have actually contracted it from the test site itself.

I am ashamed of this entire experience. It’s almost like they want to spread the COVID-19. They used the excuse that the National Guard would be too hot in their uniforms to perform the same thing they did Thursday, which in hindsight was a treat compared to Friday’s showing. I have seen bake sales more organized. It will not surprise me in the slightest if there are more cases due to this test site’s inadequate abilities.

Hopefully sharing this terrible experience, someone may listen and try to devise a better plan of action. It was like this was the first ever test site, ever. Maybe we shouldn’t test at all if this is how it is going to be done. Disappointment doesn’t really even cover it, now I am more worried for all those who sat in that building for hours and may have contracted COVID-19 right there. Thank you for your time, stay safe and stay healthy.

Sincerely,
Shawn Shields
Terlingua

...



Dear Editor,

Regarding a suggestion to change the name of Sul Ross State University to something like the University of the Big Bend or a variation of it, is a non-starter. Too much Walt Disneyish.

I think SUL ROSS TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY sounds much better. It has a star quality charisma,

The insertion of the word TEXAS adds an intellectual and marketing heft of a much stronger appeal to attract students and faculty without having to feel embarrassed or ashamed for introductory purposes, as has been voiced by few muddled voices. I have never felt tormented as I introduced myself to the high and mighty to talk about Sul Ross during my tenure at the ol’ Sully. To the contrary, I am proud of my long association with this great institution of higher learning.

Of the four systems of higher education in our state, each and every campus has the word TEXAS inserted in its name. For example, all campuses affiliated with the University of Texas system start with the University of Texas ... (fill in the blanks).

It is true of all the Texas A&M campuses. Same for the Texas Tech campuses.

The Texas State University System that Sul Ross is affiliated with has 12 campuses. I counted thirteen stars on its website, spread across the state. It is the oldest, but the least funded system. That’s another story for another day. There is only ONE of the thirteen stars (at San Marcos) for some mysterious reasons named Texas State University. Go figure that out?!

I suggest to the Sul Ross faculty senate, the Alpine Chamber of Commerce, all the elective bodies, and civic organizations in the tri-county area to approach President Pete Gallego to ask the board of regents of the Texas State University System for a correction to this oversight.

That’s all folks.
Avinash K. Rangra
Alpine

...



1 Cavalry Row/PO Box 1135
Marfa, Texas 79843
432 729 4362
www.chinati.org

The Chinati Foundation is a contemporary art museum founded by the artist Donald Judd. The collection includes work by thirteen artists and focuses on permanent, large-scale installations emphasizing the relationship between art, architecture, and the surrounding landscape.

CHINATI CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

At the Chinati Foundation, the safety and well-being of our visitors and staff are among our highest priorities. We are aware of the health concerns surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19), and upon the recommendation of local West Texas health officials, Chinati has been advised to close to the public until further notice. The tri-county region has limited health resources, so to be a good partner to our local community and community of visitors, we are taking the recommendation seriously.

Thank you for supporting the Chinati Foundation. As a public institution, we both rely on the public for support and believe it is our responsibility to be a good public partner in return. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and we look forward to welcoming you to Chinati in the future.

Visit Chinati.org for more information and to join the mailing list, or follow Chinati on Facebook and Instagram.



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Judd Foundation spaces remain closed until further notice.

We have temporarily suspended public programs and guided visits of our spaces in Texas. The health and safety of our staff, visitors, and community remain our top priorities.

We look forward to welcoming you back to our spaces at a later date.

For questions, please contact
marfa@juddfoundation.org.

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FROM THERE TO HERE

234-year-old faded parchment

By REV. BARRY ABRAHAM ZAVAH

Buffalo, New York’s mayor said: “It was very important they (the two officers who shoved and injured 75-year-old Martin Gugino) know they are getting due process.” Not to worry, Mayor Brown. To date they have more than extended their target and shall continue to do so. That’s our system at its best.

However, the president trumped himself advancing a discredited conspiracy theory about Gugino being an ANTIFA provocateur. Please, ignore his tweet. Instead, let’s delve into the underpinnings of our American constitutional fundamentals, something many lack knowledge about – clearly the president too.

We have a right to know what crime we may have committed or been charged with. Laws enacted by our elected representatives are published and available to be viewed and understood in statute form. That provides the ability to know what confronts us and to respond effectively.

Observing reasonable suspicion, a police officer may stop, detain, investigate and, if probable cause exists, make an arrest for a violation of the law. Generally speaking, this ends the officer’s “public safety” responsibilities.

The district attorney’s office is a separate agency. Prosecutors analyze the available evidence, and at times work with the arresting officers before presenting the facts of a likely felony to a grand jury and/or courts of appropriate jurisdiction to obtain a “beyond a reasonable doubt” conviction in a meritorious case.

A defendant is entitled to a Sixth Amendment fair, public trial with legal counsel. A defense may be presented, witnesses called to testify and/or one may testify on their own behalf. None of it is required or compelled.

If convicted, sentencing depends upon the severity of the offense and criminal history. Appeals often continue for years.

Due process can be frustratingly slow, but the point is restraint – NOT rushing to judgment when most prone to mistakes, as inflamed passions of the moment run wild. It also seeks to treat everyone the same. Real world problems with the model certainly exist, but that’s the due process and rule of law template.

Our Founding Fathers understood due process rule of law requires restraint. Yet, too many police have been observed acting as judge, jury and executioners.

Critical to know is:

- 1) “The punishment/consequences must fit the crime.”
- 2) The process is NOT concentrated in any one person or agency, minimizing acting illegally and/or inappropriately.

A profound appreciation of “due process” (or “fundamental fairness,” as my constitutional law professor defined the term), “rule of law” and “separation of powers” between the three branches of government is our Founding Fathers’ legacy. It was derived from their knowledge of history, human nature and disdain for British royalism’s “arbitrary, authoritarian despotism.”

As observed above, police have a public safety responsibility in our constitutional framework. Therefore, in light of our fundamental principles, ask: “What crime or crimes were committed by Martin Gugino or George Floyd wherein a statute listed the punishments meted-out?”

Dislike of another’s affiliations, race, religion, appearance or having a bad attitude that day is NOT “punishment fitting the crime.” Neither is corruption, intentional ignorance or being uninformed of constitutional limitations a ground. It is further aggravated by police reports differing from bystander videos.

Trump’s ignorant tweet? Let’s assume Mr. Gugino was ANTIFA, came from New York City, had a scanner or swore. It is immaterial, irrelevant muddying the water – conspiratorial hogwash.

Again, “What was the specific statutory crime and enumerated

punishment? A knee to the throat for 8 minutes 46 seconds or Martin Gugino now brain damaged?” Hardly!

None of the above is a legal basis to produce those horrible results – but for failing to agree with, understand or abide by due process rule of law! And that’s simply unconscionable!

Where a public servant or official violated a citizen’s or person’s rights, our laws permit criminal prosecution. A separate legal track provides private civil recourse, often seeking financial compensation for an injury. Due process under rule of law is what those deemed responsible for Mr. Floyd’s death and Mr. Gugino’s injury will receive – even if denying it to others under the hubris-laden belief they had such power and authority.

Only a “good” loyalist supports discredited notions of British royalism’s “arbitrary, authoritarian despotism.” Have we become those we opposed with our revolution of 1776 or those dictatorial regimes where justice is not the object and rule of law but a foreign concept?

The fact of the matter is we’re prone to throwing our Bill of Rights under the bus in a heartbeat. Witness the Patriot Act after 9/11 and frequent spouting of “love it or leave it” to civil rights, anti-war and Black Lives Matter “Let Me Breathe” protesters. Is that harsh of me to say? Not if looking at some of the comments made by public servants who ought to know better and by private citizens in social media.

