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BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

Three Presidio residents lose their lives to COVID-19

FACE COVERING ORDINANCE IN EFFECT

by order of the State of Texas

State GOP confirms Gonzales as TX-23 candidate, but Reyes requests a recount

By ABBIE PERRAULT
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TX-23 — The primary race between Tony Gonzales and Raul Reyes for the Republican slot in the 23rd Congressional District has been bitter, from harsh words to competing high profile endorsement. As the dust settles on the July 14 primary elections and counties have certified their vote counts and sent them to the state GOP, it is Gonzales who eked out a narrow win, 45 votes ahead of Reyes, according to the office of the Secretary of State.

"Tony Gonzales won the Republican primary runoff, which was shown at every stage: on election night, after all absentee and provisional ballots were counted, after all 29 counties completed their canvass and tonight as the Texas GOP certified the results," Gonzales campaign spokesman Matt Mackowiak said after the final ballot count came out.

Last year, Gonzales filed to run in the blue district of TX-35, spanning from Austin to San Antonio, against incumbent Democrat Lloyd Doggett. Then he withdrew, refiling in the crowded Republican field of TX-23. After 20 years in the Navy, his campaign for political office – notably endorsed by President Donald Trump – has advanced to the next stage, facing Gina Ortiz Jones in the general election this November.

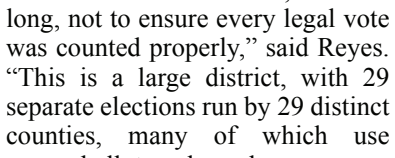
That is, unless his Republican opponent Reyes comes out on top in a recount. The trailing challenger announced Friday he would submit a petition for a recount, along with a $35,000 recount deposit, before the Monday evening deadline.

"We worked too hard, for too long, not to ensure every legal vote was counted properly," said Reyes. "This is a large district, with 29 separate elections run by 29 distinct counties, many of which use paper ballots where human error often enters into the vote counting process. We want to ensure all ballots were counted properly through an expeditious recount process as allowed under law."

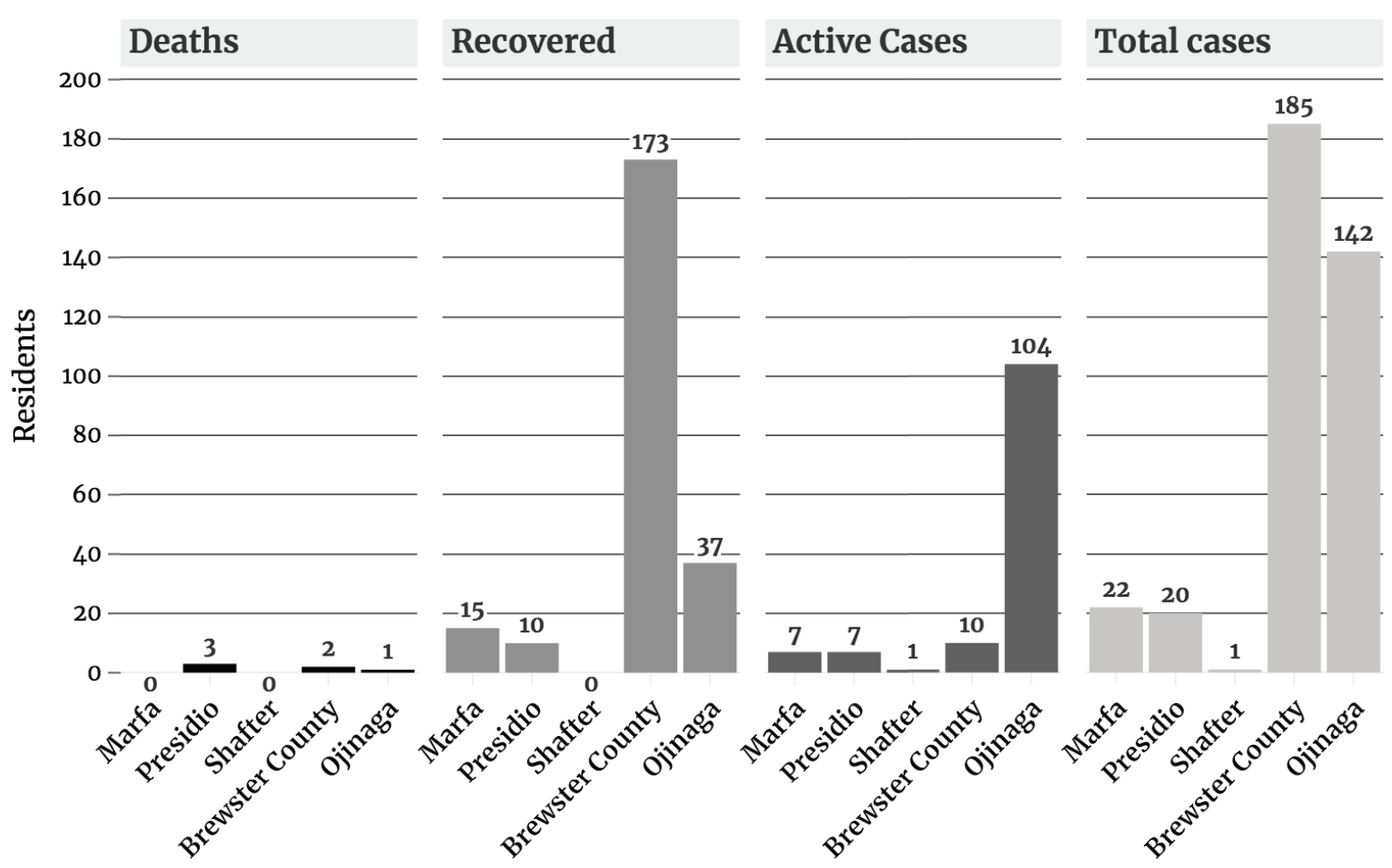
The recount must begin seven days after the petition is approved. Reyes, who was endorsed by Texas Senator Ted Cruz, said, "We received hundreds upon hundreds of individual small donations to meet the needed $35,000 deposit for a recount. I owe it to our many volunteers, and the voters of this district, to ensure the final result represents the will of the Republican Primary electorate."

Gonzales campaign spokesman Mackowiak saw the recount differently, saying, "We are confident that Tony will win again after Raul's hopeless and selfish recount is completed. Raul's decision to delay the result only helps Gina Jones, which may be his primary motivation. We will remain focused on unifying the party and building a winning campaign for the general election."

The West Texan Media Group, LLC



A breakdown of local cases to date



Sources: Presidio County Judge's Office, Brewster County Judge's Office, and the state government of Chihuahua

County case reporting differs slightly from data reported on the Department of State Health Services' dashboard. In this dataset, one case in Presidio County has not been assigned to a city, so is not reflected in the chart. Brewster County's one "probable" case is included in the case count here. This data is as of August 4, 2020.

By ABBIE PERRAULT
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — On Friday, Presidio County marked a tragic milestone, recording its first COVID-19-related death. A Presidio resident passed away in an Odessa hospital's COVID-19 unit. Within 24 hours, a second Presidio resident would succumb to the disease. By Monday, a third had died.

For over four months, the county had been able to avoid the deadly impacts of COVID-19, even as neighboring communities have seen higher case counts and the fatalities from COVID-19. Yet, as state data reports that Presidio County's total case count has only reached 44 cases compared to Brewster County's 186, Presidio County now has the most deaths in the tri-county area, and a 6.8% death rate.

The deaths were reported by hospitals in the region and Dave Kolberson, the program manager for the Department of State Health Services' Region 9/10 epidemiology program, confirmed those deaths as Presidio residents.

The first, a 91-year-old male from Presidio, was admitted to Medical Center Hospital in Odessa on July 28 and died the afternoon of July 31. The second life lost was a 72-year-old male from Presidio who passed away at Odessa Regional Medical Center on Saturday, August 1. Two days later, on August 3, a 41-year old male (and relative of the 72-year-old) died at MCH in Odessa. He had been battling COVID-19 at Medical Center Hospital since July 21.

Even as deaths have risen, the number of active cases has declined in the counties of Presidio and Brewster. In data provided by the county judge's office (which varies slightly from state reported data at this time,) only 14 of Presidio County's 43 cases remain active, with an even split of seven active in Marfa and seven active in Presidio. Overall, Marfa has had 22 cases, two ahead of Presidio's 20. This week, Shafter recorded its first case, which is still active.

Compared to Ojinaga's 142 confirmed cases, and Brewster County's 185 cases, Presidio County's case count is comparatively small. Looking at it per capita, Ojinaga records 5 cases for every 1000 residents and Presidio County is around 6 per 1000, while Brewster County has almost 20 cases per 1000 residents.

But all of these numbers are largely affected by testing, which has been hard to quantify by county, in part due to residents traveling to testing sites in neighboring counties to get swabbed. Ample available testing helps confirm the existence of

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Marfa City Council signs off on local contact tracing efforts

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
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MARFA — Marfa city officials are moving ahead with plans for local contact tracing. At a city council meeting on Monday night, the council voted unanimously to approve such a program.

Local contact tracing efforts (coupled with state ones) are already the norm in places like Houston and Corpus Christi, where the existence of city- and county-level health departments makes it easier for health officials to coordinate at the state and local level. But Marfa's contact tracing initiative would be a first for small-town rural Texas, leading some city leaders to dub it a pilot program.

Monday's vote was the latest development in what's been a long journey for advocates of local contact tracing. After hearing conflicting reports on Texas's contact tracing efforts, Marfa city officials have spent weeks figuring out the logistics of local contact investigations.

Buck Johnston, a city council member who has taken a leading role in those efforts, said she'd first floated the idea of contact tracing in March. But the issue ended up "on the backburner" as Governor Greg Abbott "took over more control on the local level" and passed rules limiting the decision-making powers of city and county officials.

Still, the lack of local control over issues like public health and safety left Johnston and others looking for alternative ways to help the community. And as it became clear that Texas's contact tracing efforts were floundering, they began work to get a local contact tracing program off the ground.

"I'm really excited," Johnston said in an interview Tuesday after city council's vote. "This is something that we can do to protect our small little town."

For a while, a Marfa contact tracing program seemed far from guaranteed. County leaders said the program likely wouldn't be feasible, citing conversations with state officials and ethical concerns with Marfans tracing friends and neighbors.

But city leaders were hearing otherwise — including Buck Johnston, who solicited the advice of Dr. John Carlo, a Dallas-based doctor and member of the state coronavirus task force. He said he saw no reason why Marfa couldn't establish a contact tracing program.

City Attorney Teresa Todd heard the same from the office of State Senator José Rodríguez, and particularly his chief of staff, Sushma Smith. Smith helped coordinate a meeting between local officials and DSHS higher-ups, who ultimately gave the program the green light.

It got another boost on Monday, when city

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Locals tighten their belts or seek work as federal unemployment benefits end

By ABBIE PERRAULT
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — Marfa resident Dione Acosta has been reading the news every day lately. Since the expiration this weekend of the CARES Act unemployment benefit, which added $600 in federal assistance to millions of unemployed workers' checks, Acosta has been hoping Congress would come to an agreement on extending benefits for those put out of work during COVID-19.

In the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, *The Big Bend Sentinel* spoke with workers who lost their livelihoods during Texas' stay-at-home order. Over four months later, many are still out of work and struggling to make ends meet. A $600 weekly supplement to their state unemployment claims provided a safety net that helped cover rent or mortgage payments, bills and groceries. As that additional income disappears, residents are grappling with a drop in income and continuing expenses.

Acosta lost her front desk manager job on March 19, when El Cosmico hotel and campground laid off staff during coronavirus closures. Since then, she's been staying at home with her children and her partner who is disabled with underlying health issues.

Hundreds of tri-county residents, along with millions of Americans, will start seeing smaller unemployment checks since federal unemployment benefits expired at the end of July. As the expiration date came and went, Acosta knew she would struggle to make ends meet.

"It's a little nerve wracking, due to the fact that I haven't been rehired back at El Cosmico," Acosta said this week, more than four months after her layoff.

"Without that extra, I can't survive on just the unemployment. I have a car payment, cell phone

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Jeff Davis County reels after sudden death of county judge

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
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JEFF DAVIS COUNTY — An avid outdoorswoman and hunter. A thoughtful and consensus-based leader. A mother and grandmother with a doting husband who — when she wasn't focused on county business — enjoyed feeding hummingbirds and playing with her dogs at the family ranch.

Those were some of the tributes that came in this week as Jeff Davis County residents reeled from the news that their county judge, Kerith Sproul-Hurley, had died. She was 45.

Sproul-Hurley was found dead at her home on Sunday — and by that evening, condolences were pouring in on social media. At press time, her cause of death hasn't been publicly announced.

In recent years, Sproul-Hurley dedicated herself to public service — serving first as a county commissioner and later as county judge, a position she'd held since 2018. In addition to her work as a public official, she also worked at her family's H.E. Sproul Ranch and the connected Harvard Hotel & Lodge with her husband Roy, whom she married in 2016.

"I love her and miss her so much, as do her four kids and two grandkids," Roy said in a statement to *The Big Bend Sentinel*. "She was a beautiful, amazing wife and my best friend."

