THE BIG BEND Sentinel

Vol. 88 No. 32 • October 29, 2020 | Marfa, Presidio County, Texas | www.bigbendsentinel.com • **$1**

BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

Presidio County cases climb, mirroring situation nationwide

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO COUNTY — As cases have surged in El Paso, and Governor Greg Abbott has deployed emergency health workers to the border city, officials in Presidio County warn the situation here isn't much better.

The tri-county hasn't seen the sheer numbers seen in El Paso County, where at press time there were more than 42,000 confirmed coronavirus cases and more than 13,000 actives. But Dr. John Paul "J.P." Schwartz, the local health authority for Presidio County, says at least one or two new cases continue to be reported in Presidio County every day. And for a county with far fewer than residents, "that's a lot of people."

Over the past week, in five separate news releases, Presidio County Judge Cinderela Guevara has announced 17 new cases, bringing the total local count of confirmed coronavirus cases to 147. At press time, the Texas Department of State Health Services is only reporting 133.

Of those 17 new cases, 13 are in Marfa and only four are in Presidio. Of the Marfa cases, four are teenagers, while the rest are adults.

Presidio County is seeing climbing case counts linked to Marfa schools, where new cases continue to crop up in people with few or no symptoms, Dr. Schwartz said. On Monday, Marfa ISD announced that a parent of students had tested positive. On Tuesday, it announced that an employee had tested positive — though the district stressed that particular employee hadn't been on campus since October 16.

Another source of new cases, according to Dr. Schwartz, is people who are defying health guidelines. In a news release this week, Judge Guevara warned that people who violated quarantine orders could be charged with deadly conduct, a Class A misdemeanor. She pleaded with residents to "PLEASE TAKE THIS VIRUS SERIOUSLY."

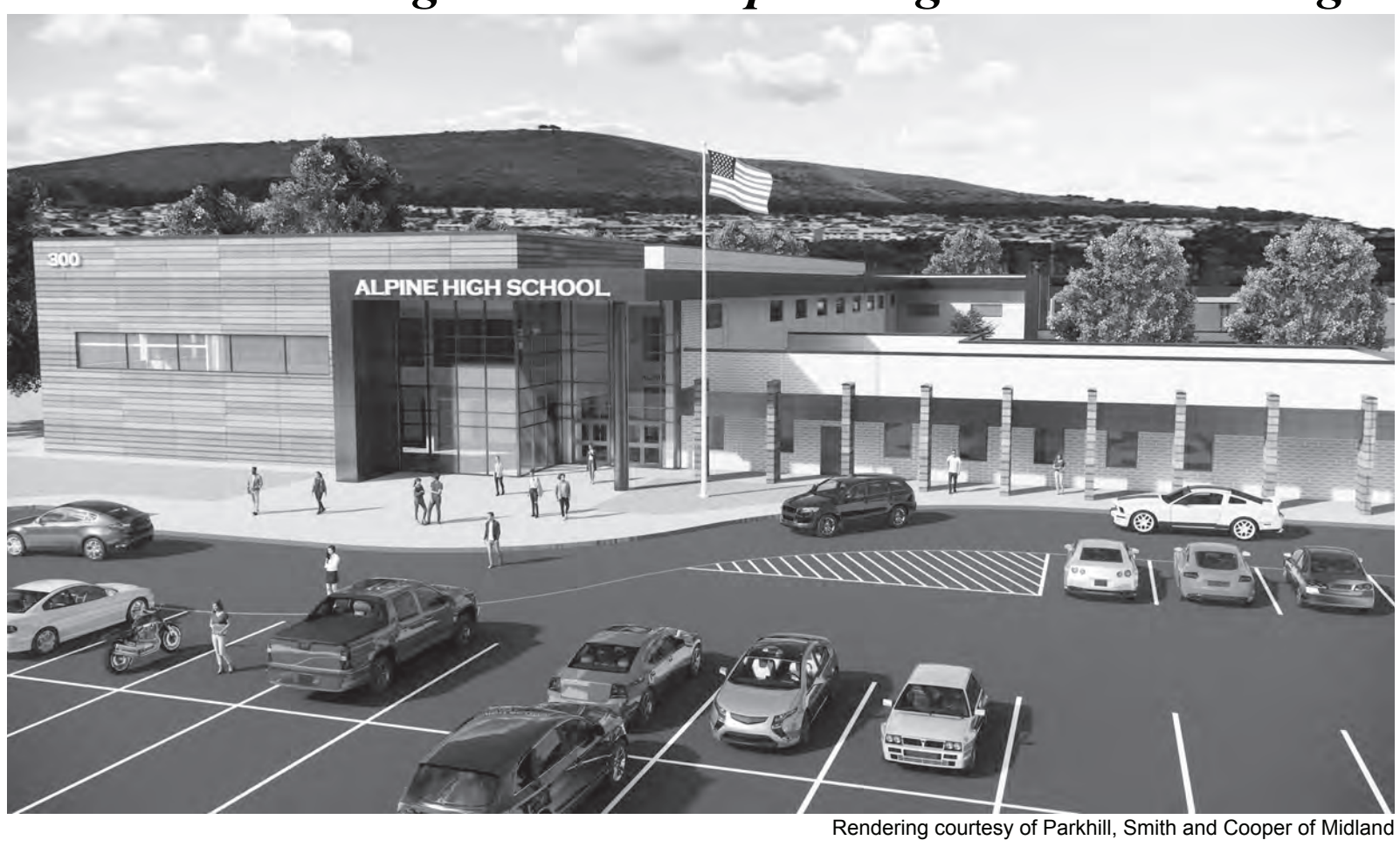
With more testing in the region this week, officials will likely find still more cases. But Dr. Schwartz estimates that a "huge percentage" of local cases "just aren't being found at all," as some people just shelter at home and others lack the medical insurance necessary to get affordable or free tests, other than those available for free to anyone at the sporadic state-run sites.

The situation in Presidio County mirrors what's happening across the region and country. Ojinaga is currently in "code red." El Paso County has surpassed 100% ICU capacity. And across the United States, the daily average of new cases regularly tops 70,000 — the highest numbers since the pandemic began.

NEWS P. 1 - 3
MEET THE CANDIDATES P. 4 - 5
OPINIONS P. 6 - 7
COMMUNITY P. 8 - 9
CLASSIFIEDS P. 10

The West Texan Media Group, LLC

Construction begins on new Alpine High School building



Rendering courtesy of Parkhill, Smith and Cooper of Midland

An artist rendering shows what Alpine High School will look like in about two years when the new building is completed. It is being financed by a $22.588 million dollar bond issue approved in 2018. SEE STORY ON PAGE 3.

At latest workshop, Marfa focuses on details of short-term rental ordinance

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Marfa city leaders are sparing no details as they comb through their proposed short-term rental ordinance. City council held the third workshop on this topic last week, clocking in at about two hours.

Last week's meeting was almost exclusively attended by people who profit from short-term rentals, either as property owners or managers, and those residents once again pushed back on new regulations and warned they could have unforeseen impacts on Marfa's tourist economy.

Last week, though, city officials also heard the perspective of a long-term renter. That resident, Claire Lindsay-McGinn, said she'd come to support new rules on vacation rentals.

"I make my money in town, and finding a rental here is extremely hard," she said at the meeting. "There's a lack of housing in this town for people who live and work here."

In a follow-up interview this week, Lindsay-McGinn, who is a graphic designer at *The Big Bend Sentinel* and a small-business owner, said she attended the meeting to make sure that "renters have a voice" in discussions of the new ordinance.

"I went [to the meeting] because affordable housing is hard to find in Marfa," she said. "I don't know all the nuts and bolts of housing law, but I do know that being a renter here is really challenging. Short-term rentals, to me, are part of the problem."

A lot about this new ordinance is still to-be-determined — but with hours of public discussions, a few hot-button issues have come up. As Marfa City Council gets ready for its next meeting on this issue tonight, Thursday, Oct. 29, here are some aspects of the proposed ordinance that have proven particularly contentious.

The why

Even three meetings in, some local officials and residents are still unsure why exactly Marfa wants or needs a short-term rental ordinance. "What do we want out of this?" Councilmember Yoseff Ben-Yehuda asked at one point. "What do we hope for the results to be?"

As *The Big Bend Sentinel* previously reported, Marfa city leaders have plenty of reasons to want

(Continued on page 2)

Organizers to celebrate democracy with Election Day BBQ

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Earlier this year, Presidio County was facing abysmal census response rates of just around 25 percent. So some local organizations, including the Judd Foundation and Marfa Steps Up, made a deal with tri-county residents: If they filled out and returned the 2020 Census, they'd get enrolled in a raffle where they could win burritos, ice cream and more.

The initiative was a success — and Shelley Bernstein, an organizer at Marfa Steps Up, started wondering if she could do something similar for the other big civic event of the year: the 2020 elections.

"I'm not going to say we had a huge needle move," Bernstein said of the census efforts, "but we do think we had an impact." By organizing a similar push around voting, Bernstein hoped to reaffirm that local residents "really care about civic participation."

Bernstein and Marfa Steps Up, the organization she helped found, have played a big role in keeping Marfans afloat during the coronavirus crisis. Earlier this year, as the crisis was just beginning, the group raised more than $35,000 to help local service industry workers, many of whom found themselves out of work as restaurants and bars across the region and country closed.