Few enough have a working understanding of our principles. It contributed to George Floyd and Martin Gugino becoming newsworthy against their will. It places you and me at risk of our freedoms. It’s already created unnecessary verbal skirmishes among family and friends. Much worse, it allows unscrupulous politicians to pander to the public’s ignorance – witness McCarthyism and Trumpism’s rants.

Isn’t American history and civics taught in our schools? It had better be.

Knowledge is power ... the power to do things correctly under law! Due process rule of law is rooted upon a well-informed public or it will die from wilted, unattended vines.

The point is:

Mr. Posner: We got the law here, Billy Jack.

Billy Jack: When policemen break the law, then there isn’t any law - just a fight for survival.

Our 18th century Founding Fathers, faults notwithstanding, created a nation of laws restricting those in positions of authority from acting upon baser impulses. I have faith this blessed experiment in constitutional governance shall prevail. It does take constant reminders about something that’s much, much more significant than just words on a 234-year-old faded parchment.

Reverend Barry Zavah is an Alpine, TX resident. Born and raised in Buffalo, NY, he is a retired career prosecutor for the Erie County District Attorney’s Office and an ordained minister. He has written for the Sierra Club Big Bend Chapter, Border Hotline News, La Voz, Alpine Daily Planet, Alpine “o6” Cowboys and the Pecos League of Professional Baseball, and has had stories published in various journals and anthologies. He enjoys RV travels.

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WITHOUT IT, WE ALL LOSE. EVERYONE COUNTS!



PATRIOTIC MILLIONAIRES

Mass evictions are the next crisis. We must act now.

By FRANKLIN ARTHUR

As COVID-19 continues to ravage the nation, America’s renters face another threat, as critical relief benefits of the CARES Act that have helped them stay in their homes and keep food on the table are set to expire in less than a month. If Congress doesn’t act to renew and strengthen these programs now, it could unleash a catastrophic wave of evictions across the country that would send the unhoused population skyrocketing – further destroying our economy in the process.

The additional \$600 dollars a week in federal unemployment benefits provided by the CARES Act as well as the federal and numerous state level bans on evictions have stabilized the incredibly precarious situation of many unemployed Americans. However, the federal ban on evictions for those receiving Section 8 vouchers and those living in houses with federally-backed mortgages ends on July 25. Many state level evictions have already timed out. Virginia, Georgia, Ohio, Texas, and 12 other states have begun to process eviction cases, threatening to throw vulnerable tenants out of their homes during a pandemic that is still present, even spiking in areas, and still very much lethal.

Tenants have already faced the brunt force of this economic crisis. Renters make up the majority of those who work in the service industry, which has been devastated by the stay-at-home orders, leaving them with few options for supplementing their income. On top of that, one-third of American renters were unable to make their rent payments in April before unemployment aid was processed – if at all – leaving many with thousands of dollars in debt through no fault of their own. Over one million new unemployment claims continue to be filed each week.

Being evicted isn’t something you easily recover from, and in many cases evictions lead directly to homelessness. Evictions decimate your credit score, which can make it difficult to pass the background check that is required in most leases. On top of that, most landlords will immediately reject applicants that have a record of previous evictions.

Beyond the extraordinary obstacles that evictions place on finding future housing, mass evictions will disproportionately devastate communities of color that are already reeling from a higher unemployment and death rate from COVID-19 than their white counterparts. Experts predict that homelessness will rise by 45% this year due to the conditions brought about by coronavirus, and this is simply an unacceptable number. We cannot afford to have one more unhoused person on the streets during a global pandemic, let alone hundreds of thousands.

The housing crisis has the potential to become significantly worse than the mortgage defaults of 2009. Before coronavirus arose, more than 2 million Americans were facing eviction every year – more than the number of people who experienced foreclosure in 2009. During the Great Recession, the economy plummeted because tons of middle and lower class people lost their jobs and their homes, and with the rates we’re seeing today, we will be facing an all-out housing epidemic.

For many wealthy folks like myself, it’s easy to see the evictions crisis as a distant issue. This crisis has spared wealthy individuals. We can afford high-quality tests and healthcare if we get sick, the Federal Reserve has poured trillions into the stock market to keep our investments afloat, and certain individuals like Jeff Bezos have actually made a profit over the course of the pandemic. But make no mistake, if hundreds of thousands of Americans lose their homes and their jobs, it will affect everyone – no matter how high the gates are in your community. Regardless of where you fall on the income scale, society as a whole does not function with a large segment of the population suffering as it is now.

In our consumer-driven economy, long-term economic success comes from the bottom up. If hundreds of thousands of Americans do not have roofs over their heads and a stable job, our economy will not begin its needed path to recovery.

When Congress reconvenes in early July, housing stability needs to be one of the first issues addressed. Keeping people in their homes is not only a moral and health imperative during this crisis, but it’s also essential to keeping our economy on track and ensuring a speedy recovery. We need to: cut the red tape surrounding federal rental assistance to ensure that everyone who needs assistance receives it, provide legal assistance to those who are currently facing eviction hearings and place a universal, nationwide, federally-backed eviction moratorium until the crisis subsides, rather than a confusing patchwork of state and local level mandates.

If we allow hundreds of thousands of American families and communities to lose their homes, risk being exposed to a deadly disease and be unable to return to work, the ramifications will ripple into the next generation and forever be a stain on this country and its leadership. This is simply unacceptable for a country founded on the principles of equality, liberty and justice for all. We must act now.

Frank Arthur is a Navy veteran and worked in the U.S. Justice Department. He is currently a real estate developer in California specializing in transit-oriented development and affordable housing. He recently joined as a member of the Patriotic Millionaires.



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Presidio Mayor John Ferguson: (432) 229-3517

BREWSTER COUNTY
Judge Eleazar Cano: (432) 837-5831
Alpine Mayor Andy Ramos: (432) 837-3301

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY
Judge Kerith Sproul-Hurley: (432) 426-3968
State Sen. Jose Rodriguez: (915)351.3500 (El Paso office) (432)729.4800 (Marfa office) (512)463.0129 (Capitol office)

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U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (202)224-2934 (D.C. office) (806)472-7533 (Lubbock office)
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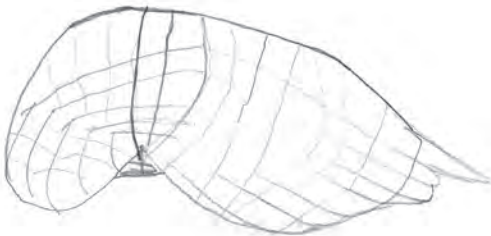
Community

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



“Wing and feather”

Noah Barton
5th Grade
Marfa Elementary School



Marfa 2020 graduates bring in over \$100,000 in scholarships

CMC Business Scholarship

\$500.00 Jared Fuentez
\$500.00 Alexis Maldonado
\$500.00 Avery Beltran
\$500.00 Juan Martinez

Kirr Family Scholarship

\$1,000.00 Elena Hernandez

Ex-Shorthorn Group of El Paso

\$2,500.00 Bryan Torres
\$2,500.00 Isabella Morales

Cindy Hibbitts Memorial

\$500.00 Bryan Torres

PTO Scholarship

\$350.00 Adonaka Marquez
\$350.00 Jon Hernandez

Band Booster Scholarship

\$300.00 Keanna Gates-Harkrider

Judd Foundation

\$1,000.00 Kimberly Soto

Pfeifer Scholarship

4 year tuition Kimberly Soto

Tom Edens Scholarship

\$7,500.00 Jarad Forristal

Marfa Rotary

\$3,000.00 Tais Chanez
\$1,000.00 Jared Fuentez
\$1,000.00 Isabella Morales
\$1,000.00 Jarad Forristal
\$1,000.00 Elena Hernandez
\$1,000.00 Kimberly Soto
\$1,000.00 Angelica Quinonez

