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BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

FACE COVERING ORDINANCE IN EFFECT

by order of the State of Texas

In-person school delayed until Monday, but likely no further

By ABBIE PERRAULT
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MARFA — Last Thursday, Presidio County Health Authority Dr. John Paul Schwartz contacted Marfa's school district, advising them to postpone in-person reopening of the schools, which was to begin Monday, September 14.

Oscar Aguero, the district's superintendent, said Schwartz advised the district to delay reopening by one week, to Monday, September 21. "Dr. Schwartz felt we were having a spike," Aguero said.

"I don't think there will ever be a time over the next couple years that things are safe or back the way they used to be," Schwartz said. Still, remote learning cannot go on forever, Schwartz acknowledged. "What they're going to try to do is open it in a way that keeps distance."

"We still have people dying," the doctor said, pointing to a recent fatality in the county. "We're not testing enough. The delay in school, I was holding out for as long as we could get, but reality creeps in and kids are suffering from not being in a structured environment, so something has to happen. That's probably the only compromise we can come up with."

Schwartz felt prompted to push for a delayed in-person reopening last week because of a few ongoing cases. "We had a couple kids that were in quarantine and it was just still hanging and when you have that, there's always a question." As those childrens' quarantine dates draw to a close, the health authority said he will allow students to return to the classroom for the first time since March.

Still, the doctor lamented that teachers are at risk of contracting COVID-19 from students and feeling its effects much more than younger COVID-19 patients. He also continues to question the role of contact sports during the pandemic.

"I think Oscar is trying as hard as he can to strike a reasonable balance and that's all you can do right now," said Schwartz. "The kids, you can't just put their lives on pause for two years. Those are critical years for development."

"I think we've held it off as long as we can," the health authority said. Virtual learning at MISD began on September 8, and in-person classes are set to begin on Monday.

INSIDE

NEWS P. 1 - 3
OPINIONS P. 4 - 6
COMMUNITY P. 7 - 9
OBITUARIES P. 9
CLASSIFIEDS P. 10

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Reps. Hurd, Vela file bill to make Blackwell a National Historic Site

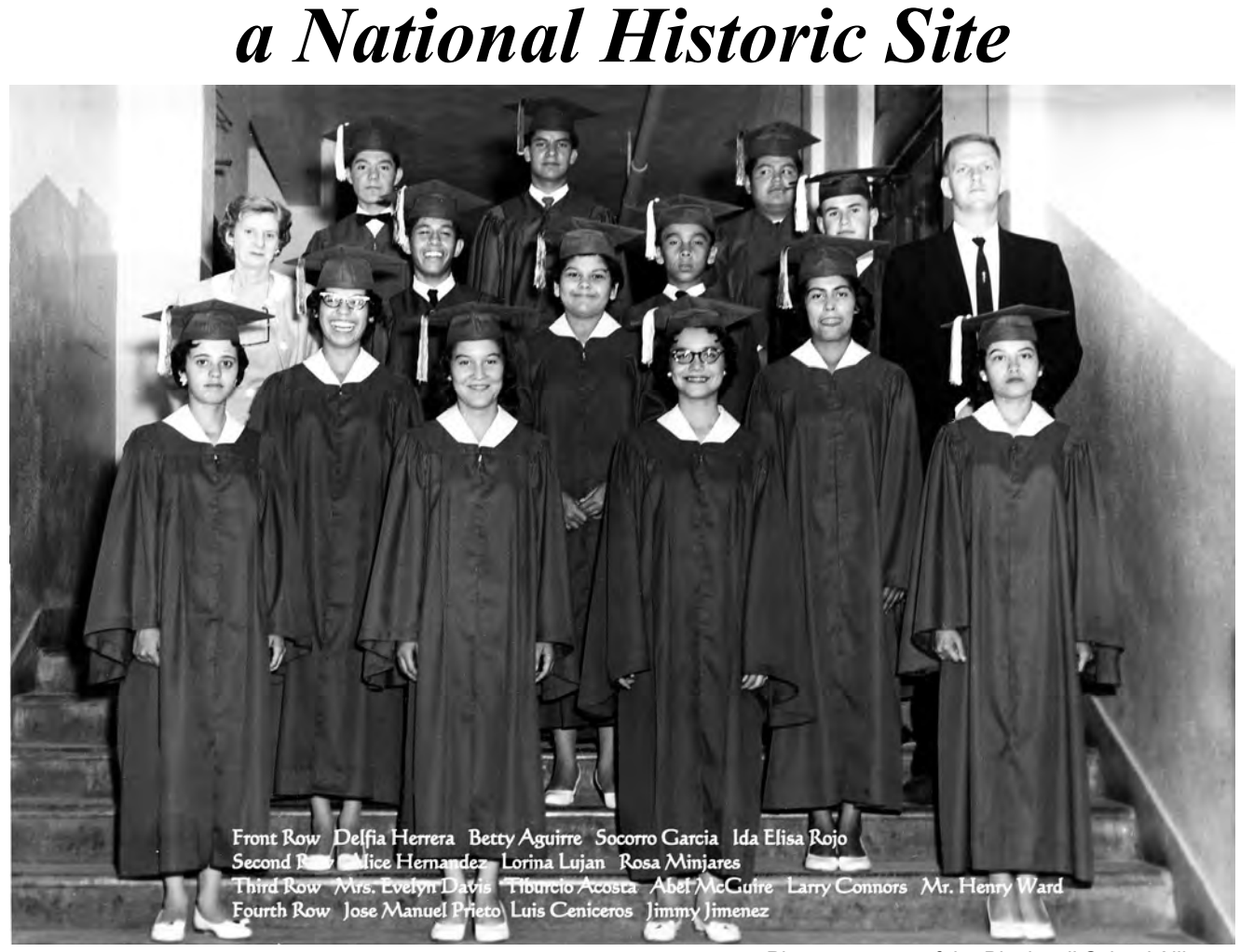


Photo courtesy of the Blackwell School Alliance

The 1959 graduating class from The Blackwell School, a historic Marfa landmark that legislators are now hoping to preserve as a national historic site. Alice Hernandez (Rivera) and Betty Aguirre (Nuñez), pictured, are current members of the Blackwell Alliance's Board of Directors.

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
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WASHINGTON, D.C. — Last week, U.S. representatives Will Hurd and Filemon Vela Jr. filed a bill to make the former Blackwell School in Marfa a National Historic Site and place it under the supervision of the National Park Service.

The Blackwell School — which served Latino students from its inception in 1909 until court-ordered desegregation in 1964 — is one of the best preserved and last remaining mementos of an era when Latinos in Texas were segregated into separate schools. Though such schools once dotted the Texas borderlands, just a few — including Blackwell — remain today, and most or all of the others have been repurposed. Blackwell's preservation is in large part thanks to the Blackwell School Alliance, a group founded by former students in 2006 with the goal of keeping the site as a place of reflection and education.

Chief among those former students was Joe Cabezuela, who graduated from eighth grade at Blackwell in 1964 and later went on to found the alliance. In an interview from El Paso this week, he called the news of Hurd's bill "just tremendous" and thanked Gretel Enck, the current president of the Blackwell School Alliance, for her work on the issue.

"I believe this has all come about because of Gretel and her board," he said.

Cabezuela acknowledged that some Marfans — including former Blackwell students — might prefer to forget this painful chapter of local history. But "it was there," he said of the school. "It happened. It needs to be told."

Besides, Cabezuela added, the story of school segregation at Blackwell is still relevant for the present moment. "Today, [Latino] kids don't go through what we did," he said. "But there's still a little bit of prejudice going on."

In a statement announcing the bill, Rep. Hurd, a Republican representing the region, described Blackwell as "a reminder of de facto segregation throughout the mid-twentieth century." After all, he noted, it was the "only educational institution in Marfa, Texas serving the Latino community for more than fifty years."

"We have a responsibility as a nation to care for these places and ensure the history they represent is told," Hurd said in the statement. "Blackwell might represent a dark time in our nation's past, but we must not shy away from our past so future generations can learn from it."

Hurd's co-sponsor on the bill — Rep. Filemon Vela, a Democrat representing the 34th District in South Texas — agreed, describing the site as an "academic and cultural cornerstone" from an era when "the practice of 'separate but equal'

(Continued on page 2)

In Brewster sheriff's race, bodycam video prompts controversy, possible investigation

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
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ALPINE — A convoluted web of accusations has recently emerged against law enforcement figures in Alpine. The controversy started earlier this month, when bodycam footage of Will Drawe, an Alpine police officer and write-in candidate for Brewster County sheriff, was shared online.

The video was shared by Jim Crouch, an employee at current Sheriff Ronny Dodson's gun store — prompting some residents to call it a political hit. The Alpine Police Department asked for an investigation into how the video went public. But Rod Ponton, city attorney for Alpine, said the video — which shows Drawe responding to a report of criminal trespass — instead raises questions about whether Alpine police are arresting people without probable cause.

Then, at a city council meeting on Tuesday night, District Attorney Sandy Wilson said she'd contacted the Texas attorney general's office after she said the Brewster County Sheriff's Office was refusing to work with the Alpine Police Department or let police use its jail, which she said was a threat to public safety. She said Sheriff Dodson was "abusing his office" and suggested he may have committed a crime but did not elaborate.

Ponton told officials that Dodson didn't want to take people into his jail when he worried about issues of probable cause — but Wilson countered that "that's not the issue here" and that "Mr. Ponton is not able to handle this situation." City council, which says Brewster County has a standing agreement to let Alpine use its jail, appeared to agree with Wilson. At the end of the meeting, they planned to go into executive session to discuss these issues — but they didn't want Ponton in that session, and they voted to postpone it rather than let him attend. It's unclear why exactly that is, but a discussion of Ponton's role as municipal prosecutor and city attorney was also on the agenda for that session.

The bodycam video, a 10-minute video from April, shows cop and write-in sheriff's candidate

(Continued on page 3)

Despite holdup at county level, Marfa officials say contact tracing will soon begin

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
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MARFA — After weeks in the works, the Marfa contact-tracing program is finally ready for lift-off. Last Tuesday, Marfa City Council voted to hire three contact tracers at a rate of $20 per hour, transforming local contact-tracing plans into an official city program.

The plan hit a snag on Wednesday, after Presidio County commissioners voted to postpone signing an agreement with the city pending some final details, including more information on the agreement between the City of Marfa and the Texas Department of State Health Services. But Teresa Todd, city attorney for Marfa, says the city's program will likely start next week regardless — at least for people who live within city limits.

Marfa city officials first started considering setting up a contact-tracing program after hearing mixed reviews of state efforts. Chief among those officials was Councilmember Buck Johnston, who said she wanted to find a way to continue helping constituents through the coronavirus pandemic after Governor Greg Abbott stripped local officials of many of their emergency powers, including the ability to impose mask mandates.

With some exceptions, like in big cities, contact-tracing efforts are handled by the Texas DSHS. But many local patients weren't hearing from the state until during or after quarantine, if at all. Marfa city officials felt they could more quickly find cases and investigate possible contacts.

For a while, questions swirled about whether Marfa could in fact start a contact-tracing program. Citing conversations with state officials, county officials said probably not.

But city officials thought otherwise. After some digging, they ultimately scored a meeting in July with several DSHS officials and Sushma Smith, the chief of staff for Senator José Rodríguez, who helped arrange the meeting. The agency approved Marfa's plan, and the city council voted in August to seal the deal with DSHS.

But then another issue emerged: Dr. John Paul "J.P." Schwartz, the local health authority for Presidio County, is technically a county employee. Though he hasn't been directly involved with Marfa's contact-tracing efforts, the fact that Presidio County has a local health authority was basically the legal basis for why Marfa could set up a program. And Presidio County Judge Cinderela Guevara didn't want Schwartz making any informal arrangements with the state and city without first discussing it with county commissioners.

By the time Todd presented to the commissioner's court last week, that wasn't really an issue: Don Culbertson, a physician assistant who will run Marfa's contact-tracing program, was already in contact with DSHS.

(Continued on page 2)

Marfa council approves budget, puts a short-term rental ordinance on the docket

By ABBIE PERRAULT
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MARFA — At a city meeting Tuesday night, council began by unanimously adopting the annual budget, approving a property tax increase that will raise $63,926.96 in additional revenue (an 8.65% increase from last year's budget,) and adopting the 2020 tax rate of $.42728 per $100 of taxable value, which is effectively a 12.70% decrease in the tax rate.

The mayor thanked council for their patience during the budget process, remarking, "It went pretty smoothly this year."

In new business, the council discussed city priorities for the use of staff time and resources for the coming months. "What I'm talking about are what ordinances and issues you [the council] want me to work on when I'm not trying to put a fire out somewhere," said City Attorney Teresa Todd, who put the item on the agenda.

