

BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

At subdued meeting, EMC Francell named interim Jeff Davis County judge

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY — When Jeff Davis County commissioners met for a special meeting on Tuesday to appoint a temporary county judge, they seemed determined not to have a repeat of the last meeting, when many residents used the public comment period to criticize officials, warn of lawsuits and downplay coronavirus concerns.

Near the start of the meeting, Commissioner Curtis Evans gave some ground rules on decorum for visitors, including the fact that visitors had to keep their comments focused on county business. But it was a very different crowd this time, with just around a dozen people in attendance — many of them wearing face coverings. And when it came time for public comment, no one stood to speak.

After a short executive session, the commissioners court named Larry Francell as the interim county judge. Francell is currently the emergency management coordinator for Jeff Davis County, and he's also an outspoken proponent of masks — a fact that helps explain why the appointment of a temporary judge became a partisan bickering match in the first place.

Controversy started brewing in Jeff Davis County last month after County Judge Kerith Sproul-Hurley died suddenly. She was just 45, and her unexpected death left county officials scrambling to find a temporary replacement.

But when officials met in August to appoint an interim judge, that meeting went largely off-the-rails, as *The Big Bend Sentinel* also reported. A large crowd of residents turned up to the meeting, and many used their public comment period to criticize Francell and mask rules. One resident spoke of personal traumas that she said made it difficult for her to wear a mask, while another said members of the World Health Organization should be considered “war criminals” for their coronavirus response.

Partially in an effort to calm the crowd, county commissioners ultimately decided not to name a county judge at that meeting. Instead, they said they would solicit applications and decide on a judge at a later date.

Three candidates applied, including Francell, former County Judge George Grubb and resident James Trussell. And when officials came out of executive session on Tuesday, they unanimously voted to appoint Francell.

While the crowd at the last meeting swayed heavily against
(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE

NEWS P. 1 - 3
OPINIONS P. 4 - 5
COMMUNITY P. 6, 8, 9
SPORTS P. 7
CLASSIFIEDS P. 10

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Photo by Maisie Crow

Alexis Gonzales, Aundrea Garcia Bullet, and Ummi Chanez cheered on Marfa football during their first game of the season at Martin Field, which ended early and without a final score.

MORE INSIDE ON PAGE 7

Three migrants perish, at least 61 captured in deadly weekend at border

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO COUNTY — In the span of just two days — from Friday morning until Saturday evening — local and federal law enforcement authorities stopped and captured at least 61 Central American migrants who were journeying northwards after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. Three migrants, including one minor, also died while attempting the hot, hazardous journey into the United States through Presidio County.

Most of the arrests happened in two separate incidents along U.S. Highway 67 south of Marfa — one involving migrants on foot and another involving migrants hidden inside an RV.

A total of 62 migrants were initially traveling in those two groups, but one of the migrants traveling on foot died while attempting to navigate Presidio County's rugged terrain. Authorities have not yet released more information on that deceased migrant, including their gender, age or cause of death.

Then, on Monday, the Presidio County Sheriff's Office said in social media that two migrants — a mother and 14-year-old son — had been found dead from exposure by Mexican authorities in a third incident.

In that case, a family from Guatemala “believed they had all made it to the United States when in fact they had only crossed a creek within Mexico,” the sheriff's office stated. The family got lost and stranded near Candelaria.

The first incident happened at around 11 a.m. on Friday, when a deputy with the Presidio County Sheriff's Office stopped a northbound vehicle on a remote stretch of U.S. 67. The vehicle was towing an RV without license plates, the sheriff's office stated on social media.

Authorities stopped the vehicle and searched it, ultimately finding 50 undocumented migrants. Although initial reports said there were 51 migrants, U.S. Customs and Border Protection later gave that number as 50.

Outside of migrant families, who sometimes present themselves in large groups to federal

agents at the border, it's the biggest number of undocumented immigrants that the Big Bend Sector of Border Patrol has apprehended in recent years, an agency spokesman said on Friday. One of the last high profile local incidents, in Marfa in September 2019, arrested just around 10 migrants.

The detained migrants on Friday came from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Mexico, and allegedly admitted to entering the United States unlawfully, the sheriff's office stated. All the migrants were taken into custody alive, according to Border Patrol.

In a social media post, Border Patrol said the driver was also arrested and is facing charges for human smuggling. The Presidio County Sheriff's Office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the incident, but documents obtained through an open-records request gave the alleged driver as Dario Carrasco, a 39-year-old resident of Presidio.

Friday's incident reportedly happened
(Continued on page 2)

Exceptional drought hits hard during typical monsoon season

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

FAR WEST TEXAS — The tri-county is seeing some of its driest conditions in years, with large swaths of Presidio and Brewster counties declared to be in “exceptional drought,” the highest category on the drought monitor. And while the dry season may just be a fluke, a steady warming of Texas temperatures is likely to impact precipitation in the future. Meanwhile, ranches and farms are feeling the pressure of this year's dry season, and fire chiefs in the area are on edge that any spark could set off an intense wildfire.

The exceptionally dry monsoon season this year is likely “just bad luck” associated with natural variability in the system, according to

Mike Crimmins, a climate scientist at University of Arizona and expert with Climate Assessment for the Southwest, an organization that studies monsoons.

This year, the “mid-level monsoon ridge” is not in its usual position due to an active U.S. weather pattern, which is keeping moisture from pushing north out of Mexico. That weather is also pulling dry air toward Texas, suppressing West Texas' monsoons further and preventing the vital summer rain the area relies on.

Crimmins dug into historic rainfall data for the Chisos Basin in Big Bend during monsoon season, June through August. While there does not appear to be a long term trend towards drying, data revealed 2020 is the driest monsoon season on record for the Chisos.

Matt Salerno, a forecaster at the Midland office of the National Weather Service, observed similar rainfall shortages. Typically, more precipitation falls during the months of May and June, but even in August, the area is supposed to be receiving an inch to two inches.

Instead, “We've seen months where we've gone less than a tenth of an inch in most areas,” Salerno said about this year's weather. “It's been especially bad between Marfa, Alpine and the Big Bend.”

As Texas state climatologist and director for the Texas Center for Climate Studies at Texas A&M University, Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon has observed a trend of higher than normal temperatures, announcing in July that the state

(Continued on page 2)

“Montessori-ish”: Marfa ISD's Montessori program grapples with distance learning, pandemic

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Eliza Barton teaches at Marfa ISD's Montessori program, where she also has two children — one entering third grade, the other entering sixth. And with both Barton and her husband working, their kids, like others at Marfa schools, will be returning to in-person classes after the school year starts next week.

But as the school year draws closer, Barton has found herself grappling with “this sickly purgatory feeling,” she said. She worries not only about keeping students and her own children safe, but also what school will look like as a teacher.

For one thing, “If you look at places where schools have opened, cases go up and deaths go up,” Barton said. And while Marfa ISD has

developed a tiered response plan for if any students become infected, “I'm super scared for the kids.”

For another, Barton teaches Montessori, a unique teaching method that emphasizes life skills and hands-on, individualized learning in addition to the basics. But with just six of her 15 students slated to return to in-person classes, she doesn't know what exactly instruction this year will look like.

She's been brainstorming ways to adapt those methods to virtual learning, but “I almost don't want to call it Montessori,” she said. “I can follow the teachings as well as I can, but it's missing so many of those components.”

For Montessori advocates across the globe, Monday marked an important milestone: Maria Montessori, the Italian educator who invented the learning method, would have turned 150.

She died at 81 in 1952, years before her teaching methods gained widespread acceptance in the United States.

When students return to classes next week, it'll also mark the eighth year Marfa ISD has offered Montessori — a popular curriculum that now has three teachers and has proved a draw for some parents in the region. But with coronavirus still threatening Texas, Barton isn't the only teacher or parent wondering how to adapt Montessori methods to a pandemic.

“I'm gonna have some students here and some students at home,” said Cheri Aguero, who teaches fourth- through sixth-grade in the program. “I have to make that look as much like each other as they possibly can. I think it's going to be exponentially harder — but that could just be my opinion.”

(Continued on page 3)

FACE COVERING ORDINANCE IN EFFECT

by order of the State of Texas

Marfa council approves thrift store tenants and technical issues delay city manager vote

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Marfa City Council gathered on August 31 for a meeting to hear Marfa ISD's reopening plan, approve language to accept bids for a cardboard removal contract and allow the Marfa and Presidio County Museum to relocate their thrift store into the MAC building. But after technical difficulty struck the virtual Zoom meeting, additional agenda items were left incomplete and council abruptly adjourned early.

The regular city meeting last Thursday was canceled due to technical difficulties and Monday's special meeting was added in its place. On Monday night, the meeting began with council hearing presentations and discussing new business. But later in the evening, when the council went into executive session to discuss filling the position of city manager, the city's open Zoom meeting shut down, leaving the media and attendees unable to return for the rest of the meeting.

Council can go into executive session, where the public and media are not able to listen in, but in the digital age, that means entering a separate online meeting, which this time around, accidentally closed down the virtual public gathering space of the main Zoom meeting. Council, after discussing details regarding hiring a new city manager in executive session, returned to a new Zoom window, since the old one was gone.

“We're going to have to end this meeting due to technical difficulties,” Mayor Manny Baeza announced. Since the new meeting link had not been advertised to the public, City Attorney Teresa Todd urged the council to end the meeting without taking any action.

Councilmember Buck Johnston asked if the council could at least complete their second executive session, even without taking action, but Todd replied, “I would advise not going forward, now that we know there's a problem.”