MISD Local Scholarship

\$500.00 Damian Hernandez
\$500.00 Kimberly Zapata
\$500.00 Ruben Watts-Ortiz

Polson Memorial

\$500.00 Alyanna Hernandez

Ernest Chavez Memorial Golf Scholarship

\$750.00 Jared Fuentez
\$750.00 Angelica Quinonez
\$750.00 Samantha Jimenez
\$750.00 Alyanna Hernandez

Tom Jacobs

\$500.00 Ruben Watts-Ortiz

Big Bend Sentinel

\$500.00 Alyanna Hernandez
\$500.00 Tais Chanez

Knights of Columbus

\$500.00 Elena Hernandez

Marfa National Bank

\$600.00 Jarad Forristal
\$400.00 Isabella Morales
\$250.00 Tais Chanez

United States Border Patrol

\$500.00 Elena Hernandez

Athletic Boosters

\$1,000.00 Isabella Morales
\$250.00 Elena Hernandez

Marfa Live Arts

\$1,375 per semester for two years Avery Beltran
\$1,375 per semester for two years Jarad Forristal
\$1,375 per semester for two years Isabella Morales
\$1,375 per semester for two years Angelica Quinonez
\$1,375 per semester for two years Tais Chanez
\$1,375 per semester for two years Elena Hernandez
\$1,375 per semester for two years Ruben Watts-Ortiz
\$1,375 per semester for two years Bryan Torres

West Tex Community Credit Union

\$2,000.00 Elena Hernandez

SRSU Presidential

\$12,000.00 Isabella Morales

Ballroom Marfa stands with Black Lives Matter

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Ballroom Marfa is taking a stand for the Black Lives Matter movement.

With protests across the country over the death of George Floyd — one of the latest Black Americans to die at the hands of law enforcement — Ballroom announced earlier this month that it was donating \$10,000 to racial justice causes.

The donation was split between four organizations: Blacks Lives Matter, Color of Change, the Innocence Project of Texas and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

In a lengthy social media post about the donation, Ballroom said it “stands in solidarity with the movement for black lives, and with all those working to dismantle systemic racism in this country.”

“Violence against Black Americans and the systems that produce and perpetuate it, have caused incalculable grief, terror, and physical suffering,” the post continued. “We cannot continue to live in a world like this.”

Then, on Friday — Juneteenth — an art piece went airborne over the Ballroom courtyard. The piece was simple: a banner proclaiming “Black Lives Matter,” connected to two black balloons.

“We wave this flag to commemorate Juneteenth, the liberation of enslaved African-Americans in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865,” explained another social media post from Ballroom. “Let’s remind ourselves that every

Texan and American deserves absolute freedom, dignity and respect.”

In an interview, Sarah Melendez, programs director for Ballroom, said the piece came together in about a week. Two artists approached Ballroom to propose the piece, and “the conversation was really easy,” Melendez said. Ballroom was “fully aligned” with the goals of the project and quickly gave the go-ahead.

The two artists behind the piece decided to remain anonymous. They didn’t want to detract from the message, Melendez explained.

“They wanted the message to be centered around Black Lives Matter and not necessarily be about them or taking credit,” she said. “They just really wanted to allow the action to speak for itself.”

Ballroom staff and founders have been “really moved” by the recent demands for racial justice, Melendez said. Ballroom watched this year’s protest movement gain steam across the country — including with a march in Alpine, which several Ballroom employees joined. The developments prompted conversations within Ballroom about “what’s happening in the world” and “how we could support the movement.”

Asked why this particular moment has had so much resonance for people — why George Floyd, and why now? — Melendez cited a few factors. On the national level, “I think it has to do with the sort of the immense amount of pressure of our current cultural

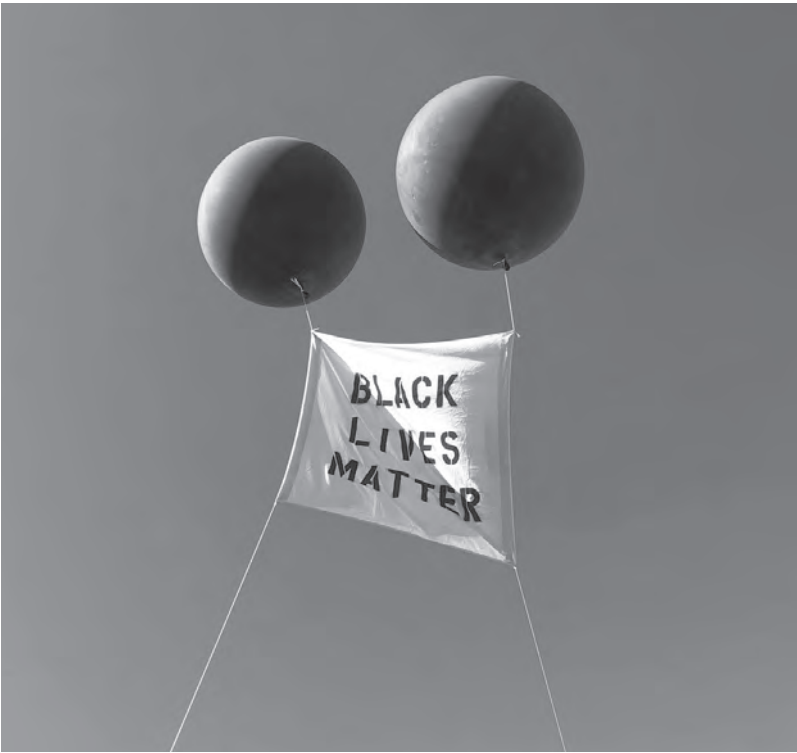


Photo courtesy of Ballroom Marfa

In commemoration of Juneteenth and as a display of solidarity with protesters, a “Black Lives Matter” flag flies over the Ballroom Marfa courtyard on Friday, June 19. Sarah Melendez, programs director for Ballroom, said the two artists behind the project had asked to remain anonymous so as to not distract from the message.

and political climate,” she said. People were isolated and frustrated due to coronavirus, and there was a growing awareness not only of injustice in general, but of how “a lot of the people that have really been affected by the coronavirus are minorities and people of color.”

But while George Floyd’s killing happened in Minneapolis, the movement had resonance across the country, including in the rural

Big Bend. Melendez cited what she described as “over-policing” in the region. Marfa, she noted, is home to a range of local, state and federal authorities, from the Presidio County Sheriff’s Office to local offices for Border Patrol and the Texas Department of Public Safety. Taken together, all those ingredients were the “perfect recipe for a movement,” Melendez said. “People are just really fired up.”

Family Crisis Center granted \$30,000

ALPINE — The Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend, Inc. has received a \$30,000 grant from the Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation to continue to provide program services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and violent crime. The services include emergency shelter, food, clothing and transportation, rehabilitative planning, referrals for housing, employment, legal assistance, medical/economic services for indigent families, assistance with protective orders, crime victim’s comp claims, victim impact statements and accompaniment to legal, medical and court proceedings.

FCCBB began as a program of the Alpine Community Center in 1981, growing out of the concerns of three Alpine residents who recognized the problem of violence in families. In June 1982, FCCBB became a separate

organization and incorporated as a Texas nonprofit corporation in May 1983. FCCBB serves all victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and personal injury crimes in the five counties of Brewster, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio and Terrell.

The FCCBB serves over a thousand clients per year with funding from federal, state and private foundation grants. The Deja Vu Thrift Store is a project of the Family Crisis Center, with all proceeds from thrift store sales going to fund the projects of the FCCBB.