While the council discussed the years-long process of updating the planning and zoning ordinance, they ultimately voted to have Todd work first on the short-term rental ordinance, which will look at how those rentals are regulated in town. The city hopes to have workshops and public feedback on the ordinance, similar to the process that revised the city's animal ordinance last year.

Todd said the planning and zoning ordinance would likely take three to six months to be ready for a vote, whereas the short-term rentals will take around three months. Either way, Councilmember Buck Johnston said, it will be a new council after the November elections who will ultimately vote on the issues.

Council also moved forward with renting out a second section of the Marfa Activity Center, after agreeing to a lease with the Marfa Museum Thrift Store at the last council meeting.

Annette Gutierrez from the Rio Grande Council of Governments said her organization received funding from the Economic Development Administration to have a coordinator to directly address COVID, and they were looking for office space to station the rural coordinator.

"We'd like to lease office space for that coordinator position and we will be receiving a new agreement with workforce solutions and keep our part-time employees Sam Schonzeit and Robert Halpern in that office space," Gutierrez explained.

Council agreed that they should occupy multiple offices rather than all sharing one, and offered a six-month contract to the COG for $500 monthly rent with utilities included.

City Manager Mandy Roane updated the council on the Abbot COVID-19 rapid testing machine, which The Texas Division of Emergency Management has agreed to cover the cost of for the city. In additional good news, TDEM will also cover any added costs the city has incurred from having to move the election due to COVID-19, saving the city a $6,000 expense.

Finally, Mayor Baeza asked the council to attend a special meeting on Thursday to hear from the Texas Department of Transportation about the latest plans for the traffic design in front of the Presidio County Courthouse. Initial plans suggested a roundabout on the south side of the courthouse, where Highland Avenue meets Lincoln, however Baeza said TxDoT has modified the concept and is looking into alternatives. The meeting will take place September 17 at 6 p.m. with a Zoom link available at www.cityofmarfa.

Alpine School Board inks contract for new high school construction

By JIM STREET

ALPINE — The Alpine School board last week approved a contract for $22,490,000 with Imperial Construction of Weatherford for a new high school building and related facilities. Imperial was one of four bidders for the project under a successful bond issue with the high school as the principle item.

Bonds were sold in August and, depending on additional negotiations and a go-ahead from the city, construction could begin almost immediately with completion scheduled for June 2022.

At the bond sale last month, Erick Macha, a director at Hilltop Securities of Dallas representing bond underwriter Deposit Trust Company, told the school board they were buying $20,245,000 in bonds. Coupled with a premium of $2,613,681.60, the yield will be $22,858,681.60.

The school district received a very high Double-A-Minus rating for a bond sale that will carry an overall interest rate of 2.963%. The highest rating possible would be a Double-A-Plus.

Macha presented a chart of interest rates showing the present rate is near the 20-year low of 2.8% for the 30-year issue.

Voters approved the issue in the 2018 General Election to yield $22.588 million to build a new high school building and other improvements.

The difference between the yield and the $22.588 million to fund the project will go to various fees and commissions to the underwriters.

Finance Director Tucker Durham said the $2.6 million premium could all go to the project, except that the school used some pre-bond funds that have to be reimbursed.

But the yield still is enough to cover the project, and the district now is waiting for the go-ahead from city building official David Hale.

Tucker said no further board action is needed unless the price increases after last week's action, which would come in the form of change orders.

The school board has tried in recent years to sell bonds without success to replace the high school building, first opened in 1973.

A similar bond issue failed in 2018 and the school board promptly appointed a citizen committee and came up with the numbers for the present issue in the same year. An earlier issue in 2011 was similar in size but also included a new stadium and failed heavily.

The stadium issue came up in discussions for the next two issues, even though it was not among the items listed in bond proposals.

The old building has security and other issues and most agreed it was time for a replacement. The new building will be built immediately north of the existing building, which will be demolished after the new facility opens.

Blackwell

(Continued from page 1)

dominated education and social systems."

"This designation will help preserve and maintain the property," Vela added, "so that folks across Texas and the nation can visit and learn the history and experiences of Mexican American families."

Though the Blackwell School Alliance has been around for more than a decade, the group in recent months has seen its stature grow amid national conversations on racism and injustice. In December, as *The Big Bend Sentinel* previously reported, the site was officially placed on the National Register of Historic Places for its "significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history," according to an application to the National Park Service.

Among other details, that application also recounted how former Blackwell students participated in a ritual known as "burying Mr. Spanish." Students wrote "I will not speak Spanish" on slips of paper, placed them in a coffin and buried them in a ceremony near the school flagpole — a symbolic exercise intended to separate schoolkids from their Latino and Spanish-language heritage.

This year, support for preserving Blackwell has only continued to grow. After the Blackwell School Alliance in August announced a letter- and postcard-writing campaign to support making the landmark a national historic site, around 200 postcards poured in from supporters.

A number of prominent local institutions have also supported the initiative — including Marfa Independent School District, Marfa City Council, the Judd Foundation, Ballroom Marfa and Friends of Ruidosa Church. Oscar Aguero, the superintendent at Marfa ISD, had a grandparent who attended the school and has been a vocal advocate for preserving the site.

Enck, the current president of the Blackwell School Alliance, acknowledges that memories of Blackwell are painful for some residents. But in previous interviews, she's stressed a national designation could help Marfa — not only by preserving an important piece of local history, but also by attracting more history buffs and tourist dollars to the region. (Enck, who currently works at the Fort Davis Historic Site, declined to comment on Hurd's specific bill, citing laws that prevent federal employees like her from commenting on pending legislation.)

Besides, as a former employee at the Manzanar National Historic Site in California — one of the most infamous sites of World War II-era Japanese internment — Enck has stressed it's important to preserve the "maybe less pleasant aspects of our history." Just one current National Park Site "speaks to Latino and Hispanic culture," Enck told *The Big Bend Sentinel* last month, citing a study from the National Parks Service. But that site — the Cesar E. Chávez National Monument and Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz National Historic Landmark in Keene, California — is narrowly tailored around the struggles of Latino farmworkers in the 20th century.

Then, of course, there's Rep. Hurd himself. A middle-of-the-road Republican who announced his retirement from Congress last year, Hurd has used his remaining months in office to push for expanding parks and landmarks in West Texas.

Just last month, for example, Hurd introduced H.R. 8093, a bill intended to make it easier for Big Bend National Park to expand by buying land from willing landowners. The bill was introduced August 22 but has not yet seen a vote, according to congressional records.

Supporters of preserving the Blackwell School were thrilled by news of the latest bill, including the National Parks Conservation Association, an independent group that pushes for community involvement in national parks decisions and has advocated on behalf of the Blackwell School Alliance.

In a statement, Theresa Pierno, president and CEO of the group, said the school "should serve as a reminder of the institutionalized racism embedded in our nation's history." And while she acknowledged the history of the site was one of injustice, she stressed that "it would also teach [visitors] about resilience."

"Like so many stories in America, Blackwell's is one of both pain and pride," Pierno added in her statement. "Who better to tell that story than the National Park Service?"

Also celebrating the news: the Blackwell School Alliance itself. In a statement, Daniel Hernandez, a Marfa local and an advisor to the alliance, described Blackwell School as an "authentic space for a much-needed conversation" around injustice and a place "to engage in dialogue, education, connection, and healing — in Marfa and far beyond."

"More than a decade ago, former students made a pact to protect the Blackwell School they knew and loved," Hernandez added. "They wanted to remember the good times and to share pride in the education they received. Yet there is no way to talk about the Blackwell School without understanding the discrimination people of Mexican descent have long faced in West Texas: divided neighborhoods, whites-only businesses and de facto segregation within our school system."

Contact Tracing

(Continued from page 1)

Besides, Todd found laws showing that Marfa, if necessary, could also appoint its own local health authority.

But there were still other issues. Though Marfa already has state and city-council permission to do contact tracing, it can't legally serve people just outside Marfa without the consent of the county.

"We're moving forward with our program," Todd said in an interview this week. But "we don't have any inherent authority to do contact tracing outside the city limits." And until the county gets on board, that means no contact tracing for neighborhoods like Sal Si Puedes, which lies just outside the city limits.

At the meeting, Teresa Todd explained the vision for the program. She called Marfa's contact-tracing efforts a "pilot program" that would be a first for a small Texas town.

"This is not a program that will replace contact tracing," she said. "It's not an either/or with the state." Instead, she said it would be a "collaborative" program that is "basically triage."

Rod Ponton, Presidio County attorney, said he was concerned the proposed agreement between Marfa and the county didn't sufficiently limit the county's liability. He also said he wanted more information on the agreement between Marfa and state health officials.

Some at the meeting expressed concern that those discussions could slow down Marfa's coronavirus response during the ongoing pandemic. "I, for one, do not want to hold up this program," said Commissioner Eloy Aranda. And David Beebe, a justice of the peace who was also present on the call, said county officials needed to "move forward" and not "second guess ourselves."

"If there's any roadblocks," Beebe added, "they need to be taken down." In the end, though, county officials decided to take the advice of their attorney and get more information. They voted to postpone those discussions until their next meeting — which barring a special meeting, will happen next week.

In an interview this week, Ponton said he was simply doing his due diligence as county attorney. "I wasn't trying to slow anything down," he said.

The agreement with Marfa "has four to five paragraphs making sure the city would have no liability for using county powers," he said. "But there's nothing in it protecting the county. What do you expect me to do?"

Judge Cinderela Guevara said in an interview that she'd be happy to call a special meeting to help speed along the process. "Hopefully we'll go ahead and make a final decision on this agenda item," she said.

But first, she said she agreed with Ponton that the county needed to make sure it had addressed any concerns around liability. "We just want to do this the right way," she said.

In the meantime, Marfa's contact-tracing plan is going forward — albeit without outlying neighbors like Sal Si Puedes for now.

Within the next week or so, Marfa officials will take out ads informing locals about the program and urging them to call contact tracers if they've had a coronavirus diagnosis or any contacts. And that, chief city contact tracer Don Culbertson says, will mark the true start to the program, because that's when local residents will know to start reaching out.

"Until that phone number's out there and published and advertised, we don't have a program," Culbertson said. "I'm simply an agent of the city; I'm not a graphic designer or a copywriter. It's up to [city leaders] to make all that happen."

Still, as a physician assistant at Marfa Clinic, Culbertson has said that he's already done some informal contact tracing as people with coronavirus diagnoses and/or contacts come into the clinic for medical advice. On Friday, for example, someone with positive coronavirus test results contacted the clinic for health advice.

That person hadn't yet been contacted by the state, Culbertson said — but Culbertson quickly jumped into action, asking the man about possible contacts. The experience was a sign, he said, that while Marfa's contact-tracing program might not be "heavily funded" like the state, it could nonetheless be more "quick and agile" in reacting to local cases.

"They're Goliath, I'm David," Culbertson said, contrasting himself with the state DSHS. "They've got the big sword and armor. I've just got a slingshot — but I can run around fast."

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2020 ELECTION DEADLINES

Resister to vote: **Oct 5**
Update registration: **Oct 5**
In-person early voting starts: **Oct 13**
Apply to vote-by-mail: **Oct 23**
In-person early voting ends: **Oct 30**
Vote by mail ballot in by: **Nov 3**
Election day: **Nov 3**



Marfa City Council Special Meeting with TxDOT Presentation

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 at 6:00

SH17 Safety Improvement Project
(Roundabout on south side of Presidio County Courthouse)
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Please go to Zoom.us and click "Join Meeting."
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The 2020 Census self-response deadline is September 30 and it's never been more important to respond. Census takers are currently out in communities to ensure a complete and accurate count. A miscount of the community risks leaving out people of color, immigrants, and other historically undercounted groups. Census data determines a state's congressional seats and federal funding for Medicare, Medicaid, and other essential resources.

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Sheriff's race

(Continued from page 1)

Drawe responding to a report of criminal trespass and arresting a man. The person who called in the report was Edward Cardoza, himself an off-duty cop.

The bodycam video opens with Drawe arresting and searching that suspect. Though the man was arrested for criminal trespass, the bodycam footage shows him in a public street. In the video, he says: "I'm just walking the street."

Meanwhile, Cardoza accuses the man of "being a nuisance" in the video. He said the man had gone "by my house four f---ing times" and was "making my dogs bark."

According to Alpine City Attorney Ponton, the incident report raises further questions about why the man was arrested.

In memos to city officials — which *The Big Bend Sentinel* obtained through a records request — Ponton said Drawe and Cardoza gave conflicting stories in a police incident report about why the man was arrested. He expressed concerns about what he called "arrests of persons without cause" by Alpine police.