Later, Bernstein also helped start the "Marfa Solidarity Bonds" project, which allowed residents to buy local artist-designed bonds to help struggling restaurants. That project ultimately raised more than $85,000 for local businesses and was, as *The Big Bend Sentinel* reported in July, arguably a win-win-win. Local artists got to share their work, Marfans got to take home cool artwork, and local restaurants got a helping hand in a time of need.

Now, in Marfa Steps Up's latest service for the community, there's an Election Day barbecue. In an interview this week, Bernstein said she hoped the barbecue would address two problems.

For one thing, getting a free barbecue plate lunch could help create "a good experience around voting," especially for first-time voters, and especially at a time when some Texans are wary of heading to the polls for fear of getting sick. On top of that, Bernstein pointed out that food insecurity is also a growing problem across the country.

She cited a recent article in *The New York Times,* which reported that as many as one in eight Americans now face food insecurity. That figure is even higher in rural communities, she said.

(Continued on page 3)

Marfa's one ballot proposition will decide if city regains control of electric utility negotiations

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Along with voting to fill three seats on Marfa's city council, residents will also find one proposition on the city ballot this year that will decide whether Marfa will once again have a say in negotiating rates, operations and services of electric utilities.

The city ballot is not combined like the federal and county ones, so residents of Marfa must head to a separate table in the USO Building to pick up their Marfa ballot.

The proposition reads, "Shall the City of Marfa reinstate its original jurisdiction over the rates, operations and services of electric utilities within the City's municipal limits, so as to give the citizens of Marfa a greater voice in issues affecting their electric service, and to provide fair, just and reasonable rates and adequate and efficient electricity service within the City?"

This spring, council agreed to hire outside counsel from Lloyd Gosselink Attorneys at Law to get guidance on the upcoming AEP franchise agreement and a possible November ballot measure to take back the city's rate-making authority. Christopher Brewster, a lawyer at Lloyd Gosselink, presented to council about what the ballot proposition could mean for Marfa.

This week, Brewster said the story begins at an unknown time: some years ago, Marfa, like many other small municipalities, voted to turn over its power to negotiate rates with the local electric utilities.

"Marfa is one of those instances where it happened so long ago – probably back in the 1970s – that no one I've spoken to knows for sure. I've not seen when it happened or how it happened, but my guess would be a very long time ago."

Since then, rather than negotiating on their own behalf, the Public Utility Commission in Austin would do it for Marfa, working directly with AEP to settle various issues.

But for the first time, as far as Brewster and his colleagues can tell, a city is trying to wrest that power back into its own hands. And that requires a vote by the people of Marfa, the reason the ballot proposition is up for consideration this election season.

"This would be a new thing in the utility landscape in Texas," Brewster told council. In fact, Marfa could be a pilot for other areas in Texas who have given up their jurisdiction. "We have thought in our office that, if it can be proven that it can be done, there may well be interest elsewhere in the state."

What does the power of negotiation actually mean for a city? It's the benefit of local control, according to Brewster. "Marfa's city council will have a greater say over rates and operation of AEP within the city limits of Marfa and that could come into play a number of ways." Marfa will have a say about AEP's electric rates from the beginning of negotiations, even though utilities will often appeal decisions to the Public Utility Commission in Austin eventually.

If Marfa residents reject the ballot proposal,

(Continued on page 10)

FACE COVERING ORDINANCE IN EFFECT

by order of the State of Texas



With planned events, officials across region promote safe practices for Halloween

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

TRI-COUNTY — From Easter celebrations to July Fourth barbecues, public health officials have long warned that holiday festivities can increase the risks of coronavirus transmission. And as Halloween fast approaches, officials across the tri-county are once again looking for ways to promote safe holiday celebration.

With its costume parties and shared bowls of candy, the risks posed by Halloween this year are obvious — but officials in the region think they've found a solution. Rather than punishing families for engaging in typical Halloween festivities, officials in Marfa, Alpine and beyond are instead going the opposite route, organizing events that they say will protect public health while also allowing kids to stockpile treats.

At a virtual Marfa City Council meeting this month, discussions of trick-or-treating safety featured heavily. Councilmember Irma Salgado said "quite a few people" were asking her about guidance and regulations on trick-or-treating in Marfa this year. Councilmember Raul Lara said he was also hearing questions and concerns.

They asked Marfa ISD Superintendent Oscar Aguero, who was on the city's Zoom call, for recommendations on what Halloween should look like this year. Superintendent Aguero said he was conflicted.

"I'll be honest with you," Aguero said, "I'm torn." On one hand, he thought students and community members in Marfa were being cautious and respecting regulations. On the other hand, he worried about "the unknowns," from the possibility of more local cases to the difficulties of enforcing social distancing rules on an evening when streets are typically occupied by groups of costumed kids.

Not that those concerns mattered much, though. Teresa Todd, the city attorney for Marfa, outlined the limited legal options available to

(Continued on page 2)

Daylight saving time ends on Sunday

FAR WEST TEXAS — When the clock strikes 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 1, digital clocks will turn back an hour, marking the end of daylight saving time. In the middle of the night, West Texans will gain an hour, and residents will need to change their manual clocks to make sure the alarm rings on time. With the return to Central Standard Time, the sun will rise an hour earlier starting on Sunday, and will be setting at an earlier time, too. Plan accordingly!

Short-term rentals

(Continued from page 1)

new rules on short-term rentals, from rising housing prices and unpaid HOT fees to unregistered rentals who flouted temporary bans during the start of the coronavirus crisis. But these workshops have left that question a little ambiguous. At the meetings, officials and residents have often focused on quality-of-life issues like noise complaints for which Marfa already has ordinances.

At this most recent meeting, some city leaders were clear about the stakes. Mayor Manny Baeza pointed out that Marfa's population was falling. Councilmember Buck Johnston noted that voter registration was down. "We have less voters," she said.

Councilmember Natalie Melendez, meanwhile, said Marfa was becoming "a town that's strictly comprised of part-time residents and tourists."

"This is something that every city that has tourism and has a high number of Airbnbs is grappling with," Melendez said. "This is not unique to our town."

Ben-Yehuda told the council he shared those concerns. Businesses on Highland Street in the middle of Marfa, he noted, were increasingly catering to tourists rather than residents. But between quality-of-life concerns, housing costs and permitting, Ben-Yehuda thought city council was trying to address too many problems at once. "I don't want everything to get grouped into this short-term rental ordinance," he said.

Melendez disagreed. "You can't think of these things as being separate," she said. "They're all intertwined." Besides, as she saw it, the new proposed rules for vacation rentals in Marfa were "pretty light" and "not aggressive in terms of regulation."

"Type 2" rentals

San Antonio's short-term rental ordinance, on which Marfa's is loosely based, makes a distinction between different kinds of short-term rentals. "Type 1" rentals are owned by people who live on the property but rent out spare rooms. "Type 2" rentals are effectively a hotel business, with property owners renting out a whole house and living elsewhere, even in a different city or state.

San Antonio city officials were particularly concerned with Type 2 rentals and imposed extra regulations on them, including a limitation on the proportion of a city block they can take up. Marfa city leaders are considering adopting a similar approach, including imposing that same block limit. Unsurprisingly, that's proving contentious for a few reasons.

First, many owners of short-term rentals in Marfa do not live in the same property they rent out to vacationers. For these people, any new limits on Type 2 rentals could pose a threat to their bottom line.

Throughout these workshops, city officials have stressed that they plan to grandfather existing rentals, allowing them to bypass certain regulations like density caps that would apply to later vacation rentals in the city. But it would probably be harder to open new ones. In the Zoom's chat box, some rental owners wondered whether they would be allowed to continue operating a Type 2 rental if — for any reason — their permitting lapsed and there was already a legal limit.

Such rules would also set a theoretical limit on how many Type 2 rentals could exist in Marfa. If every block reached its maximum limit of Type 2 rentals, no one else would be able to open one.

Robert Spiegel, a short-term rental owner, called it "very dangerous "and "a slippery slope" to set up rules like this without first considering the impacts on Marfa's tourist economy. In a big city like San Antonio, he noted, there could be more than 20 houses on a single block. Marfa blocks were smaller.

"I just really, really want this to be something that helps rather than hinders," Spiegel said.

Last but not least, there's still confusion on how exactly Marfa will define Type 1 and Type 2. Take, for example, a resident who claims a homestead exemption on their Marfa home but rents it out for up to half the year. Which type would they be? It isn't clear, though city officials appeared to lean towards Type 1 at the last meeting.

Making things more confusing, Marfa city officials have so far defined these rental types in two separate ways. In discussions, they frequently use the same distinctions as San Antonio, describing Type 1 as owner-occupied and Type 2 as not.

The written ordinance uses other distinctions, with Type 2 rentals in R-1 (single family) zoned areas and Type 1 in other zones, like commercial districts. But those two definitions are inconsistent, and at press time, city officials were still figuring out which definition to use.

Local contacts

According to the current draft of the ordinance, all short-term rentals must have a local contact person who "can be on-site" within 30 minutes "to handle all guest issues." At least judging by the Zoom text chat, this is one of the more controversial aspects of the current ordinance, with many people describing this rule as an unfair burden on short-term rental owners.