FCCBB mission statement reads, “Strengthening communities through empowering Individuals,” and FCCBB advocacy philosophy is to help primary and secondary victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and violent crime by empowering them with the

needed tools to build a new life, and to teach them to advocate for themselves and others in the future.

Carl B. and Florence E. King started the foundation that bears their names in 1966. Beginning with gifts from Mr. and Mrs. King, as well as a later bequest from their daughter, Dorothy, the foundation has now grown to more than \$50 million in assets and distributes approximately \$2 million per year.

The Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation is principally interested in aging populations, arts, culture and history, children and youth, education, the indigent and nonprofits.

If you are interested in assisting the efforts of the FCCBB through donations or by volunteering your time and talents, please contact Sara Stropoli, executive director, at (432) 837-7254.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

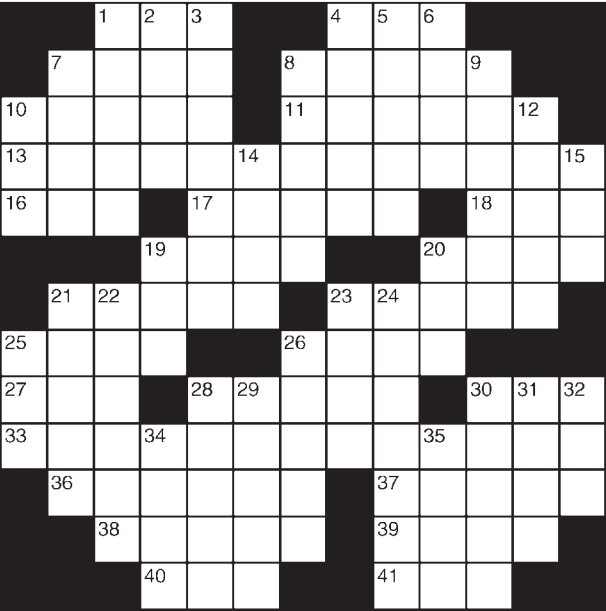
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 — Na Na
4 Swindle
7 Summery desserts
8 Fusses
10 Sixth president
11 Many
13 Proof of a crime
16 Sprite
17 Unclear
18 Still, in verse
19 Say it isn't so
20 Rhyming tributes
21 Groups of musicians
23 Slanted edge
25 Volcanic outflow
26 One of the Three Bears
27 Sailor's assent
28 Unwilling
30 Fine, to NASA
33 Texas city
36 Bill-payment period
37 Alan of "Little Miss Sunshine"
38 Mystery writer's award
39 Don of radio
40 Sun. speech



41 Rand McNally item

10 Expert

12 Man of — (Superman comparison)

14 Catches some rays

15 — and outs

19 "CSI" evidence

20 Eggs

21 Louisiana marsh

22 Unwilling

23 Dog owner's ordeal

24 Son of

25 Fond du —, Wis.

26 Harness horse

28 Thrust

29 "Argo" award

30 Invite to the penthouse

31 Elevator name

32 Family

34 Cushions

35 "Joy of Cooking" writer

Rombauer

Puzzle solutions for last week's issue

Weekly SUDOKU

King Crossword

Answer

3	9	8	2	4	1	7	5	6
2	7	6	9	3	5	8	1	4
1	4	5	7	8	6	2	9	3
7	6	9	4	1	3	5	8	2
8	2	3	5	6	7	9	4	1
4	5	1	8	9	2	6	3	7
6	8	7	3	5	4	1	2	9
5	1	4	6	2	9	3	7	8
9	3	2	1	7	8	4	6	5

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	R	C	H	I	N	N	D	I	R	T					
C	O	H	O	N	E	B	O	R	E	O					
R	U	I	N	E	X	C	I	T	I	N	G				
E	X	C	E	R	P	T	R	E	S	T	S				
			Y	E	T		A	O	L						
B	L	A	S	T	E	X	C	L	O	D	E				
Y	O	N			A	L	E				R	O	W	E	
E	X	C			L	A	I	M		V	A	N	C	E	
					A	R	M	E	A	T					
V	O	I	C	E			E	X	C	E	E	D	S	L	
E	X	C	U	S		E	M	E		O	R	A	L		
N	E	O	N		A	I	R					U	N	D	O
A	N	N	A		U	L	T				T	E	S	T	

In era of social distancing, local radio station delivers voices of everyday Marfans

MARFA — Earlier this year, Jason “Oslo” Kolker, a volunteer at KMKB (98.9 FM), decided to start interviewing everyday Marfans, setting the interviews to music picked by the interviewees.

The goal of this project was to “choose people who weren’t typically on-air,” said Colby Martin, who helps handle social media for the station. Kolker is no stranger to the microphone, having conducted interviews on another Marfa station, KRTS, since 2009.

“With nothing to promote and no set topics of expertise, the subjects of these interviews were sometimes reluctant and oftentimes questioned, ‘Why would anyone want to hear from me?’” Martin said in an email. “The answer was always, ‘Because you are part of the Marfa community.’”

Kolker’s first interview was with Lineaus Lorette, the larger-than-life Marfan known for, among other things, his communist politics and his coterie of dogs. After hearing that interview, Neil Chavigny, owner of KMKB, decided to air the whole series.

Lorette’s interview aired earlier this year, just a few days before he passed away in late March. “I jumped at the opportunity to air his interview while he was still alive to hear it,” Chavigny said. “I’m glad I did.”

The interviews have a unique format. Kolker asked locals to pick some of their favorite songs, then played them during the interviews. It’s part-talk, part-music.

In the spirit of community togetherness — and to make sure that everyone who wants to tune into the interviews gets to — KMKB is re-airing the entire interview series starting this Friday. The schedule is as follows:

Friday, June 26

7:00 p.m. JD and David Garcia
8:00 p.m. Gail Waterman

Saturday, June 27

7:00 p.m. Eli Cordova
8:00 p.m. Roseland Klein

Sunday, June 28

7:00 p.m. Maria and Jesus Ortiz

Friday, July 3

7:00 p.m. Jose Grajeda
8:00 p.m. Vicky Garlick

Saturday, July 4

7:00 p.m. Agustin “Augie” Gonzalez

Sunday, July 5

7:00 p.m. Tyler Spurgin
8:00 p.m. Lineaus Lorette

Separately, the station is also airing mini-interviews on its Instagram, www.instagram.com/kmkb.marfa



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First United Methodist Church

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Isaiah 41:10

Sundays 9 am
Pastor Young Hoon Kang
110 W Washington Steet
Marfa 432-729-4534

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club will be on the air for nationwide ham radio event

BIG BEND — Ham radio operators from the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club will be participating in a national amateur radio exercise from Saturday to Sunday, June 27 to 28, with the American Relay Radio League. The event is ARRL Field Day, an annual amateur radio activity organized since 1933 by ARRL, the national association for amateur radio in the United States.

Hams from across North America ordinarily participate in Field Day by establishing temporary ham radio stations in public locations to demonstrate their skill and service. Their use of radio signals, which reach beyond borders, brings people together while providing essential communication in the service communities. Field Day highlights ham radio’s ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location and create an independent, wireless communications network.

Due to the pandemic, this year’s event will be markedly different from years past. Continuing public health restrictions and social-distancing practices will limit group gatherings for Field Day. Instead, hams from West Texas will use radio stations set up in their homes or taken to their backyards and other locations to operate individually. Many hams have portable radio communication capability that includes alternative

energy sources such as generators, solar panels and batteries to power their equipment.

This year’s event is also noteworthy given the arrival of a rather active early hurricane season. “Hams have a long history of serving our communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, including cell towers,” said Bob Ward, whose handle is WA5ROE. “Ham radio functions completely independently of the internet and phone systems, and a station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Hams can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others,” Ward added.