"The allegations by [Alpine Police Chief Robert] Martin that the video was illegally obtained are false," Ponton wrote in one email to officials. "Alpine could be shown to be liable for a repeated pattern of police misconduct."

In a campaign statement, Drawe said the video left out "significant details" about why the man was arrested. He couldn't share those details, he wrote, because cases against the man were "still pending."

Both Drawe and Cardoza declined to comment for this story, citing the investigation into how the video was released.

"The case is still active and I cannot say anything more about it," Drawe wrote in an email to *The Big Bend Sentinel*. "I wish I could be of more assistance."

Police documents may more fully explain why the man was arrested, but *The Big Bend Sentinel* was unable to review any of those relevant police documents firsthand because Alpine police say they've asked the Texas Rangers and the Texas attorney general's office to investigate how the video was released.

In a statement, Texas Rangers said they "do not have an investigation involving these matters." The Texas attorney general's office declined to confirm or deny an investigation, as is standard policy.

In a news release last week, Alpine Police Chief Robert Martin said that "legal procedures" were "clearly violated" in the release of the video. In fact, the video does appear to have been legally released.

Martin says publishing the video was not permitted because the case is still open — but he also says he already turned it over to Brewster County Attorney Steve Houston, who prosecutes misdemeanors like trespassing. And records show Sheriff Dodson obtained the video through a records request with Houston's office, a legal way for anyone to obtain public documents. The Texas attorney general's office did not respond by press time to questions seeking more clarity on when precisely documents from criminal cases are eligible for release.

Chief Martin, also citing the investigation, declined to offer his thoughts on the arrest, the bodycam video or the alleged leak. But in the interest of fairness, he says he's asked state authorities to investigate not only the release of the bodycam video, but also the officers' conduct in the video and the circumstances behind why the man was arrested.

"I want to be transparent," Martin said in a phone interview last week. "That's why I've asked for the whole matter to be looked into."

Current Sheriff Dodson and Brewster County Attorney Houston both declined to comment for this story, also citing the new investigation.

In a memo to Alpine city officials, City Attorney Ponton said Dodson was concerned that Alpine police were arresting people without probable cause. "If a person was illegally arrested without probable cause by the Alpine Police Department, but then placed into Brewster County jail," Ponton wrote to city officials, "Brewster County would incur civil liability for the illegal detention of that person."

But Dodson is also currently facing an election against one of the officers in the video. And regardless of his reasons for requesting the footage, it soon became a political football — ending up first in the hands of one of his employees, and then on social media.

Crouch, the gun store employee, did not respond to a request for comment by press time. But in a social media post, he said the video showed how Drawe would act as sheriff.

"Is this the guy you want to be your sheriff??" Crouch wrote. He alleged the man "was arrested and charged with a class B misdemeanor for criminal trespassing and never left the public street."

In his post, Crouch also expressed concerns about how officers had spoken to the man. Both officers tell the suspect to leave town, which Crouch described as an "abuse of power." (Crouch also claimed Officer Cardoza told the man to "take yourself out," though the video shows that Cardoza instead said "protect yourself how?" after the man said he felt a need to protect himself.)

In his campaign social media post, Drawe said his remarks should be understood in context, as a stern warning to a repeat offender that "his chances were up."

"Other APD officers have dealt with this individual for similar issues," he wrote. "APD has made genuine efforts to help this individual."

This incident is just the latest controversy to emerge in the race for Brewster County sheriff. Devon Portillo, a former sheriff's office employee, initially planned to run as a Republican against incumbent Sheriff Ronny Dodson, a Democrat. But Portillo dropped out in August, months after racist social media posts from 2013 resurfaced and prompted an online petition denouncing his candidacy.

Portillo declined to comment on why he dropped out, but Monica McBride, the GOP chairwoman for Brewster County, cited personal reasons. Drawe, a current police officer and also a former sheriff's office employee, announced his own write-in candidacy and started a campaign Facebook page a few days later. "I believe in ethical law enforcement," he wrote in a social media post from August. "I have proven my personal and professional commitment to our community every day through my own actions and dedication."

With the November elections less than two months away, Alpine voters may end up choosing a new sheriff before all the facts come to light. In the meantime, Erik Zimmer, the city manager of Alpine, says he's seen no evidence of widespread misconduct at Alpine Police Department — including the arrests of people without probable cause.

"There's not been anything specific," he said. "And we've willfully asked for feedback." It remains to be seen whether there's truth behind any of these claims of wrongdoing.

Alpine City Council talks newspapers, jail admittance at heated city meeting

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — At an Alpine City Council meeting on Tuesday night, the conversation got heated as Alpine city leaders discussed a dispute around the Brewster County Jail.

Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson hasn't been allowing Alpine police suspects into the jail prior to magistration, reportedly out of concerns that people were being arrested without probable cause. But Alpine city officials stressed they have a prior agreement with Brewster County allowing them to use the jail. And local District Attorney Sandy Wilson, who gave a presentation at the meeting, said the situation was jeopardizing public safety in Alpine. As a result of not allowing police detainees in the jail, she said a suspect was able to escape from Alpine Police Department before later being caught.

Wilson named other issues too, including that the sheriff's office was using "encryption" to prevent communication with Alpine police and were refusing to "assist APD at all." She said Sheriff Dodson was "abusing his office" and suggested he may have committed a crime but did not elaborate. Dodson was not present at the meeting to address these concerns himself.

The Big Bend Sentinel reported more fully on these controversies this week, in our story entitled "In sheriff's race, bodycam video prompts controversy, possible investigation." But that dispute was hardly the only big item on the agenda. Among the other matters city officials discussed were:

Coronavirus

As always, Ekta Escovar, the local health authority for Brewster County, attended the meeting to give updates on coronavirus. She did not have particularly good news.

"Texas has fallen to the ninth-worst [state] in testing," she said. And while Brewster County hasn't seen case counts like those from its big outbreak in late June and early July, the county "had still not hit [a] downward slope" of new cases.

In fact, Escovar said, the area was seeing "another surge" in cases, which *The Big Bend Sentinel* reported on last week. The most prominent increase in new cases was for the 10-19 year-old age group, though people in their 20s were also seeing new cases. As a result of all of the challenges, Escovar said the county was currently only meeting two out of its five coronavirus metrics, "which is not great."

"We have about 16 active cases in Brewster County," Escovar said. "About half those cases are coming from Sul Ross." She also explained some of the issues around counting cases among college students, which the state counts at their permanent address (where their parents live) over their temporary address (where they're living for college).

This logic made sense, Escovar said, because the state didn't want to double-count cases — and because many college students across the state are currently taking remote classes, anyways. Still, she felt it was important for Brewster County to track cases at Sul Ross. After all, she said, those students typically live, eat and shop in Alpine.

Erik Zimmer, the city manager, asked Escovar whether she could help arrange more mobile testing in Alpine. Esovar said she'd try, and acknowledged the tri-county was a rural area without "a lot of that [healthcare] infrastructure built in if mobile testing doesn't come through."

Still, she stressed that state health officials were currently also dealing with coronavirus spikes elsewhere. "There are a lot of counties that are struggling a little bit more than we are," she said.

Paper of record

Earlier this month, as *The Big Bend Sentinel* previously reported, Alpine city leaders were considering whether to make *The Big Bend Sentinel* its new newspaper of record or to keep the *Alpine Avalanche.* In Texas, 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.

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. That paved the way for Tuesday's meeting, where city council broached the topic again.

City council voted 3-2 to keep the *Avalanche* as its paper of record. Councilmembers Ramon Olivas, Betty Fitzgerald and Lucy Escovedo voted for that measure. Councilmembers Rick Stephens and Maria Curry voted against it, instead preferring to switch to *The Big Bend Sentinel*.

Ultimately, the decision seemed to come down to hometown pride. Mayor Andy Ramos described the *Avalanche* as a "homegrown newspaper" and a local school "booster" that was "very fair in their reporting" and had served the community since 1890. The owners live and shop in Alpine, he said.

"We always talk about shopping Alpine," he said. "This is moving in the opposite direction.

"This is moving to another town," he added. "I strongly recommend that since we're always saying 'shop Alpine,' we need to stay with the *Avalanche*."

Councilmember Rick Stephens agreed that "fundamentally, I do believe the *Avalanche* ought to be the paper." But he said he was bothered that the *Avalanche* took a "combative" approach on the issue and said he thought the *Avalanche* felt they were "entitled" to be the city's paper of record and had "taken it for granted."

"I think the *Avalanche* needs to step up its game," he said — calling coverage of Alpine City Council meetings "far better" in *The Big Bend Sentinel*. "We're not served well when we have a paper that looks and says, 'I'm entitled,' as opposed to, 'I've got to earn it.'"

Congratulations to First Christian Church

Mayor Andy Ramos read a resolution congratulating First Christan Church on its 130th anniversary. The congregation was founded all the way back in June 1890 and has served the "physical, emotional and spiritual needs of Alpine for more than 130 years."

Ramos called the church a "vital part" of civic and cultural life in Alpine and said he wanted to "express the council's appreciation" for the many years of service. "Congratulations," he said, "and happy anniversary."

Another busy week for local border patrol

MARFA — Border Patrol agents across the Big Bend Sector were extremely busy last Tuesday. Several groups of people were apprehended and rescued from extreme heat conditions.

On Tuesday, September 8, Sanderson Border Patrol Station apprehended 22 camouflaged individuals who were determined to be illegally present in the United States.

During records checks, a citizen of Guatemala was flagged as a previously convicted aggravated felon for first degree rape in 2011. He is pending prosecution for re-entry of a previously deported alien, and all remaining individuals were processed per applicable immigration laws.

Elsewhere, near Sierra Blanca, agents working with the Hudspeth County Sheriff's Office responded to two 911 calls that revealed two separate groups of undocumented aliens stranded in the desert without adequate supplies and exposed to extreme temperatures.

In the first group were five Mexican citizens and three Ecuadorian citizens. In the second group were five Mexican citizens, one Honduran, and one El Salvadoran, who were processed per applicable immigration laws.

Additionally, Marfa Station agents stopped a smuggling attempt at the Highway 67 checkpoint involving four Mexicans who were illegally in the U.S.

During processing it was determined that one individual had previously been arrested on August 26, 2002, and later convicted of felony 2 sexual assault. He is pending prosecution for re-entry of a previously deported alien.





Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Here is a special message for all local citizens:
Are you ready to express your views by voting in the 2020 election?
Please make sure you are registered.
Has your address changed?
Has your name changed?
You must have a current registration by October 5 in order to vote in the November 3 election.
I am a volunteer deputy registrar, and I will be at The Sentinel coffee shop picnic table this Friday, September 18 from 9 to 11 a.m.
I will be happy to help.

Pam Breithaupt
Fort Davis

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Dear Editor,

As a former student of Sul Ross State University, I was dismayed that a very small group of student protesters, trying to capitalize on a larger movement elsewhere in the country and the world, had temporarily defaced the statute of the university's namesake, "Sully" (Lawrence Sullivan Ross).

These student protesters are attempting to negate the life long achievements and service of L.S. Ross to the State of Texas solely because he served in the 6th Texas Cavalry during the Civil War.

From the Sul Ross University Alumni Association website, other websites, and historical biographies, the following facts about Ross' service to the state includes:

- Captain in the Texas Rangers
- Sheriff of McClennan County
- Helped establish the Sheriff's Association of Texas, which still functions today
- MASON (Masonic Lodge #1300 in College Station is named after L.S. Ross)
- Member of the 1876 Texas Constitutional Convention
- State senator 1881-1883
- Two-term governor of Texas who championed public education and oversaw the construction of the new capitol building
- Supported Prairie View A&M University. He halted numerous attempts to attack the funding for Prairie View and Texas A&M, insisting on full funding for education.
- 1891 became president of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (Texas A&M). Prior to becoming president, Texas A&M was a troubled institution and was faced with closure. Under Ross' leadership, Texas A&M flourished and gained respect as an institute of learning and he encouraged the enrollment of women.
- L.S. Ross' father, Shapley Prince Ross, is considered the founder of the City of Waco.

L.S. Ross' life and career is one of the most researched and chronicled of Texans prior to 1900. Now, politically motivated and history revisionists are once again trying to attack this great citizen of Texas.

Of the recent protest, by the admission of one athlete student protester, he admitted he did not know who L.S. Ross was when he accepted an athletic scholarship, and nevertheless came to the university.

The statutes of Sullivan Lawrence Ross on the campuses of Sul Ross University and Texas A&M stand as the totality of this man's life as a great citizen of Texas and as a champion of education.