One rental owner, Lorna Leedy, suggested the city officials instead require people to "respond in a reasonable amount of time." A rental manager, Ylana Frydman, said "accountability to guests" is regulated by platforms like Airbnb and "does not need to be regulated by the city."

"In 16 years I've never needed to be at a rental in one hour," Spiegel wrote. "Never! This is ABSURD!"

Councilmember Johnston, who herself runs a short-term rental, said she already felt obligated to respond quickly to any guest concerns. But she thought the city should require contacts to respond quickly rather than be on-site.

"I don't feel comfortable going on-site when there are guests," she said. "It's their private space."

Privacy was another concern. If the local contact person had to respond to complaints by neighboring residents (and not just guests), that would likely require the city to publicize those phone numbers. Councilmember Ben-Yehuda said he wasn't comfortable with that.

"We're spending money on Host Compliance to field complaints," he noted. "That was one of their pitches." Elise Acosta, a representative for the company who was on the call, agreed Host Compliance could handle those complaints. She suggested city leaders publicize the Host Compliance number as a "community resource," which she said would provide two benefits: Not only could the company handle some of the complaints, but it would also create a streamlined database of complaints that city leaders could then take action on.

The next meeting on this ordinance is the regular council meeting today, Thursday, Oct. 29, at 6 p.m. Zoom details are available on the City of Marfa website.

Disclosure: As mentioned above, Claire Lindsay-McGinn is an employee of The Big Bend Sentinel. Her opinions on this issue did not influence our reporting.

Halloween

(Continued from page 1)

city officials as they tried to keep residents safe during Halloween.

With a few exceptions, state rules still ban gatherings of more than 10 people, she said — but other than that, there wasn't much Marfa could do to limit Halloween festivities. "There's nothing specifically addressing trick-or-treating," she said.

Todd noted that in Jeff Davis County — where she also serves as county attorney — people in Fort Davis are having a "trunk-or-treat" event, giving away bags of candy from car trunks while maintaining a safe distance. The goal is to minimize contacts without minimizing candy consumption.

As for Marfa, "I think the best way [to keep residents safe] is to have a different event," Todd added. That way, city leaders could incentivize best practices without dealing with the legal and logistical headaches of trying to tamp down on traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating.

At press time, at least three alternate Halloween events in Marfa were taking shape or had been officially announced. In a post on social media, the Presidio County Sheriff's Office said it was "calling all boys and ghouls" to "join the Presidio County Sheriff's Office for Halloween Drive Thru." That event happens Halloween evening from 5 until 8 p.m. at the sheriff's office.

At Marfa ISD, the schools' traditional costume contest and potluck is off for this year — but Aguero, the Marfa ISD superintendent, told city officials he's also planning a candy handout at the school.

That event, which also runs from 5 until 8 p.m. at Martin Field, will take a "trunk-or-treat" format, where businesses and families can offer candy from the trunks of their cars. Masks and social distancing are required, and anyone interested in offering candy is encouraged to contact Superintendent Aguero at oaguero@marfaisd.com.

"We think it'd just be safer and that we can control things better," Aguero said in an interview. "We're trying to discourage [kids and families] from going from house to house."

And from 4:30 until 7:30 p.m. the Marfa Public Library also plans to have an event. Masks and social distancing will be required, and Nicki Ittner, the programming librarian, stressed it's "not a hang-out situation" — meaning the library will discourage people from congregating outside.

The library will have pick-up treat bags and costume photos for children. If families prefer to stay in their car, they can just drive up, Ittner said.

Ittner will post photos of kids' costumes on their social media, and there will also be a costume contest, she said. At press time, she was still figuring out categories for the contest — but she stressed there will be prizes.

Marfa's approach mirrors that of other communities in the region, where local officials have decided to offer safe events rather than more rules and regulations. In Alpine, city leaders are promoting a "Halloween trail and treat" at Kokernot Park from 3 until 6 p.m. on Halloween evening.

Like in Marfa, city leaders in Alpine decided the best approach would be to organize safe alternatives, said Erik Zimmer, the city manager. "We're trying to be thoughtful in the approach and incentivize the right behavior," he said. Masks and social distancing are required at the event, which will feature costume contests, a walking parade trail and drive-thru options for kids to pick up treats.

Likewise in Presidio, where Mayor John Ferguson says city officials are also considering setting up safe alternatives to traditional trick-or-treating. Details for those festivities



have not yet been finalized — but at press time on Wednesday, the Presidio officials were getting ready to discuss the topic at a city-council meeting.

Meanwhile, faced with rising coronavirus case counts across the state, the Texas Department of State Health Services on Monday released guidance for best holiday practices. "You don't have to abandon Halloween and Día de los Muertos activities," the agency advises, "but you can make them safer."

The safest holiday activities, the agency says, are those at home. Carve pumpkins or cook a meal with family members, the agency suggests. Or, set up a virtual costume show or *ofrenda* ceremony.

For Texans who want to get out of the house, the agency encourages outdoor gatherings over indoor ones. Among its suggestions are neighborhood costume parades and scavenger hunts.

Last but not least, the agency also answers a question that's likely on many parents' minds this year: A costume mask is "not a substitute for a protective mask," as it doesn't "provide the same kind of protection."

Instead, to stay safe, the agency recommends that costume-wearers either "build a protective mask into [their] costume" or make sure their costume includes "at least two layers of breathable fabric that completely cover the nose and mouth." And as always, people should wash their hands regularly and stay home if they have any COVID-19 symptoms.

VOTE Y'ALL

Join us on Election Day
Tuesday, November 3rd
for FREE to-go
Convenience West BBQ
from 3-7pm

Bring your "I Voted" sticker and celebrate Election Day, or just stop by for free BBQ while supplies last, across the street from the USO (at the bank).

Please wear your mask and socially distance at pickup.
Appreciate, y'all!

I VOTED TODAY

FAR WEST TEX BARBECUE
CONVENIENCE WEST
MARFA 79843

Unase el Dia de Elecciones
Martes, 3 Noviembre
y disfruta Convenience West BBQ
gratiuitamente
(para llevar) entre 3-7pm

Traiga su calcomania de 'I Voted'
y celebre el día de elecciones, o
solo acompáñenos por BBQ gratis,
hasta agotar existencia, en frente del
edificio del USO (en el banco).

Favor de usar su cubrebocas y
mantener su sana distancia
¡Mil gracias!

JUDD · THE Sentinel NEWSPAPER · COFFEE · COCKTAILS · MARFA SPEAKS UP! · COMMUNITIE MARFA · BALLROOM MARFA · KMKB 98.9 FM MARFA TEXAS

New Alpine High School building

By JIM STREET

ALPINE — Construction has begun on a new Alpine High School Building, financed through a $22.588 million school bond issue approved in 2018. The school board last week approved the final two change orders before construction got under way, adding $30,311 to the contract and bringing the final figure to $22,916,678.

Finance Director Tucker Durham said no new alternates will be added at the beginning of construction. During any large construction project, issues usually arise, creating the need for change orders, but none are anticipated at this time.

Imperial Construction of Weatherford won the contract and negotiated the change order and Durham said the final figure is higher than the amount of the bond.

"The state says once you go out for a sale, what you actually sell includes the amount of the bond issue, in our case $22.588 [million], but the total includes the cost of issuance and underwriter's fees," he said.

Allen Wolf of Parkhill said the budget contains $300,000 in a contingency fund. "We hope the board will not need to use it, but it is there for items that may come up as the project proceeds," he said.

A change in the air handling units at gyms at all three campuses will save $110,562, but an alternate air handler unit for the high school practice gym will add $140,873. Durham said the reason for the increased cost is that the item was not in the original bid but was added now rather than later.

Les Burke of Parkhill Smith and Cooper, who helped draw up plans for the building, said the improvements will better "distribute the air through the space."

School Superintendent Becky McCutchen said the more expensive unit is being installed at the practice gym because it is used almost on a daily basis. The other gym is used only for games and sits idle much of the time.

"If we were to add it later, it could cost more," she said.

Imperial started last week setting up construction trailers and conducting the dig test and all accomplishing permits, meetings and other pre-construction requirements. A perimeter fence has been set up around the area that will be closed off during construction, including the front parking lot and main entrance.

Students, staff and visitors are now using the parking lot and an alternate entrance between the main gym and the band hall on Fightin' Buck Avenue east of the building.

Imperial was to begin this week moving construction equipment on site, and the ground breaking ceremony is now slated for 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 4, at the new site.

The asbestos abatement at the old administration building, now the track shack, the old bus barn and one section in front of the cafeteria will be done starting next week.

The addition of heating and cooling units at the middle school and elementary gyms are scheduled for completion before school starts for the next school year.

Demolition of the old building, first used in 1973, will begin in January 2022 with project completion that summer.

BBQ

(Continued from page 1)

Meanwhile, in Marfa, demand is up at the local food pantry. Food deliveries are now coming twice as often. "I started to look at [those problems] and put it together with the civic participation equation," Bernstein said. That led her to the idea of an Election Day barbecue.

The barbecue has several local sponsors, including the Judd Foundation, Communitie Marfa, Ballroom Marfa, KMKB radio and The Sentinel. Convenience West is cooking. The event runs on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. or "while supplies last." It'll be at the Marfa Bank parking lot, just across the street from the polling site at the USO Building.