During Field Day 2019, more than 36,000 hams participated from thousands of locations across North America. According to ARRL, there are more than 750,000 amateur radio licensees in the U.S. and an estimated 3 million worldwide. “Throughout COVID-19, hams around the world have continued to be on the air practicing their skills, in part as a way to help overcome social isolation and online fatigue,” said ARRL spokesperson Bob Inderbitzen, handle NQ1R.

Hams range in age from as young as 9 to older than 100. *Visit www.arrl.org for more information about ARRL Field Day.*

The taste of Big Bend Brewing Co. gets second chance

By **BECK ANDREW SALGADO**
beck@bigbendsentinel.com

HOUSTON — Almost a year after Big Bend Brewing Co. went bankrupt, the “beer from out here” will be making its way back into the cold cups of customers who have missed the presence of Tejas beer in their local taps. After purchasing Big Bend Brewing Co.’s recipes and branding, Gulf Coast Distillers is planning a full relaunch of Tejas beer sometime in the summer of 2020.

A staple of the Big Bend community since 2012, production for the beer will not be returning to Alpine, where it was previously brewed. Rather, the brewery will now be located in Houston, where the headquarters of Gulf Coast Distillers is located. Another change: the lineup will be rebranded as Tejas beer.

Carlos de Aldecoa, president and CEO of Gulf Coast Distillers, voiced that he had always been a fan of the beer previously, as “someone who is from a small town,” and enjoyed the small town feel that the beer and its brand convey.

Despite the change of location, Aldecoa assured that the familiar taste and presence of Tejas beer in West Texas will not change. The new owner explained that “everything associated with Big Bend Brewing, including the Tejas brands” had been purchased by Gulf Coast Distillers.

The intent, as expressed by Aldecoa, is to keep recipes and branding as they were, stating that “altering the taste profile or the marketing would not be consistent with the goal we have for the brand.” The only difference Aldecoa foresees with the current line of beers is that they will be brewed in Houston rather than Alpine. Additional changes that could come to the brand itself might possibly include introducing new products to the existing line.

“We have been in the coffee space and the liquor space for three generations, and I think consistency, taste and the expectation of what the consumer wants are very important, and so the branding, marketing and

“Altering the taste profile or the marketing would not be consistent with the goal we have for the brand.”

taste that it was founded upon will remain the same,” said Aldecoa.

Aldecoa also expressed a desire to have the Tejas brand be active in the community, and he said that that could take the form of sponsoring events in Alpine or Marfa, like the brand had been doing under its previous owners.

Caroline Wright, marketing coordinator for Gulf Coast Distillers, said that they were aware of the following that Tejas beer had and were excited to take on the opportunities that came with purchasing it. Wright expressed that the company wanted to make sure “that they were doing it right,” when bringing the product back to the people and so a thorough process was put together to make sure it was brewed correctly.

As of right now, Wright said that Tejas beer is only available on tap at the Gulf Coast Distillers location in Houston, but the company is trying to work out the details of distribution and expect to be able to offer the product by the end of the summer. As far as distribution, Wright said that “getting Tejas back in the hands of every Texan,” is the company’s main concern.

Additionally, Wright acknowledged that people are passionate about Tejas beer; the company wants to preserve the essence of what makes the beer, and the area that it originated from, so special, and that is the main idea behind the relaunch.

Wright said that there was a desire to continue production in Alpine, but unfortunately it didn’t work out that way. A press release from the company echoes this sentiment, reading, “While our home is not in rural Alpine, we put our heart and soul into everything we create,” before sealing the statement with a promise that the “same great tradition (of Tejas beer) will live on.”

Big Bend seminar series on energy development rebooted for Fall 2020

ALPINE — Residents of West Texas are invited to attend a free series of seminars on energy development in the Big Bend later this year. The seminar series got underway in January 2020, but three of the seminars were cancelled — one due to weather and the others to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The seminar series is being rebooted for the fall with new topics and speakers. The series is designed to engage a broad constituency of Big Bend community members to better inform them on recent energy projections, potential impacts on communities and conservation values, and to develop creative strategies to conserve the unique resources and communities of the region.

There are three seminars scheduled in Fall 2020. Assuming COVID-19 is on the wane by then, the seminars will be held at the Espino Conference Center at Sul Ross State University in Alpine from 6:30 – 7:30 pm.

Wednesday, Sept. 16

Topic: Development by Design:

Where Development and Conservation Meet
Keynote speakers:
Joe Kiesecker – The Nature Conservancy of Texas
Melinda Taylor – University of Texas at Austin

Thursday, Oct. 8

Topic: Landowners, Energy Development and Conflict: Finding Common Ground
Keynote speakers:
David Yeates -Texas Wildlife Association
Chris West – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Chase Curry – San Pedro Ranch

Thursday, Oct. 22

Topic: Conservation Values and Strategies for the Last Frontier
Keynote speakers:
Louis Harveson – Borderlands Research Institute
Billy Tarrant – Borderlands Research Institute

The seminar series is sponsored in part by the Respect Big Bend Coalition, Cynthia and George

Mitchell Foundation, Permian Basin Area Foundation, The Meadows Foundation, Still Water Foundation and the Borderlands Research Institute (BRI) at Sul Ross State University.

“We are committed to involving the entire West Texas community in the conversations that are underway and we hope everyone who is interested in the future of the Big Bend region will participate in these seminars,” said Billy Tarrant, associate director for stewardship services at BRI, who is coordinating the engagement activities associated with the Respect Big Bend Coalition. “While we are hoping we can conduct these meetings in person, community safety remains our top priority, and if necessary, we’ll pivot to a webinar format. We hope to engage as many stakeholders as we can in this process.”

For more information about the seminar series: <https://bri.sulross.edu/energy-seminar-series/>

For more information about Respect Big Bend Coalition: respectbigbend.org

OBITUARIES



Elliott

Wilborn Harrison Elliott passed away in Albuquerque, New Mexico where he closed his eyes to his earthly home on Thursday, June 18, 2020; he was 95. Wilborn was born to Edith Blaine Elliott and Chester Harrison Elliott on April 17, 1925 in Fort Stockton, Texas and was the second of four brothers and sisters.

Wilborn was buried next to his mother, Edith Blaine Elliott, on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 in the Elm Grove Cemetery in Alpine, Texas. A celebration of life with military honors will be held at a future day and time.

In Wilborn’s early years, he lived in the area that became the Big Bend National Park, at San Vincente, which is a small settlement near the hot springs, located 90 miles south of Marathon. He started attending school at San Vincente and finally attended and graduated in 1943



Escobedo

Alicia “Alice” Granado Escobedo, 82, received her wings and passed into Glory on April 7, 2020 at her daughter’s home in Amarillo, Texas.

She was born January 28, 1938 in Fort Davis, Texas to Trinidad and Gregoria Granado, also from Ft. Davis. Alicia married her lifelong sweetheart, Frank Escobedo, Jr. on July 23, 1955 in Ft. Davis.

Alicia lived in the West Texas area, where she worked for the Long X Ranch in Kent, and later moved to the Cowden Ranch, now known as Bar O Land and Cattle Ranch, in 1999 for Bill and Mary Cowden. Alicia also worked at the Kent Mercantile and was the U.S. Postmaster for 25 years until it closed its doors in May 2019.

Throughout the years, Alicia built lasting relationships and friendships with many people in the West Texas area and was known for her loyalty for the Dallas Cowboys. Alicia’s laughter was loud and contagious and filled rooms everywhere she went. She loved to spend time with her family and to sing and dance. You knew that she was in town when you saw that Dodge conversion “Dallas Cowboys” van. Alicia

from McCurdy Mission School in Española, New Mexico before returning to Texas.