A visibly frustrated council reluctantly voted to adjourn the meeting, and Councilmember Natalie Melendez offered a sentiment, “We're all just figuring out how to navigate through this new way of meeting. It happens.”

Prior to the sudden ending, council began the meeting hearing from MISD Superintendent Oscar Aguero about the impending school reopening.

“The opening of the school is not just a school situation; it's a situation that involves the entire community,” Aguero told council on Monday. School is slated to begin September 8, with face-to-face instruction starting September 14 for those who want it, so Aguero was there to present plans and answer questions. “Remote instruction will be offered all year long, but so will face-to-face,” he told the council.

Within the school reopening plans were details like prohibiting visitors for meals and big plans to teach and reinforce hygiene for students. “It may sound silly,” Aguero said, but the school will even go as far as covering the basics of how to properly wash hands.

Interior doors will stay open as much as possible to limit the number of people touching the same surface, though for school safety,
(Continued on page 3)

Montessori

(Continued from page 1)

In Agüero’s class, students typically mark important birthdays (including their own) with a timeline that spells out important events in the person’s life. As Montessori’s 150th birthday approached, Agüero hoped to do the same to honor the educator who started it all.

Normally, Marfa students would have likely been back at school by now — but as coronavirus lingers in the region, school administrators ultimately settled on September 8 as a start day. Agüero realized that any classroom would likely be virtual and not on Montessori’s actual birthdate.

“We’ll probably do something for her in the next couple of weeks,” said a disappointed Agüero. Like Barton, she anticipates many of her students will opt for virtual learning this year, with just eight out of 13 currently slated to return.

Three teachers serve in Marfa’s Montessori program: Agüero, who covers grades 4 through 6; Barton, who covers grades 1 through 3; and Emily Steriti, who teaches pre-K and kindergarten students.

All of them said they were making plans to adapt the Montessori method for virtual learning — though they worry that many aspects of the method, from hands-on learning to student collaboration, just won’t be possible. “The likelihood that [classes] will look like my Montessori classroom did two years ago,” Steriti said, “is zero.”

All three said they had been thinking about ways to make at-home Montessori work. Barton said she plans to have at-home students do hands-on activities — going outside to count clouds and trees, for example, or dancing and doing art. Agüero said she’d found an online version of a “peg board,” which some Montessori

students used for math problems. And Steriti, who has the youngest students, said she plans to communicate even more regularly with parents, to help them stay on top of their kids’ education.

Still, all three said Montessori wouldn’t be the same if students couldn’t be around hands-on learning activities — or other kids for that matter. “The beauty of the environment is that the older friends teach the younger friends, and the older ones get to experience being the oldest,” Steriti said. “That’s not something you can really experience from a computer at home.”

Marfa’s Montessori program started in 2013, a couple years after Steriti moved to Marfa and started her own school, Marfa Montessori.

Marfa Montessori just covered pre-K and kindergarten, and Steriti always saw her school as symbiotic with Marfa ISD, she said in an interview this week.

“My goal was always to feed this pre-K into the public school,” she said. “I didn’t feel like I was competing for anything.” Instead, she saw part of her educational goals as “contributing to a community” and “fostering connectedness.”

In April 2013, the school boards at both Marfa ISD and Marfa Montessori voted unanimously to merge, with Marfa ISD hiring Steriti. “I think this is an unbelievable opportunity for the young people of Marfa,” then-Superintendent Andrew Peters told *The Big Bend Sentinel*. “They’ve done a great job as a private school, but this is an opportunity for us to open it up to everybody.”

Robert Halpern was the Marfa ISD school board president that year. He saw the merger as a “win-win situation”: a way to increase the student body while also offering free Montessori education to residents who wanted it.

“Implementing things is kind of slow with a bureaucracy,” Halpern said of his time on the school

board. “But looking back on my tenure, this was one of the board’s successes.”

In the years since, Marfa ISD’s Montessori program has indeed offered a draw for potential families. Years ago, when Joe Grajeda and his wife Elena were looking for a place to raise their kids, it was the free Montessori program that caught their eye and persuaded them to settle in Marfa.

Montessori public education is a relative rarity in Texas. Just around 40 public schools offer Montessori curriculums out of more than 8,700 public schools in the state. Besides, the Grajedas had relatives who went through Marfa’s Montessori program and the Grajedas had heard good things. “College is Montessori,” Joe said. “You do the work yourself, you manage your time, you manage your space.”

When coronavirus hit this year, prompting school closures across the state, the Grajedas decided they wouldn’t send their three kids back to school unless there was a vaccine. One of their children has asthma, Joe told *The Big Bend Sentinel* in July, and his wife Elena — who was already taking online education classes — was interested in education and ready to homeschool them if necessary.

With Elena trained as a teacher, Joe felt more comfortable that his kids could attend classes virtually and still get a Montessori education. He knew the school teachers were trying — but like them, he worried about how well the methods could be adapted to a pandemic.

The Texas Education Agency “put something together that kids from a distance are going to be using,” Grajeda explained. “Which is ok — it’s just not Montessori.” He wasn’t sure how quality public education was possible in a pandemic. The family’s goal is to take what work the school gives them and “modify it to be Montessori-ish.”

Chris Mackie, another Montessori parent, said the

public Montessori program was a big draw to Marfa. “I wanted [my son] to go into Montessori,” he said, “but we couldn’t ever really afford it.”

But then the pandemic hit the United States this year, shuttering schools and disrupting pretty much everything else — and it’s dragged on into the 2020 school year.

Mackie’s soon-to-be first-grade son just made it off the waitlist on Tuesday, and Mackie thought the program would be perfect for him. “He could just have that freedom and not be scolded every time he wants to get up and investigate things,” Mackie said.

Ideally, Mackie said he would have kept his kids out of in-person classes “for a little bit longer.” But like many parents, he was forced with a stark reality: workplaces and schools are reopening, and there are bills to pay.

He figured virtual students would have a hard time getting the full Montessori experience. “Unless those teachers are guiding the homeschool distance learning, I think it’s going to be really challenging,” he said. But given the circumstances, he wasn’t sure in-person students would get a full Montessori experience, either. Instead of freedom to explore, he imagined a web of new rules and restrictions: “You need to stay here. You need to sit six feet away. We need to get up and clean everything.”

Barton has heard these concerns from parents, and, as a parent herself, she knows where they’re coming from. She doesn’t have the answers. “Nothing seems clear,” she said. “I don’t know who to blame for that. I don’t think anyone is blameworthy. I think it’s a symptom of what’s happening.”

“If something happens to any of these kids — much less my own — I don’t know how we’re going to forgive ourselves,” she said. But with TEA mandating school reopenings and many parents back to work, “it’s really not up to us.”

Marfa council

(Continued from page 1)

exterior doors will have to remain closed. The school purchased plexiglass dividers for classrooms where desks could not be six feet apart, electrostatic sanitizing machines and hand sanitizer for students entering or leaving a room.

Councilmember Irma Salgado asked why taking students’ temperature was not included in the precautions being taken at MISD. Agüero said the reasoning was that most children are asymptomatic, and the temperature-taking apparatus becomes less reliable the more uses it gets, going “way low or way high.” They would only be taking temperatures for faculty and staff.

“Early in the summer we had one person come out positive, but the day they came in, they were asymptomatic, they did not have a temperature,” Agüero explained.

Recesses will be staggered, playground equipment will be off-limits and classes will release at various times to limit the number of students in the hallway at the same time.

And while the governor’s mask laws only apply to those 10 years and older, Agüero said masks were incorporated into the dress code, so all students must wear them. Still, the return to face-to-face classes has been delayed for younger students for two to three more weeks, because it is difficult to figure out mask-wearing for classes as young as pre-kindergarten.

“We have not decided on pep rallies, just because I haven’t figured out a safe way to do that,” Agüero said.

A parent attending the meeting, Hannah Siegel-Gardner, asked Agüero how shutdown protocol worked for those in family units. For example, if a student was COVID-19 positive, their class would go completely virtual. But if that student had a sibling living in the same household, would their class be considered exposed and go online as well?

Agüero said. “The latest CDC guideline says we don’t quarantine close contact, and that kind of goes against everything they’ve said in the past,” but the school is “trying to get more information” about what policies they should follow in that circumstance.

“The safest place for our kids is at home. The best place for our kids is at school,” Agüero said, explaining that over summer breaks, students typically regress,

losing about two months-worth of instruction they had learned the previous year. Now six months out from the initial COVID-19 shutdowns, Agüero said education experts are saying students have likely regressed to the level of the beginning of last year. “They’re coming in to us a year behind,” he said.

He thanked the city for their efforts to keep COVID-19 cases down, saying it was “what’s allowing us to open up.” But still, reopening is very fluid. “If we have an outbreak this week, we won’t likely bring kids in on September 14,” Agüero said.

In other business, the city will soon begin seeking bids for contracts to transport recycled cardboard out of the Marfa recycling center. Since a slowdown in the global recycling market last year, largely driven by China ceasing much of its recycled material purchasing, Marfa has had a cardboard buildup. The center, next to the Marfa dump, has piles of cardboard, vulnerable to rain and wind, and the city had no easy solution to protect the mounds of cardboard, as companies have stopped accepting jobs to pick up and remove Marfa’s recycling.

The new bids will be for a contract to take Marfa’s mountains of cardboard to El Paso for recycling.

Council also unanimously voted to allow the Marfa and Presidio County Museum Thrift Store to move into a city building. The museum was in “desperate straits” seeking a new location for its shop, according to museum board member Mary Williams, and was struggling to find affordable commercial rent around town. But as Marfa’s council has worked to open up old office space in city buildings to businesses for rental, the thrift store found a potential new home at the Marfa Activity Center.