Masks and social distancing are required — but, Bernstein stressed, voting on Election Day isn't. People who voted earlier are also welcome to come get BBQ, she said.

"No matter when you vote, your voice matters," Bernstein added. "Come celebrate that with free barbecue." When the event is over, leftovers — if there are any — will be sent to the Marfa Nutrition Center, where they'll be distributed to seniors.

In an interview this week, Mark Scott, a co-owner at Convenience West, said Bernstein first approached him about the idea a few weeks ago. He was sold.

"It seemed like an exciting way to be part of things," Scott said. "We always like to help out with good causes like this."

In more normal times, Scott added, Convenience West would likely be on the road, cooking at barbecue events. In February, for example, they cooked for a Judd Foundation fundraiser in Manhattan.

Now, big travels like that are largely out of the question. "We get to take our smoker to the bank parking lot," Scott joked. "I guess that's our big road gig."

Scott wouldn't say much about what he was serving — he was still ironing out the details — other than to say it would be a "pretty killer sandwich."

Convenience West was previously part of the Marfa Solidarity Bonds project. Bernstein, Scott said, had "knocked" that project "so far out of the park." That experience gave him confidence that she could organize a great Election Day barbecue.

"When a bunch of nice people ask you to be a part of something, why wouldn't you want to be?" he said. "We're excited about [the barbecue] and to see what the buzz is like. Hopefully it'll be kind of a scene — but a safe one at that."

With Election Day still around a week away, turnout from early voting is already smashing records in Texas and beyond. But this election has also already seen problems, as state leaders in Texas and elsewhere have enacted rules that many see as blatant attempts at voter suppression. In Texas, for example, Governor Greg Abbott and others have fought hard in court to restrict who can vote by-mail and limit how many ballot drop-off boxes a county can have.

In Presidio County, Bernstein stressed she was pleased with how local officials were handling this election. "The county has been, I think, really, really responsive and efficient," she said. "I think there's a difference between what's happening in the rest of Texas and what's happening here."

Still, with the 2020 election seeing unprecedented levels of voter interest during an unprecedented crisis, Bernstein wanted to help that process along. Her hope is for voting in Marfa to be not just easy, but also fun.

"I think the more we can do this kind of thing — the better experience we can create around voting — the more people might want to do it in the future," she said. "That'd be my hope."

	EARLY VOTING	ELECTION DAY
PRESIDIO	***WHEN*** Oct. 29 - 30, *8 am - 5 pm* ***WHERE*** **Voters can cast a ballot at any of the following locations:** • 302 S. Highland, USO Building, Marfa • 301 E. O'Reilly, Annex Building C, Presidio	***WHEN*** Tuesday, November 3, *7 am - 7 pm* ***WHERE*** **You must vote at your precinct's voting location:** • **Precinct 1, 7:** 302 S. Highland, USO Building, Marfa • **Precinct 2, 3, 4, 5, 6:** 301 E. O'Reilly, Annex Building C, Presidio
JEFF DAVIS	***WHEN*** Oct. 29 - 30, *9 am - 5 pm* ***WHERE*** • 111 North Front St, District / County Clerk's Office, Fort Davis	***WHEN*** Tuesday, November 3, *7 am - 7 pm* ***WHERE*** **You must vote at your precinct's voting location:** • **Precinct 1**: Firehouse / 202 Court Avenue • **Precinct 2**: St. Joseph's Parish Hall / 800 State Street North Hwy 118 • **Precinct 3**: Fort Davis United Methodist Church / 200 Front Street • **Precinct 4**: Valentine Community Center / 109 Main Street • **Precinct 5**: Davis Mountian Resort / Davis Mountains Baptist Church / 208 Tomahawk Trail
BREWSTER	***WHEN*** Oct. 29, *8 am – 6 pm* Oct. 30, *7 am – 7 pm* ***WHERE*** **Voters can cast a ballot at the following location:** • Judge Val Clark Beard Office Complex (Old Library) 203 N 7th, Alpine, Texas 79830 ***NEW REMOTE EARLY VOTING:*** Oct. 30, 9 am - 5 pm • **Precinct 3:** Marathon Community Center / 2nd and Ave E, Marathon, Texas 79842 • **Precinct 5, 6, 7: J**.W. "Red" Pattillo Community Center / Hwy 118, Study Butte / Terlingua, TX 79852	***WHEN*** Tuesday, November 3, *7 am - 7 pm* ***WHERE*** **You must vote at your precinct's voting location:** • **Precinct 1:** Brewster County Offices / 2209 W HWY 90, Alpine, Texas 79830 • **Precinct 2:** Judge Val Clark Beard Office Complex (Old Library) 203 N 7th, Alpine, TX 79830 • **Precinct 3:** Marathon Community Center / 2nd and Ave E, Marathon, Texas 79842 • **Precinct 4:** Alpine Civic Center-Council Chambers / 803 W Holland, Alpine, TX 79830 • **Precinct 5:** Panther Junction Visitor Center / Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834 • **Precinct 6 & 7:** J.W. "Red" Pattillo Community Center / Hwy 118, Study Butte / Terlingua, TX 79852 • **Precinct 8:** SRSU Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library-Conference Room / 400 N Harrison, Alpine, Texas 79830

TONY GONZALES

FOR CONGRESS



Tony Gonzales is a 20-year veteran of the United States Navy, who rose to the Navy's highest rank of Master Chief Petty Officer. An accomplishment that less than 1% of enlisted individuals achieve.

During Tony's time in service, he was deployed multiple times in support of combat operations to Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom) and Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom), and in support of regional security operations throughout Asia. He was on the front lines facing the most serious of situations an individual can face. Tony also served as a Department of Defense Legislative Fellow in U.S. Senator Marco Rubio's office where he provided essential contributions to the Senator's defense, foreign policy, and intelligence portfolios.

As a career Cryptologist, Tony was stationed at the Navy Information Operations Detachment Kaneohe Bay, HI, U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Florida, USS MICHAEL MURPHY in Pearl Harbor, HI, Center for Information Warfare Training Center in Pensacola, Florida, Office of Legislative Affairs in Washington, D.C., and Navy Information Operations Command in San Antonio, Texas.

Tony knows firsthand how having no hope can lead a young person to two paths in life. He was abandoned by his father when he was two months old, at age seven Tony and his mother sought refuge at a battered women's shelter and Tony was raised by his grandparents in San Antonio, Devine and Camp Wood Hills for much of his youth thereafter. At 18, Tony's beloved grandfather passed away and that led Tony to leaving high school and entering the Navy without a high school diploma and without even knowing how to swim.

Tony is no stranger to the struggles young people can have and that is why today, he and his wife Angel serve as CASA volunteers to three beautiful little girls, in addition to raising their own family. Tony also understood that having a good education was essential and though he entered the Navy without a high school diploma, he went on to earn his diploma, his graduate certificate from Georgetown University, a Master's in International Relations from American Public University and is a Ph.D. candidate in International Development with an emphasis on Security Studies and International Politics at the University of Southern Mississippi.

As an active member in the community, Tony founded the Tony Gonzales Foundation, a non-profit focused on empowering and encouraging growth and development in impoverished areas of San Antonio by uniting local businesses, schools, and families.

Tony is married to Angel Gonzales and has six wonderful children: Christina, Jesus, Emmanuel, Daniel, Gabriel and Isabella.

PAID FOR BY TONY GONZALES VICTORY FUND

BARGAINS OF THE MONTH®



6.99
Holiday Wonderland®
100 ct. Starry Micro LED String Light Set
T 251 503, 504, 508 B12
300 ct. Starry Micro LED String Light Set, 17.99 T 251 509, 510, 511 B4



39.99
6 ft. Deluxe Folding Table
30 in. x 72 in. W 682 536 1
Black Steel Folding Chair, 11.99 W 157 249 F6



YOUR CHOICE
12.99
Duracell® Optimum
12 pk. AA or AAA Batteries
E 255 012; 254 989



4.99
True Value®
20 lb. Wild Bird Food
L 501 272 1
10 lb. Black Oil Sunflower Bird Seed, 5.99 L 106 118 1



14.99
Holiday Wonderland®
200 ct. LED Mini Light Set
T 195 539, 540, 541 B6
100 ct. LED Traditional Mini Light Set, 6.99
T 195 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 557 B12



49.99
Black & Decker®
50 pc. 20V Max Cordless Drill & Tool Set
R 268 794 2



29.99
DeWALT®
34 pc. SAE/Metric Socket Set
R 202 751 2



9.99 SALE PRICE
-7.00 INSTANT REBATE*
FINAL PRICE 2.99
Peak®
Gal. 50/50 Antifreeze
H 128 693 F6
Gal. Full Strength Concentrate Antifreeze, 5.99 after $7 instant rebate* H 128 694 F6 *Limit 2 per offer with True Value Rewards Card.

Consumer responsible for taxes. While supplies last.

TV-AD-208273

Morrison True Value
301 N 5th St
Alpine, Texas 79830
432-837-2061
www.morrisonhardware.com

True Value

Sale ends 11/30/20

©2020 True Value Company LLC

Find the right products for your project at your local True Value®.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

FAR WEST TEXAS — As Texas enters the final week of early voting and Election Day on Tuesday, November 3 approaches, The Big Bend Sentinel spoke with candidates in three races for part two of our Meet the Candidates series. In our special section, candidates from the Marfa City Council race share their positions on many issues locals care about, and candidates from Texas Senate districts 19 and 29 discuss their goals for helping West Texans while serving in the statehouse. We also dive into what the one proposition currently on the city ballot would mean for Marfa, if it passes or fails.