At the age of 18, Wilborn entered The United States Navy in California during WWII and was stationed at Pearl Harbor as an aviation torpedo-man for three years. Upon leaving the United States Navy in 1946, Wilborn returned to Alpine and later moved to Casa Piedra, located 50 miles south of Marfa, where he settled into farming, raising cattle and his true passion, beekeeping.

In 1999, he sold his property in Casa Piedra and retired to Marfa, Texas. Wilborn did not retire from his true passion of beekeeping as well as producing farm fresh eggs. From 1999 to 2014, Wilborn continued to produce the “Best Honey in Texas,” selling his incredible honey and eggs at the Marfa Farm Stand where he made many dear and wonderful friends. Wilborn was truly a Marfa “old-timer!”

Wilborn is preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Stanley McMillen Elliott.

Those left to honor and cherish the memory of Wilborn are his sisters: Joy Elliott Rawls of Stephenville, Texas and Wilma Henrietta Duty of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; ten nieces and nephews; and all his beloved and wonderful friends.

Online condolences may be left at www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com.

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

was known for her baked goodies, especially around the holidays. During the summers, you would see her with her granddaughters, and as the years passed, her great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. On the 4th of July in Fort Davis, you would see five generations attending with Frank and Alicia Escobedo to celebrate and gather with family. Most of all, Alicia was known for her loving, feisty personality and her servant’s heart. It was exceedingly rare to see Alicia without her husband, Frank Escobedo. They were inseparable for 64 years before Frank passed in October of 2019. Alicia rejoined her loved ones six months later in Glory. It would be extremely hard to find another Alicia Escobedo, in fact, I know that the mold was broken the day she was born in 1938 because of the legacy she leaves behind.

Alicia was preceded in death by her parents Trinidad and Gregoria Granado; husband Frank Escobedo; brothers Felicito, Federico, Fidel, Ferman, Pablo and Ricardo Granado; sisters Consuelo Harnett, Lucia Leyva, Angelita Fierro and Cecilia Salgado, and granddaughter Samantha Estrada. She is survived by her daughter Mary Alice Escobedo Rael, son Larry Escobedo and wife Jessica of Ft. Davis; brother Louis Contreras Granado; granddaughters Georgia Estrada, Jackie Torres, Laurese Gretchen, Brittany and Paityn Escobedo; 14 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial reunion reception in honor of Alicia Escobedo will be held at the Kelly Pavilion Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce on July 18, 2020 at 6 p.m. (across the street from the courthouse, behind the Fort Davis State Bank). Come celebrate her life with us!

Radio for Marfa!



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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

Check www.bigbendsentinel.com for updates.

Community

Local artist residency to highlight Black artists this summer

By BECK ANDREW SALGADO
beck@bigbendsentinel.com

TERLINGUA — Vast landscapes have long served as a place of isolation and inspiration for artists. Because of this, West Texas has become the location of a number of art residencies over the years, among them the Willow House in Terlingua.

Willow House, a boutique Terlingua hotel that sprung up near Big Bend National Park in 2019, began an annual art residency last year that welcomes a group of artists, providing meals and housing for two weeks. In year two, it will be a bit different as Lauren Werner, founder of the Willow House, announced early this month that this year's art residency will be open exclusively to Black artists.

Werner said that the decision was made in response to the ongoing racial unrest that has been felt through various protests and demonstrations across the country.

“When I saw everything that was happening with the Black Lives Matter movement, I started to think about the lack of Black Americans that I see in Far West Texas,” said Werner.

This inspired Werner to introduce the Big Bend region to the art of various Black artists that would be staying at the Willow House. Since then, Werner has announced eight Black artists have been selected to do work at the Willow House for a two-week stay this summer.

Among those artists is Carl Nichols, a singer-songwriter who currently lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Nichols said that he was surprised to learn that he had been selected for the art residency, but it was timely in the sense that currently the live music industry is struggling due to COVID-19.

Nichols had plans to do a multitude of live shows this summer, but slowly they began to be postponed, rescheduled and then finally given up on entirely. Nichols said the opportunity to at least be able to work on new things in the Willow House is much appreciated.

In a world now defined by



Image courtesy of Jonathan P. Jackson

Red flowers num.004 alternative take num.006

unpredictability and consumed by unrest, it can be hard to focus on creative projects according to Nichols. With this newly allotted free time though, Nichols plans to work on his debut album this summer.

Ashley Woodfolk, an author from New York who will be an art resident, spoke on what it meant for a platform to be established specifically for Black artists, saying that the decision was appreciated, but more so, it was much needed.

She explained that “so often Black artists don’t have access to the same opportunities as our white counterparts, and we almost always have less resources,” so being provided the time and those resources at the Willow House is a huge help.

“I appreciate the steps Willow House has taken to attempt to provide a safe, tranquil place for Black artists to work, especially in the midst of these traumatic and turbulent times, when it is even more difficult, albeit all the more important, to do creative work.”

said Woodfolk.

Jonathan Paul Jackson, a Houston-based painter who was selected, is excited to get back to West Texas where he grew up, saying West Texas is “comfort” for him. Jackson says the area represents his adolescence, which he spent in Big Spring, and because of that it has manifested itself into a lot of his work. He is excited to get back to West Texas and be inspired in that way again.

As far as the residency, Jackson said “the big picture is equality,” but as it stands now, he said that there are more opportunities for white artists than Black artists. Jackson attributes this to “a lot of people not understanding Black art to a certain degree,” because Black artists have not had as much of a platform.

When asked what his goals were for his time at the Willow House, Jackson simply said, “To start a conversation.” Jackson hopes that by starting that conversation and exposing more people to Black art in West Texas there will be a better understanding and appreciation for

Sul Ross Theatre brings throwback entertainment to the Big Bend

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — Tuning into a radio program or pulling up to a drive-in movie may sound like a step back into the mid-20th century, but this summer, both options promise to bring hours of entertainment to the Big Bend, where residents have been cooped up and kept away from live theater and moving pictures for months.

Theatre of the Big Bend, a Sul Ross State University summer program, is in its sixth decade, and for this exceptionally difficult summer, the program is adjusting to meet the community where they are: in their homes and in their socially-distanced cars.

It starts with the Friday release of “Attack of the Killer Super Bugs from Outer Space,” an original science fiction comedy play with social commentary, according to Marjorie Scott, chair of Fine Arts and Communication and assistant professor of Theatre and Communication at Sul Ross.

Written by Bret Scott, a Sul Ross professor, and in collaboration with Marjorie, the play hearkens back to “War of the Worlds” and “Attack of the Killer Tomatoes” and will premiere on local airwaves, Alpine’s KVLV 1240 AM station. “It’s family friendly, some adult humor but no cursing, with some satire in there.”

The show pays homage to those classics but is updated for today and alludes to current day circumstances. “We include mock ads – it’s tongue and cheek, intended to make the audience laugh, but also think a little bit. It’s not devoid of any kind of thought, but it is funny.”

The play is voice acted by Sul Ross students, alumni and community members, a challenging shift for Bret Scott to direct. “We obviously had to be really creative with how to socially distance while still doing theater,” Marjorie Scott said.

For the upcoming “Attack of the Killer Super Bugs from Outer Space,” actors recorded their lines into their phones, with Scott watching via Zoom to provide direction. Then the recordings were pieced together with editing to create a cohesive play. Marjorie Scott called it a good lesson for students, who are forced to act solely with their voices.

The 45-minute show will air at 8 p.m. this Friday, June

26, again at 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 27 and one last time at 2 p.m. on Sunday June 28. Later this summer, the theatre program will present a family-friendly radio play of “Alice in Wonderland,” opening July 31 at 8 p.m., and replaying at 8 p.m. on August 1, and 2 p.m. on August 2.

Throughout the summer and possibly into the fall, the program will set up a drive-in movie theater for the community at the outdoor area by the Kokernot Lodge.