The ignorance and the arrogance continues...

It would be well to remember that Sul Ross University was originally founded as a regional center of higher learning in West Texas for students to earn teaching certificates and junior college degrees. Early in its history, Sul Ross became the cultural and educational center for the mountainous, remote Big Bend region. It is advisable that Sul Ross University should consider refocusing its scholarship program for awarding to appreciative students and residents of West Texas.

In a 2019 quote by Texas Senator Brandon Creighton, "Our history is part of who we are and part of the story of Texas, but history is never just one person's account. We've seen a trend across the nation and the world where controversial monuments are removed and destroyed ... I fear that we'll look back and regret that this was a period where deleting history was more important than learning from it."

Kelly Crunk
Kerrville

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Dear Editor,

People who want to see the local economy improve might consider that encouraging more consistent mask use could help that.

We believe that masks currently help us all be safer, so when we go into a business where masks aren't worn by all, or are worn below the nose by customers, staff or clerks, we are likely to turn around and leave.

There are other would-be shoppers that say the same thing.

Pam Gaddis and Betty Gaddis Yndo
Alpine

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Dear Editor,

On October 22, 1962, I watched President Kennedy inform the nation that the Soviet Union had placed a number of nuclear missiles in Cuba, 90 miles from the U.S. that could have resulted in the annihilation of many of the major cities in the country. Did America panic? I didn't and I knew no one who did. Why not? I suppose because I and most of America had confidence in the competent leadership of President Kennedy.

On the other hand, if Donald Trump had been president, he would have told no one because we might panic and then done nothing to remove the missiles. Why not? Well, maybe he wanted to build something in Moscow, or maybe he was afraid Khrushchev would get mad and bang his shoe on his desk at the United Nations. Or maybe the Russians had something embarrassing on the Trump family. Or maybe he just wouldn't have had the courage it takes to actually be a leader.

So much for Trump's utterly stupid claim that he lied to America about the coronavirus because he didn't want to cause a panic.

The real issue now, though, is why he is still not telling the truth while 200,000 people die. If he just told people to wear a mask, it would save lives. But it seems he has this morbid desire to test his supporters' loyalty. Or is it their gullibility? So, I'll go ahead and say what a lot of people are thinking: if Trump's supporters don't believe they can get sick and possibly die, well, that's their problem. Our problem with that attitude is that scores, if not thousands, of the rest of us can become infected because a few people believe Donald Trump. And that is a travesty.

Finally, as a "loser" and "sucker," i.e. a four-year Vietnam-era veteran, I am absolutely appalled when I see a Veterans For Trump sign. How can he possibly deserve any support from veterans when he has no respect for us or what we did?

Fred Gossien
Terlingua

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Dear Editor,

I am a proud Sul Ross Alumni. I wear my -SR- with pride. And I am aware of the association of Sul Ross, in name, to Lawrence Sullivan Ross. However, I do not look upon my school as an exclusive or divisive college. In fact, I see Sul Ross as the exact opposite of that. The campus has always been a mix of students and faculty, a place where all walks of life have received an equal education, a place that has brought people together from different backgrounds.

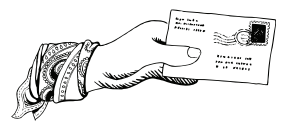
To the students calling to change the name, I ask them to pause and think about the opportunity before them. Our school is not Lawrence Sullivan Ross State University, and while the original intent may have been to honor this man, our school, Sul Ross State University has become its own identity, apart from the man.

This is the opportunity before us. To keep this name, Sul Ross, as our own, to claim it as our own, associate with the positive opportunities and experiences that have been provided to its very diverse students, and to ensure that future generations can hear the name Sul Ross, and not think of a man, but instead think of a college that has opened its doors to students of every ethnic, economic, political and social background.

Erasing or changing the name does not undo the history of Lawrence Sullivan Ross. But this is OUR school, our name, and his history is not ours. Sul Ross, and the -SR- belong to us. We can educate generations about this man, explain his contributions AND his faults, and then explain how our school rose above these faults to become known as a place of inclusion and diversity, a place where all are welcomed. Instead of trying to forget, or erase history, we have an opportunity to not only educate about the history, but also own, grow and create history. We can take the name Sul Ross and make it our beacon of diversity, our legacy.

Joanna Hill
El Paso

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Dear Editor,

In response to the letter to the editor from Randy Jackson printed in the 09/10/2020 edition of *The Big Bend Sentinel* regarding the conduct of Marfa police officers during a traffic stop that occurred on Saturday, September 5, 2020, as chief of police, I, Estevan Marquez, received a forwarded email from the City of Mafa mayor containing the same letter printed in this week's paper. The letter had been sent to the mayor and other local officials by Mr. Jackson on Tuesday, September 9, 2020. Upon receiving the email, I immediately contacted the officers and reviewed the body cameras associated with the traffic stop.

After review of the camera footage, I found that Mr. Jackson's recount of the traffic stop was inaccurate. The referenced vehicle was not a car but in fact a red Dodge pickup truck. The officers initiated the traffic stop due to the vehicle traveling at 58-mph in a 40-mph zone. The recorded speed was 18-mph above the posted speed limit, rather than the "5-mph or so" which Mr. Jackson stated in the letter.

Mr. Jackson stated in his letter that the officers had opened and searched the trunk of the car, which was not accurate due to the vehicle being a pickup truck, which does not have a trunk. The bed of the truck was not searched, nor underneath the vehicle. Officer Carillo did check for the presence of both front and back license plates as is standard procedure.

The letter then states all occupants of the vehicle were required to stand outside of the vehicle and present identification. After careful review of the body cam footage, I was able to observe that at no time were the occupants of the vehicle asked to step out or taken outside of the vehicle. The officers did request the identification of the driver and another passenger who was not wearing a seatbelt.

The backseat passenger was issued a warning for no seatbelt. The driver was issued a citation for the excessive speed. Officers clearly explained the reason for the stop and citation. When questioned by the chief, both officers stated that at the time of the stop, due to the speed, dark window tint, and the fact that the traffic stop occurred at nighttime, both officers did not have prior knowledge of the race, ethnicity or gender of the driver or occupants.

No complaints of officer misconduct from the driver or occupants have been filed with the Marfa Police Department. This letter, as well as the video footage of the traffic stop, have been provided to *The Big Bend Sentinel*. The Marfa Police Department will take any complaints of officer misconduct very seriously, investigations will be conducted, and officers involved will be held accountable. Thank you.

Estevan Marquez
Marfa Police Chief

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Dear readers,

Last week we published a letter that alleged visitors to town had experienced poor practices during a traffic stop by Marfa police. After reviewing footage of the traffic stop, we've learned that the statements made in the letter misrepresented the incident.

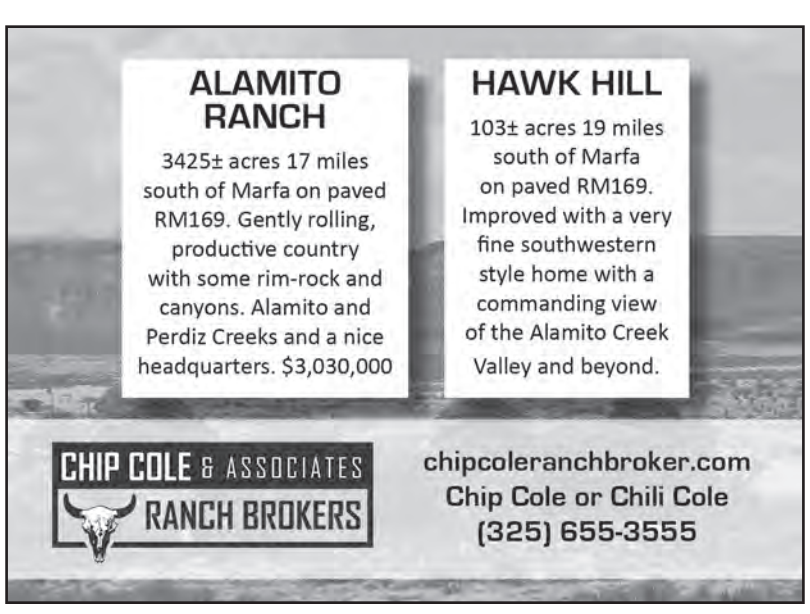
After speaking with MPD, we asked them to further explain what happened and Police Chief Estevan Marquez has submitted a letter in this issue. We apologize for publishing something we did not first confirm as fact.

With that in mind, we are requesting letter writers to provide certain information with their submissions:

- Letters should be sent to editor@bigbendsentinel.com, and must provide the writer's full name, city of residence and an email or phone number, so that we may follow up and verify information as needed.
- Your letters may be edited for clarity and brevity. While opinions of all kinds are welcome, when it comes to claims of fact, we strive to only publish what is verifiable.
- We have limited staff capacity to fact check unsubstantiated claims, so letters that include those may be held or remain unpublished if information is not easily verifiable.
- We may reach out to ask questions and verify the identity of the sender. We do not run letters anonymously unless the sender is privately identified and has a reasonable claim to anonymity.

We reserve the right to hold or refrain from publishing a letter for any reason and we thank you for always sharing your letters with us.

The Big Bend Sentinel Editorial Staff



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Dear Editor,

There is some backlash against the Black Lives Matter protests because there has been vandalism and looting occurring, but the vast majority have been completely peaceful. What many of us forget is that for a significant part of U.S. history, Black Lives did not matter. In our country today there are still obstacles for some Black people to get ahead compared to their white counterparts.

I applaud the Black Lives Matter protests while opposing the criminal activity that sometimes accompanies the protests. In many cases it is unclear who is doing that, and in more and more cases, the organizers of the protests are trying to stop the vandalism. Here in Alpine we had a very peaceful walk from the Civic Center down Holland Avenue and over to the Courthouse Park.

Roger J. Siglin
Alpine

• • •

Dear Editor,

Next

When the knock on the door isn't Amazon delivering, we're beyond the point of no return! Better not cross the line of whatever Great Leader and uncouth minions consider is "right."

Why would we be any less susceptible when the president supports an extra-judicial killing by the U.S. Marshals of an Antifa supporter who killed a pro-Trump, right-wing counterprotester in Portland? Others among his supporters rationalize ruthlessness to advance their sense of "justice." In Jim Crow South, Blacks were lynched with the same zeal.

What was the Inaugural oath? Evil's harbinger is that Trump doesn't care about Constitutional rule of law, due process or innocent-until-proven-guilty.

What do the rest of us believe? What is your core value as citizens of a Constitutional republic? We had a Revolution to establish sound principles as a step forward in the relationship between the governed and government.

It is well-past time to get our commitment to our values checked and updated. Sadly, the average American's lack of knowledge and/or commitment to the basics make Trump's authoritarianism possible.

Next comes the disappearances and rumors of torture. Roaming freely are the paramilitary Death Squads. Bodies in ditches are "fair notice." That comes about when loving America that hard makes the Constitution disappear too!

Rev. Barry Abraham Zavah
Alpine

• • •

Statement by Pete Gallego, president of Sul Ross State University

"Over the last few days, Sul Ross State University has received inquiries regarding discussions on campus about the name of our university. I'm not aware of any organized effort or 'movement' to change our university's name.

"While I appreciate the fact that Sul Ross means different things to different people – it is important to keep in mind that this university was named by the Texas Legislature; and, therefore, only the Legislature can change the university's name.

"Sul Ross is a member of the Texas State University System. The rules and regulations of our system are clear on the issue of free speech:

> 'Any group or person, whether or not a student or employee, and whether or not invited by a registered student, faculty, or staff organization, may assemble and engage in free speech activities on the grounds of the campus.'
> https://www.tsus.edu/tsus-rules-and-regulations/chapter-7/speech-and-assembly.html

"As a center of learning, Sul Ross State University encourages and celebrates free speech – and whenever people in a democracy such as ours express their opinions, we view it as something to be proud of. After all, many people throughout history have died to give their fellow Americans the right of free speech.

"As we celebrate freedom and democracy, so we must also celebrate free speech – even when we don't agree with the speech itself.

"The conversations on race and racism among our diverse student body are no different in substance from conversations being held throughout the country. However, in practice, the conversations on this campus are significantly different. Here, the conversations are unfailingly respectful, polite, and inclusive.

"Our university is home to a diverse group of students of all backgrounds, races, ethnicities and opinions. Those of us in Alpine benefit from having a public university in our community. We reciprocate by being gracious hosts. Sul Ross State University is an important part of Alpine, but it belongs to **all** the people of Texas."