Sproul-Hurley's colleagues at the county were also saddened by the news of her death. They said Sproul-Hurley would be remembered as an official who cared deeply for the Jeff Davis County community and always sought to bring other officials into her decision making.

"She was kind and compassionate," said Jennifer Wright, who worked with Sproul-Hurley as the Jeff Davis county clerk. "She was a great judge and a great friend — not only to each of us, but throughout the whole community. She never had her own agenda."

Larry Francell, the emergency management coordinator for Jeff Davis County, agreed — describing Sproul-Hurley as a "very smart and thoughtful woman" who was "very careful in her decision-making" and always made sure to "solicit opinions from other people."

"She didn't make snap judgements, which I respected greatly," Francell added. "I loved working with her. She was such a sweet person — and so smart."

Teresa Todd, who worked with Sproul-Hurley as the county attorney, posted a lengthy tribute to Sproul-Hurley on social media.

"With a heavy heart and great sadness, I mourn the loss of my friend and colleague," Todd wrote. "I loved working with Kerith. She held herself daily with kindness, grace and compassion, always carefully considering how her decisions as Jeff Davis County judge affected others."

Sproul-Hurley's consensus-based leadership model was clear throughout the coronavirus crisis. In July, Governor Greg Abbott imposed face mask requirements across the state but allowed counties with less than 20 active cases (including Jeff Davis County) to request an exemption.

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Roads, elections and the Blackwell School: This week at Marfa City Council

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
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MARFA — When Marfa City Council met for a virtual meeting on Monday night, the biggest news concerned contact tracing. Local leaders have spent weeks trying to set up a contact tracing program at the city — and on Monday, they got unanimous approval from city council, as *The Big Bend Sentinel* reported this week.

Still, contact tracing was hardly the only big-ticket item on Monday's busy agenda.

Roads

Abiel Carrillo, a project manager at the municipal engineering firm KSA, gave an update on efforts to improve Marfa city's roads. The company has been working with the city to evaluate Marfa's roads and to help the city implement a 2017 plan to fix them.

In the process, KSA has rated the city's roads either "acceptable," "fair" or "poor" — that is, the roads "that are really, really distressed" and need to be redone, Carrillo explained at the council meeting on Monday. The company also determined which roads were not only in disrepair but also "essential links" connecting Marfa communities to state highways and broader thoroughfares. "I drove or walked all of your roads," Carrillo told the council.

With that review process out of the way, Carrillo said it was time to take action — or at the very least, get definitive project proposals ready so that the city could apply for grants. He presented the council with a proposed schedule of repairs that runs from 2021 to 2030, along with estimated costs that, Carrillo said, tried to take inflation and disruptions from the coronavirus pandemic into account.

The city still has more work to do on that front, including public hearings on "complete streets" proposals to make the city's roads more bike- and pedestrian-friendly. But in the meantime, Carrillo gave them some advice.

First, he recommended Marfa phase out doing repair works on already doomed streets and instead focus on replacing broken roads and maintaining fair or acceptable ones. Doing so would be cheaper for the city in the long run, he explained, while doing renovations on "poor" condition roads was a mostly futile exercise anyways.

Second, he suggested that the city focus on improving drainage and sustainability, not least because flooding on roadways could accelerate their deterioration. To do this, he suggested the city add bioswales to some medians and even consider making some roads less wide.

"A vast majority of your roads are very wide," Carrillo added — noting that one stretch of Highland near the courthouse was around 80 feet across. "If you cut that down to almost half," he said," you would still have parking and a very wide driving lane." Besides, there'd also be more room for green infrastructure like bike lanes and bioswales.

Elections

On Monday, Marfa City Council voted to put Marfa utilities on the ballot. Specifically, voters will be asked whether the city should take back jurisdiction over its electrical utilities from American Electric Power, which currently has say over Marfa's utility rates.

As *The Big Bend Sentinel* has previously reported, some city leaders believe residents would be better served if city leaders — and not a private company — had more control over electric utilities and rates and weren't locked into a longtime deal with AEP. Mayor Manny Baeza, who works for AEP, recused himself from that discussion and the vote.

Separately, the council also voted on whether to formally withdraw Councilmember Natalie Melendez's name from the November ballot. Melendez previously told the council she wanted to withdraw her candidacy, noting that it had been a "hard year."

Irma Salgado made the motion, but there was a problem: with the council not wanting to see Melendez leave, no one else (besides Melendez) was initially willing to second the motion.

"I'm not seconding it," Councilmember Buck Johnston joked. "Sorry." Councilmember Salgado stressed that "we don't want you to leave."

"We've just got to go forward with it," Melendez protested. And eventually, Councilmember Yoseff Ben-Yehuda reluctantly seconded the motion. "I'm touched," Melendez said of the hesitance to let her go.

Contracts

City leaders on Monday considered contracts for debt collections and IT work. First, there was the potential contract with Republic Recovery Services, which would help the city collect on unpaid bills from Marfa EMS.

Marfa city leaders have been debating changing how they charge and collect for local EMS services, which can include everything from emergency medical care at homes to hospital transits. In the meantime, the city has also struggled with unpaid bills. On Monday, Councilmember Yoseff Ben-Yehuda estimated the city was losing out on around 50% of its possible EMS revenue, while Mayor Manny Baeza agreed it was a "substantial amount."

With a Republic contract, the company would charge the city a $1500 set-up fee, plus 30% of whatever money Republic was able to collect. That would mean, city attorney Teresa Todd explained, that the city would get "70% of something we've been making zero percent off of over the past few years." She also noted that the company had come "highly recommended," including by the legal firm that handles Marfa's taxes.

Still, there were some snags. Bert Lagarde, the Marfa EMS director, wasn't there to weigh in on the contract. Meanwhile, Councilmember Johnston noted that there was nothing on Republic's website on its proposal indicating whether it had previously worked with municipalities.

Rather than rejecting the contract or tabling the measure — which could have seen the city start the contract process all over again — they instead decided to sign a one-year contract with Republic as a kind of trial run. With that change, the proposal passed unanimously.

The city also considered setting up a contract with Nectar Computers in Alpine for IT services — and there was little hesitation. Councilmember Salgado noted that The Get Go, where she also works, uses Nectar and that it works well, while Councilmember Melendez agreed that many businesses in Marfa have used Nectar's IT services "at one point or another."

Councilmember Johnston said she'd also had good experiences with the company, and Mandy Roane, the director of community services, said Nectar could likely serve as an all-purpose resource for city IT needs. In the end, the council also voted unanimously to approve that contract.

Blackwell School

For almost 60 years — from 1909 until 1965 — the Blackwell School served as a segregated school for Latino children in Marfa. That year, courts ordered public schools desegregated, and the Blackwell building fell into disuse and decline.

For over a decade, the Blackwell School Alliance has worked to preserve the history and buildings of the former Blackwell School. And now, they're hoping to turn the property into a National Historic Site, a designation also held by the former Fort Davis.

Gretel Enck, president of the Blackwell School Alliance, spoke about these efforts at Monday's meeting. She said the alliance had worked to "document and promote this important part of Marfa history" but had realized that the Blackwell School was "much more than a local story": It also told a "national story" about discrimination and racial injustice in the United States.

The Blackwell School alliance has already been working with officials like Congressman Will Hurd to "begin the process of turning the Blackwell School over to the National Park Service," Enck told council members. She asked that city council sign a letter in support of those efforts.

"This has a lot of support from the immediate family of former students," she said, "to ensure this lives on in perpetuity." She cited research showing that for every $1 the federal government spent on national park lands, $4 worth of economic value was generated for nearby communities. "That's job creation, tourism and goods and services," she explained.

"This is a different kind of tourism," she added. "It will attract history-minded tourists, as well as providing an additional benefit to tourists that already come."

The city decided to sign a letter of support for Blackwell — and to go a step further. "I would say let's all sign it," Councilmember Ben-Yehuda said. "I think that would be great."

Police

A number of law enforcement items also made it onto the agenda. First, Marfa agreed to renew jail and dispatch contracts with the Presidio County Sheriff's Office, which allows Marfa police to place people in the county jail and respond to 911 calls made to PCSO.

During his council updates, Marfa Police Chief Steve Marquez also had some news: Two officers, Frank Hernandez and Anahi Garcia, had attended a crisis intervention training hosted by Brewster County. The training, he said, would help them better respond to tense situations.

In an interview on Tuesday, Marquez cited protests over the recent killings of people of color as evidence for why such training was "really important." He said the crisis intervention training was part of a broader effort to train Marfa police officers to handle tense situations, including previous de-escalation trainings.

"Right now, with everything that's going on, I think it's something my guys should all take advantage of," he said of the trainings. "It's something that the department as a whole can benefit from.

Contact tracing

(Continued from page 1)

council also unanimously approved the program. Johnston, who's researched the issue, told the council Marfa could likely pay for local contact tracing through Texas Division of Emergency Management funds.

With that city decision now reached, Todd will take that answer to state health officials, who have said they'd figure out the final logistics once Marfa leaders gave the go-ahead. Barring some sudden and unforeseen changes — and in the Texas coronavirus response, there certainly have been a fair number of those — that means Marfa will likely get a contact tracing program.

Marfa's city council meeting also offered more details on what the local contact-tracing program will look like — and rather than just using data from the DSHS, it'll likely work on a collaborative basis with state officials.

After all, city leaders have argued, the state has a range of resources they don't have, including connections to emergency aid and counseling. But Marfans are better in touch with the situation on the ground — including information on where people actually live in a town where almost all mailing addresses are P.O. boxes.

The city will likely put out ads, asking people to contact them if they've had positive test results or symptoms. The city will set up a number not only for outgoing calls, but for incoming ones — and ideally, it'll be a local number, staffed by contact tracers who officially work for the city.

The city wants to hire one to three people for the role — and at press time, two candidates have been publicly announced. First, as *The Big Bend Sentinel* previously reported, there's Don Culbertson, a physician assistant at the Marfa Clinic who also helped jumpstart the possible Marfa contact tracing program and would likely run it. He previously worked as a contact tracer in Washington State and has received contact tracing training from Johns Hopkins University.

This week, city officials also announced that they were considering Leticia "Letty" Garcia, a medical assistant also at Marfa Clinic, for the role. Although she hasn't yet trained in contact tracing, she's worked with Child Protective Services, which city officials say has an overlap.

"With my prior work as a social worker, it all ties together," Garcia said in a phone interview on Tuesday. As a caseworker, she also did wellness checks, conducted investigations and helped families find resources, she said.

Marfa's contact tracing program could still see challenges, though. For one, Dr. J.P. Schwartz, who serves as local health authority and could help facilitate communication between Texas DSHS and Marfa contact tracers, is technically a county official.

With Marfa the size it is, he also happens to be Culbertson's colleague at the Marfa Clinic. "We work together all the time," Schwartz said. They already have work rapport, and Schwartz supports the idea of local contact tracing efforts.

Still, Presidio County Judge Cinderela Guevara has said that the city would need to get approval to use Schwartz, a county official, in his official capacity during any non-county coronavirus response. (Guevara was not available to comment by press time on this particular issue.) Otherwise, the city would need to find its own health authority, which appears to be another legal option, according to the Texas Health and Safety Code.

Another issue is problems with state data. Both Schwartz and Culbertson said they'd learned more about the scope of the virus in Marfa from talking to patients than from reading state reports.

In one case, Culbertson told city council, a patient received positive results, went through quarantine and was released before ever hearing from state health officials.

"I felt like a congressperson getting a redacted version of the Mueller report," he said of state data, which is funneled from the state to county officials before being released in public news releases. There's a backlog on that information at state level, and the information that does get released — as Culbertson put it to council — isn't "particularly useful." That's why Marfa officials think they won't just be tracing off state data, but finding their own cases and adding to the state rolls.

In an interview Tuesday, Culbertson said he was happy about the new program. "People don't need to feel ashamed or self-conscious or judged for having COVID," he said. "All we're trying to do here is to prevent the spread. And it really is spread innocently and invisibly."

After the council's decision, Culbertson said he considered celebrating. Then, he decided he didn't have anything to celebrate.

"We got invited to the race, but we don't have a car yet," he said. "That's what we're working on now."

benefits end

(Continued from page 1)

bills, utilities, my kids, so I was forced to…," she trailed off in thought. "I was hoping they would extend it and I knew they were debating it."

Acosta's state unemployment benefits were smaller than what she was paid at her job, especially because it was calculated based on a time in 2019 when she had cut back her work hours for health issues. "That's why that extra bonus was so helpful. I could stay home and be healthy with my family. We could just quarantine and we were able to manage with that bonus. Now that it's gone, it's very nerve wracking, so it pushed me to find any kind of job."

Natalie Melendez, another local laid off from her jobs due to the virus said the $600 was "super super helpful" but that she is not "in dire straits without it." Melendez, also a city council member, worked at Stellina and Chinati Foundation before the pandemic; the former has not reopened and the latter is open for outdoor self-guided walking tours only.

At press time, United States representatives and senators are still debating COVID-19 aid packages but have been unable to agree on any new federal relief legislation for those unemployed during COVID-19, even as cases continue to grow and many businesses struggle to safely stay open.

Melendez is hopeful for some sort of package from the federal government. "I can't imagine that they're not going to do something, considering how bad off the U.S. is in terms of cases being on the rise and everything," she said. "And it's not totally breaking my back. I'm not supporting a family, kids, paying mortgage, etcetera, but I am helping to support one member of my family."