In the southwest corner of the building, 10 offices previously used by the health department are now slated to become a home for the thrift store, which has been open for more than 35 years, according to Williams.

After a brief debate over utilities and rent costs, the city agreed to put forward a 12-month lease agreement that charges the museum a \$425 monthly rent, plus electric utilities and a \$250 refundable cleaning deposit.

Council will meet again on Friday, September 4 to discuss and take action on “the potential promotion of Community Services Director Mandy Roane to the position of Marfa city manager” and to adjust the classification and job description of City Secretary Chelsea Smith.

Alpine council talks transit, newspapers and COVID-19

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — City leaders discussed a wide range of topics at Alpine City Council’s virtual meeting on Tuesday night, from tourism and regional transit to — of course — coronavirus.

The Big Bend Sentinel even made an appearance, as city leaders considered making this paper the city’s new and official newspaper of record. But with city council members wanting to learn more details, that agenda item was ultimately tabled.

Coronavirus

Dr. Ekta Escovar, the local health authority for Brewster County, couldn’t stay at the meeting for long: She had a scheduled routine call with state health officials. But first, she gave city council an update on the status of the coronavirus pandemic in Alpine and Brewster County — showing that while the area has improved dramatically since its outbreak this summer, there’s still a ways to go before the region gets back to pre-outbreak infection levels.

Escovar covered some key statistics, from ICU capacity (no one is currently in local ICU beds for coronavirus, “so that’s a good thing”) to case counts, which at press time sit at seven active cases for Brewster County, according to the county’s official data.

One of the main takeaways, Escovar said, was that both active case counts and deaths were continuing to fall across Texas. “That’s really good news,” she said. But after improving in per capita testing rates compared to other states, Texas has started slipping again and has the 10th-worst testing rate in the nation.

“Hopefully there’s some changes being made,” Escovar said. But she stressed those stats applied for the whole state and that the tri-county was doing “pretty well” and was “about average for the country” in terms of testing rates.

In worse news, Brewster County’s local positivity rate — that is, the percentage of people who get tested and later receive positive coronavirus results — was around 7.5%, a higher rate than officials would like it to be. (Ideally, officials are looking for a

positivity rate of 5% or less.) And as a pediatrician, Escovar said she was receiving a growing number of calls from parents who worried their kids might be infected.

As both Alpine ISD and Sul Ross State University reopen after the summer break, it could be a little bit longer before officials see the health effects of those changes, Escovar said.

“Usually, it takes about a week to spread infection,” she said, “and then another week to 10 days to show symptoms.”

Regional transit

The Texas Department of Transportation has spent years considering overhauls to the region’s transportation system, from discussions of expanding U.S. Highway 67 to talk of increased train and freight traffic from Mexico. But some of those discussions have been contentious in Alpine, where an expanded transportation network could mean more truck traffic right through the center of town.

“What does that mean for Holland Avenue?” City Manager Erik Zimmer asked at the meeting, referring to the local street name for U.S. Highway 90. “What does that mean for tourism through the town, if you have trucks that — instead of passing every minute — could be passing every 30 seconds?”

With those discussions still very much underway — TxDOT last month just released the latest draft of its “Presidio Freight & Trade Transportation Plan” — Zimmer didn’t have much in terms of concrete updates. Instead, he just wanted to let residents know that Alpine officials were thinking about these concerns, participating in roundtables and making sure the city’s needs were considered.

“We’ve got a lot at stake,” he added. The “lifecycle” of Alpine’s economy comes down to both tourism and Sul Ross State University, he said, and Alpine needs to make sure to “maintain it” — remaining a destination in its own right, and not just a blip on an expanded highway system.

Museum of the Big Bend

Mary Bones, the executive director of the Museum of the Big Bend, was there to give a “quick update on how the museum has done” for the fiscal year from August 2019 to August

2020, which captures (so far) all of the coronavirus crisis. And all things considered, Bones had good news.

During that time, the museum had seen around 14,000 visitors and was averaging about two student groups a month. That isn’t bad, considering the museum was closed for around five months from March to July — including over spring break, when it may have normally seen not only more tourists, but more students there to learn.

The museum has reduced hours to Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. for “the foreseeable future,” Bones said. And as life goes virtual during the pandemic, the museum has also seen a “dramatic rise” in traffic to its Facebook page, she said.

The museum is also updating its video technology and adding “state-of-the-art touch screens,” but Bones’ presentation did include some drawbacks too. With the pandemic still affecting tourism and daily life, the gift shop — normally a big breadwinner at the museum — had just “broke even,” Bones said.

Still, officials were pleased that the museum was staying afloat and continuing to serve patrons. City Manager Zimmer called it “such a great asset for the community” and “on the must-do list” for visitors.

The newspaper of record

While many people think of “newspaper of record” as a colloquial term — that is, the entity that serves as a repository for accurate records and historical documents from an area — the phrase actually also has a technical meaning.

In Texas at least, cities must have a “newspaper of record” in which they place public notices and other documents that they must, by law, allow the public to review.

Currently, *The Big Bend Sentinel* serves as the newspaper of record for Marfa and Presidio County. But on Tuesday, Alpine city leaders debated making this paper the newspaper of record for Alpine as well.

As council discussed the measure, City Attorney Rod Ponton read some of the laws outlining what is required for a paper of record. City council members decided they wanted to know more about those technical qualifications and voted to table the measure until the next scheduled meeting on September 15.

CORRECTION: An article last week said the city of Marfa and Presidio County were required to have a memorandum of understanding for the use of city Hotel Occupancy Tax funds for the county airport. While early legislative drafts said this, it was left out of the final bill. We regret the error.



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SCAM ALERTS DURING COVID19

COVID-19 has brought out scammers targeting older adults on Medicare using a variety of fraud schemes tied to the coronavirus pandemic

Protect your yourself and your loved ones

- Do not give out your Medicare number to anyone other than your doctor, health care provider, or other trusted representative
- Be suspicious of any unexpected calls, emails offering COVID-19 tests or supplies
- Don't click on COVID-19 offers via links from sources you don't know in emails. It could place your computer or phone at risk. Make sure your devices have updated anti-malware /anti-virus software
- Be cautious of anyone who comes to your door offering free coronavirus testing, treatment, or supplies
- Ignore offers or advertisements for COVID-19 testing on social media sites

Remember

- Medicare will never contact you over the phone, email, text message or social media post. Unsolicited communications are a red flag
- Medicare will never ask you for your Medicare number (it already has it) or other sensitive data, such as a credit card number

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Questions or Concerns?
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Main office
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Our business operations have temporarily changed. Currently, we are not open to the public for in-office appointments, however we are available to assist you by phone.

The Rio Grande Area Agency on Aging serves persons 60 years of age and older and their families that reside in El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Brewster and Presidio Counties. It is funded by the Older Americans Act through the Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Opinions

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

For honest and sorely abused Presidio County property tax and Marfa utility-paying citizens, recent articles revealing theft of county funds and astronomical unpaid city utility bills were a slap in the face.

After the theft of county funds was discovered in March, you report that since stolen funds were recouped from the bank, county officials “decided not to press the matter.” What a surprise that this failure to pursue the theft resulted in more thefts in July and August. If at any time county funds in any amount are discovered to be stolen, county officials overseeing taxpayer monies should damn well “press the matter.” Hopefully, despite county officials’ delay in taking corrective action, the thief can be discovered and apprehended.

Even worse is the situation at the city, where city staff and elected officials have apparently done nothing for years regarding KNOWN ongoing unpaid and delinquent utility bills. I know for a fact that this issue was vociferously raised by Linneaus Lorette during past city mayoral and council elections. You report that one city council member stated “It feels like...we haven’t been keeping up on it.” You think?? It is APPALLING that a town of two thousand souls suffers under “\$570,625.56 in utility bills that residents had not yet paid to the city, with \$361,145.39 of that being more than 90 days delinquent.” That uncollected, unpaid utility bills could have risen to such an incredible amount suggests that city staff and elected officials have for a long time been either incompetent or willfully complicit in allowing it. Turning off utility services to the worst abusers and pursuing collection from the delinquent should be a number one priority for this mayor and city council.

Tax- and utility-paying citizens deserve better from government staff and elected officials who are supposed to safeguard public monies and whose salaries are paid by the same citizens.

Sincerely,
Kent C. Anschutz
Marfa & Austin

...

Dear Editor,

Coronavirus’ six-month presence in the U.S. has fatally emphasized systemic negligence. Public data is consistent in showing the reality that lower-income communities are disproportionately affected by this pandemic. Presidio’s rate of poverty is higher than the national average – and one of the highest mortality rates for coronavirus deaths in Texas. That rate may be directly caused by recent lack of access to testing sites and healthcare resources for Presidio residents.

The Texas Department of Emergency Management’s negligence towards Presidio County is an appalling example of class discrimination. It’s also yet another reflection of poor state government leadership.

One would think that, with nearly half of its residents below the poverty line – and with already four confirmed coronavirus deaths – TDEM would prioritize Presidio’s obvious public health crisis. TDEM’s eight-week inaction is nothing short of discriminatory, and their “centralization” of testing sites is the opposite of accessibility. On their website, TDEM provides a virtual map of coronavirus testing locations in the state. The documented sparsity of test sites in the far west should be an obvious concern.

I feel for our tri-county leaders. TDEM should be steady in providing local officials with the state testing resources and agency needed to provide testing for every county in the state. Is that not the point of this state division?