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From the archives:
THE RAMBLING BOY

Few Confederate monuments in the Big Bend, but Wild Rose County has a certain ring to it

By LONN TAYLOR

Editor's note: This year is not the first time Confederate namesakes have entered the public conversation. As the community dialogue has reignited, we looked to our archives to see what the late historian Lonn Taylor had to say on the matter. This column originally ran in* The Big Bend Sentinel *on August 24, 2017.

For the past two years this nation has been racked by controversy about Confederate monuments and buildings named after Confederates.

As a historian, I have always been opposed to removing statues and changing names, thinking that it was futile to try to erase the past. But last May, when three Confederate monuments were taken down in New Orleans, Mayor Mitch Landrieu made a speech that changed my thinking. Landrieu said that the statues of Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, and P.G.T. Beauregard were not "innocent remembrances of a benign history," but instead were erected in the early 20th century to reinforce the doctrine of white supremacy, "to send a strong message to all who walked in their shadow about who still is in charge in this city." He said the statues celebrated "a fictional, sanitized Confederacy, ignoring the death, the enslavement, the terror, that it actually stood for." Landrieu was right. Americans are still having a hard time coming to grips with the consequences of our country having been a republic of slave-owners.

Because the Big Bend was hardly settled during the Civil War, we have few Confederate monuments here. But we do have some potentially embarrassing names. Fort Davis, of course, was named after Jefferson Davis, but it was named for him long before he was the president of the Confederacy. When the post on Limpia Creek was established in October, 1854, Davis was President Franklin Pierce's secretary of war, and General Persifor Smith essentially named the new fort after his boss, which you can hardly blame a man for doing. It remained Fort Davis even after the Civil War when Davis was in disgrace. The army abandoned the fort in 1891, but by then the name had been transferred to the town that grew up around it. If anyone wants to change it, I will offer up the fact that before General Smith officially named the post for Davis, it was known to the army as Painted Comanche Camp.

The origin of Jeff Davis County's name is a little harder to pinpoint. The county was originally part of Presidio County, whose perfectly innocuous name comes from the old Spanish Presidio (fort) del Norte at what is now Ojinaga, Chihuahua. In 1887 the state legislature created four new counties out of part of Presidio County, and named one of them Jeff Davis County. There is some indication that the legislature intended the name as a slap in the face of the Republicans and Union army veterans who made up the bulk of the population around Fort Davis. Ira Bush, who practiced medicine in Fort Davis in the early 1890s, wrote in his memoir, *Gringo Doctor,* that when the bill to create the county came up in the legislature, "One bright young solon rose and said, 'Gentlemen, that new county is composed mostly of Republicans and I propose that we name the county Jeff Davis County so that those blankety blank Republicans will have to write his name every time they write a letter.'" What is certain is that in 1889 the Jeff Davis Chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Union army veteran's association, passed a resolution saying that their chapter was named in honor of Union General Jefferson Columbus Davis and not the former president of the Confederacy. Jefferson C. Davis was famous in the army for fatally shooting his commanding officer in a fit of temper and completely escaping punishment, although he ended his career as commander of the Department of Alaska. It may be that the name Jeff Davis County was imposed on its citizens against their will. Should we change it, and if so, to what?

There is definitely a precedent for changing county names in Texas. Walker County, of which Huntsville is the county seat, was originally named for Mississippi Senator Robert J. Walker, who introduced the resolution recognizing the independence of Texas from Mexico into the United States Senate in 1837 and was a strong champion of annexation over the next nine years. But Robert Walker remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War and served as a financial agent for the Lincoln administration in Europe. In 1863, the Texas legislature passed a resolution denouncing Walker as "ungrateful to the people who had honored him" and declaring that Walker County would henceforth be considered to be named for Texas Ranger Samuel H. Walker, who was killed in Mexico in 1847.

There are 254 counties in Texas and 38 of them are named after men who served the Confederacy, including Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, John Bell Hood and Jefferson Davis' vice president, Alexander Stephens. An additional county, Val Verde, is named after a Confederate victory in New Mexico. Rather than change the names of all 39 of them, perhaps we should just reconsider the whole matter of naming counties after people and number them instead. The legislature could then argue about whether to number them in the order in which they were created, or from east to west, or west to east, or by size (in which case Jeff Davis could be County Number Ten). This would give the legislature something to do instead of arguing about what bathrooms people could use.

An even better idea might be to rename all of Texas' counties after the plants and trees that are found in them. We already have a Live Oak County, a Pecan (Nueces) County and a Cypress (Sabine) County, why not add 251 more botanical names? Jeff Davis County could become Wild Rose County, after the bushes that gave Wild Rose Pass its name back in the 1840s. Or, better yet, Agave County, after the half dozen species of agave that grow here. That would be far superior to Number Ten and would put us at the head of the alphabetical list of counties in the Texas Almanac.

Jeff Davis was not a pleasant man. Sam Houston, who served in the U.S. Senate with him, once described him as being "proud as Satan and so cold that a drop of his blood would freeze a frog." Think about it, folks. Had you rather live in a county named for a man like that or in one named after a noble plant like the agave?

Lonn Taylor (1940-2019) was a historian, writer and longtime columnist who lived in Fort Davis.

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Opinions Continued

PETE'S PERIÓDICO

The importance of education in Senate District 19

By SEN. PETE FLORES
Senate District 19

No doubt this school year looks drastically different than expected. As students and teachers return to the classroom — physically and virtually — I am incredibly proud of the schools in Senate District 19. I am also very proud of the hard work we did last legislative session to support Texas public education.

Many called the most recent session the "education session" because of our significant work on school finance and property tax reform. The school finance system was in dire need of reform and drastically underfunded. We started with the largest student allotment increase in a decade — from $5,140 to $6,160 per student. This money goes straight to students, classrooms and teachers. I voted for every increase to public education funding. It is a top priority of mine to ensure we maintain this funding during the next legislative session.

In addition to increasing the amount schools receive per student, we allocated $2 billion for dynamic pay raises for teachers, librarians, counselors and nurses, including $140 million for a merit pay program to reward good teachers with better pay. As a coauthor of Senate Bill 12, we provided a one-time supplemental check up to $2,000 for eligible retirees under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. The Legislature also allocated funds to preserve current health care insurance costs, avoiding a spike in prices for retired educators.

Public education has never been more important. Across Senate District 19, teachers and administrators are selflessly serving our students, upholding the Texas Constitutional mandate to provide an "efficient system of public free schools." As a sibling of six public school teachers, and a public school student and parent myself, I voted to support public education at every level.

In Texas, public education is a right. In the United States, voting is a right. The deadline to register to vote in Texas is Monday, October 5. To register to vote in Texas, simply complete a voter registration application and return it to your county election office. A registration application, and more information on registering to vote, can be found at the website below.

Eligible Texans are able to vote early by mail; the deadline to apply for a ballot by mail is Friday, October 23. In order to be eligible, a voter must: be 65 years or older; be disabled; be out of the county on Election Day and during the period for early voting by personal appearance; or be confined in jail, but otherwise eligible. Call 1-800-252-VOTE or visit the following website for more information: www.votetexas.gov.

In efforts to create more voting opportunities, Governor Greg Abbott signed an executive order to extend the early voting period by six days. Early voting for the November 3 general election now begins on Tuesday, October 13 and ends Friday, October 30. The Governor's goal is to give voters greater flexibility and reduce crowding at polls.

I encourage all Senate District 19 constituents to stay safe as we weather this pandemic together. Next time you see a teacher, peace officer, firefighter, military veteran, or other first responder around town, show them gratitude for their service. They need our encouragement now more than ever.

Sen. Pete Flores is a Republican Texas Senator representing Senate District 19. To contact Sen. Flores, call his Capitol office at (512) 463-0119 or send an email to District19.Flores@senate.texas.gov. For daily updates, follow him on Facebook: /SenatorPeteFlores and on Twitter: @PeteFlores_TX.



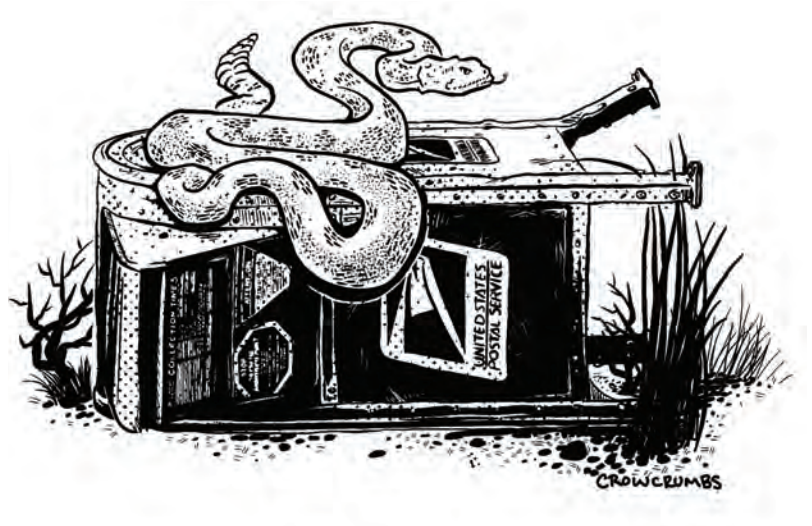




HIGH DESERT SKETCHES

The Postal Service, Social Security and voter suppression

By GEORGE A. COVINGTON



"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds," unless they are unfortunate enough to work for the United States Postal Service, in which case, they are embroiled in two of the three major social issues of today. These workers have also seen 245 years of tradition and public service tarnished thanks to President Tweet and his band of merry Tweetsters.

In the past month, grievances from across the country have poured into Congress complaining of long delays and receiving everything from thousands of dead baby chicks to time-sensitive vital medicines for disabled vets. The media uncovered the fact that 671 high speed mail sorters have been taken offline, but local post offices were told not to pay overtime to deliver the mail that was stacking up.

Attempts to cripple the USPS began in earnest in 2006 when Congress decided that the agency must set aside five billion dollars a year to guarantee long-term retirement benefits, thus explaining why today the agency is more than 100 billion dollars in debt. Privatizing the post office has been the dream of many Republicans for more than half a century, and it is interesting to note that the new postmaster general, who ordered the delivery slowdown, is heavily invested in companies that are in the delivery business.

If you are doubtful that politics are involved, it has been disclosed that USPS Board of Governors Chairman Robert M. Duncan (who hired DeJoy), is director of Mitch McConnell's 130 million dollar Political Action Committee Senate Leadership fund. Throw in the fact that President Tweet has done everything in his power to suppress voting by mail. He even suggested that after mailing in your ballot, go to the polls and check to see if you can vote again. When questioned, White House staffers attempted to walk the statement back and say it was quoted out of context by the media. President Tweet is the first chief executive in history to have a "walk-back" bunch, whose subtext is, "It's always the media's fault."

Privatizing the post office has been on the agenda almost as long as privatizing Social Security. In past columns I have warned that President Tweet is going to claim his 1.5 trillion dollar tax cut bill will be used as an excuse to claim we couldn't afford Social Security. In an executive order, he told the American people he was giving them tax relief by not collecting payroll taxes that go directly to support Social Security benefits. In fact, those taxes will have to be repaid next January to the tune of 1 billion dollars. He has stated that if re-elected, he would forgive the repayments; what he does not say is Social Security will not receive that 1 billion dollars.

On more than one occasion in the past, Wall Street has offered to take the Social Security Trust Fund and invest it for the people of America. If this had been the case in 2008, when the stock market crashed, Social Security recipients would be sharing kibble with their pets.

The Postal Service and threats against Social Security are but one of the many elements the president has used in his campaign for voter suppression. Any attempt to open accessibility to more voters is met with the same refrain, "it will lead to greater fraud." It seems ironic with all of his six corporate bankruptcies, that President Tweet would ever want to use the word "fraud."

Lest we forget that Tweet established a national commission on voter fraud that abolished itself because it could find no glaring examples. The Heritage Foundation claims to have found 1,285 cases of fraud from hundreds of millions of votes cast. They seem to easily ignore the fact that since the 1868 passage of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, millions of African Americans have been denied the vote or even the opportunity to vote.

Congresswoman Ilhan Omar recently stated, "As we speak, we are in the midst of an ongoing uprising over centuries of racial neglect and oppression … we can't talk about the protests in Minneapolis or Kenosha … without first looking inward."

Many of Tweetster's supporters have labeled Omar's quotes as radical and left wing. They seem to have forgotten a statement by Martin Luther King Jr. in 1966. He stated, "And I must say tonight that a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it America has failed to hear? ... It has failed to hear that the promises of freedom and justice have not been met. And it has failed to hear that large segments of white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice and humanity."

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.

NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of 0.107077 per $100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of the BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	$0.107077 per $100
NO-NEW REVENUE TAX RATE	$0.107077 per $100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	$0.116902 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 BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT from the same properties in both the 2019 tax year and the 2020 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT exceeds the voter-approval tax rate for BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2020 tax year.

A public meeting to vote on the proposed tax rate will be held on September 24, 2020 at 5:30 PM at the BBRHD Administrative offices located at 105 W. Holland Ave, Alpine, TX.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the DIRECTORS of BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

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

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

The members of the governing body voted on the proposed tax rate as follows:

FOR: S. Buddy Cavness, SMD 4; Alfredo Armendariz, SMD 1; Angela Juett, SMD 5; James "Cuatro" White, SMD 2; and Greg Hennington, SMD 3

AGAINST: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

The 86th Texas 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 BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT this year:

	2019	2020	Change
Total Tax Rate (per $100 of value)	$0.110758	$0.107077	*decrease of* $0.003681 OR 3.32%
Average homestead taxable value	$100,000	$100,000	*decrease of* 0.00%
Tax on average homestead	$110.76	$107.08	*decrease of* $3.68 OR 3.32%
Total tax levy on all properties	$1,510,613,701	$1,572,866,533	*increase of $62,252,832* OR 4.121%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT at the Brewster County Tax Assessor office at 432-837-2214 or taxassessorcollector@brewstercotad.org or visit www.brewstercountytx.org.

Community

Hundreds of burritos, scoops of ice cream and gift cards up for grabs for last-minute census respondents

TRI-COUNTY – There are hundreds of rewards being raffled off for those who sign up to fill out the census before its September 30 deadline.

Last week in Presidio County only one in every four households had responded to the census. The final 2010 numbers were almost double that, and after coronavirus slowed down count efforts, local officials are working hard to make up for lost time.

Shelley Bernstein, an organizer with Marfa Steps Up and a member of the complete count committee, started doing the math. "I was like, wait a minute, we can't lose millions of dollars coming into the county over the next years because of the count," she said. In speaking with Rainer Judd, the board president of Judd Foundation, the foundation teamed up with Marfa Steps Up to collect phone numbers of anyone who has not been counted, so that census workers could reach out and help them finish the count.

From that partnership, efforts were inspired in other local towns, leading to prize offerings in Fort Davis, Alpine and Presidio too.

"The count closes on the 30th, the giveaway closes on the 29th," Bernstein said. "We need people to sign up earlier than that to get counted."

Marfa Steps Up and the Judd Foundation partnered with the Rio Grande Council of Government's Far West Texas census effort to help get the census count up by offering a really big food giveaway.

Among the Marfa prizes are five $50 Convenience West BBQ gift cards, five $50 Porter's gift cards, 150 Marfa Burritos and 30 large DQ Blizzards.

Peggy O'Brien, the COG's Get Out the Count coordinator, has found that collecting phone numbers is an "easy and really effective outreach method, so we are building on it," said Bernstein.

People enter their number on a form and census workers call. This helps the census staffers connect with people quickly without the need to have physical contact, and census staff can walk people through how to respond over the phone giving them the support they need.

Households who haven't completed the census can follow the link for their town and enter their phone number to be entered to win prizes.

190 prizes including barbecue, burritos, Porter's, DQ:
Marfa Counts (English): https://bit.ly/marfacounts
Marfa Cuenta (Español)l: https://bit.ly/marfacuenta
$100 worth of food and non-alcoholic beverages at The Bean Cafe:
Presidio Counts (English): http://bit.ly/presidiocounts
Presidio Cuenta (Español): http://bit.ly/presidiocuenta
One of 30 coupons for a double scoop of ice cream at the Fort Davis Drug Store:
Fort Davis Counts (English): http://bit.ly/fortdaviscounts
Fort Davis Cuenta (Español): http://bit.ly/fortdaviscuenta
One of 30 coupons for a double scoop of ice cream at Plaine:
Alpine Counts (English): http://bit.ly/alpinecounts
Alpine Cuenta (Español): http://bit.ly/alpinecuenta

Help make sure every household gets counted in the U.S. Census by September 30 and win prizes along the way. Getting counted is easy — use the link to enter your phone number. Census workers will call and you'll automatically be entered to win.

NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of $0.55300 per $100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of PRESIDIO COUNTY.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	$0.55300 per $100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	$0.55648 per $100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	$0.55300 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 PRESIDIO COUNTY from the same properties in both the 2019 tax year and the 2020 tax year.

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

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that PRESIDIO COUNTY is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2020 tax year.

A PUBLIC MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 9:30am at the Presidio County Courthouse, 300 N. Highland, in the County Judge's Office, Marfa, Texas 79843. The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, PRESIDIO COUNTY is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the COMMISSIONERS COURT of PRESIDIO COUNTY at their offices or by attending the public meeting 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 proposed tax rate or, if one or more were absent, indicating absences.)

FOR the proposal: Cinderela Guevara, Presido County Judge; Brenda Bentley, Commissioner Pct 1; Eloy Aranda, Commissioner Pct 2; Jose Cabezuela, Commissioner Pct 3; Frank "Buddy" Knight, Commissioner Pct 4
AGAINST the proposal: NONE
PRESENT and not voting: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

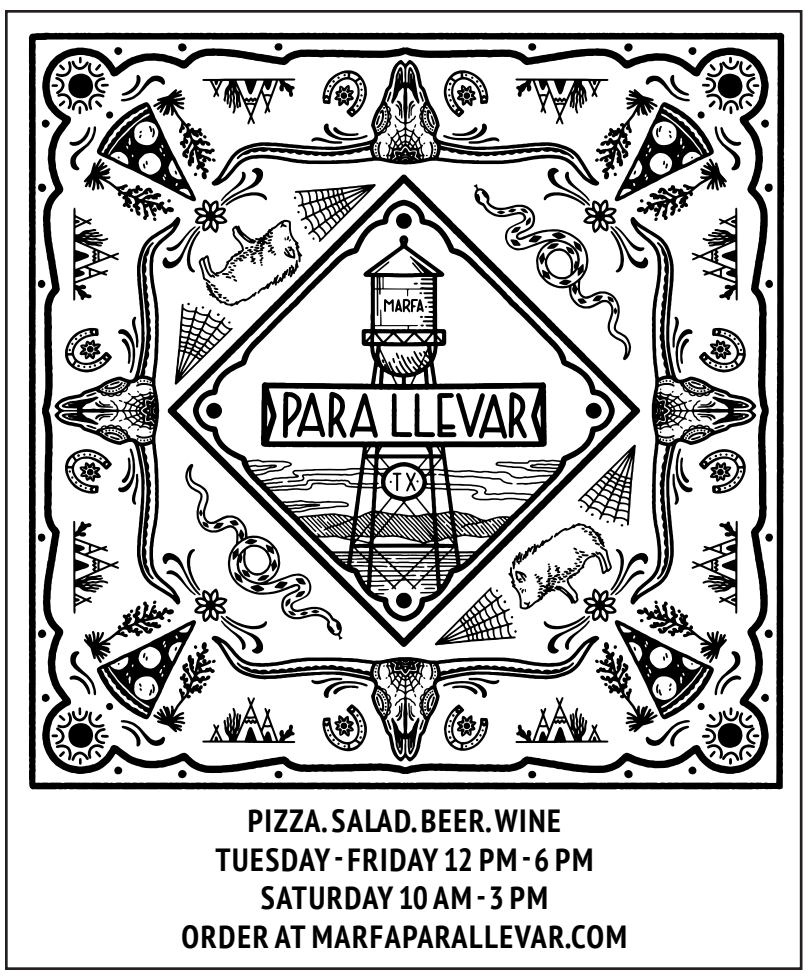
The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by PRESIDIO COUNTY last year to the taxes proposed to the be imposed on the average residence homestead by PRESIDIO COUNTY this year.

	2019	2020	Change
Total tax rate (per $100 of value)	$0.60425	$0.55300	8.48% decrease
Average homestead taxable value	$62,543	$65,671	5.0% increase
Tax on average homestead	$377.92	$363.16	3.91% decrease
Total tax levy on all properties	$3,570,151	$3,530,099	1.12% decrease

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

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for PRESIDIO COUNTY at 432-729-4081 or natalia.williams.pctac@co.presidio.tx.us, or visit www.co.presidio.tx.us for more information.



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

MARFA 12 STEP MEETINGS ONLINE

Go to zoom.us or download the app:
ACA - *Thursday 5:30 PM*
https://tinyurl.com/y7qyghga
Al Anon. - *Sunday 2:00 PM*
https://tinyurl.com/yd78lsa6
AA - *Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,*
https://tinyurl.com/y6okgzry
AA - *Friday 6:00 PM*
https://tinyurl.com/yxw5bsu6
AA - *Saturday 12:00 Noon*
https://tinyurl.com/yafles7y

CITY OF MARFA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR CITY ENGINEERING SERVICES

The City of Marfa, Texas will consider proposals for routine City Engineering services. The services requested are: (1) review of zoning submittals, subdivision plats, building permits, site plans, development plans, construction plans, development agreements, and other submittals; (2) being on-call to city staff for general consulting; and (3) other engineering and planning services as mutually agreed upon by the parties.

Interested individual(s) or firms should submit a written proposal to City Manager Mandy Roane via email, regular mail, delivery service, or hand delivery to City Hall (mail slot or by appointment). The written proposal should include a proposed contract and a schedule of fees (including amount of monthly retainer, if any), along with a list of current and former clients in far west Texas. **Proposals must be received at the following address no later than 4:00 pm (CDT) on September 21, 2020**:

City of Marfa
RFP City Engineering Services
Attn: Mandy Roane
mroane@cityofmarfa.com
113 S. Highland Avenue
P.O. Box 787 (USPS address)
Marfa, TX 79843

The City of Marfa reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, and to waive any irregularities contained in the proposal(s) or the process. The proposal deemed most advantageous and in the best interest of the City shall be selected. Selection is contingent upon proof of professional liability coverage for errors and omissions.

The City of Marfa will not be responsible in the event that the U.S. Postal Service or any other carrier or email system fails to deliver the proposal to the City by the given deadline above.

CITY OF MARFA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR MUNICIPAL RECYCLING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The City of Marfa, Texas will consider proposals for Municipal Recycling Transportation Services. The services requested are the delivery of various recyclable materials, including cardboard and aluminum, from the Marfa Recycling Center to a licensed recycling center in El Paso or elsewhere as mutually agreed upon by the parties. Individuals submitting a proposal must supply all equipment necessary for transport of recyclables, such as a suitable pick-up truck and trailer or other similar equipment appropriate for hauling.

Interested individual(s) should submit a written proposal to Interim City Manager Mandy Roane via email, regular mail, delivery service, or hand delivery to City Hall (mail slot or by appointment). **Proposals must received at the following address no later than 4:00 pm (CDT) on September 17, 2020**:

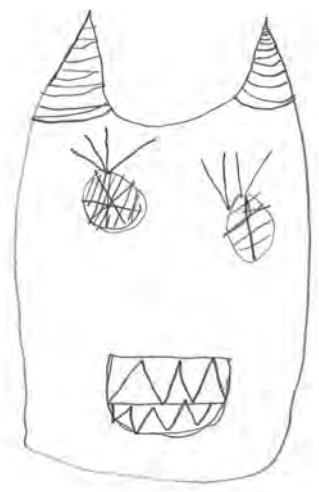
City of Marfa
RFP Recycling Transportation Services
Attn: Mandy Roane
mroane@cityofmarfa.com
113 S. Highland Avenue
P.O. Box 787 (USPS address)
Marfa, TX 79843

The City of Marfa reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, and to waive any irregularities contained in the proposal(s) or the process. The proposal deemed most advantageous and in the best interest of the City shall be selected. Selection is contingent upon proof of sufficient comprehensive auto liability insurance coverage and signature of contract with the City of Marfa, including a release and waiver of liability in favor of the City of Marfa.

The City of Marfa will not be responsible in the event that the U.S. Postal Service or any other carrier or email system fails to deliver the proposal to the City by the given deadline above.

Community

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Mask by Haylie
Marfa Elementary School

Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering will be 'virtual' next year

ALPINE — The Board of the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering voted to postpone its February 2021 in-person Gathering until February 2022. Until then, Lone Star will broadcast one or more 90-minute professionally produced "virtual" Cowboy Poetry events.

The February 2020 inaugural Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Alpine was a decisive success with more than 2,100 in attendance. Then, within weeks of the inaugural Lone Star Gathering the pandemic hit, producing uncertainty for 2021's Gathering in Alpine.