For Acosta, as she watched that financial assistance dry up, it "lit a fire underneath me, so to speak."

She interviewed for a job at a local hotel restaurant and took the subsequent job offer that arrived Tuesday. While it's still in the hospitality industry, the restaurant aspect is "something totally different, outside of what I'm used to," she said.

Melendez, and another local, Ian Lewis, both said they were making more on unemployment than they did at their jobs pre-pandemic. That's one concern that politicians like Senator Ted Cruz have pointed to, suggesting people won't go back to work if they can make more staying at home. Meanwhile, the senior senator from Texas, John Cornyn, has advocated for some federal benefit, though he has yet to define an amount.

Without the federal supplement, both Melendez and Lewis are making closer to their former income. After looking at what jobs are available to apply for in the area, Melendez and Lewis both remarked on the lack of openings and lack of jobs in their industry.

For Lewis, returning to his still-shuttered job at Stellina is not an option, but applying for other roles is off the table, too. "I've got health issues and they've been pretty bad the last few months," Lewis said. Because of it, he's not planning to go back to work until there is a vaccine, which could still be a year or more away.

Acosta is still feeling out how many shifts she will take at her new job, trying to balance the upcoming school year where her older daughter will be starting out with online classes at home and her younger daughter will still be at home. "The job is in the evening, which is also something I'm not used to," said Acosta. "I'll be very busy basically. I'll be doing school with my daughter during the day and then going to work in the evening."

She does feel like safety precautions are in place for the new role, which will handle to-go orders only. "You do come into contact with guests, which is kind of nerve wracking, but I'll be sure to wear a mask and keep sanitizer," she said. "It's risky, but there's nothing else in Marfa, and I will have to do something." Still, Acosta said, "If we had that bonus I'd definitely not be working."

Faced with the new reduction in unemployment, Melendez said of her circumstances, "It's making each week and each money transaction very calculated, I'll say that."



County judge

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That put Sproul-Hurley and the rest of the county commissioners court at the center of a heated local debate over facemasks. As county judge, Sproul-Hurley could have requested an exemption herself — but she previously told *The Big Bend Sentinel* she didn't want to unilaterally make such a decision.

"Technically, I could sign off on it," she said in July, "but I would prefer that my [county] commissioners were on board too." So she sought feedback from the community and put the question to her commissioners for a vote. About a week later, the Jeff Davis County commissioners court decided against getting an exemption.

In interviews this week, commissioners said they appreciated that leadership style. "Almost every action we've taken has been a vote on the court," said Commissioner Todd Jagger. "We've been working from that consensus model. I think she just did it naturally."

Jagger, who said he'd known Sproul-Hurley since she was a kid, described her as a "kind and gentle soul" who "always had the best interests of the county first and foremost" and "always tried to consider every angle" when making decisions "based not necessarily on what was easiest, but what was the right thing to do."

"That's an admirable trait for anybody," he added.

Curtis Evans, another commissioner, said that while Sproul-Hurley rarely sought the limelight, she was "always behind the scenes pushing and getting things done."

"She was such a sweetheart. She cared so much about this county," he added. "It's a devastating loss."

"Kerith was as good as they come," agreed Commissioner Albert Miller. "She spent her life trying to help other folks — she really did."

"She was just a really good person," he added. "Nobody has a bad thing to say about Kerith."

Despite working to make decisions as a team, Sproul-Hurley nonetheless found herself on the receiving end of angry calls and emails from people who were upset with county actions. And that was particularly true during the coronavirus pandemic, when normally low-key county- and city-level meetings took a front seat in debates over everything from shelter-in-place orders to mask requirements.

In her tribute on social media, Todd, the county attorney, said Sproul-Hurley had been under a lot of stress as she navigated how to best serve the community during a pandemic.

"Her kind nature made these last five months very difficult for her," Todd added. "Kerith took criticism to heart, so was always searching for that impossible way to keep everyone happy and safe."

As county officials mourn the passing of a beloved colleague, they're also grappling with another question: What comes next?

Under normal circumstances, commissioners could appoint a judge who could serve for two years. But these are hardly normal circumstances, with the coronavirus pandemic still raging and budget and election season coming up.

Making matters even more complicated, Jeff Davis County will need a judge to guide them through the rest of the budget process. "Only a county judge can do that," Todd said. Worse, Sproul-Hurley was next up for re-election in 2022 — meaning there are so far no other candidates for county judge on this year's ballot. The upcoming election also means the appointed judge will only serve through December, rather than a full two-year term.

The Jeff Davis County Commissioners Court is set to discuss these issues on Monday, at which point they'll likely appoint a temporary county judge. That meeting will be in-person, not over Zoom.

"It just seems too important," Todd said of why county officials were choosing to meet in-person. But with the sudden death of a top official and friend to many in Jeff Davis County, "it's gonna be a rough few months," Todd said.

Presidio deaths

(Continued from page 1)

cases with fewer symptoms, and when people know they are positive, they are better able to stop the spread to more vulnerable community members.

Recently, free testing sites have come to the area about every two weeks, and those hoping to get tested in the meantime have to rely on local clinics.

County Emergency Management Coordinator Gary Mitschke is optimistic about residents getting tested though. While previous sites saw around 180 tested over a two day period, the latest testing site on Monday saw 311 area residents arrive to be tested, the most attendees in one day at any Marfa site.

In her announcement of the deaths, Judge Cinderela Guevara continued to encourage hand washing, sanitizing, avoiding touching your face with unwashed hands, avoiding contact with people who are sick, staying home when you are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, practicing social distancing by staying at least six feet away from others, and staying at home to stop the spread of coronavirus.

In Texas, Hispanics and Latinos are 38.2% of the state's population as of the last census. State data also reports that Hispanics comprise 39.9% of the state's COVID-19 cases that have been investigated – that is, added to the database with gender, age and race/ethnicity data.

But the state data also reveals Hispanics are disproportionately dying from the infectious disease, accounting for 50.8% of all fatalities that the state has investigated.

"A toda la gente bonita de Presidio," Presidio Mayor John Ferguson wrote to address his constituents, "the beautiful people of Presidio" this week. In Spanish, he announced the three COVID-19 fatalities the small border community has experienced. The statement told Presidio residents that it's important to keep a healthy distance, use face coverings and avoid parties and "pachangas." The danger of coronavirus has not decreased, he said.

Woman arrested after string of alleged car thefts

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

FAR WEST TEXAS — A woman's alleged spree of car thefts through West Texas ended over the weekend after El Paso police took her into custody.

Alyssa Verdugo, 21, is facing charges in El Paso of a stolen vehicle, assaulting a police officer and resisting arrest. El Paso police officers took her into custody on Saturday, a spokesperson said.

In the days leading up to Verdugo's arrest, authorities believe she was linked to at least three car thefts from El Paso, Marfa and Van Horn. She allegedly left the stolen cars abandoned across the region, with at least two of the cars still running when police recovered them.

The problems in Marfa started last Thursday, when a local man called 911 to report that his truck was stolen from his property.

He told police he'd last seen the truck the night before, when he parked it at his home on South Hoover Street, and had noticed it was missing Thursday afternoon. At the time, police noted there were "no possible suspects" but that "no other person was allowed to use the vehicle." They filed the incident as a theft, according to a police report.

Then, on Friday evening, a woman on West Galveston Street called police — this time about a "suspicious vehicle parked in her neighborhood," according to a second police report.

The woman told police she'd seen a woman park the car there on Thursday evening, leaving the keys in the ignition. Authorities ran the car's license plates, and it came back stolen out of El Paso, the police report states.

In the trunk of the car, Marfa police found a suitcase with contact information, which they were able to use to contact the owner. She told police that her car had indeed been stolen — a detail later confirmed by El Paso police.

The stolen Marfa truck ended up in Van Horn — where the next day, it once again ended up on Marfa PD's radar.

There, Culberson County sheriff's deputies found the truck in a restaurant parking lot, according to a third police report. They ran the plates and learned it had been stolen out of Marfa.

Around the same time, a third car was also stolen from a Van Horn resident, according to Chief Marquez. Verdugo was arrested some time later that day.

Marfa police made contact with the Marfa car-theft victim, who was able to recover his truck on Monday. He told police the truck was fine except for "superficial damage and a dead battery," according to a third police report.

Online court records in El Paso leave out key details on the incident, including when Verdugo was arrested and the full charges she'll face. But as of Tuesday, those records do show that Verdugo had a court-appointed attorney and was awaiting a bond hearing.

Still, Chief Marquez said authorities believe the three car thefts are linked. He cited the "same M.O." in all three of the thefts, in which cars were left with their engines running near where other cars were stolen.

"From what all we've gathered, we think she did steal the vehicle we found here [in Marfa]," Marquez said. Authorities' current theory, he said, is that after Verdugo allegedly stole the first car in El Paso, she "came down to Marfa, left that vehicle running, went down a block, found keys in the truck of the other [Marfa] vehicle and left that one in Van Horn," where she's accused of stealing the third car.

Acting chief assigned to Big Bend sector

MARFA — Chris T. Clem has been named the acting chief patrol agent for the Big Bend Sector as of July 19. He arrived to the sector after serving as the deputy chief patrol agent in El Paso Sector. He is responsible for planning, organizing and directing U.S. Border Patrol administration and operations throughout the Big Bend Sector area, covering 517 miles of the southwest border, an area that extends from Sierra Blanca to Sanderson.

Clem has served in a variety of U.S. Border Patrol leadership positions, including deputy chief patrol agent of both the El Paso and New Orleans sectors and associate chief at U.S. Border Patrol Headquarters in Washington, D.C. While assigned to headquarters, he was the acting deputy chief of operational programs and the acting deputy chief of operations, where he led several secretary and commissioner-driven initiatives. As an associate chief, he oversaw the east/central corridor and the Specialty Programs and Planning Division. He was the assistant chief patrol agent of training and traumatic incident management and acting division chief for mission readiness in the Tucson Sector.



Chris T. Clem

In addition to the positions identified above, Clem has also served as the patrol agent in charge of four Border Patrol stations: the Casa Grande, Arizona station; the Ysleta, Texas station; and the Truth or Consequences and Albuquerque, New Mexico Border Patrol stations. He brings to his position the leadership, knowledge and experience gained from 25 years of dedicated service in the U.S. Border Patrol.

The new acting chief patrol agent began his career in 1995 with the U.S. Border Patrol in Lordsburg, New Mexico. In 1999, he was promoted to senior patrol agent in Sierra Blanca, Texas, and in 2002, he returned to Lordsburg, New Mexico, as a supervisory border patrol agent and then field operations supervisor. He has held several collateral duty positions, including canine handler, intelligence officer and firearms instructor.

Clem is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, but grew up most of his life in Houston, Texas. He is a graduate of Sam Houston State University, with a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice and a Master of Science in leadership and management. He was promoted into the Senior Executive Service in March 2018.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

The Presidio County Appraisal District Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2021 year.

The public hearing will be held on this the 20th day of August 2020 at
2:00 p.m. via Zoom meeting.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:
The total amount of the 2021 Budget is **$500,919.48**

The 2021 PCAD Budget reflects a
decrease
of $34,402.82
from the current year's budget.

The number of employees compensated under the budget will be five (5) (full-time equivalent)

The appraisal district is supported by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district. If adopted by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the majority of the governing bodies of the local taxing units served by this appraisal district.

A copy of the 2021 PCAD budget is available for public inspection at the PCAD district office.

Notice is hereby posted and delivered to the Government Entities on this the 6th, day of August 2020.



Photo by Sarah M. Vasquez

One year later: An altar of adobe bricks assembled by Marfa residents after the mass shooting at a Wal-mart in El Paso on August 3, 2019. The gunman killed 23 individuals, from children to grandparents, including citizens of the United States, Mexico and one German. The killer is alleged to be Patrick Crusius, a young man who drove nine hours from his home in Allen, TX to carry out the attack.

Crusius said in an online manifesto that he wanted to stop a "Hispanic invasion" and is now charged with carrying out the deadliest attack against Latinos in recent U.S. history.

Governor Greg Abbott calling it a "heinous and senseless act of violence," while in Marfa, residents Travis Walker and Arthur Ruiz created an altar (above) to commemorate the victims.

Other area residents were soon adding to the memorial and holding commemorations of their own, mourning the victims of the attack.

Take two: New city ordinance on film productions is put into action



Photo by Maisie Crow

A production company operates a set for a film Monday on Highland Avenue, operating under the city's new film ordinance.

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Film crews are already putting the new City of Marfa film ordinance and filming guidelines to the test, less than a month after city council put it into effect. "Exotic Creatures Film Production" arrived to shoot a short film for an online video streaming service.

Last week, a small production filmed actors and B-roll on city sidewalks for an hour, "but this is the first real, robust one," Community Services Director Mandy Roane said about the shoot that shut down parts of Highland Avenue on Monday and filmed around town Tuesday and Wednesday.

On set, a sizeable crew of at least 10 filmed an actor in a vest, boots and a cowboy hat as he leaned against a truck with a cage in the back, and a woman in a crisp white button down with the sleeves rolled up and tucked under a belt buckle leaned her hip against the tailgate, talking to him.