On a more energizing note, *The Big Bend Sentinel’s* coverage again proves the power local journalism has. Amplifying the voices of those without the human right of accessible life necessities such as healthcare is the responsibility of all local prints during a pandemic.

Public pressure must remain on the Texas state government to provide for all lower-income counties – it’s their job.

Sincerely yours,
Becca Bright
Fort Davis

...

Estimado Editora,

¡CELEBRAR Y AGRADECER!

La Dra. María Montessori fue una mujer que revolucionó la historia de la educación, quien ha dejado un gran legado para la humanidad, para el bien de la infancia y adolescencia. Basado en la libertad del ser humano y la libre elección. Ella descubre con la observación de los niños y niñas a un ser humano con potencialidades que no habían sido atendidas, para mí la Dra. Montessori es la Pedagoga con más sentido del Siglo XX. Montessori te ayuda a conectar con el verdadero sentido de la educación y la vida.

Quiero expresar mi profundo respeto y admiración en especial a Nuestras Guías Montessori,

Ms. Steriti, Ms. Barton, Ms. Aguero.

Gracias por formar esta comunidad, por hacer posible la educación Montessori gratuita, ha sido nuestro primer encuentro con Montessori, gracias por recibir a nuestros hijos, formando recuerdos valiosos, fomentando una educación para la vida y para la paz. ¡Gracias por sembrar las primeras semillas del conocimiento! Para nuestros pequeños humanos de mente absorbente y mente razonadora. Nos hemos encontrado con mucho amor, gracias por darnos el privilegio de dar esta educación a nuestros hijos, de disfrutar una vida con sentido humano.

Felices 150 años de la vida y legado de la Dra. Montessori.

Elena Caballero-Grajeda
Marfa

...

Dear Editor,

Regarding the cartoon of President Trump talking to the FDA about a drug for COVID:

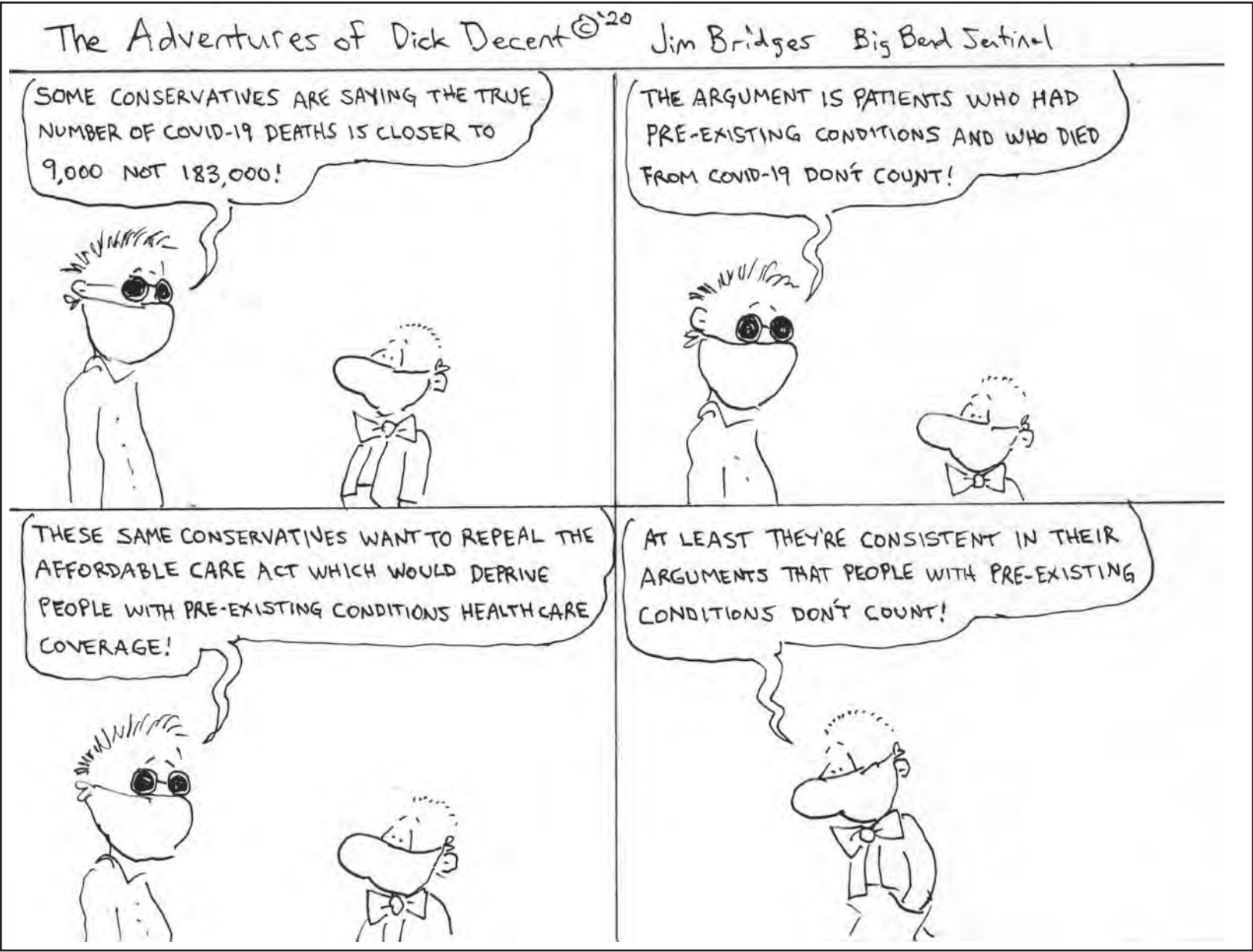
Mr. Oliver, I take issue with your depiction and statement attributed to President Trump and use of new treatments for COVID. I believe your depiction is uncalled for and unjustified. It is quite obvious that your political compass is with the Democrats.

I would just ask you to consider your comments regarding any cures, should they become explicitly related to members of your own immediate family. I submit that you would call for and demand that any medical cure be considered for your loved ones. Perhaps your sarcastic depictions have gone unchecked for so long that you believe yourself to be immune to counter comments. Again, if possible put yourself in the president’s shoes and walk in them for a moment. I submit: your comments would certainly be less derisive and caustic as you look in the mirror of your life!

Wes Peterson
Dallas

...

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



Dear Editor,

Last week I noticed several national polls that indicated Joe Biden was ahead of Trump by sizable margins, including in several “battleground” states, as voters have become more and more aware of Trump’s many faults as president. Another poll, however, showed Texas Senator John Cornyn ahead of MJ Hegar by about six points, which tells me there is a disconnect between what people think about Trump’s actions and policies and Cornyn’s votes in the Senate.

There is no question that much of what Trump does, and a majority of Americans disapprove of, would not be possible if Cornyn and other Republican senators voted in America’s best interest instead of Trumps – or their own. Think about children in cages, or our Kurdish allies being abandoned on the battlefield, or 180,000 dead Americans due to a virus that is still unchecked in most of the country, or peaceful protesters tear-gassed so Trump can walk to a church and hold a Bible upside down, or Russian bounties on American servicemen in Afghanistan. The list goes on, and Republicans like John Cornyn have yet to have the courage to stand up for American values. Instead, Cornyn has voted with Trump 95.1% of the time, tied for third highest among all Republican senators.

Is that what Texans really want? A lackey who thinks his job description is simply to rubber stamp whatever outrageous conduct comes from our current president, a real estate developer who has declared bankruptcy six times, a man who most recently co-opted the integrity of the CDC by having them issue absurd coronavirus testing guidelines? I don’t think so.

Yes, Ms. Hegar is somewhat unknown politically, but as an Air Force veteran and pilot she had the courage and devotion to the country to endure three tours in Afghanistan, earning a Purple Heart and a Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor Device. The contrast is clear. John Cornyn, an attorney and career politician, has shown us who he really is, and we cannot allow him to continue to ignore the desires, indeed, the values of everyday Texans. And the solution is simple – let’s vote him out of office.

Fred Gossien
Terlingua

...



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

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HIGH DESERT SKETCHES

American education or not

By GEORGE A. COVINGTON

As a child, I was always critical of the American education system. In my first year at Grim Elementary, I wanted to know how they got “the three R’s” of reading, writing and arithmetic, as each word started with R, W and A. The world had yet to discover Google; otherwise, I would have found there was a 1915 song that started the whole mess. The song went:

School days, school days
Dear old Golden Rule days
Reading and ‘riting and ‘rithmetic
Taught to the tune of the hick’ry stick

Miss Steele did not have a hickory stick, but she did wheel a mean ping pong paddle, which she broke on my little behind the first day; she managed to break two more before the year was out. Of course, discipline has gotten much different in the ensuing half-century. I am aware of this because of recent articles explaining prominent members of the police force of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Those L.A. kids, from kindergarten to 12th grade, must be much tougher than me and the kids from the housing project, because the LAUSD received 61 M16 assault rifles, three grenade launchers, and a tank-like MRAP from our generous military.

As the largest and best-armed school police force in the country, it must be that they are super prepared to rebuff the invasion of the COVID-19. Yet, Trump recently stated to Fox & Friends: “This thing is going away, it will go away like things go away. My view is that schools should be open. If you look at children, children are almost, I would almost say definitely, but almost immune from this disease. So few. Hard to believe. I don’t know how you feel about it but they have much stronger immune systems than we do somewhere for this. They don’t have a problem.” However, the most recent study shows that the virus is being spread by the youngest segment of the society. Ten percent of the population is infecting the other 80%. When schools start, expect these figures to explode. Several universities across the country have opened and closed in the same week because of party happenings.