In Marfa, three city council seats are up for grabs, and four candidates are vying for a spot. Eddie Pallarez and Stephen Boelter would be council newcomers, while incumbents Buck Johnston and Yoseff Ben-Yehuda are hoping to retain their seats. Previously, incumbent Natalie Melendez had filed to run, but later withdrew from the race, meaning council will gain at least one new face this November.

In Texas' Senate District 29, longtime State Senator José Rodríguez is retiring, leaving current State Representative César Blanco and business owner Bethany Hatch to duke it out. And in neighboring Texas Senate District 19, incumbent Pete Flores is challenged by current State Representative Roland Gutierrez. The competitors for state senate discussed COVID-19, economic development and serving our unique, remote population while in Austin.



Yoseff Ben-Yehuda
Marfa City Council

(1) What is the most pressing issue facing Marfa today, and what projects would be your top priorities as a council member?

The most pressing issue facing Marfa today is how our community chooses to adapt and grow. Central to this are quality of life and the economic opportunities available to us living here. While there are always problems and things to take issue with, the most important tools we have as a council and community are Planning and Follow Through. Change is inevitable, but there is great value in being vocal about what we want and working together on it, rather than prioritizing what we want to avoid. During my first year on council I have focused on infrastructure planning and improving the city's communication with the public. We have major street improvement projects planned for the coming year, and the city has expanded its social media and other online communication tools. I plan on continuing to pursue these goals during my next term.

(2) At times, the city has had issues with collecting payments, from utility bills to HOT payments. How would you address this issue and make sure that going forward, the city is collecting money due to the city?

The City of Marfa has approx 40 employees including part-time positions. They operate everything from our sewers, emergency medical services, library, nutrition center, police department, recycling center, water and gas departments and more! The administrative staff is responsible for supporting all of these departments. We've had an unfilled accountant position for several years, demonstrating some of the challenges to hiring experienced personnel as a remote employer. This is all to say there are a lot of moving pieces that city staff tries to keep working every day and it is inevitable that it won't always be perfect. There are opportunities for us to further modernize city hall, leveraging technology and streamlining our processes, but these kinds of changes do take consensus, time, planning and resources. At the end of the day, council's fiduciary responsibility to the public is one of the most important and we must remain cognizant of this regardless of other projects at hand.

(3) How can Marfa come out of the coronavirus crisis stronger than before?

Marfa has already proven an immense resilience through the past 12 months as we've all navigated the coronavirus crisis. It is no surprise to me, as Marfa has a history of perseverance and adaptation through varied times. Everyone in this town has experienced something because of this global crisis, whether it be stress, solitude, anxiety, grief, frustration; yet we've also seen a variety of positive responses to these times. Volunteer groups have emerged to meet new needs, local businesses have changed their models, and we've created new traditions despite a multitude of hardships. While safety measures tend to keep us apart, it is more important than ever for us to remain connected and communicative about our needs and desires as individuals and a collective. Now more than ever, city council should be listening and planning based on your input.

(4) City council is currently working on a short-term rental ordinance — something that will be one of the first things you'll vote on as a council member. What would you like to see in a rental ordinance?

City council has hosted two productive workshops developing the short-term rental ordinance with considerable public input. STR stakeholders shared valid concerns and a quick study of analogous ordinances elsewhere in the state clarifies that the legal possibilities for regulations are narrow at this time. That said, it is clear that over the past decade businesses that cater to residents have dwindled relative to those focused on visitors, and this trend has also affected housing. Today about 1 in 10 inhabited houses in Marfa are at least part-time STRs. While it's certainly not the council's role to try and limit the positive contribution tourism has brought to Marfa, it is important for us to facilitate an open dialogue about what options are available and what we want the nature of our R1 - Single Family Residential Zoning to be. Questions regarding enforceability arise with any new or amended ordinance, and they're warranted, but we have to start with a clear idea of what we are trying to achieve. I'd like to see an ordinance that residents can agree will positively impact our quality of life.



Stephen Boelter
Marfa City Council

(1) What is the most pressing issue facing Marfa today, and what projects would be your top priorities as a council member?

Gentrification. I would join the current projects the council is working on such as the infrastructure improvements and the short-term rental ordinance. I would also like to work on developing unused city property to offer to the community, such as an additional park for walking paths and recreational activities, an open discussion with the citizens about an Amtrak stop in town, and work with the community to have a better understanding of their needs and concerns.

(2) At times, the city has had issues with collecting payments, from utility bills to HOT payments. How would you address this issue and make sure that going forward, the city is collecting money due to the city?

I would look into whether the city could figure a way to create and offer a couple city positions to do the job before outsourcing to a company. I believe with proper training and opportunity for our local community we have qualified individuals.

(3) How can Marfa come out of the coronavirus crisis stronger than before?

I'm hoping for the growth of commerce to emerge for and from our local community. As a descendent of Marfa natives, I have fond memories of a time…I know we can't go back, however we can create a better future. ¡Sí, se puede!

(4) City council is currently working on a short-term rental ordinance — something that will be one of the first things you'll vote on as a council member. What would you like to see in a rental ordinance?

Proper enforcement from the city and cooperation from the short-term rental owners once the ordinance is completed.



Buck Johnston
Marfa City Council

(1) What is the most pressing issue facing Marfa today, and what projects would be your top priorities as a council member?

Unfortunately, there are many pressing issues facing Marfa. Gentrification, property taxes, long-term rental shortage, education, loss of community, COVID, street repair, tourism over community, traffic, etc.

For me, keeping and preserving the culture of what makes this town livable is the most pressing issue. It's a home first for me and you. We know our neighbors. We help each other. Marfa is unique because it's a small, prosperous town. We have a great future, but only if we all benefit. We must work to keep Marfa prosperous to the people who live and work here every day. Preserving Marfa's unique and sincere community is why I am working every day for the City of Marfa.

My immediate top priorities are: short-term rental ordinance, zoning ordinance, street repair and the USO garden project. And always being responsive and caring to every person's concerns every day.

(2) At times, the city has had issues with collecting payments, from utility bills to HOT payments. How would you address this issue and make sure that going forward, the city is collecting money due to the city?

The city council needs to review and update Ordinances 07-18 and 08-01 in regard to how overdue accounts are handled. With the overdue accounts, we can break those down into three categories: death, hardship and those taking advantage of the situation. Those due to death with no need for service can be disconnected and a lien should be discussed as a policy issue or not. The hardship accounts should be required to pay 25% down of money owed and work out a payment plan, in addition to their ongoing monthly payments. I have always found the city willing to work with residents. Those who can pay and are milking the system should be required to pay in full, immediately. Also, Marfa is not unique in this situation. Every city in the country is facing issues with utility payments. But Marfa has the ability to correct this issue.

I am working with Host Compliance to correct our short-term rental tax collection issues. I have helped many STR owners through the payment process and other issues. If Host Compliance does not prove satisfactory, I am interested in using HOT funds to establish an employee position with the City of Marfa to handle our STR situation.

(3) How can Marfa come out of the coronavirus crisis stronger than before?

First, I want to say how proud I am of Mayor Baeza and the city council on the actions we have taken to protect this community in the last eight months. COVID has shown the need for strong, caring, informed and decisive leadership. Our community has come first. In every decision I have made, I have stood up for Marfa. Our entire community's best interest has been first and foremost. I am heartened by how much this community cares for each other. We will come out of this crisis by keeping this a safe place to live and visit. We will come out of this crisis by strengthening our bonds with community, ensuring everyone's safety and health and believing collectively we can support each other and look out for each other in whatever comes our way. I have always believed the most important thing in Marfa is to contribute. We have seen so many contributing during this time. Our contributions have been to the betterment of our small town.

Marfa will come out on the other side of this disease financially stable, but difficult conversations about our future are in order. Marfa is a small town with big city issues. What do we want Marfa to be on the other side of this pandemic?

(4) City council is currently working on a short-term rental ordinance — something that will be one of the first things you'll vote on as a council member. What would you like to see in a rental ordinance?

From those who have lived here all their lives, to those who recently moved here, to the visitor on the street, Marfa feels special. I hear it all the time. It will be hard to preserve this if we are an entire community of short-term rentals.

We need to preserve Marfa's neighborhoods with peace and quiet and make sure every full-time resident can have and maintain a high quality of life. It's a proposed document to protect our community when something goes wrong and to give thoughtful consideration moving forward.

I would like to see the Board of Adjustments involvement with variances in residential neighborhoods. It gets the STR owner and their neighbors in a discussion about expectations and needs before moving forward. I am not advocating a ban on STRs. I have a STR but, over the last year, have reconsidered how it impacts this community.



Eddie Pallarez
Marfa City Council

(1) What is the most pressing issue facing Marfa today, and what projects would be your top priorities as a council member?

COVID-19 is the most pressing issue facing Marfa and our county, staying safe should be a priority to our community. We can all do our part by wearing a mask and physical distancing. I've kept up with some of the issues facing Marfa today, however, not being able to attend monthly meetings, I really don't know enough about the facts to comment. My focus will probably be in work ethics, personnel safety and well-being for all city employees.