However, details are slim on what the film is about, and a producer listed on the city's permit kept mum about the project, hoping to provide more publicity next month. Roane was told the project shot in Marfa was "the pilot, but then they'll be doing some other kind of iconic locations."

One new aspect of the city ordinance is an increase in fees for filming in Marfa, which were previously negligible. Filmmakers will now pay $250 for the permit and incur additional costs for use of city property. For a complete road closure, like the one on Highland Avenue near the courthouse that stopped traffic in both directions, those additional fees look like $150 per block, per hour of shooting.

Despite filming in Texas, the crew on this project hailed from New Mexico, where film productions are temporarily halted due to COVID-19.

According to the New Mexico State Film Office, "The health safety of our citizens and workforce is of paramount importance, and the Governor has not yet green-lit a date for safe production resumption. When production resumes, the New Mexico Film Office will release recommendations that have been shaped by local film industry experts and are in alignment with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers Industry-Wide Labor-Management Safety Committee Task Force 'Industry-Wide Labor-Management Safety Committee Task Force Proposed Health and Safety Guidelines for Motion Picture, Television, Streaming Productions During the COVID-19 Pandemic.'"

But the City of Marfa also implemented COVID-19 precautions in their permit, requiring a "COVID-19 Safety Plan" and estimated time that local extras will need to be without masks for "shooting purposes" and precautions to protect local extras from the spread of the virus.

Sandwich boards around the set's perimeter informed locals "a motion picture is filming here. Due to COVID-19 regulations, no visitors are allowed on set."

"They got all the permits, it seemed to go smoothly," said Eugene Binder, whose gallery was being used as a backdrop as well as a staging area on the interior. "These people are pros, so to my knowledge it all went smoothly," he said. The locations manager told Binder that permitting with the City of Marfa went smoothly.

Chelsea Smith, the city secretary of Marfa, noted that another new provision of the ordinance would have crews notify neighbors and have them sign off on filming in their area. The crew also had a person designated to monitor COVID precautions, according to Smith.

"They have a COVID person on staff who is doing the checks, making sure they are washing hands, taking care of distancing, screening people for symptoms, asking them questions," Roane said. And although masks have to come off when the cameras roll, "They're doing a good job mitigating any issues."

Tourism, school reopenings and families in crisis: This week at the Alpine City Council

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — From repairs and renovations to challenges brought by the coronavirus pandemic, city officials discussed a wide variety of topics when they sat down for a virtual city council meeting on Tuesday night.

Coronavirus

Near the start of the meeting, Dr. Ekta Escovar, the public health authority for Brewster County, offered some good news: Even with testing sites around every two weeks in tri-county, the number of active cases in Brewster County was way down and recovered cases have continued to grow.

Escovar said it was "fair to assume our numbers were higher" — after all, people with few to no symptoms often don't bother to get tested — but said the developments were nonetheless a "milestone" in Alpine's efforts to control the virus.

One hiccup in those projections, though, is school reopenings. In a lengthy instructional plan published on Friday, Alpine ISD said it planned to welcome students back in around two weeks, on August 19. Meanwhile, Escovar said, outbreaks have been reported at summer camps and at other school districts that have already reopened.

"We know children present much, much more mildly with COVID — or asymptomatically," Dr. Escovar said. As a result, she said, Alpine — like communities across the country — is "watching with bated breath on what school reopenings are going to look like."

She recommended the city "sit tight where we are and see how reopening goes" — noting that there's "going to be a bit of a delay" to assess the "aftermath of school's reopening," as students and staff potentially spread the virus and develop symptoms over the first few weeks.

"We can only do what our governor allows us to do," Escovar said — a reference to the changing guidelines from the state, which have often limited local authority to take precautions like shelter-in-place orders when faced with the pandemic. "Some things are out of our hands."

"If we've knocked COVID down enough in our community," she said, "then we can start making some changes."

So, what exactly is Governor Greg Abbott allowing local city and school officials to do? It's a little unclear, as Rod Ponton, the city attorney for Alpine explained next. In several slides entitled "More muddled/changing guidance," he outlined the shifting directives from the state.

As recently as last month, local health authorities like Dr. Escovar were intended to have the authority to shut down in-person schooling as a precaution, according to guidance from the Texas Education Agency. Then Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued his own guidance, clarifying that health officials couldn't close down schools prematurely, but only if an outbreak happened.

Several groups, from state Democratic politicians to the Texas Municipal League, were quick to point out that Paxton's guidance was only advisory — or, as Ponton's slide presentation put it, "irrelevant." But then, TEA threw another curveball to school officials, adapting its own guidance to match Paxton's.

"I don't know what the upshot is to all of this," Ponton said. It was still a little unclear "what school boards can and can't do" or what the city's role was in it. Also still "up in the air" is coronavirus relief funding.

Ponton asked council if they had any questions. "No, sir," Mayor Andy Ramos said, "it's just a little bit confusing." Ponton apologized but noted that the confusion was coming not from him, but from the state.

Money matters

Erik Zimmer, city manager for Alpine, outlined some of the challenges that new businesses and job-hunters in Alpine face. There are "people that move to Alpine for a variety of reasons," who aren't sure how to find work. There are hopeful entrepreneurs who "aren't really in a position to go out and build a building or rent a large space." And then there is housing, which is a "big issue from an economic development perspective," but entrepreneurs and employees would need homes if they moved to Alpine.

For those reasons, Zimmer said he wanted to get some "thinkers" together in a workshop format. They could find grant opportunities, figure out "what businesses are needed in Alpine," determine what lack of services (if any) is inhibiting growth and decide if new business opportunity zones in the city made sense. He also said the city was working on developing "off-the-shelf products" to aid with business development, so that if people moved to Alpine and wanted to start a new business, they wouldn't be starting from square one.

Councilmember Ramon Olivas asked about "what the migration rate could be like in the near future or in the next couple of years in relationship to the pandemic." After all, he noted, he'd seen reports that as coronavirus lockdowns made pricey urban living less attractive, more people were moving to small towns.

"This happens more often than we think," Zimmer agreed. Often, he said, people come to visit from big cities like Dallas and Houston, "fall in love with the town" and start asking themselves, "What can I do to make a living?" Those circumstances, he said, were why he and other city officials wanted to better improve the perspectives for new businesses.

Councilmember Olivas noted there has recently been a "tremendous emphasis on tourism" in Alpine and throughout the region and that the pandemic — if nothing else — would at least help determine what are "the truly essential services that this community needs."

Zimmer noted that a number of essential job positions are currently open with the city, including for a police officer and the airport supervisor. He wanted to "make sure," he said, that "folks know there are jobs available in the city."

Next up was Megan Antrim, the city's director of finance. She noted that while taxes hadn't gone up or down, numbers may have "slightly changed" due to changing property valuations. Tax values had gone from around $364 million last year to $360 million this year, in part due to the pandemic. Meanwhile, around $3.8 million in values were still being protested.

All together, the situation was a bit of "a headache," Antrim said. Regardless, the city plans to have both its tax values and annual budget figured out by September 15.

Renovations and repairs

Randy Guzman, the gas utility director for Alpine, and Scott Perry, the director of public utilities, gave updates on city services. A recent survey of gas lines had found 126 leaks, around 84 of which had already been repaired, Guzman said. Some of the leaks aren't urgent: they are more than 100 feet from structures, and the Texas Railroad Commission gave them three years to make repairs, he said. Regardless, he noted that disruptions from the coronavirus pandemic were causing some delays — including delaying a leak survey behind the Holland Hotel by four months.

Meanwhile, Perry said the city had a "very productive" June and July when it came to water line maintenance. The city had saved around $12,000 by doing repairs in-house rather than through contractors, he said.

Regardless, the SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) monitors, which control the overall water supply system, are badly in need of an update. They are so outdated that city workers handle the system in "manual" mode — meaning that to control city water, workers are "hand operating the system with manual control switches, around the clock."

Later, city leaders also gave updates on city sidewalks. Namely, they plan to apply for a Texas Community Development Block Grant, which could give the city $216,000 in funding to improve sidewalks in the downtown corridor. The grant only requires a 3.5% funding match from the city, a presentation for the city council noted, while it stands to almost triple the linear footage of sidewalks — all while also approving accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Tourism

Chris Ruggia, the tourism director for Alpine, gave an overview of the situation on tourism both in Alpine and nationwide. Overall, the prognosis was grim.

Tourism was down 51% compared to last year, he said. Meanwhile, a majority of people in a recent travel survey said that in part due to the coronavirus pandemic, they'd be "unhappy" to see a tourism ad for their community. For those reasons, Ruggia said he wanted to make sure he was "promoting [tourism] responsibly" and that Alpine residents are okay with "the message that we're putting out."

The situation presents two challenges for Alpine. Not only is it unclear if it is "safe to travel at all," but tourism research shows that, with many parks and businesses still closed nationwide, tourists are either cancelling trips or making shorter ones. "We have some headwinds, to say the least," Ruggia said.

Still, it wasn't all bad news. The recent Viva Big Bend festival, which was held virtually, went "very well," Ruggia said. At the festival, Alpine was officially recognized as a music-friendly community — another boon for the city. And the Big Bend Ranch Rodeo, which happens this weekend, was leading to more bookings at area hotels, Ruggia said.

Meanwhile, he said the city is also establishing a "Restaurant Safety Pledge Program" and a "Lodging Safety Pledge Program," under which restaurants and hotels could agree to enhanced safety measures in exchange for a sign advertising their relative safety. The goal, Ruggia said, is to show people that "Alpine is a place that takes visitor and customer health seriously" while also "promoting businesses and driving a little extra trade for them."

Families in crisis

Sara Stropoli and Gina Wilcox, both of the Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend, gave some stark updates on services they are offering. The numbers of people they are helping increased 100% during the pandemic, Stropoli said — a fact due not only to growing need, but to new people moving to the area.

"People have actually moved here, feeling they would maybe be safer here than in the larger cities," Stropoli said. "Some of them are clients now at this point."

Stropoli said there is a "great deal" of food insecurity and that the Family Crisis Center is helping people with everything from rent and child care to car payments. But city leaders were still stuck on the 100% increase in need. Rick Stephens, a city council member, said that figure "puts me in awe."

"You and your team do a fantastic job," Mayor Ramos added. "Kudos to you and your entire staff."

AEP has scheduled a planned power outage for Tuesday, August 11 at 9:30am and expects another sometime on Wednesday, August 12.

Congressman Hurd, Office of Senator Cornyn, EPA and NADB celebrate the completion of construction for $2.2 million project in Marathon

MARATHON – The Marathon Water Supply and Sewer Service Corporation celebrated the completion of a wastewater project to replace aging infrastructure and expand the wastewater collection system to provide first-time services to unserved areas. Supported by a US$2.2 million grant from the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF), which is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by the North American Development Bank (NADB), the project will prevent uncontrolled wastewater discharges due to line breaks, sewage backups and spills.

Local officials were joined virtually by U.S. Congressman Will Hurd (TX-23), a representative of U.S. Senator John Cornyn's office, EPA Region 6 Administrator Ken McQueen and NADB Managing Director Calixto Mateos-Hanel to celebrate the completion of this project that is bringing the system into compliance with state regulations and will collect an additional 2,000 gallons a day of wastewater from new connections, thus reducing potential health and environmental risks for the more than 500 residents in this community.

The project replaced approximately 8,650 linear feet of the wastewater trunk line and constructed approximately 2450 linear feet of new laterals, which will also allow Marathon to provide first-time wastewater services to unserved areas. In addition to reconnecting nearly 50 existing lines and nine residences, the project decommissioned several septic systems and a lift station.

"Investing in modern, efficient infrastructure along our border streamlines trade and benefits not only Texas, but the entire nation," said Sen. John Cornyn. "The North American Development Bank has a proven record of improving the quality of life on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border, and I commend their investment in Marathon."

"This project is just one example of how EPA and NADBank has partnered with local governments, municipalities and private companies across South and West Texas to improve the lives of those who live and work in our communities. It's why I fought so hard to increase funding for EPA's Border Water Infrastructure Program," said Hurd. "In this case, improving the local wastewater system is vital for the public health and safety of Marathon residents. I will continue to do everything in my power to make sure critical programs like these mitigate health risks for my constituents."

"Improving our nation's water infrastructure in communities across the country is a top priority for the Trump Administration," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "This new grant complements the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement creating a comprehensive approach to addressing an urgent public health and environmental need in border communities."

"Reliable wastewater sanitation is one of the most important components of public health, and EPA is pleased to fund this vital project for people in the Marathon community," said EPA Regional Administrator Ken McQueen. "Bringing water infrastructure to small border communities will improve environmental and health outcomes for the broader region. I thank Congressman Hurd, Senator Cornyn, and NADB Managing Director Calixto Mateos-Hanel for their work and cooperation in getting this important project done."

"The construction of this project will contribute to the reduction of water pollution and the associated health risks of waterborne diseases for more than 500 residents," stated Calixto Mateos-Hanel. "We congratulate the community on completing this collaborative project, made possible through the cooperation of local, state and federal authorities. I would also like to recognize Senator Cornyn and Congressman Hurd for their continued support of the Bank and EPA's Border Water Infrastructure Program in benefit of small communities such as Marathon for their pressing infrastructure needs."