Since my school days, I have always liked order but mistrusted authority. COVID-19 has reinforced my mistrust of authority figures, particularly President Tweet, the Texas governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general, otherwise known as the “Swamp Thing and his Three Amigo Egos.” There is no better understanding of the COVID-19 plague than to hear the Swamp Thing explain his understanding of numbers. Check his grasp of the present situation in an interview with Jonathan Swan at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaaTZkqsaxY>. The interviewer attempted to tell the Tweetster that more than 1000 people a day were dying of the virus. But the Tweetster could not conceive that it was true because it was not on one of his charts.



President Tweet does not realize that the deadliest virus to hit America in 100 years is not stopped by lies, half-truths and unthinkable irrational ranting — not to mention his attacks on science and the medical profession. These ramblings have not stopped the virus or properly informed the general population and have only convinced the Tweetster’s political base. His irrational rantings have cost tens of thousands of human lives. He is incapable of leadership.

If COVID-19 has resurrected itself because of our school situation, it’s due to two types of males of our species. The first is Joy Boy, a man-child who masturbated himself with his penis, and the second type is the Macho Man. This specimen feels he can justify anything if he feels it interferes with his personal freedom and ability to choose his own path through life regardless of rules or regulations. Both are convinced that their personal privileges are guaranteed by something in either the Bible or the Constitution of the United States, although neither type has read either of those documents. Both men have two things in common: their manhood is determined by the size of their truck or car engine, and their IQ and shoe sizes are the same number. In a rare burst of humor, the Germans refer to these two fellows as COVIDiots.

On a happier note, last spring, the Federal Communications Commission added Big Bend Telephone to the list of less than 800 companies nationwide who are recognized for going above and beyond to help consumers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the FCC noted that BBT had:

- Increased the speeds of all customers for a period of time
- Offered two months of free broadband to new customers
- Suspended data usage charges
- Extended school district networks to students without access
- Provided Wi-Fi to first responders and utility technicians
- Established Wi-Fi hotspots for educational purposes
- Established community open Wi-Fi access in strategic community locations across service areas

George A. Covington has worked in the fields of law, education, journalism and disability rights. He considers himself retired from every one of them with the possible exception of journalism. He is a graduate of the University of Texas schools of Journalism and Law. He moved to West Texas – Alpine - in 1997 after a 20-year career in Washington, D.C. where he once served on the staff of the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (Democrat) and shortly thereafter served as Special Assistant to the Vice President of the United States (Republican) 1989 to 1993.

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The Chinati Foundation is a contemporary art museum founded by the artist Donald Judd. As a museum in which art, architecture, and the land are inextricably linked, Chinati is in a unique position to invite visitors to experience Chinati outdoors.

Self-guided Walking Tours
Thursday - Saturday, advanced reservations required
Tickets will be available 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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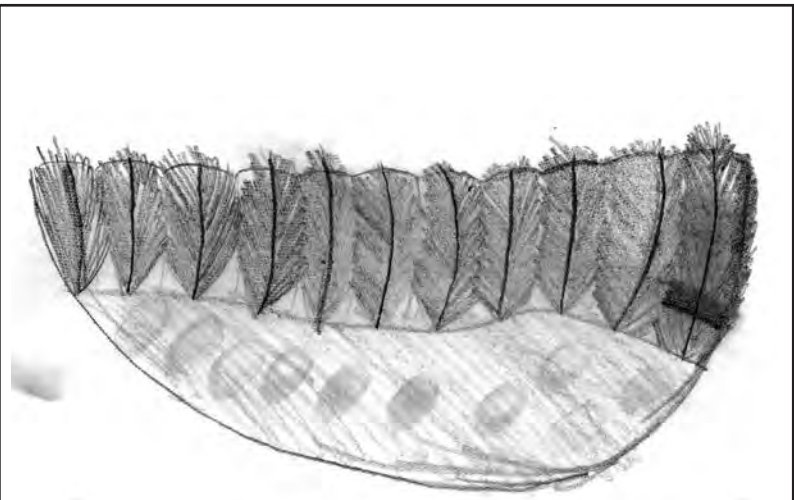
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Community

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Owl Wing by Vanessa
Marfa Elementary School

Free breakfast and lunch program extends to all Marfa students

MARFA — As families are readying for the quickly approaching new school year, the food service department at Robinson Cafeteria is also making preparations to provide healthy, nutritious meals for the students and staff!

Marfa Independent School District would like to announce that all children enrolled in the district for the 2020-2021 school year will be provided breakfast and lunch free of charge.

The Marfa Independent School District and Marfa Elementary and Marfa Jr/Sr High School announced this week a change to its policy for serving meals to children under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2020-2021 school year. Schools qualifying to operate the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) provide breakfast and lunch to all children at no charge and eliminate the collection of meal applications for free, reduced-price, and paid student meals.

This new approach reduces burdens for both families and school administrators and helps ensure that students receive nutritious meals.

For additional information, please contact Cynthia Hernandez by phone at (432) 729-5500 ext. 1050, by email at chernandez@marfaisd.com or by mail to Marfa Independent School District, Attention: Cynthia Hernandez, P.O. Box T 400 W. Lincoln St., Marfa, TX 79843.

Marfa Live Arts presents radio plays in the time of corona

MARFA — Marfa Live Arts in association with KMKB presents *Radio Plays in the Time of Corona*, four radio plays written by Marfa High School playwrights and professionally produced, scored and brought to life by voice-over actors.

The award-winning Shorthorn playwrights who will have their work produced as a radio play are: Aubrie Aguilar, Febi Brimhall, Devin Meierhoff and Avery Beltran (class of 2020).

Radio Plays in the Time of Corona premieres on Marfa Public Radio, 93.5 FM and online at marfapublicradio.org at noon on Friday, September 18, and again on Wednesday, September 23 at 10 p.m.

The plays will air again on KMKB 98.9fm (KMKB.org) over the weekend of September 19-20, broadcasting both Saturday and Sunday at noon and 6 p.m.

The plays were written by Marfa High School students during the ninth Playwriting Program hosted by Marfa Live Arts and taught by New York playwright Caridad Svich. Usually, the winning student plays are brought to life with adult actors for the community at the Crowley Theater in Marfa, however, due to COVID-19, the plays were unable to be staged.

Making lemonade out of pandemic lemons – Marfa Live Arts decided to adapt and to, instead, produce *Radio Plays in the Time of Corona* in order to showcase these young playwright’s words.

Learn more at: marfalivearts.org

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Marathon Public Library receives CARES Act grants

MARATHON — Marathon Public Library is the recipient of a Humanities Texas Relief grant and CARES grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

The funding will help launch new and modified programs with virtual and remote formats, such as a virtual Infant and Toddler program, Remote Family Summer Science Nights, virtual art program, virtual book club, and Remote STEM workshops.

Also, the grants will be used to expand internet-connected resources and services for community members like the new Wi-Fi hotspot lending program. The library serves as the only publicly available digital access point in the community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, residents have used our computers to file for unemployment, check the status of stimulus checks, create flyers for their businesses and register for COVID-19 testing.

“Many of our programs have switched to remote and virtual formats. We are grateful for these grants – as they have allowed us to modify and expand our programs and services so that we are able to continue to meet the needs of our community during this critical time,” said Dara Cavness, Marathon Public Library director.

This summer, Humanities Texas awarded over \$1.1 million to 198 Texas nonprofits that suffered losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recipients include museums, libraries, preservation organizations and heritage and cultural centers, among many others.

These organizations offer historical and cultural programs that have significant impact within their communities. Humanities Texas aims to help these organizations remain vital in this difficult time.

“We are fortunate to have the opportunity to provide critical support to so many organizations across the state,” said Humanities Texas Executive Director Eric Lupfer. “Looking ahead, we will continue to seek ways to assist Texas cultural and educational institutions in surviving this crisis.”

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission is awarding 38 grants to libraries throughout the state to support local efforts to respond to COVID-19 and increase digital inclusion throughout communities. This first cycle of the TSLAC CARES grant program provides emergency funding totaling \$1,063,469 and comes from the federal appropriation made to the Institute of Museum and Library Services

through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

TSLAC CARES grants will fund community needs identified by Texas libraries for the programs, training and tools necessary to increase community access to vital digital technologies and services. Additionally, funds may be utilized for library initiatives that support prevention, preparation and response to the COVID-19 emergency. This reimbursement grant program will fund operating expenditures such as library supplies and materials, technology, furniture and contractual services.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the many ways libraries are more essential than ever in meeting local needs to stay connected and informed,” said Mark Smith, TSLAC director and state librarian. “We are grateful to the IMLS and the federal government for providing this assistance to libraries across Texas as they support their communities in these challenging times.”

Funding for the grants has been provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the CARES Act economic stabilization plan and from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services and Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

AISD’s Becky McCutchen named finalist for Superintendent of the Year

ALPINE — The Texas Association of School Boards announced five finalists for their Superintendent of the Year Award this week, and Becky McCutchen of the Alpine Independent School District has made the list.

Five public school administrators from across Texas were selected as state finalists for the annual Superintendent of the Year award. TASB, a nonprofit association established in 1949 to serve local public school boards, sponsors the program, which recognizes exemplary superintendents for excellence and achievement in educational leadership since 1984.

The 2020 finalists are Jose Gonzalez of McAllen ISD, Roland Hernandez of Corpus Christi ISD, Michelle Barrow of Newton ISD, Jamie Wilson of Denton ISD and McCutchen of Alpine ISD.

The state selection committee, which interviewed regional winners August 28-29, targeted such issues as advocacy, diversity and inclusion, the impact of the pandemic on education and the board-superintendent relationship.