(2) At times, the city has had issues with collecting payments, from utility bills to HOT payments. How would you address this issue and make sure that going forward, the city is collecting money due to the city?

Unfortunately, if the customer doesn't pay their personal or business account, it needs to be disconnected.

(3) How can Marfa come out of the coronavirus crisis stronger than before?

Follow the science guidelines and listen to the doctors and experts (CDC) on the COVID-19 pandemic. Open restaurants and local businesses when it's absolutely safe to do so.

(4) City council is currently working on a short-term rental ordinance — something that will be one of the first things you'll vote on as a council member. What would you like to see in a rental ordinance?

Obviously an ordinance needs to be addressed for certain issues like noise and parking. I'll learn more about Airbnb issues if elected.



Kubota Together we do more.

Now is the best time to save on the L3560 Limited Edition, the ultimate affordable and comfortable tractor with cab package.

$0 DOWN 0% APR 60 MONTHS + SAVE UP TO $1,200 + NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS

VISIT US TODAY FOR THIS LIMITED-TIME OFFER

OUT WEST FEED & SUPPLY ALPINE, TX

2600 E HIGHWAY 90
ALPINE, TX • 432-837-5792
OUTWESTKUBOTA.COM

KubotaUSA.com

© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2020. $0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 60 months on purchases of new Kubota L3560 equipment from participating dealers' in-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A.; subject to credit approval. Example: 60 monthly payments of $16.67 per $1,000 financed. Customer instant rebates of $500 are available on qualifying finance or $900 on cash purchases of L3560 equipment. Additional instant rebate of $700 are available with purchase of two new qualifying implements. 1st implement $500, 2nd implement $200. Contract term begins from the date of first payment which is due 90 days from the contract date. Example: Purchase made on 9/1/20, first monthly payment is due 12/1/20. Some exceptions apply. Offers expire 10/31/20. Terms subject to change. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For more information, see Dealer or go to KubotaUSA.com. KCDA-01-145027-8

AVAILABLE: HISTORIC HOOVER HOTEL RESIDENCE

COLUMBUS, NEW MEXICO



3 MILES FROM US/MEXICO BORDER 55 MILES WEST OF EL PASO, TX $249,000

- Circa 1912
- Property includes original building; 24" adobe walls + 3 adjacent lots
- 3,561.85 square feet; one-bedroom with master bath + 3/4 bath with shower
- Upstairs open artist's studio loft
- Downstairs kitchen/living loft; stainless steel appliances; granite counter tops
- 644 square foot utility and storage room
- Central air and heat
- High Speed Internet connectivity
- 6-CD surround sound stereo throughout
- Washer Dryer
- Small Enclosed yard; synthetic eco-conscious grass, perfect for pets
- Town sewage and high quality reverse osmosis water

For more information contact owner: ***Linda Lynch, info@lindalynchstudio.net***

★VOTE★VOTE★VOTE ☑



Roland Gutierrez (D)
Texas Senate District 19

1) What is your number one priority in office, and how will it impact local residents?

My number one priority is to expand healthcare in Texas. We are the most uninsured state and that can be easily changed. In these uncertain times, we need to lower the income threshold required to be eligible for Medicaid so that working families as well as lower income people can have access to quality healthcare. People are losing their jobs and the benefits that come with it. Some people never had those benefits to begin with. We need to change that, especially in light of this dangerous pandemic.

(2) Our region is off the major interstates and has fewer than 20,000 residents. Once in office, you will represent large swaths of Texas. How will you ensure our voices are heard and our needs represented?

Above all, I want to make sure to establish a presence in these 17 counties rather than just focus on Bexar and other big boxes. I have plans to make many visits throughout District 19, meeting with local leaders and citizens so that they can rest easy, knowing that they are being represented with dignity and respect. As you know, this area is fairly large and the area is bigger than some states. My team and I are exploring ways to close that representation gap with creative uses of technology and senatorial liaisons in addition to those personal visits.

(3) Many residents in this district have to travel more than 90 miles to access specialty and critical care. Some older residents even move away for this reason. Do you have a plan to make healthcare more affordable, more accessible and less confusing for residents, and what role do you think the government should play?

As mentioned before, I intend to push for Medicaid expansion which will make overall access to healthcare much easier. I absolutely believe that we need to work with the federal government to make this happen. For every dollar Texas spends on Medicaid, the federal government spends $9. This is free money just sitting there on the table. We need to incentivize healthcare providers and medical personnel to establish a presence in rural areas so that we can increase the level of care. We also need to expand the use of telemedicine so that routine care and preventative maintenance is more accessible.

(4) Our area has had some of the biggest population declines among cities in Texas, as residents leave for better job opportunities and more affordable housing. What's your plan to ensure that longtime residents and families can thrive here?

We need to bring high quality jobs back to the region. This can be accomplished in a few ways. First, we need to legalize gaming in Texas. We can add 13 destination hotels and casinos right here in the state and stop losing business to Oklahoma and Louisiana. Secondly, we need to legalize cannabis in the state of Texas. We can add thousands of farming jobs and thousands more ancillary jobs around this industry. In addition, the tax revenues collected from these two industries would greatly bolster our underfunded education system.

(5) The coronavirus crisis has presented major challenges not only to public safety but to the local economy. How can the region protect businesses and workers without compromising public health? And how will you make sure the Big Bend region has adequate resources to handle this crisis, from testing and contact tracing to protective equipment?

This whole time what we have sorely lacked is confidence that government will do the right thing and help businesses and citizens, because the government has failed to do so. While certain shutdown measures were necessary, there were arbitrary reopening schedules that were out of whack with what was actually happening in the state. What we should have done is communicated with counties about the severity of the pandemic and provided support. Going forward we need to make protective equipment materials accessible so that businesses can thrive and people can stay safe and healthy. We need to make sure that access to free, rapid testing is available everywhere so that counties have the data they need to keep tabs on COVID. The infrastructure for contact tracing must be robust and swift, especially as we enter cold and flu season. Businesses need access to zero-to-low interest loans to stay open and keep people on payroll. As state senator, I will make sure that we are in constant contact with our counties and ready to deploy resources at a moment's notice.

Though a top aide acknowledged The *Big Bend Sentinel's* request, Pete Flores (R), candidate and incumbent to Texas' SD-19, did not complete the questionnaire.



Bethany Hatch (R)
Texas Senate District 29

(1) What is your number one priority in office, and how will it impact local residents?

To pick one priority is difficult when the district has incredibly diverse needs. From tax to education reform and tackling the water issues that our rural counties are facing, there are many topics that are so important to residents throughout the district. Because the needs vary so much, it is important that we take on the top priorities for each county. However, one thing that is common throughout all the counties is the need for economic growth. Our district has incredible, hard-working people that want more jobs and opportunity to come to West Texas. The rest of Texas has a booming economy and incredible opportunity, and we need to bring that to our district. As a small business owner, I have the experience needed to bring economic growth that we so desperately need in our community.

(2) Our region is off the major interstates and has fewer than 20,000 residents. Once in office, you will represent large swaths of Texas. How will you ensure our voices are heard and our needs represented?

I plan to use technology to enable more residents of Senate District 29 to share their concerns. We're a long way from Austin, and I want to make sure that our residents can get in touch with me or my office whenever an issue arises. I also will hold regular town halls throughout the counties in our district. It's impossible to represent residents of such diverse counties if there is not constant communication between the representative and the community. I will also make sure we train any interested residents on how they can be more involved in the legislative process. The Texas Legislature has incredible technology that allows any resident to track bills, set alerts and see the progress of legislation they find important. Then, each resident will be able to contact our office in Austin and let us know what they think of any bill that is being discussed and how they want me to vote. We need to utilize that and give the residents of this district a way to be more involved with what's happening at the Capitol.

(3) Many residents in this district have to travel more than 90 miles to access specialty and critical care. Some older residents even move away for this reason. Do you have a plan to make healthcare more affordable, more accessible and less confusing for residents, and what role do you think the government should play?

We need to deregulate our healthcare system so that more qualified healthcare providers can operate throughout the state. Rural Texas has a huge need for more accessible options, and by requiring medical professionals to adhere to unnecessary regulations, it is too difficult for them to offer more affordable and accessible options. The government needs to get out of the way of medical professionals and allow patients and doctors to take control of their healthcare. One option could be allowing for reciprocity on licensing. If a medical professional is licensed in another state, then Texas should make it easier for that person to practice here. If we make it less expensive and time consuming for a trained medical professional from another state to offer their services when they move here, then we will see an increase in access to healthcare across the state.

(4) A recent study showed Presidio County had some of the biggest population declines among cities in Texas, as residents leave for better job opportunities and more affordable housing. What's your plan to ensure that longtime residents and families can thrive here?

We need tax reform and economic development in this district. The larger cities throughout the state constantly receive more attention from our elected officials, and more jobs go to those cities. It's time that we have someone fight to bring those jobs to West Texas. Presidio County shouldn't be losing population. We should be working to increase economic development and job growth by incentivizing companies to choose counties that have been ignored for too long. I have worked in the private sector for over a decade and owned my own business for six years. I have the experience we need to bring more jobs and opportunity to our district.