Prior to this project, wastewater collection services were available for 85% of the residents, with a few areas using on-site disposal systems. Also, portions of the existing wastewater collection system were constructed nearly 50 years ago using clay pipes that no longer had sufficient cover to protect the integrity of the pipes. The utility experienced chronic issues with line breaks and spills due to the age and deterioration of the pipes.

The project was certified by the NABD Board of Directors in November of 2017 and took two years to finalize construction.

The Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF), for project implementation, and the Project Development Assistance Program (PDAP), for project development, are grant programs administered by NADB and funded by the U.S. Congress on an annual basis through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Border Water Infrastructure Program. This program offers grant financing exclusively for the implementation of high-priority municipal drinking water and wastewater.



PIZZA. SALAD. BEER. WINE
TUESDAY - FRIDAY 12 PM - 6 PM
SATURDAY 10 AM - 3 PM
ORDER AT MARFAPARALLEVAR.COM

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF PRESIDIO §

By virtue of Tax Warrant issued out of the 394th District Court of Presidio County, Texas in Cause # 5266-A on the 19th day of June, 2020, by the Clerk thereof, and to me as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell at **10:00 am on the 1st day of September, 2020** at the South Door of the Presidio County Courthouse, in Marfa, Texas, the properties described below:

CAUSE NO
5266-A

STYLING
City of Marfa, Et al vs. Owners of Various Properties Located Within the City Limits of Marfa, Texas

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Tract 1: Lot Six (6), in Block Sixty-four (64), of the Original Town of Marfa, Presidio County, Texas (10812)
Tract 2: A tract of land out of Survey 244, in Block Eight (8), GC & SF Ry. Co. Survey as described in Deed filed for record in Volume 123, Page 440, Deed Records of Presidio County, Texas, also being known as Lot 11 in Outblock 4 (11271)

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF PRESIDIO §

By virtue of Tax Warrant issued out of the 394th District Court of Presidio County, Texas in Cause # 5265-A on the 19th day of June, 2020, by the Clerk thereof, and to me as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell at **10:00 am on the 1st day of September, 2020** at the South Door of the Presidio County Courthouse, in Marfa, Texas, the properties described below:

CAUSE NO
5265-A

STYLING
City of Presidio, Et al vs. Owners of Various Properties Located Within the City Limits of Presidio, Texas

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Tract 1: Lot Twenty-one (21), in Block Forty-eight (48), of the Airport Addition, to the City of Presidio, being the same property described as Lot Twenty-one (21), in Block Forty-eight (48), of the Northside Addition, to the City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas (R5225)
Tract 2: North One-Half (N/2) of Lots Fifty-two (52) and Fifty-four (54), in Block Nine (9), Outblock 4, to the City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas (R2170)
Tract 3: Lots One (1) and Two (2), in Block Eight (8), of the Sunset Addition, to the City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas (R2375)
Tract 4: Lot Four (4), in Block Twenty (20), Anderson Addition, to the City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas (R71)
Tract 5: A tract of land out of Survey 5, John W. Spencer Survey, being a Subdivision of Outblock 3 in the City of Presidio and being the same tract as described in Deed filed for record in Volume 299, Page 583, Deed Records of Presidio County, Texas, also being known as part of Tract Thirty-seven (37) (R2155)
Tract 6: Portion of Lot Twenty-eight (28) of Outblock 2, in the City of Presidio, being out of Survey No. 5, J.W. Spencer Survey and being further described in Deed filed for record in Volume 215, Page 530, Deed Records of Presidio County, Texas (R2118)
Tract 7: Lot Ten (10), in Block One (1), Sunset Addition, to the City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas (R2352)
Tract 8: Lot Seven (7) and Lots Nine (9), Ten (10), Eleven (11), and Twelve (12), in Block Eighty-eight (88), Orient Addition, to the City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas (R6197)
Tract 9: Lot Thirteen (13), in Block Seventeen (17), Anderson Addition, to the City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas (R40)
Tract 10: The East One-half (E/2) of Lots Thirty-eight (38) and Thirty-nine (39) and the East One-half (E/2) of the South 19.4 Feet (S/19.4') of Lot Forty (40), Block Five (5), Anderson Largent Loo Addition, to the City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas (R91)
Tract 11: All of Lots Twenty-eight (28) and Twenty-nine (29), Block Three (3), Kleinman Addition, to the City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas (R1188)
Tract 12: Part of Lots Twenty-six (26) and Twenty-seven (27) and All of Lots Twenty-eight (28) and Twenty-nine (29), in Block Three (3), Kelley Addition No. 1, to the City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas (R1052)
Tract 13: Part of Lot One (1), in Block Nine (9), Bellaire Addition, to the City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas, Save & Except the tract described in Deed filed in Volume 272, Page 588, Deed Records of Presidio County, Texas (R179)
Tract 14: North One-half (N/2) of Lots One (1), Two (2), Three (3), and Four (4), in Block Thirteen (13), City Addition, to the City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas (R678)
Tract 15: Part of Lot Twelve (12), in Block Ten (10), in the Bellaire Addition, to the City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas, Save & Except the tract described in Deed filed in Volume 274, Page 326, Deed Records of Presidio County, Texas (R203)
Tract 16: Lots Twenty-two (22) and Twenty-three (23), Block Thirty-three (33), Millington Addition, City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas, Surface Interest Only (R1318)
Tract 17: Lots Five (5), Six (6), Seven (7), and Eight (8), in Block One Hundred (100), Millington Addition, to the City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas (R1610)
Tract 18: Lot Ten (10), in Block Ninety-five (95), Millington Addition, to the City of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas (R21091)

LEVIED ON the 28th day of July, 2020, as the property of those persons listed above to satisfy taxes, penalties, and interest and all costs of seizure and sale against those persons listed in said Warrant and any other unknown owners in favor of the Taxing Units listed in said Tax Warrants.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS THE 28th DAY OF July 2020.

Sheriff, Presidio County, Texas

Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

While traveling in your area recently, I noticed in your July 9 edition a letter from Morris Pearl of Patriotic Millionaires concerning alleged Kentucky voter suppression tactics. I formerly lived and practiced law in eastern and southern Kentucky for over forty years before retiring to the Ft. Worth area. Mr. Pearl's assertions in his letter are disingenuous and do not represent the true voting issues in the state.

Kentucky elections have historically been marked by massive election fraud consisting of extensive vote buying, dead people voting, rigged voting machines and other schemes. Most of the current voting requirements arose in the 1960s when reformers within the Democratic Party sought to clean up elections by purging voter rolls of dead or nonexistent people, establishing voter hotlines to report fraud and stiffening election laws. These laws were passed when the winner of the Democratic Primary was generally the overall winner, as Republicans at the time did not often run statewide campaigns.

Unfortunately, election fraud still continues on a significant basis as after each election cycle, local and central government officials and campaign workers are convicted of election law violations. Voting by mail is not favored in Kentucky due to numerous scandals in the past when fraudsters would illegally request absentee ballots for large groups of voters without their knowledge and have them mailed to a central post office box. The fraudsters would then mark and submit the ballots in favor of their candidates.

Unlike most southern states, Kentucky has a small minority population of around 7%. Most of the minority population is situated in Jefferson and Fayette Counties. The rest of the state has little to no minority population. In my former home, Kentucky County, the minority population was 3% or less, which was considered high for the area. An adjoining county had no minority residents.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic did necessitate a reduction on in-person voting locations, but the state did relax mail voting requirements. The state Election Commission, which is composed of members of both parties, has tried to keep elections fair and honest. Mr. Morris' complaints that the Republicans are suppressing minority voting does not hold water as both parties are responsible for the current voting laws. The kind of loose voting laws advocated by Mr. Morris would certainly return Kentucky to the bad old days of rigged elections and less voter trust in election outcomes.

Yours truly,
Rodney Buttermore
Ft. Worth

• • •

Dear Editor,

A great article on the front page of the *Jeff Davis County Dispatch* with the headline, "Debates continue for removal of statues and school names, mascots with ties to racial injustice throughout Texas and the United States," states that "schools across Texas have been a part of the movement to prohibit the use of any race or ethnic group as a mascot."

And now, the United States Commission on Civil Rights passed a resolution that reads in part that Native mascots "inhibit accurate understanding of the experiences of Native Americans and encourage biases against them contrary to their rich and diverse history."

People, we took their lands, their languages, their very culture. My friend, Larry Yazzie, two times World Champion Fancy Dancer of the Muskogee tribe, who came to Fort Davis' Fourth of July celebration a few years ago, put on a great education program for all on the courthouse stage. He danced for us, coming down from the stage and thrilling us as he moved through the crowd, enfolding some in his Eagle Dance Wings! Back on stage, he told us many wonderful facts of Native history and repeated that Native Americans are NOT mascots.

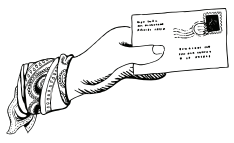
When I first saw our Fort Davis mascot, I was shocked at the grotesque mask and costume. I am told that the mascot dances around the end zone in some way when the team scores. White people here have told me that this "honors" Native Americans, but these people have not talked to any.

We need to get on the wagon of current events and eliminate that which promotes disrespect, inaccurate history, bias and prejudice. Let us be proud of our town and its football team by changing its name and eliminating the dreadful mascot.

My suggestion, for example, is the Fort Davis Diamondbacks. You will have your own, I am sure.

Marjie Erkkila
Fort Davis

• • •







Dear Editor,

There is a simple and historically correct solution to renaming Jeff Davis County: change the name to Jeff Davis County, the other Jefferson Davis. Jefferson C. Davis, as opposed to Jefferson F. Davis, was a Union War hero, yet basically unknown. Born in Indiana, he always signed his name as "Jef." He distinguished himself during the war with Mexico and was rewarded with a rare appointment from the ranks as an officer at a time when the Army officer's corps was staffed almost completely with West Point graduates.

When the War of the Rebellion began, Davis found himself stationed at Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina, serving under Major Robert Anderson. He was the Officer of the Day when the Texan Louis Wigfall rowed out to ask for the surrender of the fort. Meeting at the gate, Wigfall stated, "Your flag is down, you are on fire and you are not firing your guns. General Beauregard desires to stop this." (The flag was down because the pole had been shot through.) Davis replied, "No, sir, our flag is not down. It is for you to stop this," and he sent Wigfall packing, demonstrating an aggressive attitude that he maintained throughout the conflict.

Davis fought throughout the war, capturing the town of Rome, Georgia, during Sherman's Atlanta Campaign. During the March to the Sea that divided the Confederacy, he commanded Sherman's XIV Corps, the "Jeff's," as they came to call themselves. After the war, he became the military governor of Alaska. With no civilian government in place and with only 250 troops, it fell to Davis to establish U.S. authority over the region, which he did.

When General Edward Canby and several of his men were murdered during peace negotiations with the Modoc Indians in northern California, Davis was selected to resolve what became known as the Modoc War, which he did once again.

Davis would die on November 30, 1879, and General William Tecumseh Sherman, his old commander, would write of Davis, "He threw his soul into the contest, and wherever the fighting was hardest we found him at the front."

There is already a precedent for the name. When the War of the Rebellion was over, the Union soldiers created a veteran's organization, the Grand Army of the Republic (the GAR). The men at Fort Davis soon organized a unit here, naming it the Jefferson Davis Chapter, after the patriot Jeff Davis.

And as we speak of name changes, I think that Presidio County should take a hard look at its name. The word "presidio" translates as "fort" or "fortification," harkening back to the days when the Spanish stationed a garrison at La Junta to intimidate and control the Native Americans who were living peacefully at one of the longest inhabited locations in the region. Do we really want a county named after one culture that oppressed another?

In this context several names come to mind, La Junta County being the most obvious. Another, more modern name, would be Donald Judd County, or thinking about that beloved Supreme Court Justice that died there, Antonin Scalia County has a nice ring to it.

And we ought not mention CSA Colonel Henry P. Brewster who took up arms against the constitution – glass houses and all that.

Larry Francell
Jeff Davis County

• • •

Dear Editor,

The so-called "Commission for the Renaming of Jeff Davis County," a recent column in the Marfa paper by people pretending to know what they are talking about came to my attention. Before responding to their ridiculous and juvenile commentary, I will introduce a short history of Jefferson Davis they either chose to ignore or are ignorant of.