"We believe a series of Virtual Cowboy Poetry Events will keep the Gathering alive, fresh and actually happening, although in a different form, and get us through the pandemic, however long it continues," Event Producer Bob Saul of Fort Worth said. The board approved a plan Thursday evening to begin filming for one or more virtual events. Saul said he discussed the idea of producing online poetry gatherings with co-chairs Gene and Kay Nowell and with John and Erika Moore, who all have years of experience producing live and online shows, both as producers and performers.

"The internet has been crucial for keeping the arts alive and in the public eye through these trying times," John Moore said. "The internet has also proven to be the most beneficial avenue for musicians, artists and events to bring in some degree of income as well," said Kay Nowell. "We will also be able to promote our beautiful home of Alpine and Sul Ross State University as well as stories and insights from the performers that defines their uniqueness and gives rise to their art. This will whet the appetite for our next in-person Gathering in Alpine," Gene Nowell added.

The Gathering has plans for a series of online cowboy poetry events. Each 90-minute virtual event will showcase three or four performers. Viewing will be accessed via ticket purchase. Members will get free or reduced-priced tickets. Fans can watch events of their choice over the span of the series.

"Hopefully, we will be back to an in-person event in February 2022, but this can get us over the hump," Saul said. "This is possibly a blessing in disguise, because it provides the potential to reach a much larger audience, both geographically and generationally, than our in-person annual Gathering has allowed," he said. "It is not a replacement, but an enhancement and will call attention to the beautiful Alpine area as well."

Marfa Meats brings meat processing back to town

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com



Photo courtesy of Christy Miller

Christy Miller stands outside her property, the future home of her processing plant Marfa Meats.

MARFA — It has been half a century since meat processing has had a home in Marfa, but a new project dubbed Marfa Meats hopes to bring back the industry, connecting local cattle with consumers. Hailing from Indiana, Christy Miller comes from a background not in ranching, but finance. She arrived in Marfa five years ago, has slowly planted her feet in town full time and now is undertaking a meat processing plant project on Highway 90, west of town.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, almost 84,000 cattle called the tri-county home in 2017, and driving around the area, they are not hard to see. So last year, Miller started wondering, "Why can't I get a local steak?"

On a hot afternoon in late August, Miller stood on her land west of town, recalling how exactly she came to the decision to learn the meat processing trade and make the big investment in launching a plant. The property, which boasts a house, some open land and a defunct tennis court, is the future home of Marfa Meats.

The first rancher she contacted was a cold call to Ellery Aufdengarten, Miller recalled. "He was just such a huge champion of mine," she said. "He was the catalyst for me making connections with so many people in the ranching community that I didn't know before."

"I talked to so many people who were like, 'Oh God, that's going to be so hard,' and 'There's so much regulation,' or, 'Oh, there used to be one in Alpine but they closed down – too much trouble.'" Miller said without early support, she might have given up.

Instead, she turned to Sul Ross State to discover whether she could stomach the more gruesome aspects of turning a cattle into a steak. At Sul Ross, she audited a class and was given the chance to watch, and then carry out slaughters in the Sul Ross Meat Lab. With hands-on experience under her belt, a visit to a processor in the Pacific Northwest bearing a mentality of using every part of the animal led Miller to marry the sterile processing plant with a more holistic approach.

While some plants throw away many parts of the animal, Miller wants to create opportunities downstream from her business, be it someone tanning leather or turning bones into dog bones. She plans to compost much of the byproduct on site.

She said Aufdengarten would remind her that the plant was needed and wanted in the area. Sales channels are limited for ranchers, who often sell to meat packing places or feed lots at commodity pricing.

Andrew Costello, a rancher in Marathon working on the Stovall Ranch, along with his business-minded girlfriend Kayla Duff, launched Big Bend Beef this year, selling cuts of meat directly to consumers. "I've been a rancher a long time and we're screwed out of a lot of the profits, so we're trying to make a little bit more off these cattle," Costello said. While sending cattle to auction is "pretty easy," Costello said, "feeding people feels a little better."

"The issue for selling beef is, you hear about a meat shortage, but there's not, there's a processor shortage," Costello said.

While Big Bend Beef relies on a processing plant almost four hours away in Uvalde, other operations closer to the tri-county include a processor in Fort Stockton, which offers custom processing but closes part of the year for deer season, limiting their capacity, and a plant in Mertson that is booked out until next August.

Costello said processing is a major stumbling block for his fledgling business. "We're not even sure if, after all is said and done, we're going to be successful, because of how far away we have to travel for processing." The nearer Fort Stockton processor offers custom processing, which, unlike USDA-inspected processing, cannot be resold. "That's why we travel so far. We'd love to do it local."

"People won't have to wait a whole year to process their cow," Miller said. "Especially out here, if you need 35 acres for a head of cattle and it stays on the grass for a year waiting to be processed, it's grass another cow could be eating."

At Marfa Meats, Miller plans to have the federal and custom certification, so that she can process meat for local ranchers' personal use, businesses can resell their meat, and so she can launch her own meat subscription service. That meat subscription will cater in part to tourists, who Miller wants to participate in the local ranching community in a more meaningful way, hoping "that they'll leave town with more than a hat."

Her operation will not be huge, with her facility able to hang, at most, 90 carcasses at a time. She plans to start with at least four employees, bringing jobs to the area and, she hopes, helping create work for Sul Ross students interested in pursuing meat processing after they graduate.

She hopes to eventually open the doors for a butcher shop and have community-supported agriculture through a garden on site. For now, Miller is working on the layout of pens and awaiting the delivery of the prefabricated modules for harvesting, a carcass cooler, a cut and pack and a finished goods cooler, all destined for the site of the old tennis court.

"We are in this unique geographical place that makes so many things complicated," said Miller. But with local processing, she said the story is easy to tell. "It was raised here, processed here and now it's going straight to you. It's creating a simplicity that has been eliminated from so much of our lives."

Marfa100 bike race shifts to semi-virtual cycling challenge

MARFA — In response to the pandemic, the Marfa100 is going virtual this year. Riders can participate in the event from anywhere in the world, and the competition runs between October 1-17.

Competitors will log miles through the RunSignUp interface during the challenge period, but have a lot of flexibility for how they meet the 100 kilometer goal. Complete the 62 miles all at once, or do a series of shorter rides over the course of the challenge period that add up to 100 kilometers. Bikers can even complete the ride in a relay team of two, three or four people, with each person completing a segment of the ride to add up to 62 miles.

The ride is open to everyone regardless of cycling experience, and each participant will receive a t-shirt with registration. A 2020 jersey will be awarded to the top finishers, but you must complete the entire 100k at once to be eligible.

Residents can use the code "marfalocal" to get $10 off the registration price, and must be registered by the October 1 deadline. The cost is $35 for an individual; for relay teams, it is $60 for a two-person, $90 for a three-person and $120 for a four-person team. A portion of the event proceeds will go to the Marfa Food Bank.

MARFA PRAYER MARCH

Saturday, September 26, 2020
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

You and your family are cordially invited to join together and pray for our nation. The guidelines for COVID-19 are being observed at this event. We know that God answers prayer. Let's pray that God will turn this nation back to Him. Each stop along the way will have a specific prayer focus.

ALL GATHER ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE COURTHOUSE TO BEGIN PREPARING FOR THE MARCH at NOON.

This is a non-denominational event, all are welcome. Please no political attire - Please wear masks as suggested by Gov. Abbott and observe social distancing!

Come worship with us



First United Methodist Church

Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid,
for I am your God;
I will strengthen you,
I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

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

King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Amorphous mass
5 Pouch
8 Con job
12 Portrayal
13 Id counterpart
14 Actress Jessica
15 "The danger has passed"
17 Borscht ingredient
18 Shelton or Lively
19 Chopping spree?
21 Breakfast for many
24 Jam ingredient?
25 Treaty
28 Teeny bit
30 Cow's chaw
33 Ostrich's cousin
34 Small chalkboard
35 Work with
36 Suitable
37 Gasp for air
38 Impale
39 Masseuse's workplace
41 Not this way!
43 Plot
46 Supermarket section
50 Cupid's alias
51 2,000 pounds
54 Legal wrong
55 "Wham!"
56 String
57 Gospels follower
58 Longing
59 Robert of "Airplane!"

DOWN
1 Snatch
2 Take to the hammock
3 — podrida
4 St. Thomas —
5 Witness
6 — Khan
7 Stopper
8 Israeli indigene
9 Unambiguous
10 Help a hood
11 Partner
16 Journey segment
20 Pinnacle
22 Big bash
23 Rise
25 Pod dweller
26 Pump up the volume
27 Curtail
29 "Beetle Bailey" dog
31 NAFTA signatory
32 Society newcomer
34 Unwanted email
38 Tattletale
40 Nuisances
42 Stratego situation
43 — good example
44 Gator's kin
45 Catch sight of
47 Old portico
48 Australian parrot
49 Conclusions
52 Weeding need
53 Have



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Thank you

Boquillas and Beyond Mexico Mission, Inc would like to thank Albert Dominguez, Siria Acosta, Rev Michael Wallens from Marfa, Daniel Lopez from Ft. Davis, George Womack from Terlingua, Nancy Davila Murphy St. Mercado in Alpine, and Dodson Guns in Alpine for their support in making our annual Raffle a success. Also we would like to thank all who continue to support us with raffle ticket purchases. This year our goal is to complete the new high school construction in Jaboncillos Coahuilla Mex. and stock it with new school desk and other needed furnishings.

Again we are very humbled, thank you
The Boquillas and Beyond Mexico Mission Team

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Puzzle solutions for last week's issue

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

'Radio Plays in the Time of Corona' starts Friday





Photos courtesy of Marfa Live Arts

Aubrie Aguilar (10th), Febi Brimhall (11th), Avery Beltran (Class 2020), Devin Meierhoff (12th)

Marfa Live Arts' Radio Plays in the Time of Corona voice-over actors are Diana Burbano, David DeLaO, Georgeanne Kalweit, Robert A. Kraft, Giselle Marie Muñoz, Arthur Ruíz, Mónica Sánchez and Susan Vasher.

MARFA — Marfa Live Arts in association with KMKB presents *Radio Plays in the Time of Corona*, four radio plays written by award-winning Marfa High School playwrights and professionally produced, scored and brought to life by actors. The plays are: *No Compass* by Aubrie Aguilar; *It's Not Always Sunshine and Rainbows at Coneset Hill* by Febi Brimhall; *Friend or Foe: Legend of the Hellhound* by Devin Meierhoff; and *Rona* by Avery Beltran.

Diana Burbano, a former Marfa Live Arts playwright, shared her thoughts on Marfa's youth and the opportunity the Playwriting Program, in its tenth year at MISD, provides them, saying, "These kids are imaginative, brave and so willing to jump in, when they feel they are being SEEN and HEARD. The program offers them an opportunity to become collaborators on theatre projects, to lead their own vision, to write in any way they want to write. That's powerful." Burbano is the lead in Avery Beltran's play *Rona*, a dark comedy about the pandemic. She states, "It's so important to honor what these Marfa teens are really feeling in this weird and unstable time. The way they process what they are hearing is an insight into what they need. *Rona* tackles the subject with dark humor that becomes a window into what adults are projecting."

"I want my play to make others think," young playwright Febi Brimhall says about her play *It's Not Always Sunshine and Rainbows at Coneset Hill*. She continues, "It's about some of the pressures that society has for people to be a certain way and how that can affect people. I have seen some close friends deal with that and I just thought it'd be great to write something about that because people shouldn't have to feel like that." Guest playwright Caridad Svich called Brimhall's play, "truly captivating, smart and winning."

Giselle Marie Muñoz, lead actor in Aubrie's play *No Compass*, shares her thoughts, "I thought Aubrie did a wonderful job of balancing the needs and wants of a teenager in her play. A lot of high schoolers have big responsibilities around the house, usually assisting a parent with chores and helping take care of siblings. It was nice to see Rayen take on those responsibilities so gracefully. But I also love that we had the chance to see another side to Rayen — a chance to be herself and connect with someone new to her life with joy, vulnerability and a sense of wonder. It's really refreshing to see two teenagers communicate so freely instead of shying away from each other like we've seen in other media over the years. I'm so happy to help bring this story to life and want to congratulate Aubrie on her great work!"

When asked what her voice-over process in preparing and delivering the material is, Muñoz replies, "The magic of voice over requires discipline, imagination and flexibility. You also need to learn a thing or two about technology, because most often (especially now) you are recording yourself and you have to be able to send your work to the director. The great thing about voice work is that you can do it in your own home. The challenge comes from not working off of anyone. No lines to listen or respond to, no energy to feed off of. You don't have the luxury of listening to the other characters because it is totally one sided. The magic comes when hearing how it all comes together in the end with the other storytellers and the sound engineering — that's the best part! I am so excited to hear all the magic of the *Radio Plays in the Time of Corona*!!"