(5) The coronavirus crisis has presented major challenges not only to public safety but to the local economy. How can the region protect businesses and workers without compromising public health? And how will you make sure the Big Bend region has adequate resources to handle this crisis, from testing and contact tracing to protective equipment?

Every paycheck is essential to somebody, and the government should allow businesses to develop smart and safe procedures that allow them to operate without compromising safety. State officials should serve as a stabilizing force for their citizens, and as a supporting force teamed with our state healthcare system. COVID has definitely increased public awareness regarding proper hygiene, distancing and overall public health. And it has also forced businesses to look at ways to continue operations by exploring new, innovative approaches to accomplish company services. While reinforcing our public healthcare system to stay ahead of COVID, we must be mindful of the effects government decisions have on business owners and the state economy. Texans are resilient, innovative and completely capable of making adjustments where needed.



César Blanco (D)
Texas Senate District 29

(1) What is your number one priority in office, and how will it impact local residents?

Now more than ever, West Texas needs a leader willing to rise above politics to put our people first and get things done.

The issue at the forefront of everyone's mind is COVID-19. The pandemic has impacted every aspect of our lives. We need to keep West Texas safe and strong. The recovery from the pandemic is my top priority. That means ensuring people have access to quality and affordable healthcare, protecting our seniors, supporting small businesses and displaced workers, making sure our students, teachers and staff are safe when they return to the classroom, creating a statewide pandemic playbook that follows science, and making sure hard-hit regions and disproportionately impacted communities have equitable access to future COVID-19 vaccines.

(2) Our region is off the major interstates and has fewer than 20,000 residents. Once in office, you will represent large swaths of Texas. How will you ensure our voices are heard and our needs represented?

I had the honor of working for members of Congress who represented West Texas. I know the leaders, not only the elected officials, but also the community leaders. I understand the issues that are unique to rural areas.

If elected, I will continue the same community outreach efforts that I do as a state representative. We will have open lines of communication, community outreach and regular visits to the region. We will also explore the use of video-conferencing and utilizing technology to connect constituents with our district and capitol offices. I believe that an elected official needs to be accessible to their constituents, and I will always have an open door for my constituents and be responsive to correspondence.

(3) Many residents in this district have to travel more than 90 miles to access specialty and critical care. Some older residents even move away for this reason. Do you have a plan to make healthcare more affordable, more accessible and less confusing for residents, and what role do you think the government should play?

Passing Medicaid expansion in Texas could be one of the most effective tools to address the health and economic impacts caused by COVID-19. It would return Texas taxpayer dollars to our state to the tune of $10 billion per year and can provide health insurance to over 1.7 million uninsured families all across Texas. Since 2010, Texas has closed more hospitals than any other state in the nation, at least 20 of which were rural, because Republicans refused to expand Medicaid. Expanding Medicaid will help keep the lights on in rural hospitals to ensure rural Texas has access to critical medical care.

I will also push to permanently expand telemedicine options. This will help patients continue treatments and appointments over the phone or virtually while staying safe, and we'll make sure our doctors and care providers are compensated fairly so they can continue to see patients remotely. As the State of Texas continues to respond to COVID-19 and maintain regular healthcare services and operations throughout the state, telemedicine is one of the most valuable tools we have to ensure Texans continue to receive the health services they need.

West Texas and El Paso are a designated Health Professional Shortage Area. As state senator, I would continue to fight for full funding of our local medical, dental and nursing schools and programs at SRSU, TTUHSCEP, UTEP and EPCC to improve access to health professionals in the region.

(4) A recent study showed Presidio County had some of the biggest population declines among cities in Texas, as residents leave for better job opportunities and more affordable housing. What's your plan to ensure that longtime residents and families can thrive here?

Improving public education, access to healthcare, transportation, water infrastructure and broadband connectivity can help longtime residents and families thrive in Presidio County and rural Texas, and these issues will be a priority for me in the Texas Senate.

Last session I co-authored and helped pass House Bill 3 to provide $4.5 billion in student-centered education reforms, $5 billion for property tax relief and $2 billion for dynamic raises for hardworking teachers. We need to continue these historic investments in public education and oppose private school vouchers.

To increase access to healthcare, I will fight for Medicaid expansion to provide coverage for 1.7 million Texans and help keep rural hospitals open, expand telemedicine options and invest in our medical, dental and nursing programs at SRSU, TTUHSCEP, UTEP and EPCC.

To improve mobility and transportation safety in West Texas, I will support the US 67 Master Plan, which was developed in coordination with the counties and communities along the highway, to identify short- and long-term goals for the region.

Texas is well overdue for a state broadband plan, and I believe the state needs to begin the process of creating one immediately to help connect our rural communities to high-speed internet.

Water supports jobs and is the livelihood of farmers, industry and rural communities. I support Texas' efforts to ensure Texas is receiving its fair share of water under the Rio Grande Compact with New Mexico and the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico, and makes investment in water infrastructure projects.

(5) The coronavirus crisis has presented major challenges not only to public safety but to the local economy. How can the region protect businesses and workers without compromising public health? And how will you make sure the Big Bend region has adequate resources to handle this crisis, from testing and contact tracing to protective equipment?

COVID-19 has impacted every facet of our lives. The health and safety of Texans should be our top priority. We are all in this together and need to work together to protect our community, and that means following the advice of science and public health experts, not political agendas.

As a state representative I have worked hand-in-hand with local officials to make sure the state is responsive to local needs. For example, weeks ago when COVID-19 cases started to go up in El Paso again, I wrote a letter to Governor Abbott requesting flexibility and resources for our community to address our unique challenges. Days later, Governor Abbott surged medical personnel and personal protective equipment (PPE) to the area to assist our community.

This past week I also wrote a letter to the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response to ensure hard-hit regions and disproportionately impacted communities are not left behind in future COVID-19 vaccine allocation and distribution plans.

As state senator, I will continue to work with our local officials and foster relationships with state leaders to ensure the state is responsive to our requests.





Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to acknowledge our City of Presidio Volunteer Firefighters for their volunteer work. We have a great appreciation for the work carried out by the firefighters in our community. This year we have canceled the yearly recognition awards reception at the city library due to the pandemic and there being no social gatherings at this time.

If and when it is safe to do so, we will honor these wonderful volunteers: Presidio Fire Chief Mr. Saul Pardo, Presidio fire department volunteers Jessica Murillo, Karlo Murillo, Adrian Flores, Jesus Hermosillo, Stephenie Rivera, Karen Murillo, Cristian Andrade, George Muniz, Hector Reyes, Marcos Hernandez, Alejandro Montemayor, Emiliano Valenzuela, Robert Reyna, Andy Perez, Caroline Lewis, Mireya Leyva and Liz Rohana.

These individuals risk their lives to save others. Certificates of Appreciation were sent to these wonderful volunteers. Thank you.

Carmen Elguezabal
Library Director, City of Presidio

• • •

Dear Editor,

In the 10/22 Alpine Avalanche, a letter writer wondered why someone would wear a mask while driving alone 20 miles outside of town.

I'd like to reply, because sometimes another person's situation is not always obvious.

Sometimes people are taken to our local hospital in an ambulance, and when they are released they don't have a ride home. Sometimes I provide their ride from Alpine, occasionally to Marfa, Fort Davis or Presidio.

Outbound we both wear masks, and after we have been together in a small closed airspace, I consider it an easy precaution to keep my mask on as I drive back to town, where it is more comfortable to have all of the windows open.