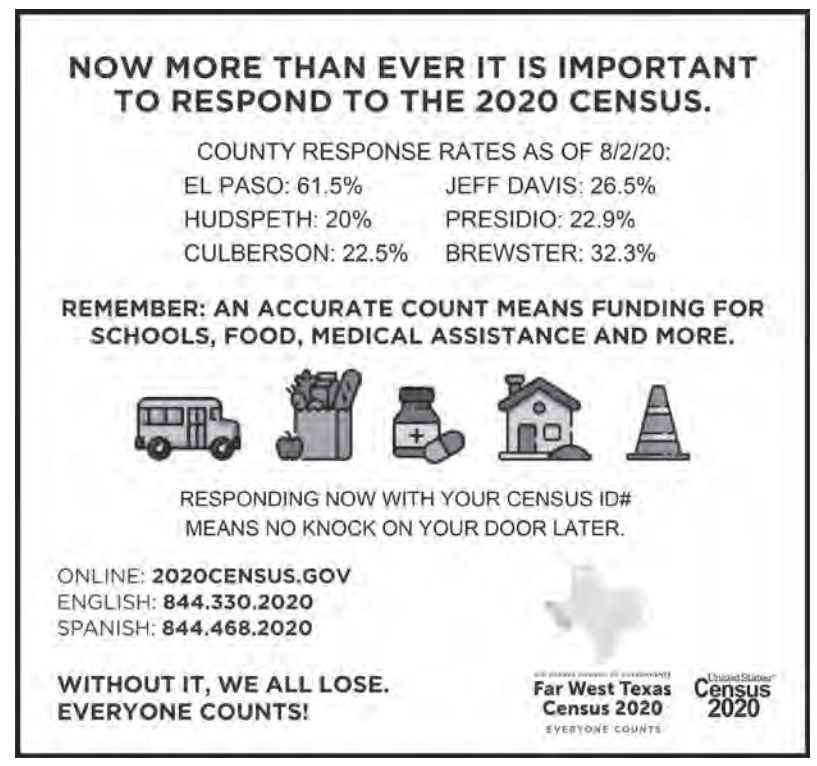
Jeff Davis was named after Thomas Jefferson, was an officer trained at West Point, a congressman, a senator and the U.S. secretary of war. He served as a U.S. colonel during the Mexican American War, was wounded and named a national hero for it. He served as the president of The C.S.A. after being forced to choose between his family and country, or as he wrote, "God forbid that the day should ever come when to be true to my constituents is to be hostile to the Union."

I submit that the hardest decisions the people in this presumably self-appointed commission have ever had to make was what creamer to use in their latte. To paraphrase Adrian Vermeule, "Progressives celebrate tolerance, diversity, and free inquiry, but in reality practice social, cultural, and ideological conformity." They constantly look for trouble everywhere, pretend to find it, then demand their presumptuous and erroneous remedies.

James R. Le Blanc
Fort Davis

• • •

We want to hear from YOU! Write a letter to the editor at editor@bigbendsentinel.com





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FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

By ANETT GABRIEL

This month's Q&A is an interview with Juan Flores, a Border Patrol agent who comes by The Sentinel every day on his coffee break. We sat down and talked about life outside of his work as an agent.

Joseline Cintrón, Juan's wife, joined us for the conversation. She moved here after they got married in 2013. Joseline works at the Alpine Public Library and also tutors conversational Spanish via Zoom.

Anett Gabriel: What brought you out to Far West Texas?

Juan Flores: I'm originally from Puerto Rico and I applied for work at Border Patrol around May 2009. I got an offer in Marfa and Sierra Blanca. I started the job the same year in June, first at the Border Patrol Academy for a couple of months, and then working as an agent since.

I come from a small town, Villalba, and I didn't know where Marfa was. It was nothing like what I imagined it to be. Back then, you couldn't find much on the internet. I only heard from a friend of mine from Houston who told me about Alpine, where I live now with my wife.

AG: How do you like Alpine?

JF: I like the community and life in Alpine, but my only challenge is we're not able to travel now back home that easily now that COVID has changed things. At Border Patrol, I work five times a week with long days of 12 hours. Usually we would visit back home twice a year, and right now we don't know when we're able to fly back home next.

AG: And what do you like about Marfa?

JF: I like the vibe better, when the newer restaurants and bars started to open up, we started to come more. We like to visit our favorite places like The Sentinel, Capri, Cochineal and Stellina.

AG: What do you guys miss the most about Puerto Rico?

Joseline Cintrón: We miss our families and the beach the most. We're both from the same place and it's very easy to go anywhere you like, in 45 minutes you can drive down from the mountains to the ocean. And we have nice steady weather — humid, but it also rains.

• • •

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OP-ED

The state needs rural Texas — and it needs to start planning

By TRENT MCKNIGHT and ABEL CASTRO

Iconic ranches, farms and small towns sustain about 3 million Texans — a population larger than the city of Houston's.

The sense of community, plentiful open space and great quality of life — all found in places like West Texas and the Panhandle — have sustained families for generations. We also power the state's economy, supplying energy, food and fiber to the world.

Yet West Texas, and particularly rural West Texas, faces challenges that range from shuttering hospitals to inadequate infrastructure; these issues could spell trouble for all of Texas unless we come together as a state to address them head on.

Many of these issues have been illuminated by the coronavirus. Shaping Our Future, the seminal strategic framework just released by the nonprofit group Texas 2036, makes such challenges facing Texas even clearer.

The two of us serve on the board of Texas 2036, which encourages long-term, data-driven planning at the state and local level to ensure Texas remains the best place to live and work a generation from now. The report, coupled with the pandemic, shows how badly West Texans need that kind of far-sighted planning and preparation.

The strategic framework notes that Texas is expected to add about 10 million people between now and 2036, the year of Texas' bicentennial. But 90% of that population growth is expected to occur in urban areas. And while the number of jobs in Texas could grow by nearly 20% over the next decade, jobs in almost half of Texas' counties — mostly rural counties — will actually shrink unless action is taken.

In the meantime, rural Texans struggle to access resources that their urban and suburban counterparts take for granted.

Preparing the next generation is key, yet many students in rural communities have less access to postsecondary education. Nearly 60% of rural school districts do not offer Advanced Placement courses, and the distance from a high school to a higher education institution can stretch well over 100 miles.

Rural Texans also lack access to health care and face worsening health outcomes. Texas ranks last among its peer states in rural access to care — 63 counties have no hospitals at all, and 35 have no primary care physicians. Obesity also is more common in rural regions, and rural Texans die of heart disease and stroke at rates far higher than Texans overall.

Then there's broadband internet access — which in recent months has offered a lifeline to millions of Texans through home offices, virtual school classrooms and telemedicine appointments with physicians. In Texas' urban areas, 97% of the population can at least access broadband, but nearly one-third of rural Texans cannot say the same.

Fortunately, we're Texans — more than that, we're small-town and small-city Texans — and we've never shied away from a challenge. The truth is that every one of these numbers stands as an opportunity to make West Texas even more of a powerhouse than it's ever been. The state just needs the backing of its people.

Show your support by going to Texas 2036's website — www.texas2036.org/Future-Of-Rural — and signing up to support rural Texas. The organization will keep you up-to-date on key issues facing rural areas and the rest of the state, and we'll share opportunities to help Texas communities thrive.

It's always been easy to see Texas' past in its rolling plains, small towns, farms and ranches. Look a little closer and you'll see the future there as well. We simply need to come together as a state and grasp it.

Trent McKnight is a rancher in Throckmorton and former Republican candidate for the state legislature, and Abel Castro is the immediate past chair of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce.

Sen. Rodríguez statement on anniversary of August 3rd tragedy

On August 3, 2019, a young man filled with hate drove to El Paso, with a rapid-fire rifle in the trunk, to commit mass murder. He took 23 lives, and changed countless others. It was a tragically familiar event — another in a long line of mass killings — yet with a specific purpose. He wanted to kill Latinos, because his mind was poisoned by anti-immigrant hate perpetuated by the president and other leaders in recent years. He sat in the parking lot watching shoppers, many of whom were there for back-to-school supplies. Then he got out of the car, grabbed his weapon, and began shooting.

No community, anywhere, is immune from the horror of gun violence. Our country, despite its hard-won progress in securing civil rights for all, is not immune from the virus of racism.

Our city, state, and country have a long way to go towards eradicating gun violence in our communities. We must enact common sense and comprehensive gun reform legislation, including requiring background checks for all gun sales, creating Extreme Risk Protective Orders, and investing in community-based violence intervention programs. The proliferation of firearms, along with people's readiness to use them, perpetuates gun violence and the ensuing trauma.

Because of the pandemic, we do not have the opportunity to mourn, reflect and gather in person. However, we are together as a community as we mourn the lives lost that fateful day, reflect on the past year, and work to find meaning in tragedy. My office has compiled several lists with 23 actions each, honoring those who were senselessly killed a year ago today. These are actions that we can take individually and collectively to honor family and community, and work for peaceful change.

As we continue to heal from the tragic events of Aug. 3, we should continue to remember and honor the innocent lives that were lost. Their loss leaves a void in our community, but their legacy as Paseños from both sides of the border will live in perpetuity.

Through resiliency, constructive dialogue, and our common bond as border residents, we will continue to fight against intolerance and hatred. Together, we stand united in hope and determination to effect change. We will continue to be a welcoming community. We are El Paso Strong.

José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez is a member of the Senate Committees on Agriculture (Vice Chair); Natural Resources & Economic Development; Transportation; and Water & Rural Affairs. He also serves on the Senate Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention & Community Safety, which was formed on Sept. 4, 2019, after the mass shootings in El Paso and Midland/Odessa.

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

PRESIDIO COUNTY
Judge Cinderela Guevara:
(432) 729-4452
Marfa Mayor Manny Baeza:
(432) 295-0048
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)

FEDERAL:
U.S. Rep. Will Hurd:
(202) 225-4511 (D.C. office)
U.S. Sen. John Cornyn
(202)224-2934 (D.C. office)
(806)472-7533 (Lubbock office)
U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz
Washington, DC
(202) 224-5922

la fundación the CHINATI foundation
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.

Self-guided Walking Tours
Thursday - Saturday, advanced reservations required
Tickets go on sale to the general public each Monday.

This tour covers 1.6 miles and takes approximately 1–1.5 hours to complete.

Visitors can walk the path along Donald Judd's 15 untitled works in concrete, visit Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen's *Monument to the Last Horse,* as well as take in exterior views of Judd's 100 untitled works in mill aluminum and the John Wesley Gallery. On the walking tour visitors will be able to survey the historic architecture of Fort D.A. Russell as adapted by Judd and experience the grasslands, wildlife, and open space that brought him to Marfa.

Covid-19 Precautions
Chinati requires visitors to follow these guidelines without exception:
-All visitors are required to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth at all times.
-All visitors must maintain a distance of 6 ft from other groups.
-No groups larger than 5 individuals will be admitted.
-No indoor spaces, including bathrooms, will be accessible during your visit.

Admission is always free for Chinati members, children age 17 and under, Military, healthcare workers, and residents of Brewster, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties.

For more information and to book tickets visit chinati.org.

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Community

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Portrait of Diego by Terrence
4rd Grade
Marfa Elementary School



Tomas Salgado

~ Thank you ~

The natural passing of a loved one is one of the more intimate and mystical moments in the life cycle. Tomas Salgado, "Papá," the patriarch of our family, died peacefully at the age of 98 on Friday, July 24, 2020, in Marfa, a blessing bestowed by G-d on Tomas and his family.

To all our family members and friends who reached out with telephone calls, texts, and social media posts to offer words of prayer, comfort, and assistance, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Papá's transition from life on earth to eternal rest was on a road he didn't travel alone. While we were caring for him, with us were Dr. Katie Ray and CMA Rebecca Cordero Salcido of Marfa Community Health Clinic; Registered Nurse and Agave Home Health owner Angela Juett, and Agave Home Health Registered Nurse Rebecca Galindo. We thank you all.

Mark Rodriguez came into our lives as Papá's personal caregiver, not knowing the task would become hospice care. He's a kind, caring, and compassionate man. Thank you, Mark.

Sammy Roman was a friend to Papá in Marfa and when Papá lived in El Paso. Thank you Sammy for your visits with him.

We thank Presidio County Justice of the Peace David Beebe; Marfa EMS first responders Bert Lagarde, Chase Bruttomesso, and Sandy Billingsley; Presidio County Deputy Sheriff John Clark; and Joe Denham of Alpine Memorial Funeral Home; for your professionalism and compassion.