When asked if she had other comments, Muñoz replied, "I love Marfa Live Arts and how they intersect the arts by welcoming guest artists from around the world and how they facilitate public education for both kids and adults within the community. I especially appreciate how they empower young artists to create and share their work. I believe that to be of utter importance. Please consider supporting them with a donation."

Professional actors performing *Radio Plays in the Time of Corona* include Diana Burbano, David DeLaO, Robert A. Kraft, Giselle Marie Muñoz, Arthur Ruíz and Mónica Sánchez.

Radio Plays in the Time of Corona premieres on Marfa Public Radio, 93.5FM (marfapublicradio.org) at noon on Friday, September 18, 2020, and again on Wednesday, September 23 at 10 p.m. CST.

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

Learn more at: marfalivearts.org

OBITUARIES



DeCocq

On Friday, September 4, 2020, **Gary B. DeCocq** passed away in El Paso, Texas, at the age of 75. Gary was born on March 24, 1945 in Wichita Falls, Texas, to Oliver and Velma Cox DeCocq. As a son in a military family, Gary grew up and attended schools in various locations, but called Oklahoma his home until he joined the Marine Corps in 1963. He was a cryptologic linguist, translator, and radio communications specialist during the Vietnam War, leaving the service in 1972 at the rank of E6/SSG; he remained close to several members of Company G. He joined the U.S. Border Patrol in 1978 and was stationed in Marfa until his retirement as a senior agent in 1998. During that time he was an expert tracker, with a wealth of knowledge of the local area that he freely shared with both fellow agents and other law enforcement agencies alike. He also installed sensors, performed freight train checks and farm/ranch check operations and worked checkpoints. In 1990, Gary became a K9 handler and welcomed his beloved Doerak to the family. Together, they were instrumental in numerous narcotic seizures and human finds and took great joy in participating in drug awareness programs at various schools until Doerak's line of duty death in 1995. He was a great mentor to all trainees that came through the Marfa sector and continued those relationships well past his retirement. In his younger years, he was a member of the Big Bend Dance Club and an avid motocross racer, enjoying annual riding trips with his friends. Gary was a lover of all things outdoors and could usually be found at Lake Amistad fishing or giving guided cave tours to tourists. He loved working the ranch, searching for arrowheads, woodworking and spending time with his family and friends. He was always willing to help a friend or neighbor and will be greatly missed throughout the community.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Oliver and Velma DeCocq, and wife, Angie DeCocq. He is survived by his wife, Edith DeCocq; brother Eddie (Maxine); children Mali (Mike) Cornitius, Jessica (Ira) Maxwell, Jeff (Angi) DeCocq, Clint (Jennifer) Adams and Jeffrey Adams; grandchildren Zach, Kaleb, Maya, Angelina, Phoenix, Kyle, Kelsey, Megan, Kyle and Joey. Gary was also deeply loved by innumerable other family and friends from around the world and in the Marfa area.

An outdoor memorial service will be held Saturday, October 10 at 2 p.m. at 725 S. Highland Ave, Marfa, TX 79843 (social distancing and masks will be required). The family requests that in lieu of flowers, a donation in Gary DeCocq's name be made to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Division (www.tpwd.texas.gov).



Silva

Susana Lara Silva entered her eternal rest on Sept. 9, 2020 in Odessa, Texas.

She was born in Colorado City, Texas, on August 9, 1924. She married Timoteo Lara in Camarago, Chihuahua, Mexico, on May 1, 1941, and together they had six wonderful children. Timoteo went to be with the Lord in 1986. Susana married Abel Silva in Odessa in 1996; two more children from his marriage were acquired. Abel departed from this world in 2001.

Mashana (as her family knew her) raised a beautiful family and was loved by many. She always put God first and entrusted him to guide her in everything she did.

Her devotion in life was helping others, not only in their time of need but also in the joy of loving life, like singing in her church choir and volunteering in missionary work. Her spiritual growth is what she aspired for.

As her family grew, she loved to share the joys of life with her grandchildren. She leaves behind a great story of life filled with love and family!

She is survived by her children: Hortencia Lara (Concepcion), Erasmo Lara (Maryann), Amy Rivera (Fred), Maria Munguia, Imelda Kondratick and Martha Almaguer (Joe), Abel Silva Jr. (Alfa) and Mary Cisneros (Freddy). She is also survived by her brother, Juan Tercero; 21 grandchildren; 49 great-grandchildren; and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

She is also preceded in death by her parents, Filomeno Tercero and Marcelina Bustamante Tercero; and her siblings, Jesus, Petra, Ofelia, Andrea, Adolfo and Moises.

Her beautiful spirit will shine through the great memories she left behind. We loved you here on earth, and we will LOVE YOU always and forever

Services will be held at Odessa Funeral Home at 1700 N. Jackson in Odessa on September 14, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Social distancing precautions will be in place. On Tuesday, September 15, 2020 the funeral procession will be held in Marfa, Texas. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. at Mercedes Cemetery.

la fundación the CHINATI foundation

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

The Chinati Foundation is a contemporary art museum founded by the artist Donald Judd. 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.

93.5 FM Marfa™ PUBLIC RADIO
93.5 Marfa/Ft. Davis 91.7 Alpine 91.5 Marathon 91.3 Odessa/Midland

❖ Thank you ❖

Thank you for all the love, kindness and support you all have shown us. We are very thankful and it will always be remembered. A special thanks to Larry Cordova and Saul Palma from the bottom of our hearts.

Family of Nena Hernandez

Raul Lara
City Council Member
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councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com
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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY: ***Thursday, September 17***, Away Presidio
FOOTBALL: ***Thursday, September 17, 5:00 PM*** vs St. Marks, Away El Paso
FOOTBALL: ***Friday, September 18, 7:30 PM*** vs. Balmorhea, Away Balmorhea
VARSITY VOLLEYBALL: ***Friday, September 18, 3:45 PM*** vs Fort Stockton, Home

MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

SEPTEMBER	Thurs, Sept 17	Fri, Sept 18	Mon, Sept 21	Tues, Sept 22	Wed, Sept 23
BREAKFAST	BISCUIT, GRAVY, SCRAMBLED EGG	CINNAMON ROLL, BACON	SAUSAGE BISCUIT	BFAST BURRITO, HASH BROWN	CHICKEN-N-WAFFLES
LUNCH	PEPPERONI PERSONAL PIZZA, GARDEN SALAD, BABY CARROTS, FRESH APPLE SLCS	FISH, MAC & CHEESE, CUCUMBER SLCS, SAVORY GREEN BEANS, ORANGE SMILES, COOKIE	STEAK FINGERS, GRAVY, ROLL, MASHED POTATOES, TOMATO CUP, MIXED FRUIT	FRENCH BREAD CHEESE PIZZA, MARINARA SAUCE, SALAD, CAL BLND VEGETABLES	BONELESS CHICKEN WINGS, MULTIGRAIN CHIPS, CELERY STICKS, BABY CARROTS, PEACHES, PUDDING

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Classifieds & public notices

Sul Ross Rodeo program's Ky Hamilton announced #1 in the world

By DEREK POLLACCHI
Sul Ross State University

ALPINE – New rankings have been released by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Ram World Standings for the top bull riders worldwide, and a household Sul Ross name now sits in the No. 1 slot. Ky Hamilton. It may come as a surprise to some, but it does not come as any sort of surprise to those like Head Rodeo Coach C.J. Aragon who have seen this young phenom burst his way into the top of the bull riding scene with his own brand of Queensland tenacity, style, and flash.

To put this in perspective according to PRCA, he unseats Sage Kimsey who had previously sat atop the world standings leaderboards in bull riding in September every single year from 2014-2019. In each of those years, Kimsey would go on to claim the world championship. Kimsey has never trailed in September once during his run. Ky becomes the first rookie bull rider to be at the top of the leaderboards in September since 2014. The last rookie to do that? You guessed it. Sage Kimsey back in 2014 when he won his first title.

This is one of many exclamation points and highlights that Coach Aragon and his burgeoning program have added to this university's already storied rodeo tradition. This also isn't the first time Sul Ross Rodeo has been brought into the spotlight in 2020. Ky Hamilton's ascension comes on the heels of already heading into an expectations-ladened rodeo season with the Sul Ross program ranked as one of the best in the country. Furthermore, former Lobo legends Tuff Hedeman and Cody Lambert were enshrined as inductees into the National Cowboy Museum Rodeo Hall of Fame not even a month ago.

Unseating Kimsey is only the beginning. The usurpation of an equal who has held the title and the standings at the top for the better part of a decade as only a rookie is impressive, yes. But Ky doesn't simply want to be announced as number one in September. He has his eyes locked solely on being number one in the world for a long, long time.



Photo by Maisie Crow

Ky Hamilton



AREA AGENCY on AGING
A DIVISION OF THE RIO GRANDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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www.riocog.org

Benefits Counseling Program

The Rio Grande Area Agency on Aging provides certified Benefits Counselors to answer questions about Medicare, eligibility criteria and application assistance for public entitlements

This program serves Medicare beneficiaries of any age

Whether you are new to Medicare or not, we know that Medicare can be complicated. The State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) provide local, in-depth, and objective insurance counseling and assistance to Medicare-eligible individuals, their families and caregivers

As part of this program, the Benefits Counselors of the Rio Grande Area Agency on Aging are trained and certified under the Texas Health Information, Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) to help you make an informed decision about your health care benefits

ship state health insurance assistance programs NATIONAL NETWORK

Benefits Counselors are ready to provide you with unbiased information about Original Medicare, Medicare prescription drug plans (Part D), Medicare Advantage plans (Part C) and Medicare Supplement plans (Medigap)

Don't forget to ask us about the Medicare Savings Program and the Low-Income Subsidy Program. If eligible, these programs can help to lower your out-of-pocket Medicare costs

For additional information and assistance

Contact us at 915-533-0998 or Toll Free at 1-800-333-7082

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

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Please call 432-837-4812 for more information. Applications may be picked up at our locations or online at www.pchsmedclinic.org

PCHS

Classroom Assistants for the Marfa Studio of Arts, Studio in the Elementary School (SITES) program at Marfa Elementary School. We have two positions that will start the first week of October.

Pre recorded video classes by MSA art teachers will be played in the homeroom of each grade. The Classroom Assistants will be responsible for guiding instruction via the videos, providing support and encouragement, maintaining cleanliness and order in the classroom and overseeing art supplies.

An interest or love of fine arts is a plus, no formal art background is necessary. Applicants must be in good health and prepared to follow strict safely guidelines for working with children during the corona virus pandemic.

This is a part-time position but the hours can be concentrated into consecutive days of the week. The hourly rate is $20 per hour. To apply please submit a short resume including past references, relevant work history, interest and experiences in the arts. Contact us at email: marfastudioarts@gmail.

BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Friday, September 4, 2020

NOTICE OF BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Big Bend Regional Hospital District has caused to be prepared an annual budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2020 and ending September 30, 2021. Notice is hereby given that a public hearing on said proposed budget will be held on September 24, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the BBRHD Administrative Office at 105 W. Holland Ave, Alpine, TX 79830.

Buddy Cavness
President / Board of Directors

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FOR SALE: 1987 Lakeside Trailer Home. 207 South Aparejo Street, Marfa, Texas. Call Lino @ 432 295 1525.

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HET, Electrical Engineer Position, September 2020

The Hobby-Eberly Telescope (HET) at the University of Texas at Austin, a state-of-the-art optical telescope facility located in the Davis Mountains of West Texas, 400 miles west of Austin, Texas, has an opening for an Electrical Engineer.

Required qualifications: Master's degree in electrical engineering and two years of related experience, or Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and four years of related experience. Ability to do hands on work to repair and refurbish existing equipment and electronics as well as design and build new systems.
Preferred qualifications: Knowledge and/or working experience in motion controls and industrial controls. Knowledge of electrical code and industry standards for control systems, enclosures, and rotating equipment. Knowledge and experience with designing and maintaining electronics at the board and component level. Additional desired skillsets include PCB design, ability to design, build and program PLC systems, and experience with astronomical Instrumentation.

To view a complete job description visit: https://utaustin.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/UTstaff/job/MCDONALD-OBSERVATORY/HET-Electrical-Engineer_R_00007262 For more information about the telescope and the McDonald Observatory visit http://www.as.utexas.edu/mcdonald/het/het.html. Security Sensitive position; Criminal History conviction verification will be conducted. The University of Texas at Austin is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Questions feel free to call George Damm 432-426-3693, or e-mail: gdamm@utexas.edu

THE BIG BEND Sentinel

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