McCutchen has led Alpine ISD for five years and has been in education administration for 12 years. She serves approximately 1,000 students in her 1,995-square-mile West Texas district.

Of particular note to the committee was her empathy for the district’s students and her involvement in advocating for rural schools. The committee stated that McCutchen shows she values the many differences among students, including special needs students, a population with whom she has spent much of her education career. She uses her ability to relate to the students to make decisions that take all children into consideration and is guided by the belief that schools exist for the students. McCutchen earned her bachelor’s degree from Texas A&M University and her master’s degree from Sul Ross State University.

Candidates are chosen for their strong leadership skills, dedication to improving educational quality, ability to build effective employee relations, student performance and commitment to public involvement in education. Superintendents from any of the state’s local school districts are eligible for nomination by their school boards. Local nominees are submitted to a regional selection committee, which chooses one nominee to send to the state selection committee.

The Superintendent of the Year award will be announced during the virtual TASB Convention on Thursday, October 1.

GO MARFA SHORTHORNS!

Have a great season and a great school year!
from Billy and Crawford Marginot

HAPPY LABOR DAY!

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 Place for pampering
4 Bedouins
9 Gasoline stat
12 Samovar
13 Actress Zellweger
14 A billion years
15 Update
17 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
18 Young fellow
19 Shun
21 Feast alternative
24 — land (spaced-out site)
25 Eggs
26 Attempt
28 Paul or Lloyd of baseball lore
31 Gear teeth
33 Collection
35 Go off the board
36 Central
38 Turf
40 Londoner's last letter
41 Reverberate
43 Hourglasses, e.g.
45 Common condiment (Var.)
47 Historic period
48 Boxing legend
49 Spellbind

DOWN

1 Total
2 In favor of
3 Moreover
4 Extreme
5 Furnishes
6 Blackbird
7 Gem facet
8 Playground fixture
9 Replace personnel with robots
10 Pontiff
11 Chew like chipmunks
16 Inventor Whitney
20 Dressed
21 Central points
22 Shakespear's river
23 Make attractive
27 Indeed
29 Always
30 Cincinnati team
32 Moments, for short
34 Re clan emblems
37 Compass points
39 In a catastrophic way
42 "The Phantom of the —"
44 Scratch
45 Vena —
46 Settled down
50 Old French coin
51 Altar affirmative
52 Energy
53 Med. specialty

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Puzzle solutions for last week's issue

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

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Marfa

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93.5 Marfa/Ft. Davis 91.7 Alpine 91.5 Marathon 91.3 Odessa/Midland

Sports

Shorthorns football season opener ends in “no contest” after Grandfalls player injured



“There are so many people that played a big role behind the scenes in making this game possible,” Coach Alferez said. “We did a little bit more than what was expected when it comes to COVID protocol.”



Photos by Maisie Crow

The shorthorns put up a good fight but ultimately walked away without a win, after an opponent was injured and the game was called as “no contest.” Still, fans, families and players alike were in high spirits even as COVID-19 precautions have changed some aspects of Friday night football.

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Despite heightened COVID-19 precautions, spirits were high at kickoff for the Marfa High School’s six-man football season. But an injury sustained by a Grandfalls-Royalty player during the fourth quarter led to a “no contest” ending for the Shorthorns’ home game against Grandfalls.

Players, families and fans alike were eager for the new season to begin, even with the many changes expected under the Friday night lights this year. The 60 tickets made available for presale sold out before gametime, and to avoid the formation of lines and the exchange of physical money, no tickets were available at the box office that night – one of the many changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Marfa Head Coach Arturo Alferez said, “I was excited to have a home game here. Then I realized all the logistics that go into it.” This year, Alferez said, many coaches are trying to play away games to avoid the hassle of COVID-19 precautions.

In preparation, the school added bleachers for visiting fans to be separate from locals, organized the flow of foot traffic with signage and upgraded bathrooms so

both teams could use separate facilities. Coaches wore masks, socially distanced, and even the middle school managers wore masks and gloves to refill players’ waters.

“There are so many people that played a big role behind the scenes in making this game possible,” Coach Alferez said. “We did a little bit more than what was expected when it comes to COVID protocol.”

While Grandfalls was first to put points on the board, Marfa pushed back hard. Dedrick Campos scored Marfa’s first touchdown of the season, and Ethan Saenz scored a touchdown on a kickoff return, taking the ball nearly 40 yards to the end zone. Grandfalls scored right before halftime. At the break, the score was 14-12, with Marfa trailing slightly.

“It was a defensive game,” said Alferez in an interview this week. “We did have multiple opportunities to punch it in and score, but there are some things we need to work out here in practice and get ready for our next game.”

In the fourth quarter, Marfa began driving the ball down the field, the score sitting at 20-12, with Grandfalls ahead. Then, a Grandfalls-Royalty player went in for a tackle against Marfa. Helmets crashed together and the players fell to the ground. After a quick attempt to stand

up, the Grandfalls player remained laid-out on the field as coaches rushed to assist him. The Grandfalls trainer came down and ran through the concussion protocol. The player remained conscious the entire time but did complain about back pain and neck pain, according to Alferez.

Jessie Peña, an off-duty EMT Paramedic who was attending the game to watch his son play, also rendered aid to the player. While Marfa EMS had been in attendance during the game, minutes earlier they had left on an emergency call to attend the scene of a single-vehicle fatal car crash south of town. A second EMS team was dispatched to the football game.

Since Grandfalls-Royalty coach, Jeff Corean, would be leaving in the ambulance with the injured student, the head coaches agreed to call off the rest of the game, declaring it a “no contest.” The score was Grandfalls 20, Marfa 12 when the game ended.

As the only certified bus driver for Grandfalls, Corean expressed concern to Alferez about leaving the rest of his team stranded while he went to the hospital with his injured player.

But Alferez stepped up, offering to drive the opposing team home, nearly two hours away. “I told him, ‘If you feel comfortable and want to go with him in the

ambulance, I can drive your boys to Grandfalls and have one of my coaches follow me and pick me up and bring me back.’” Alferez said.

With their school district’s approval, Marfa’s coach and the rest of the Grandfalls-Royalty football team were on their way, with Marfa’s assistant coach, Edgar Ramirez, following so he could drive Alferez back to Marfa.

The injured player was released from the hospital around 2:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. An hour later, at 3:30 a.m., Alferez and Ramirez arrived back home to Marfa after dropping off the Grandfalls team.

The injured player “is well on his way to a quick recovery,” Coach Corean wrote on social media. “Through it all, our guy stayed brave and calm and handled the situation like a champ.”

“Also, I cannot thank the coaching staff and school community of Marfa enough. They were very helpful through it all. Words cannot express how grateful I am for Coach Alferez and Coach Ramirez. They drove our players home so I could be at the hospital,” wrote Corean. “What they did speaks volumes about who they are, not just as coaches, but as human beings as well.”

Maisie Crow contributed reporting for this story.

GO SHORTHORNS!

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Happy Labor Day!



The Presidio County Courthouse in Marfa will be closed Friday, September 4, 2020 at 12 noon, & all day Monday, September 7, 2020.

Have a safe holiday!

Raul Lara
City Council Member

Cell# 432-249-1189
councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com

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432-729-4315 / fax 432-729-3158

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

(JV) VOLLEYBALL: Thursday, September 3, 5:00 PM vs Ft. Hancock, home game.
(V) VOLLEYBALL: Thursday, September 3, 6:00 PM vs. Ft. Hancock, home game.
FOOTBALL: Friday, September 11, 5:00 PM vs Balmorhea, home game (Jr. High)

Rep. Hurd files bill to expand Big Bend National Park

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

TRI-COUNTY — Last week, *The Big Bend Sentinel* reported that Big Bend National Park hoped to expand its boundaries by buying and incorporating land near Terlingua. At a Brewster County Commissioners Court meeting, advocates for the plan said that they’d found some possible land for the expansion and had also spoken to neighboring land owners, all of whom were supportive of the park’s purchase. But to make the plan official, they explained, they’ll need approval from Congress.

Now, Congressman Will Hurd is hoping to get that approval. Last Thursday, Hurd filed H.R. 8093, also known as a bill to “to adjust the boundary of Big Bend National Park in the State of Texas, and for other purposes.”

The bill would approve the Terlingua land sale from the current owners of the Fulcher ranch — increasing Big Bend National Park by 6,100 acres — while also allowing future landowners “to fulfill their dream of incorporating their land into Big Bend National Park.” At press time, congressional records show the bill had been introduced but has not yet seen a vote.

Hurd has served since 2015 as the U.S. representative for Texas’s 23rd Congressional District — a diverse border district that’s often considered one of the most competitive districts in the country. Last year, the congressman announced he was retiring.

Hurd, who’s often positioned himself as a moderate and bipartisan lawmaker, seems to be using his final months in office to push the creation of new parks and landmarks and for the expansion of existing ones. In a statement to *The Big Bend Sentinel* last month, Hurd publicly threw his weight behind the idea of making Marfa’s Blackwell School a landmark, saying that the site “belongs in a national place of honor like the catalogue of outstanding American places.” He said Blackwell was “one of the first

schools in West Texas to educate Latinos” and therefore “owns a unique piece of history.”

Hurd currently represents eight national parks and historic sites, the largest of which is Big Bend. But as Hurd argued in his previous statement, “it is time to make Blackwell School number nine.”

In his efforts to expand Big Bend, Hurd appears to be leaning on the same philosophy. In a statement about the new bill, he described Big Bend National Park as an “iconic piece of America” that, through an expansion, could “give Americans even more area to respect and appreciate.”