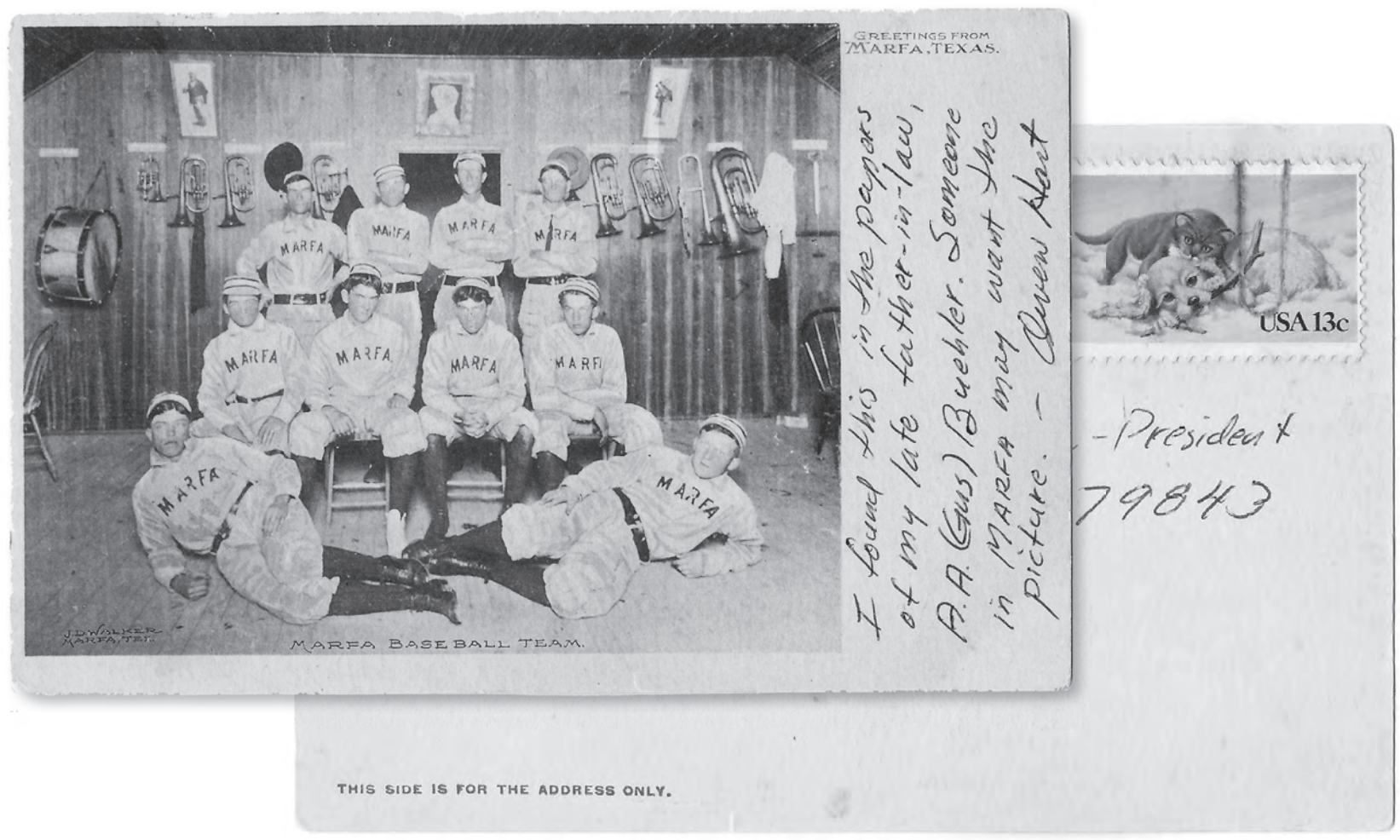
Thank you, Father John Paul Madanu of St. Mary's Catholic Church for coming to our home and for graveside services. Thanks to Rick Ruiz for your beautiful religious and Mexican music during the Rosary and graveside service.

Sincerely,
Robert and Rosario Salgado Halpern



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A postcard from the past



Editor's note: A reader recently mailed us this vintage postcard of the Marfa baseball team, to share it with the community and hoping locals might be able to identify players. The postcard had been found among A.A. (Gus) Buehler's papers some years ago. The mailer wrote: "This photo has been floating around for years. There probably isn't anyone in Marfa left that can identify any of these men. It would be nice if you could enlarge this picture and print it and see if anyone can identify any of these men. With a magnifying glass the men are very clear. I think this is a priceless photo." If you have any information about this photo please email us at editor@bigbendsentinel.com or mail to Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843.

Jackie Gonzalez returns to alma mater as assistant coach to SRSU softball and volleyball

ALPINE – Former Lady Lobo starting pitcher Jackie Gonzalez returns to Sul Ross as assistant softball and volleyball coach, slated to work under her former softball coach, Troy Canaba.

"I am excited to have Jackie on staff with us. She is a very hardworking and determined person," said Canaba.

A four-year starter under coach Canaba from 2015-2018, Gonzalez improved her softball record every year, sporting back-to-back 10-win campaigns in her final two seasons as the ace of the staff. Her playing days span both sports, as Gonzalez was a two-sport athlete at Montwood High School in El Paso where she played softball and volleyball.

Now Gonzalez finds herself on familiar turf as assistant to Canaba. Upon graduating in 2018 with a bachelor's in biology, she became a graduate assistant for his softball program for the 2019 season. Presented with the chance to come back, she realized it was an opportunity she couldn't pass up.

"I decided to come back to Sul Ross because I love the university and I love Alpine," Gonzalez said. "The opportunity to coach in a program that I was a part of and work with someone who I trust is a blessing."

Gonzalez most recently served as a volunteer coach at El Paso's Bowie High School for their softball and volleyball programs this past school year. This will be her first opportunity as a coach at the collegiate level, and Canaba credits her experience as a testament to what she brings to the programs.

"With her understanding what our players go through during practice and games, getting the knowledge from the coaching side will be beneficial to the players and myself," Canaba explained.

Gonzalez shared Canaba's sentiments and she's confident she has what it takes to be a college coach, saying, "I believe I bring experience as a coach and as a player. I've been where these girls are, so I understand the hard work it takes to be a part of this program."

She credits her experience with Canaba as an incredible benefit to her. "I loved playing for Coach Canaba. I grew as a player and a person throughout this program and I couldn't be more grateful that my college experience was played under a coach like him," said the new SRSU coach. "I'm excited for this opportunity to coach with him as well and I look forward to continuing to learn from him."



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: ◆

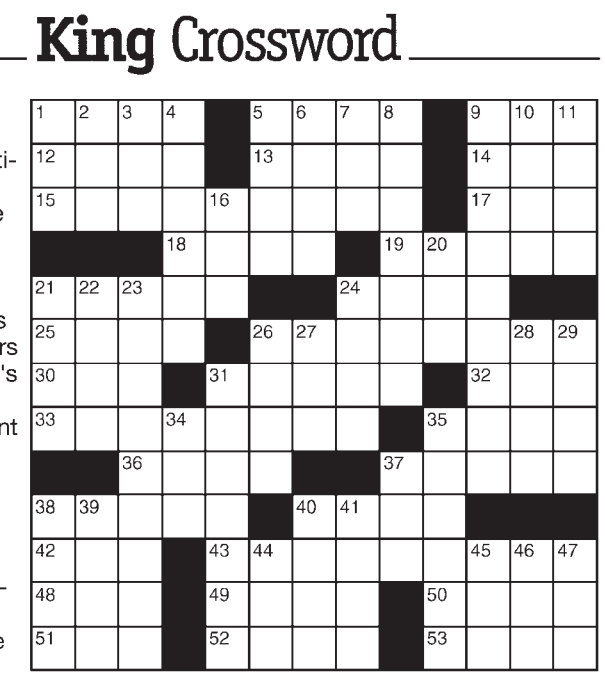
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Oil cartel
5 Largest continent
9 Crime scene evidence
12 Lounge around
13 Charged bits
14 A billion years
15 Perry Mason's client
17 Entertainment
18 Smell bad
19 Geneva's river
21 Skiers' 7-Down
24 String instrument
25 Do as you're told
26 Old cars for new ones
30 "Help!"
31 Repeat verbatim
32 Arctic bird
33 Confiscations
35 Sans siblings
36 Diner staffer
37 Name
38 BLT meat
40 Swimming venue
42 Alias abbr.
43 Secret or Sure
48 Crib
49 Elderly
50 Press
51 Pismire
52 May honorees
53 Kindly bloke

DOWN
1 Antiquated
2 "The Raven" writer
3 Sprite
4 Group of priests
5 Helper
6 Drench
7 Hostel
8 On both sides of
9 Leaves-dropper?
10 Proper subject, maybe
11 Heche or Hathaway
16 Born
20 Weeding implement
21 Privation
22 Reed instrument
23 Drying agent
24 Cisterns
26 Ankara resident
27 Fish eggs
28 — and void
29 Terrier variety
31 Former
34 Menagerie
35 Drilling apparatus
37 Also
38 Ali —
39 Related
40 Verse
41 Probability
44 Id counterpart
45 Exist
46 Negative prefix
47 Explosive stick



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Puzzle solutions for last week's issue

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

O	P	E	C	■	A	S	I	A	■	D	N	A
L	O	L	L	■	I	O	N	S	■	E	O	N
D	E	F	E	N	D	A	N	T	■	F	U	N
■	■	■	R	E	E	K	■	R	H	O	N	E
L	O	D	G	E	■	■	V	I	O	L	■	■
O	B	E	Y	■	T	R	A	D	E	I	N	S
S	O	S	■	Q	U	O	T	E	■	A	U	K
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■	■	C	O	O	K	■	■	T	I	T	L	E
B	A	C	O	N	■	P	O	O	L	■	■	■
A	K	A	■	D	E	O	D	O	R	A	N	T
B	I	N	■	A	G	E	D	■	I	R	O	N
A	N	T	■	M	O	M	S	■	G	E	N	T

Weekly SUDOKU — Answer

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

OBITUARIES



Fierro

Raquel "Rex" Fierro, age 79, of Alpine, Texas, passed away peacefully after battling cancer for two-and-a-half years, on April 26, 2020 with his wife of nearly 60 years, Mary Lou Fierro, by his side.

A kind and caring man, Rex dedicated his life to his family and friends. As a native of Alpine, he was part of that community in many ways. A few examples are that he had served on the school board, was a member of the Knights of Columbus and Lions Club and was always volunteering to help at church functions and cook outs. Rex was one of the first when families needed a fundraiser to be there willing to cook out and help in any way he could. He thought a lot of his friends and loved being around all of them. Rex retired from American National Insurance Company and later went on to work at Nurse's Unlimited when he later found out that being retired meant doing more work around the house that Mary Lou had waiting for him on a daily basis. When Rex was not working he enjoyed watching his Dallas Cowboys. No matter what the outcome was at the end of the season, he always had faith that they would return to glory (we hope now that he is in Heaven he can ask the good man up there to help us out this next season). He enjoyed traveling and being with his family every chance he could and he loved to joke around. Rex will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Beloved husband of Maria Louisa "Mary Lou" Fierro, devoted father of Laura Lewis (Rick), Oscar Fierro and Joe Freddy Fierro (Correne). Cherished grandfather to six grandchildren, Luke Donohoo, Kristin Donohoo, Jon Michael Fierro (Benita), Gabriel John Fierro, Jake Ryan Fierro, Kayla Renee Fierro and one great-granddaughter, Selina Fierro. Dear brother of Eddie Fierro (Olivia) and Isabell Salas (Simon). And a Tio, cousin and friend to many.

The family would like to thank the great medical staff at Big Bend Regional Medical Hospital, and Dr. Adrian Billings for all the love and support they showed in caring for our father during his last days. To the staff at Texas Oncology and the Hope House in Odessa for taking good care of our mom and dad while going there for treatment, and to Dr. Eric Nadler, oncologist in Dallas, Texas. Words cannot express the gratitude we all feel for what you did for us. We would also like to thank David Pallanez and family for the donation, along with Paul Garcia, Joe Losoya, and Charlie Torres for helping get our father's burial site ready. Thank you all very much.

To our extended family, who never hesitated to help when we needed it, we want to say thank you very much from the bottom of our hearts. We would not have been able to have gone through this journey without you all by our side every step of the way. We love you all very much.

For the friends that were always around, thank you very much for your silent support and for your continued love and prayers. Our dad could not have hand-picked a better group of friends than he has there in Alpine. We ask that you keep our family in your prayers and that you have fond memories of our dad every time you're at a cookout, or a community outing or at your local watering hole and have great stories to tell. Always remember that "when alive, he lived."

Alpine Memorial Funeral Home was entrusted with his services. Online condolences may be left at: www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com.



Lara

Manuel B. Lara of Midland died Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at the age of 87. He will be greatly missed by his family. Manuel was born in Casa de Piedra, Texas, and raised in Marfa. He proudly served in the United States Army. After the army, he married Bertha Lara and lived in Midland to raise seven children. He is survived by his wife, Bertha Lara; his sons, Manuel Lara Jr. and Jesse Lara; his daughters, Yolanda Gonzalez, Carol Cervantez, Mary Lara and Sylvia Morris; grandchildren and great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his son, Antonio Lara.

Rosary and viewing were Friday, July 31 at 7 p.m. at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home & Chapel. Funeral services were Saturday, August 1 at 2 p.m. at San Miguel Catholic Church. Burial followed at Resthaven Memorial Park. Funeral Mass was under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home and Chapel. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to: pipkin@nts-online.net or at www.lewallengarciapipkinfh.com



Renteria

Bertha Natividad Renteria, age 88, of Midland, Texas, died Monday, July 20, 2020 at her home with her family by her side. She was born January 3, 1932 in Mineral, San Carlos, Chihuahua, Mexico to Raymundo and Elvira Natividad and raised her family in Presidio, Texas.

Bertha loved spending time with her family — that was the most important thing to her. She loved her grandbabies unconditionally. She liked to enjoy her breakfast outside and looked forward to Sundays, as she hosted Family Sunday Fundays, which consisted of family, food and fun! She loved watching everyone karaoke.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Angel M. Renteria; two sons, Alfonso Renteria and Aurelio Renteria; and a grandson, Rigoberto Gallegos Jr. She leaves behind eight children: Andres Renteria of Odessa, Alberto Renteria of Odessa, Arcelia Renteria of Midland, Aida Ruiz of Midland, Anna Gallegos of Midland, Alma Ramirez of Odessa, Aracely Salas of Midland, and Angel Renteria Jr. of Weatherford, Texas, as well as 32 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren and seven great-great grandchildren.

A viewing was held Thursday, July 23, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with a Holy Rosary held at 7 p.m. at Avalos-Sanchez and Thomas Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral Mass was held at 10 a.m. Friday, July 24, 2020 at Santa Teresa de Jesus Catholic Church in Presidio with Father Mike officiating.