“We’re looking at different films like ‘Jaws,’ ‘Back to the Future,’ ‘The Blob.’ Some are family friendly, some are less so, but we are just offering several different kinds of genres for people,” Marjorie Scott said.

“Theater is immediate. You’ve got productions of ‘Oedipus’ and Shakespeare still, but the play still says something that is relevant today. It’s not necessarily to haul out an old relic, it’s honoring something going on today and letting it reveal it or highlight it,” said Scott.

In the fall, the theatre program is working on a monologue-style performance. Students will interview and record frontline workers, write from the real person’s perspective and perform a series of monologues that will be released as a series.

“Given these limitations, we can continue this way of making theater immediate and about right now. What’s happening right now is quite dramatic. It’s not that we’re capitalizing on it, we’re treating it as the important, historical thing that it is,” Scott said. “Creating a historical document and giving a voice to people that are incredible, doing so much, and are kind of voiceless other than hearing about them in the news periodically.”

The theatre program will have a donation option on their website, since they are not doing any traditional ticket sales, and “want to offer this for the community, for anyone to tune in for free.” Donations are welcome.

A drive-in schedule is forthcoming and the organization will likely begin showings in mid-July. The website www.sulross.edu/theatre will have schedules and a donation page, or interested listeners and viewers can call the Fine Arts office at 432-837-8218 or visit Theatre of the Big Bend for summer season and Sul Ross Theatre Program for fall and spring programming on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook.

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010109001

APPLICATION. City of Marfa, 113 South Highland Avenue, Marfa, Texas 79843, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Land Application Permit (TLAP) No. WQ0010109001 to authorize the disposal of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 120,000 gallons per day via surface irrigation of 62 acres of agricultural land. The domestic wastewater treatment facility and disposal area are located approximately 3,000 feet southeast of the intersection of U.S. Highway 67 and U.S. Highway 90, in Presidio County, Texas 79843. TCEQ received this application on March 2, 2020. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Marfa City Hall, 113 South Highland Avenue, Marfa, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at [www.tceq.texas.gov](#). Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at [www.tceq.texas.gov](#), or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at [www.tceq.texas.gov](#). Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Marfa at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Jeffrey Boyd, Public Works Director, at 432-295-1648.

Issuance Date: June 19, 2020

2019 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

CITY OF MARFA (Consumer Confidence Report) Box 787, Marfa, Texas 79843 (432)-729-4315 #TX 1890001

SPECIAL NOTICE

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/ AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Our Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds all Federal (EPA) Drinking Water Requirements

This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis was made by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

Source of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally – occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants , such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemical, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations , urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that the tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. Theses types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water please contact Jeff Boyd, City of Marfa, 432-295-1648.

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; persons who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/ AIDS or other immune systems disorders, can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking . If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

FLUORIDE

Many public water systems are required by federal regulations to routinely analyze the fluoride levels in the drinking water they provide to consumers. Analyses of the drinking water in Marfa has found a level of 2.8 mg/l of fluoride. The U S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set a standard for: fluoride at 2.0 mg/l to minimize the occurrence of objectionable dental fluorosis.

Fluoride at the appropriate levels in the drinking water of children up to the age of nine, reduces cavities. However, children exposed to levels of fluoride greater than 1.0 to 2.0 mg/l may develop dental fluorosis in their permanent teeth.

Dental fluorosis, in its moderate and sever forms, is a discoloration (brown staining) and pitting of teeth.

Drinking water containing more than 4mg/l of fluoride (the US Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4mg/l of fluoride, but we are required to notify when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2mg/l because of this cosmetic dental problem.

Because fluoride affects only developing teeth, households without children would not be expected to be affected by this level of fluoride. Individuals with children under the age of nine are encouraged to seek other sources of drinking water for their children.

The EPA Maximum Contaminant Level (mcl) for fluoride is 4.0 mg/l. That standard is based upon crippling skeletal fluorosis, which may result from levels of 4.0 mg/l or more. The MCL is an enforceable standard and has been set to protect public health.

Your water supplier can lower the concentration of fluoride to the level where beneficial effects still occur (cavity prevention) and where the occurrence of dental fluorosis is minimal. The technology for the removal is currently available but the use of this technology by your utility will increase your monthly water bill. Treatment systems for the removal of fluoride from drinking_ water are also available for home use. Information On such systems is available at the above address. Low fluoride bottled drinking water that would meet all standards is also available .

Where do we get our drinking water?

Our drinking water is obtained from Ground water sources. We have 3 wells and all our water comes out of the Igneous Aquifer.

A Source water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This information describes the susceptiblilty and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The information contained in the assessment allows us to focus source water protection strategies.

For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following URL: <https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=217028ea4a01485f87db4d22aec72755>

For further details about sources and source-water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <https://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>

Any detections of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confident Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact Jeff Boyd (432)295-1648.

ALL Drinking water may contain contaminants: When drinking water meets federal standards the may not be any health-based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonable be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Secondary Constituents: Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

About the Following page: The pages that follow list all the federally regulated or monitored constituents, which have been found in your drinking

water. U.S. EPA requires water systems to test up to 97 constituents.

DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

Level 1 Assessment: A level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potenial problems and determine (if possible) why coliform bacteria have been found in out water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. Coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in out water system on multiple occasions.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest permissible level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary

for control of microbial contaminants. **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health, MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

MFL: million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos

mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

na: not applicable

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units **pCi/1:** Pico curies per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

na: not applicable.

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/1).

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons

of water.

ppq: parts per quadrillion or picograms per liter (pg/L)

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Public Participation Opportunities

Date and Time: City Council meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Casner Room at City Hall 113 S. Highland Street

Phone Number: 432-729-4315

En Espanol: Este informe incluye informacion importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español, favor de Hamar al tel. 432-295-1668 - para hablar con una persona bilingue en español.

Information about your Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; persons who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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'This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by your community water system City of Marfa has a fluoride concentration of 2.8 mg/L.

'Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.'

'For more information, please call Jeff Boyd of City of Marfa at 432-295-1648 . Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.'

Information about Source Water

'TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water, and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system is based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system contact [insert water system contact][insert phone number]'

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	08/15/2017	1.3	1.3	0.014	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures
Lead	08/15/2017	0	15	5.1	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

2019 Water Quality Test Results

Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2019	7	7.01 - 7.01	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

'' The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year'

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	2019	5.5	5.5 - 5.5	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

While your drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenics possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Barium	2019	0.027	0.027 - 0.027	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	2019	1	1 - 1	100	100	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	06/19/2017	2.8	2.8 - 2.8	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2019	3	2.9 - 3.49	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	07/16/2018	8.9	8.9 - 8.9	0	50	pCi/L*	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

***EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.**

Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	07/16/2018	1	1 - 1	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	07/16/2018	8.6	8.6 - 8.6	0	30	ug/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Disinfectant Residual

' A blank disinfectant residual table has been added to the CCR template, you will need to add data to the fields. Your data can be taken off the Disinfectant Level Quarterly Operating Reports (DLQOR).'

Disinfectant Residual	Year	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Violation (Y/N)	Source in Drinking Water
	2019	1.20	0.2 – 4.0	4	4	MG/L	ppm	Water additive used to control microbes. Gaseous Chlorination

Classifieds & public notices

Marfa Food Pantry expands to twice-a-month distribution

MARFA — Needs at the Marfa Food Pantry have expanded, where volunteers are serving nearly 90 families instead of their usual 30 to 40. To meet these new demands, the pantry will now be distributing food on the second and fourth Thursday of every month.

While the West Texas Food Bank has kept food supplies coming, pantry volunteer Genevieve Bassham said there are still needs, and plenty of room in the pantry’s freezers, fridges and shelves. As far as needs, “Right now, it’s meat,” said Bassham.