“This boundary change would protect the very rare and unique Terlingua Watershed, some of the most important fossil bearing rocks in Big Bend and ruins of pioneer homesteads of both Anglos and Hispanics,” Hurd continued in his statement. “I hope my colleagues will support this legislation that will preserve some of America’s most beautiful land for future generations to appreciate.”

In an interview on Monday, Bob Krumenaker, the superintendent for Big Bend National Park, declined to offer his opinion on Hurd’s bill, citing laws that prevent federal employees from commenting on pending legislation. He described the bill, if passed, as a “first step” in a “multi-step process” that would allow the park to not only incorporate these Terlingua lands, but also add more properties in the future if other landowners also wanted to sell.

Krumenaker stressed that any such transactions were entirely voluntary. And while he couldn’t comment on the specific bill, he did say that expanding the park in general could further protect West Texas lands for residents and visitors, including the “very rare perennial watershed” at Terlingua Creek.

“These lands have resources that are valuable to the national park,” he said. “We would be delighted if this acquisition were to take place, so that these lands could be protected for the American people.”

Big Bend Seminar Series to explore where energy and conservation meet on September 16

ALPINE TX — Residents of West Texas are invited to attend a free seminar on September 16 that will explore Development by Design, where energy and conservation meet. Seminar attendees will hear from subject matter experts Joseph Kiesecker with The Nature Conservancy and Melinda Taylor from the University of Texas. The seminar, which was originally scheduled in March, was postponed due to COVID-19 concerns. The September 16 event will be presented via webinar.

“To keep everyone safe, we’ve pivoted to provide these seminars in an engaging online format, and we hope we’ll have good participation,” said Billy Tarrant, who is associate director of Stewardship Services for the Borderlands Research Institute. “The Respect Big Bend partners have been working hard to better understand what energy projections will look like for the Greater Big Bend region, and what type of solutions we can deploy to conserve what we all love about this area. The Development by Design process is at the core of our strategies to engage a broad group of stakeholders. The upcoming seminar will provide insight in how we are applying that model to the energy issues surrounding West Texas.”

Joseph Kiesecker is lead scientist for The Nature Conservancy’s global land and water conservation program. He is a leader in developing guidance to balance energy and infrastructure demands with environmental conservation. He has also been at the forefront of moving development and mitigation-planning to a landscape scale. He pioneered the Conservancy’s Development by Design approach, an initiative that seeks to improve development planning through the incorporation of predictive modeling to provide solutions that benefit conservation goals and development objectives and directs its implementation in over a dozen countries around the world.

Melinda Taylor is a senior lecturer at the University of Texas School of Law, where she teaches courses on environmental and energy law, including the environmental impacts of energy development. She founded the Kay Bailey Hutchison Center for Energy, Law and Business and was the first executive director of the center. Prior to U.T. Law, Taylor directed the Ecosystem Restoration Program for the Environmental Defense Fund.

The September 16 seminar is part of a series designed to engage a broad constituency of Big Bend community members to better inform them on recent energy projections, potential impacts on communities and conservation values and to develop creative strategies to conserve the unique resources and communities of the region. The seminars are sponsored in part by the Respect Big Bend coalition, The Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation, Permian Basin Area Foundation, The Meadows Foundation, Still Water Foundation and the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University.

Register for the September 16 seminar: <https://respectbigbend.org/events/development-by-design>



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Form 50-876

Statements required in notice if the proposed tax rate exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate but does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate, as prescribed by Tax Code §26.06(b-2).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$.41728 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of the City of Marfa.

PROPOSED TAX RATE \$.41728 per \$100

NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE \$.37179 per \$100

VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE \$.41728 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2020 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for the City of Marfa from the same properties in both the 2019 tax year and the 2020 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that the City of Marfa may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that the City of Marfa is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2020 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON Sept. 15,2020 via Zoom Meeting at Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86361893254?pwd=UXpBSUppVVdoeHNlVW5wVUtzMm1Kdz09

Meeting ID: 863 6189 3254 Passcode: 017497 Dial-In: (346) 248-7799

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, the City of Marfa is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the City Secretary of the City of Marfa at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

(List names of all members of the governing body below, showing how each voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase or, if one or more were absent, indicating absences.) FOR the proposal, Council Member Salgado "Aye" Council Member Johnston "Aye" Council Member Melendez "Aye" Council Member Lara "Aye" Council Member Ben-Yehuda "Aye" AGAINST the proposal: N/A

PRESENT and not voting: N/A

ABSENT: N/A

Form developed by: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Property Tax Assistance Division For additional copies, visit: comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax 50-876 • Rev.4-20

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

Form 50-876

The 86th Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by the City of Marfa last year to the taxes proposed to the be imposed on the average residence homestead by the City of Marfa this year.

	2019	2020	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	2019 adopted tax rate .47800	2020 proposed tax rate .41728	(Increase/Decrease) of (nominal difference between tax rate for preceding year and proposed tax rate for current year) per \$100, or (percentage difference between tax rate for preceding year and proposed tax rate for current year)% -12.70%
Average homestead taxable value	2019 average taxable value of residence homestead \$107,480	2020 average taxable value of residence homestead \$115,834	(Increase/Decrease) of (percentage difference between average taxable value of residence homestead for preceding year and current year)% 7.77%
Tax on average homestead	2019 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead \$513.75	2020 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead \$483.35	(Increase/Decrease) of (nominal difference between amount of taxes imposed on the average taxable value of a residence homestead in the preceding year and the amount of taxes proposed on the average taxable value of a residence homestead in the current year), or (percentage difference between taxes imposed for preceding year and taxes proposed for current year)% 5.92%
Total tax levy on all properties	2019 levy \$738,931.82	(2020 proposed rate x current total value)/100 \$831,000.15	(Increase/Decrease) of (nominal difference between preceding year levy and proposed levy for current year), or (percentage difference between preceding year levy and proposed levy for current year)% 12.46%

(If the tax assessor for the taxing unit maintains an internet website)

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for the City of Marfa at 432-729-4081 or Natalia Williams, or visit http://www.co.presidio.tx.us/page/presidio.County.Assessor.Collector for more information. natalia.williams.pctac@co.presidio.tx.us

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION
FOR LAND APPLICATION PERMIT FOR INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER

RENEWAL

REVISED

Permit No. WQ0005000000

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Village Farms, L.P., 195 International Parkway, Suite 100, Heathrow, Florida 32746, which operates Village Farms Marfa Division, a hydroponic greenhouse facility, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of TCEQ Permit No. WQ0005000000, which authorizes the disposal of treated wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 214,000 gallons per day via irrigation of 226.4 acres of Bermuda and native grasses. This permit will not authorize a discharge of pollutants into water in the state. TCEQ received this application on March 3, 2020.

The facility and land application site are located four miles north of the intersection of U.S. Highway 90 and U.S. Highway 67, in Presidio County, Texas 79843. The facility and land application site are located in the drainage area of the Rio Grande Above Amistad Reservoir in Segment No. 2306 of the Rio Grande Basin. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.
<https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afbc468bbddd360f8168250f&marker=-102.461%2C30.874&level=12>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and downloading online at <http://www.team-psc.com/reports/>.

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

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

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

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission will only grant a contested case hearing on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on issues that were raised in timely filed comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

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

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

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

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Village Farms, L.P. at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Paul Krueger, EIT at (806) 473-3715.

OBITUARIES

Notice: The funeral for Robert Quintanar will be Saturday, September 5 at gravesite at 11:00 am



Boland

Virginia Mae "Gene" White Frank Boland went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on August 30, 2020 at the age of 97 years. Gene was the daughter of James Elmer White and Martha Hamilton White. Her grandparents on both sides of her family were pioneer ranchers in the San Angelo, Del Rio and Eagle Pass area. Gene was born in Del Rio, Texas, on January 17, 1923, the only daughter in a family of five children. She attended the public schools of Del Rio and attended Hockaday School for Girls in Dallas, and later the University of Texas, where she studied music. Gene met Lt. Dan C. Frank in 1943

while he was training as a B-26 pilot in Del Rio. When he returned from his tour of duty in Europe, they were married in 1944. They made their home in Marfa, Texas, where Dan pursued a career in ranching. They had three children together, and making a home for her family was Gene's real passion in life. Anyone who visited in her gracious and lovely home or shared one of her delicious meals can attest to her homemaking skills. Gene and Dan loved to fill their table on Sunday with anyone at church who was alone or visiting. Gene was active in the Methodist church and many other activities in Marfa, in addition to raising their three children. In later years they returned to Del Rio to live, where Gene was active in the Methodist church, Amistad Singers, and was the catalyst for forming the Hospice program in Del Rio.

Eleven years after Dan's death, Gene married Bob Boland. They enjoyed 15 years together until Bob's death in 2018. Gene was preceded in death by her daughter Teda Richter in 2007, her son-in-law Jerry Richter in 2014 and her daughter-in-law Sue Frank in 2019. She is survived by her sons, James Tucker Frank and his wife Joanne of Del Rio and Dan C. "Topper"

Frank Jr. of Tandil Argentina, and seven grandchildren: JD Frank and Rebekah Frank of San Francisco, California; Christina Frank of Atlanta, Georgia; Jerry Jean "JJ" Richter Nisula and husband James of Round Rock; Russ Richter of Del Rio; Dan C. Frank III and wife Misty of Fort Stockton; and Scott Frank of Tandil Argentina. Gene is also survived by her four great-grandchildren, Daniel and Abby Frank of Fort Stockton, and Dax and Lucas Nisula of Round Rock. Twenty-two nieces and nephews survive Gene and fondly remember "Aunt Gene." She was preceded in death by her brothers, Hamilton White, Jim White, Russ White and Tucker White, and her faithful friend Jane Brite White. She will be missed by many family members and friends in Del Rio, Marfa and across Texas.