Burial followed at the Desert Hill Cemetery in Presidio, Texas. Pallbearers were her grandsons Alfonso Renteria Jr., Rolando Gallegos, Rafael Ruiz Jr., Julio Cesar Ruiz, Daniel Renteria, Mauricio Renteria and Angel Renteria III, all of Midland. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Avalos-Sanchez and Thomas Funeral Home.



González

Francisco "Chico" González, 60, of Midland passed away on July 24, 2020 at Midland Memorial Hospital. He was born on April 2, 1960 in Presidio to Pablo González and his wife, Eva García González. Chico was his nickname and was used as a term of endearment since he was the youngest of 10 children.

He was a quiet and gentle man. He loved to joke with all his nieces and nephews who loved and respected him. He will be missed terribly by his family.

Chico was educated in Presidio schools and was a lifelong Catholic. For the past 20 years, he was employed by Midland Memorial Hospital.

He is survived by a daughter, Cynthia Ileen González, three grandchildren and a great-granddaughter, all of Greeley, Colorado.

Survivors also include two brothers, Dolores González of Presidio and Jose Luis González of Midland; and four sisters, Celina Baxter of Midland, Jesus Elena Muñoz, Socorro Espinosa and Teresa González Lujan, all of Odessa.

Chico was preceded in death by his father, Pablo Ramos González; mother, Eva G. González; two brothers, Justo González and Benjamin González (Teresa's twin brother); and sister, Anna Maria González.

Graveside services were held on Tuesday, July 28 in Presidio with Father Mike Alcuino officiating.

Beautiful words and stories about his life were shared at the graveside by family members. Religious songs were played and sung by family members.

He will be greatly missed because he had a great and special presence about him. May he Rest in Peace.

Reyes

Margarita Reyes of Big Spring, and formerly of Marfa, died on Sunday July 26, 2020. A celebration of life will be held at a later date in Marfa.

Margarita was born July 20, 1936 in Casa De Piedra, Texas, to Reymundo Lujan and Francisca Munoz. They later moved to Marfa where she attended Marfa Schools.

Margarita married Genaro Reyes in March of 1966 in Marfa.

She is survived by her children, Richard Rios (Lynn) of Toledo, Ohio; Anna Lara of Big Spring, Texas; Frances Garcia (Mike Salazar) of Marfa; Ruben Reyes of Odessa, Texas; grandchildren David Garcia and J.D. Garcia of Marfa; Alan Phipps of Florida; Monica Rios of Columbus, Ohio; R.J. Rios (Zoe) of Toledo, Ohio; Frankie Reyes (Jessica); Lisa Vanloo and Andrea Anglin all of Big Spring, Texas; several great-grandchildren; sisters, Elva Salgado and Amparo Garza of Stanton, Texas; Rita Cantu and Gloria Rios of Big Spring, Texas.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Genaro Reyes; a son, Raul Rios; grandsons Noel and Joel Rios; her parents; sisters Maria Valenzuela, Angelica Morales and Lupe Venegas; brothers Alfredo Lujan, Federico Lujan and George Lujan.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

Hernandez

Reynaldo Brito Hernandez, 91, of Presidio, passed away Friday, July 31, 2020 in Odessa. He was born July 8, 1929 in Presidio to the late Cecilia (Brito) and Sanchez Hernandez.

Services will be held privately by the family.





Juárez

Alberto Juárez Baeza falleció de 86 años el 1 de agosto de 2020.

Nació el 28 de noviembre del 1933 en Mulato, Chihuahua y vivió en Presidio, Texas por 38 años en compañía de su esposa. Estaba casado por 53 años con la señora María Elena Juárez. Tenia 6 hijos (Martha Juárez, Luis Juárez, Alonzo Juárez, Cristina Acosta, Karla Flotte, Johanna Rodríguez) y 14 nietos.

Los servicios funerarios serán en el Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home Chapel el lunes 3 de agosto de 2020 de 1:00 PM a 9:00 PM. El rosario también será el lunes 3 de agosto de 2020 a las 7:00 PM en el Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home Chapel.

El funeral se llevó a cabo el martes 4 de agosto a las 9:00 am en la parroquia y santuario de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Fue enterrado en el cementerio Serenity Memorial Garden después de que terminó la misa.



Tavarez

José Tavarez Sr. passed away on Wednesday, July 1. José was born on December 18, 1933 in Presidio, Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents, Manuel and Juanita Tavarez, and his brother, Julian. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Romelia Tavarez; his daughters, Rosa Hood (Robert Hood) and Marta Tavarez; and son, José Tavarez Jr.

He served in the army and was stationed in Korea for a couple of years. He first worked with the Texas Liquor Control Board. He then started working with the U.S. Border Patrol. He retired in 1993 as a supervisor of detention enforcement. After his retirement, he worked at Mt. Carmel Cemetery for several years.

We would like to thank everyone at the Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Veterans Home and Hospice of El Paso for taking such good care of him. The love and kindness that was shown there will not soon be forgotten. In lieu of flowers, you may donate to the Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Veterans Home or Hospice of El Paso.

José Tavarez Sr. falleció el miércoles 1 de julio del 2020. José nació el 18 de diciembre de 1933 en Presidio, Texas. Le precedieron en muerte sus padres Manuel y Juanita Tavarez y su hermano Julián. Le sobrevive su esposa por 64 años, Romelia Tavarez, sus hijas Rosa Hood (Robert Hood), Marta Tavarez y su hijo José Tavarez Jr. Sirvió en el ejército y estuvo asignado en Corea por un par de años. Primero trabajó con la Junta de Control de Licores de Texas. Luego comenzó a trabajar con la Patrulla Fronteriza de Estados Unidos. Se retiró en 1993 como Supervisor de Detención. Después de su retiro, trabajó en el cementerio de Mount Carmel por varios años. Nos gustaría agradecer a todos en el Hogar de Veteranos del Estado de Texas Ambrosio Guillén y en Hospice of El Paso por cuidar tan bien de él. El amor y la bondad que se mostró allí no se olvidarán pronto. En lugar de flores, puede donar al Hogar de Veteranos del Estado de Texas Ambrosio Guillén o bien, a Hospice of El Paso.

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Classifieds & public notices

Students encouraged to apply for the Bechtel Book Grant

TRI-COUNTY — Sul Ross State University undergraduate students who graduated from high school or were home-schooled in Brewster, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties are encouraged to apply for the Bechtel Book Grant.

The grant provides funds to students to purchase books and other school supplies from the Sul Ross University Book Store. Grants are in the amount of $500 per student. Other requirements for eligibility are a minimum 3.0 GPA, being a full time undergraduate student at Sul Ross, and having completed at least 24 hours of college work.

Students who receive a Book Grant one semester are eligible to apply for Book Grants for subsequent semesters.

The application deadline is Friday, August 21, 2020 at 12 p.m.

To receive an application contact Matt Walter (mwalter@sulross.edu) at 432-837-8735 or John Ferguson (jwferg451@gmail.com) at 432-661-0600.

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JUDD

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.

Judd Foundation
104 South Highland Avenue
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432 729 4406

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

INVITATION TO BID

Marfa ISD is accepting sealed bids for the following items: Installation of 7 Sloan Stone Wall – Mounted countertop sinks and faucets. Individual bids accepted. Specs for the sinks may be viewed at the Marfa ISD Administration office during regular business hours.

Bids are to be marked "Sinks" and delivered no later than 11:00 am, Friday, August 14th, to Marfa ISD, PO Box T, 400 W. Lincoln St., Marfa, TX 79843. Bids will be opened and reviewed at 1:30 pm, Friday, August 14th at the MISD Administration Building, 400 W. Lincoln St., Marfa, TX.

Questions may be directed to: Oscar Aguero, MISD Superintendent, 432-729-5500, oaguero@marfaisd.com, or by mail, PO Box T, Marfa, TX 79843.

Marfa ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

MISD

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Marfa, Texas Parks and Recreation Development Corporation (the "Corporation"), a non-profit corporation created pursuant to the Development Corporation Act of 1979, Article 5190.6, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, Section 4B, and now operating under Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 505 (the "Act"), will hold a public meeting August 20th, 2020 at 6:00 PM via Zoom to consider a resolution to pursue the following project with city council approval. The public has a right to gather a petition objecting to a particular project if it is submitted within 60 days of this public notice and is signed by more than 10 percent of the registered voters of the city. A public hearing will also be held on this project before funds are expended. THE MARFA, TEXAS, PARKS AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IS PLANNING A PROJECT TO BUILD A SHADE STRUCTURE OVER THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT COFFIELD PARK LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF TEXAS AND RIDGE STREETS. THE PROJECT WILL CONSIST OF BUILDING A SHADE STRUCTURE OVER THE EXISTING PLAYGROUND AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AT A COST OF APPROXIMATELY $55,000.

ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION

https://zoom.us/j/97508802763?pwd=TzlEbjJBS01OVlltSHBPN1ArcXMrZz09

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A young sub-Neptune-sized planet sheds light on how planets form and evolve

FORT DAVIS — A team of astronomers, including McDonald Observatory's Bill Cochran, have made a detailed study of a young planet slightly smaller than Neptune with the Habitable-zone Planet Finder at The University of Texas at Austin's McDonald Observatory. They characterized the planet's mass, radius and the tilt of its orbit. This work provides insight into how such planets form and evolve and has been accepted for publication in the *Astronomical Journal*.

The planet, called K2-25b, is slightly smaller in size than Neptune and orbits an M-dwarf star — the most numerous type of star in the galaxy.

"K2-25 is an extremely interesting system," Cochran said. "When our solar system was at the same age as this star is now — about 625 million years — our Earth and moon were undergoing major impacts by asteroids that formed many large craters on the moon."

The Habitable-zone Planet Finder (HPF) is an astronomical spectrograph built by a Penn State team and installed on the 10-meter Hobby-Eberly Telescope.

"The combination of our measurements of the mass and orbital tilt of this young system will help us understand the early evolution of planetary systems," Cochran said. "We hope to understand exactly where this planet formed and how it got to its current position in the system." The planet lies outside of the star's habitable zone.

According to team leader Gudmundur Stefansson of Princeton University, "Planets at intermediate sizes between Earth and Neptune are some of the most frequent types of planets in the galaxy, but no such planets are known to exist in [our] solar system. Despite their sheer number in the galaxy, many aspects of their formation and evolution remain a puzzle. Our new observations help shed light on this process, increasing our fundamental understanding of the universe and how it works."

The planet was originally detected using the Kepler spacecraft by observing a dip in the host star's light caused by the planet crossing in front of — or transiting — the star and blocking some of the star's light during its orbit, a trip completed every 3.5 days. The planetary system is a member of the Hyades cluster, a nearby cluster of young stars with similar chemical properties that formed about 600 million years ago some 150 light years away from Earth.



Photo courtesy of the McDonald Observatory

HET Dome at Dusk at the McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis.

"K2-25b is one of the very few young planets orbiting a low-mass star with a measured mass and orbital tilt," Stefansson said. "Although smaller in size than Neptune, the planet interestingly has a mass about 1.5 times larger than Neptune. The planet is dense for its size and age, in contrast to other young, short-period sub-Neptune systems which are often observed to have low densities and extended evaporating atmospheres."

The tilt of planetary orbits — the angle between the star's equator and the planet's orbit — encodes valuable information on how planetary systems form and evolve. One of the most effective ways to measure the tilt of planetary orbits is by studying the star's spectra — the light it emits across many different wavelengths — taken during planetary transits. If the host star is rotating during a planetary transit, one half of the stellar disk is "blueshifted"— its light spectrum shifts toward shorter wavelengths — as seen from the observer, while the other half of the star is "redshifted" — a shift toward longer wavelengths. As the planet passes in front of different regions of the stellar disk, it blocks differently blue- and red-shifted light, causing anomalous variations in the velocity of the star. By carefully measuring these velocity changes, the tilt of the orbit can be inferred.

"K2-25b's orbit is well aligned with the host star's equator, giving insights into how planetary systems around low-mass stars form," said Penn State's Suvrath Mahadevan, principal investigator of the HPF spectrograph. "Only three other planetary systems orbiting low-mass stars have had their orbital tilts measured. By leveraging the large 10-meter aperture of the Hobby-Eberly Telescope and HPF's sensitivity at near-infrared wavelengths — where low-mass stars emit most of their light — we are excited to conduct similar observations of other M-dwarf planetary systems to further study how they form and evolve."

The Habitable-zone Planet Finder was delivered to the Hobby Eberly Telescope at McDonald Observatory in late 2017, and started full science operations in late 2018. HPF is designed to detect and characterize planets in the habitable-zone — the region around the star where a planet could sustain liquid water on its surface — around nearby M-dwarf stars.

In addition to data from HPF, additional data were obtained with the 3.5-meter telescope at Apache Point Observatory in New Mexico, and the 0.9-meter telescope at the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona.

This research was supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation, Penn State, the Heising-Simons Foundation, the NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship program, the Center for Exoplanets and Habitable Worlds at Penn State and the Research Corporation.

The Hobby-Eberly Telescope (HET) is a joint project of The University of Texas at Austin, Penn State, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, and Georg-August Universität Gottingen. The HET is named in honor of its principal benefactors, William P. Hobby and Robert E. Eberly.

THE BIG BEND Sentinel

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