“We’re going to have vegetables because we have a garden, but those go quickly,” she noted. Even canned food, dry beans and rice help fill out pantry boxes, according to the volunteer.

Food pickups are now done while maintaining social distancing, using an outdoor table where no-contact pickups can be made. Bassham said, “There’s a system of how to do it carefully, without contact.”

Call 432-295-1447 with questions or go by the pantry to drop off donations. Volunteers are also being accepted, with opportunities to help sort food distributions or work in the pantry’s garden behind the building.

To sign up to receive food, complete an application that can be picked up at the pantry. “Applications are available. Everyone in need is welcome,” said volunteer Peggy O’Brien.

July’s dates will be Thursday, July 9 and Thursday, July 23, from 4 to 6 p.m. at 1403 W San Antonio.

SRSU student stranded overseas reflects on time in Thailand

THAILAND — The fallout of the current COVID-19 pandemic has touched nearly every aspect of life for the entire global population.

But for Sul Ross State University industrial technology major senior Rodric Allen, the crisis has hit not only close to home but away from home.

A native of La Marque, Allen has spent the past six months as a material/logistics manager for TechnipFMC, an engineering, procurement and construction company based out of Houston. His job assignment pertains to oil and gas refinery projects in Thailand where Allen has been stationed since January.

Allen’s homecoming was cut short when the coronavirus began wreaking world-wide havoc in the late winter months.

“My job is to ensure all materials needed to erect the facility will arrive at the right place, at the right time and at the right price,” Allen said. “My assignment was initially one year, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, things have dramatically slowed down.”



Photo courtesy of Rodric Allen
Rodric Allen

Allen’s drama began following the Christmas and New Year break which marked the last time he saw his wife and children.

“Essentially we are allowed vacation and R&R every two and half months,” said Allen. “However, I’ve been stranded in Thailand since January 2020, after returning from vacation from Christmas and New Year’s break. So that means I haven’t been home to Houston for half a year and counting.”

He added that there is currently no date set for his return to Texas.

“At the moment, no,” he said. “We truly do not know what will happen. The country of Thailand has banned all incoming international flights until the end of June.”

Allen said there are talks of the ban being extended through July.

“So the company gave us notice if we leave we may not be able to return, especially due to the rising numbers of cases in the USA.”

The project with the company is scheduled to be completed in February 2021.

“That may be the time I am able to return home,” he said.

When asked how COVID-19 has impacted Thailand medically, socially and economically, and the effect the pandemic has had on international relations, Allen said the nation has adapted remarkably well to the crisis.

“As a country, Thailand’s COVID-19 numbers are low,” said Allen. “Medically, the country has done a really good job, quarantining, treating and identifying the patients who really need the care.”

According to the latest figures, as of Wednesday, June 23, Thailand has reported 3,156 positive cases with 3,023 recoveries. A total of 75 hospitalizations have been recorded with 58 deaths out of a population of 69.5 million.

“I went to visit the Bangkok-Pattaya hospital two weeks ago and I was very impressed with the structure and processes in place just to enter the facility,” Allen said.

He noted that social and economic factors have been affected the hardest, especially in the area in which Allen resides in the Bang Lamung District.

According to Allen, Thailand’s economy depends heavily on tourism, which accounts for an estimated 12% of the country’s GDP.

“Honestly, I don’t believe it was properly handled by those in power. The dollar drives many decisions, and with corporations losing millions to billions, they influence some of the decisions being made about opening up the country.”

“Thailand seems to be willing to take a loss when it comes to the economy. They want to make sure safety is first,” he continued. “We were on lockdown for three months before restaurants, small hotels and malls returned to business. I’m not saying this is not America’s approach but why is there a rush to re-open?”

According to Allen, Thailand incorporated lockdowns on beaches, implemented curfews, closed malls, grocery stores were limited, entry scans were mandatory, masks were made mandatory, and bans on alcohol sales from restaurants and stores were instituted.

“If you take a taxi, you must sanitize up and wear a mask. But here you have many expats who do not obey the rules and tend to think those precautionary rules do not apply to them,” he said.

Allen also related the experiences of other Americans he is working with in Thailand during the pandemic.

“Prior to COVID, things were okay,” he said. “We work long hours six to seven days a week, so when we had a moment off, we all made the most of it.”

“Now, it’s different,” he continued. “There are some guys stuck in the USA, who are dying to come back. We also had a few guys just get up and leave because our options are limited. We’re not sure what we can do regarding this pandemic.”

He also noted the mental and physical toll the crisis has had on his workmates.

“Everyone is tired,” he said. “We all want to go home and rest, recharge and start again, but we can’t. It’s a mixed bag of feelings when it comes to how some of us are handling this and being stuck here.”

When asked about what he misses most about home, “It’s my family,” he said. “Then comes my home, of course. As I’ve travelled and worked around Asia, I miss simple foods. Whether it be fast food or a simple breakfast burrito, I just miss those small comfort things. I also miss driving, I am a big car guy and I love to drive, but here we are prohibited to drive or ride on motorbikes, so I bike everywhere.”

What future impact will COVID-19 have on Allen’s career? “Great question,” he said. “My kids are growing and I have spent a significant amount of time away working.”

“COVID-19 made me realize my time is limited with my wife and kids,” he added. “I’m put into certain situations that are unfavorable to them. Normally, after I finish an overseas assignment, I will rotate back to the project at the project jobsite in the USA, which is normally close to home.”

However, the impact on Allen’s project is expected to extend through 2022, and the company as a whole has issued furloughs and layoffs.

“I freelance, and my family also runs an online business that was going well until COVID,” said Allen. “So if all else fails, I will push to make those options successful until the economy bounces back. It’s very uncertain or unknown at this point and one of our biggest fears is the unknown.”

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MARFA 12 STEP MEETINGS ONLINE

Go to zoom.us or download the app:

ACA - Thursday 5:30 PM
<https://tinyurl.com/y7qyghga>

Al Anon. - Sunday 2:00 PM
<https://tinyurl.com/yd78lsa6>

AA - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 6:00 PM
<https://tinyurl.com/y7uxgrcy>

AA - Saturday 12:00 Noon
<https://tinyurl.com/yafles7y>

JOBS

NOW HIRING

Village Farms - Marfa

Supervisor, Shipping & Receiving- Supervise all aspects of shipping & receiving operations, manage inventory of packing material and assist the packhouse and sales teams to meet required levels of service and production.

Any combination of supervision and shipping experience will be considered. Must pass pre-employment drug screen.

Preferred qualifications:

- 1-2 years supervisory experience
- Shipping/Receiving experience
- Bilingual English/Spanish

Full-time position with excellent pay and a competitive benefits package.

Contact Information:
texashr@villagefarms.com or 432-729-3071 ext. 607. Applications @ Village Farms Security Stations 3 miles N. Hwy 17, Marfa or 3 miles S. Hwy 17, Fort Davis



CIBOLO CREEK RANCH

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Established 1857

Cibolo Creek Ranch is seeking Servers and an Activities Guide.

If interested please send resume to obottois@cibolocreekranch.com

MARFA ISD BREAKFAST INFO DURING CLOSURE	9:00 am - 9:20 am	9:20 am - 9:40 am	9:40 am - 10:00 am
Marfa ISD provides free breakfast and lunch for all children 18 years and younger. <i>Please be on the look out for a Marfa vehicle for deliveries at the following locations and times:</i>	Mando's Restaurant Parking lot or Apartments on Spring and Columbia	Porter's Field or USDA on Ave D <i>Robertson Cafeteria will be open for drive-by pick up from 9:00-10:00</i>	Blackwell Playground or Marfa Villa <i>presented by</i> 

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