A graveside service will be held Saturday September 5, 2020 at 10 a.m. at the Marfa Cemetery. A Facebook event has been created under the name of Virginia "Gene" Boland for those who wish to view the service live feed. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Alpine Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to any Hospice organization.



Franco

Rene Franco, age 78 and a Presidio resident, passed away

August 5, 2020, at Seton Hospital in Austin, Texas. He was born in Shafter, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Maria de Jesus Franco, of Presidio; son, Rene Franco Jr. (Sylvia) of Round Rock, Texas; and daughter, Karina Padilla (Gilberto) of Davidson, North Carolina; and seven beloved grandchildren. He will now be reunited with his parents, Lucy Rede and Manuel Franco, brothers Armando and Adalberto, and sister Delfina Anderson. He is also survived by his twin brother, Rede Franco (Lupita), El Paso; brother Abelardo Franco, El Paso; Carmelina Holloway, Decatur, Texas; and Yvonne Franco Hinojos, El Paso. He attended high school in Presidio and received his BA and MA degrees from Sul

Ross State University in Alpine. He was an educator and taught elementary school in Redford and high school in Presidio before becoming superintendent for the Presidio Independent School District. After retiring from Presidio public schools, he became involved in business and agriculture. He was a devout Catholic and member of Santa Teresa de Jesus Catholic Church in Presidio. To honor his personal request, he was laid to rest at Shafter Cemetery in Shafter, Texas, where he is facing his beloved Three Sisters Mountains. A Rosary service was held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Shafter, where Franciscan monk Pascual of Shafter also provided the graveside services.



Harral

Stanley Craig Harral and Sharon Bedell Harral passed away to go be in peace with their Heavenly Father. Sharon and Craig's love for each other was so powerful that they were only separated here on earth for one week. Sharon Bedell Harral passed away on August 8, 2020, and Stanley Craig Harral passed away on August 15.

Sharon was a loving wife, mother, Mimi and a retired educator. She was cherished by so many where she spent most of her career as the extraordinary elementary physical education teacher in Whitney, Texas. Later in life she found

joy taking care of her high school sweetheart, Craig.

Craig will be remembered as the greatest father, husband, Pop and friend anyone could ask for. Craig was admired by all of his co-workers that were fortunate enough to work with him. After retiring from Southwestern Bell/AT&T, he enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren. He devoted most of his time making sure his family was taken care of and focused on instilling all of his positive qualities into his children.

Sharon and Craig always loved the outdoors and being out in the country. They raised their children on Lake Whitney and they were avid fishermen and lovers of the lake. The couple also took their children on frequent trips to Marfa to visit their family and enjoy hunting and the true West Texas small hometown feel. In 2015 they moved back west and bought their dream home outside of San Angelo. They resided there until March of this year when they moved to San Antonio to be close to their children. This would be their last selfless act among thousands. The last months

of their lives will never be forgotten and will always be cherished by their family.

Sharon was preceded in death by her mother and father, Freda and Sam Bedell, and her older brother, Danny Bedell. Craig was preceded in death by his father, Elmer Earl Harral. Sharon and Craig will be lovingly remembered by their children and their families: daughter, Kimberly Harral Foster and granddaughter, Jadyn Foster; and son Cody Craig Harral, his wife Crystal Harral, and grandson, Dylan Harral. Stanley Craig's remaining close loved ones are his mother, Mary Elizabeth Harral, sister, D'Ann Harral Garcia, and her husband Joe Garcia. Sharon's remaining loved one, her brother, Clayton Bedell, will share in their loss. They are also survived by nieces and nephews on both sides of their families.

A Celebration of Life for both Sharon and Craig will be held at Lange Funeral Home in Ballinger at a later date. The family will reach out to friends and the community in advance so that all parties that wish to join can be in attendance.

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Classifieds & public notices

Esther Howard appointed to fill Brewster County Commissioners Court vacancy

BREWSTER COUNTY — County judge Eleazar R. Cano has appointed Esther Zanya DeLao Howard to fill the unexpired term of Brewster County Precinct 1 Commissioner Betse Esparza.

Howard has lived in Brewster County for the past 7 years, was born in Santa Cruz, California, and was raised in Alpine, where she graduated from Alpine High School and Sul Ross State University. Esther is married to Espy Howard and has two children and three grandchildren.

After graduating from Sul Ross, Howard moved away from Alpine to McAllen, Texas, at the age of 21-years-old and lived there for 28 years. In McAllen, she was a banker and first vice president over Loan Operations and Compliance at Lone Star National Bank and

International Bank. In between those 28 years, Esther also owned her own business as a bank consultant.

After retiring from banking, Esther moved back to Alpine. She previously served on the board of directors for the Big Bend Regional Hospital District from June 2016 to July 2020, most recently as the board chair.

Judge Cano said he is confident that Howard will do an excellent job for Brewster County and for the residents of Precinct 1.

The new appointee was sworn in on Tuesday, September 1 at 9 a.m. by Judge Cano via Zoom, and the recording of the swearing in event is available to watch on Brewster County's Facebook page at "Brewster County, Texas."

Alpine Food Pantry distribution dates for September

ALPINE — The Food Pantry of Alpine will distribute food to North Brewster County residents on Saturday, September 5 from 9 a.m. to noon at 108 S. Neville Haynes (formerly S. Lackey), in Alpine. The location is also known as the old US Cable Building. To protect our volunteers and limit their contact, we have shortened our hours of distribution.

Additional days that FPA is open this month are: Tuesday, September

8 (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.), Thursday, September 10 (9 a.m. to noon), Tuesday September 22 (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.) and Thursday, September 24 (9 a.m. to noon).

Eligible residents may receive food once a month from the Food Pantry of Alpine and can select a day and time that best suits their schedule. The pantry will do curbside delivery of pantry boxes provided to by the West Texas Food Bank. Sign-in for current clients

and sign-up for new clients will be made curbside also.

Volunteers are not needed at this time due to our additional precautions, but if you want to help in the future, please email the volunteer coordinator at alpinefoodpantryvolunteer@gmail.com to be put on our list for future volunteer opportunities and our announcements.

For more information, you may call 432-294-5053.

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Online @ my2020census.gov

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English: 844-330-2020

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JOBS



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BARTENDER, BARISTA, COOK & FOOD RUNNER for the Sentinel. Part time or full time. Experience with prep work preferred. Email info@thesentinelmarfa.com to apply.

CITY OF MARFA JOB OPENING

The City of Marfa is hiring for a general labor to assist with routine preventive maintenance and repairs on gas facilities and equipment and to ensure the natural gas distribution facilities are reliably functioning. Contact with the public is involved in this position.

- Assists with installation and maintenance of gas lines, mains, and services
- Assists in constructing gas taps for new and termination of service.
- Uses clamps, compressor, electro fusion and socket fusion for polyline, and hand tools.
- Performs general maintenance, including cleaning facilities, clearing brush, building fences, painting, digging ditches, mowing, trimming, edging.
- Performs street repairs and utility construction, including driving trucks.
- Sets up barricades, cones, construction signs and flags.
- May perform janitorial duties and building maintenance.
- Reads gas meters and accurately reports readings.

A high school diploma or GED or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge skills and abilities is required, including standard computer word processing.

Applicant must have knowledge of natural gas system operations and natural gas facilities construction equipment and the required care of tools and specialized equipment. Must have a valid driver's license and obtain and maintain certification per Natural Gas System Operation, Maintenance, and Emergency Plan. The applicant must be able to establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers, other employees, city officials, other agencies and the public.

Please see www.cityofmarfa.com/employment for a full job description.



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



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Beer and Wine License by David Lovato for the Presidio American Legion Post 176. It is located at 915 Oreilly Street. Presidio Texas 79845, in Presidio County.

On June 2, 2020, law enforcement officials secured \$305.10 United States Currency from an abandoned 2007 Lincoln Navigator bearing Texas temporary tag 885279B in Presidio, TX. To place a claim on the aforementioned currency, please submit a written request to: Drug Enforcement Administration/Attn.: Property Claims, 2500 N Hwy 118, Ste. D-200, Alpine, TX 79830 within 30 days of first publication of notice.

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Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the **Estate of Francis Hubert Ryan, Jr.,** Deceased, were issued on August 17, 2020 under Docket No. 1977, pending in the County Court of Presidio County, Texas, to Kevin Jackson Ryan.

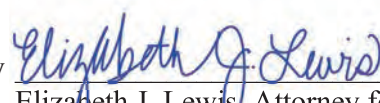
Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Representative,
Estate of Francis Hubert Ryan, Jr., Deceased
c/o Elizabeth J. Lewis, Attorney at Law
109 N. 6th St.
Alpine, Texas 79830

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED August 27, 2020

Kevin Jackson Ryan

By 
Elizabeth J. Lewis, Attorney for Applicant



Maisie Crow
Max Kabat
Abbie Perrault
Stephen Paulsen
Ariele Gentiles
Claire Lindsay-McGinn
Marisol Ely
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Tomas Salgado
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Editor-in-Chief
Publisher
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Office: 209 1/2 W. El Paso St., Marfa, Texas
Mail: Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843
Telephone: 432.729.4342
Contact: editor@bigbendsentinel.com
Advertising Inquiries: ads@bigbendsentinel.com
www.bigbendsentinel.com

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