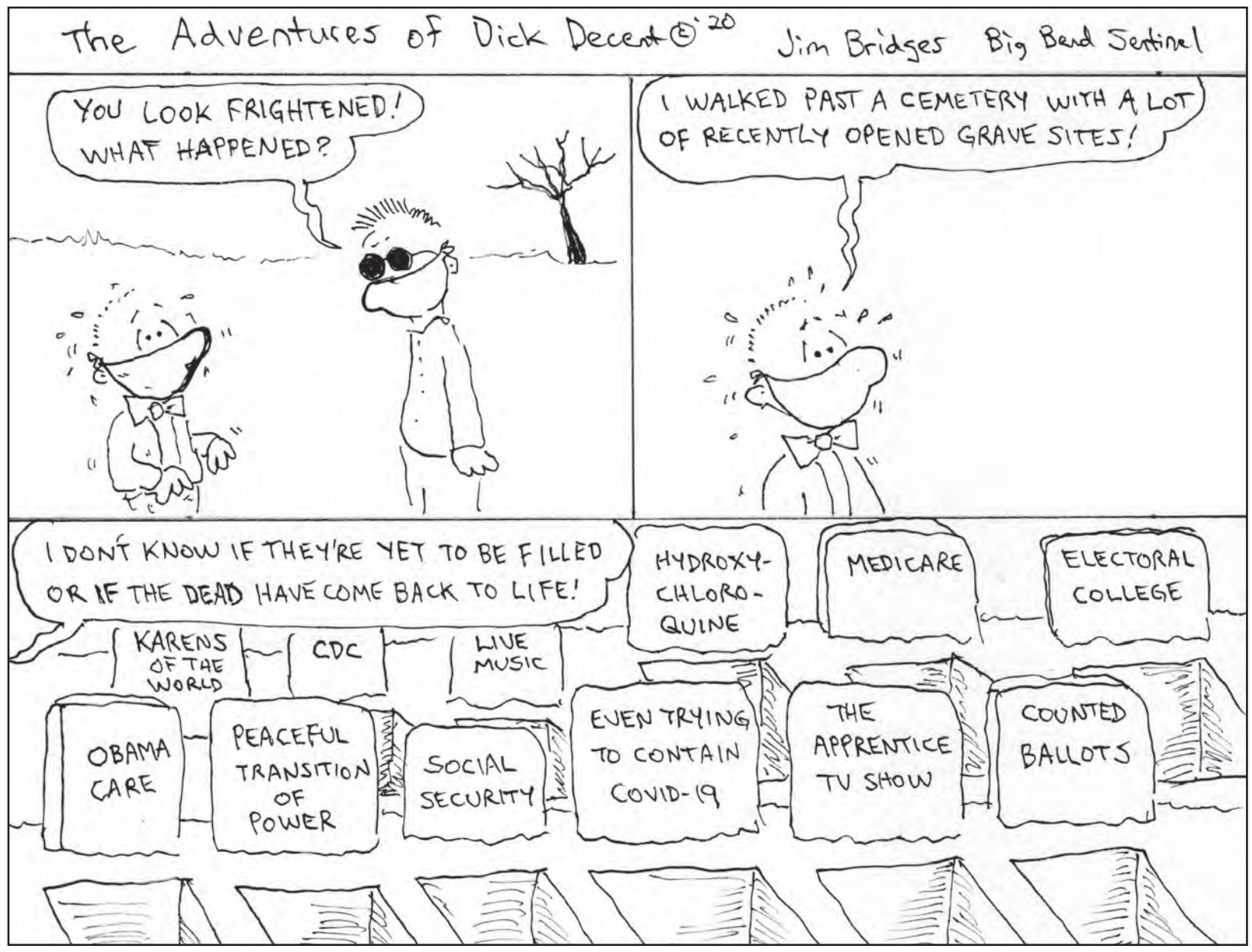
I believe that we all benefit when we voluntarily give up having 100% individual free will in order to provide a safer and more orderly common good for all people.

Sometimes what we sacrifice for the common good is easy, like pulling over to let an emergency vehicle drive past. Sometimes it requires more of us, like paying a share of garbage pick up and waste water treatment rather than dumping raw sewage at the edge of our yard or throwing our trash down the street.

Our leaders don't always make perfect decisions, but we do better if we respectfully work together to figure it out.

Pam Gaddis
Alpine

• • •



COFFEE WITH FRIENDS

This week I sat down with Scrappy Jud Newcomb for some coffee and chatted over the challenges he has been facing during the pandemic in Marfa. Scrappy is a musician, a guitar player and a record producer.

Anett Gabriel: What's your day like?

Scrappy Jud Newcomb: It's good, started out really good. Enjoying the weather, and later I'll drive to Austin, where I registered to vote.

AG: What's your favorite thing about Marfa?

SN: In the late nineties I started to come out here a lot to spend time and write. And I remember getting out of the car and hearing no man-made sounds at all. There was just this moment that I could hear from miles away, I could hear the silence. I realized the silence, and it was like this great medicine healing thing that I had not had in my life for so long. I was feeling transformed by it. The great wide open, the soul music and the Milky Way. All my favorite things. Marfa is changing somewhat, but the quiet is so important for me. About Marfa in particular, I love the community, my neighbors and it's not as random as it used to be, which I miss. But I miss that and love the aspect of more personal freedom and more respect and inspired randomness.

AG: When did you move to Marfa?

SN: I bought my house here in 2013. My friends Ronnie and Suzy lived out here and they found me a place. And because of the kindness of the owners, they were able to owner finance it for me. Then I lived here full time from the summer of 2014 through 2015. And then I ended up back in Austin more as a home base and I come out to Marfa just any time I get a project or just have some time. In between times, I was renting out my place, and this year I came back and everything in my life changed.

AG: You've been an active performing musician. What changes are you facing during the pandemic?

SN: About 75 percent of what I do with my time is to play either live music or in rooms full of people. So everything in my life changed, and March 14th was the last kind of normal club show that I played.

For one thing, I couldn't be in a better place than Marfa. I have so many good friends here and pretty much as soon as the bottom dropped out from live music, my friends Rebecca and Jean Marc from the Waterstop were in the process of working and opening the bar next door. They knew the situation I was in and they hired me to paint a lot of the interior of the bar, and I still have credit for food. And then my dear old friend Fran Christina, a great drummer, hired me to do all kinds of stuff and through that I ended up having a lot of work that really kind of saved me. I had so many tours and shows fall through, and one of the ways that my life has changed is doing a lot of work that I haven't done since I was 20 years old.

And it's really an emotional time and also having life just sort of stopped in its tracks. It's been really challenging. I kind of learned it through the years, when things get hard, you just have to keep fighting harder for the things you're believing in. And keep fighting for things that are beautiful to you, and rock 'n' roll music is very beautiful to me. I've been listening to more music than I have in a long time and going back to records that meant so much to me when I was 14.

AG: What's your favorite song of all time?

SN: That's so hard. But I would say, one of them that it hits me on a physical level is the song "Tumbling Dice" by the Rolling Stones, from their 1973 album *Exile on Main St*. There is something about that song that always works some magic. But you know a good song for this time is Tom Petty's "Refugee." It's a very good song for everybody to listen to. It will make you feel better immediately, which all good rock 'n' roll music does. We need rock 'n' roll more than ever right now.

AG: What is your most memorable performance?

SN: Well, there are thousands of great nights that I had. Some big ones: I was in a band with Ian McLagan, a swinging London rocker, and we did open for the Stones in Zilker Park in Austin, in front of 50,000 people, which was a great time. Also with a band I was in in the nineties called Loose Diamonds, we had this magical show in the town Pistoia, Italy. It was a bill with us, Joe Lilly Band and Bob Dylan's band. And the show was in the town's square and people were hanging out of the windows and the whole plaza was filled with people. It was so much fun.

There are so many great shows, and you could probably drop me in 1997 on a Tuesday night and there is every chance that that would be the most fun show.

Marfa resident Anett Gabriel interviews local artists, business owners, friends and neighbors in her monthly column.

• • •

WEST TEXAS PEST MANAGEMENT
TPCL 13335
CALL: 432-940-4075

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.

METHOD BUILDING CO. MARFA, TEXAS
Specializing in architecturally designed construction projects in Far West Texas.
info@methodmarfa.com
512.787.1195.

Home Auto Commercial
LIVINGSTON INSURANCE AGENCY
Serving West Texas
Dan Platt, Jr.
903 West San Antonio Street • Marfa
432.729.4306 • dan@marfainsurance.com www.marfainsurance.com

We want to hear from YOU!

- 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

TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL 2020
OCTOBER 31–NOVEMBER 15
BENEFITING TEXAS LIBRARIES AND LITERACY | LAURA BUSH, HONORARY CHAIR
TEXASBOOKFESTIVAL.ORG
Featuring Texas Authors * H.W. Brands
Robert Draper * Stephen Graham Jones
Adair Margo * Matthew McConaughey
José R. Ralat * Richard Z. Santos
Francisco X. Stork * Doug J. Swanson
Natalia Sylvester * Kathy Valentine
James Wade * Amanda Eyre Ward
Sam Wedelich ...and more!

Bringing together buyers and sellers of ranches and unique properties throughout Texas
KING LAND & WATER
Protecting Clients. Conserving the Land.
Offices in Fort Davis and Austin
432-426-2024 www.KingLandWater.com
info@KingLandWater.com



HIGH DESERT SKETCHES

Happy Halloween

By GEORGE A. COVINGTON

Graveyards and Halloween are inseparable in the minds of most Americans. I've always felt that good Halloween stories should begin and end in graveyards. The Terlingua graveyard is one of the most photographed sites in West Texas. I once wrote that the chaotic distribution of grave sites was due to the fact that you were buried where you dropped, but the seemingly chaotic disposition of graves is what has inspired countless photographers.

While the Terlingua graveyard may have a collection of the oddest headstones and such of any graveyard in the Southwest, it does not have the poetic epitaphs. Among my favorites are:

"Here lies George Johnson
Hanged by mistake
1882
He was right
We was wrong
But we strung him up
And now he's gone." - ghost town in Arizona.

"Here lays Butch,
We planted him raw.
He was quick on the trigger,
But slow on the draw." - Silver City, Nevada - circa 1880s

Unlike the rest of Anglo-America, we have three creepy critters that are around 365 days of the year. While we may share ghosts, ghouls and goblins as well as vampires, zombies and witches, we have our terrible trio of La Llorona, the man with chicken feet, and our most recent addition, the chupacabra. La Llorona has been accused of drowning children for over 400 years. Betrayed by her lover, she drowned her own children and has been after other people's kids ever since. Modern mothers can wave their cell phones in the air and yell at misbehaving children: "Just remember, I've got La Llorona's number and the dog's water bowl is a lot deeper than it looks."



The handsome young man with chicken feet has been around almost as long as La Llorona. The chicken feet symbolized that he is the devil, or more honestly this is a simple morality tale to warn young women away from devilishly handsome young men. It might be simpler to tell them, "Check out his feet before his face."

The poor chupacabra has been maligned more than he has been seen. The word chupacabra can be roughly translated as goat blood sucker or Wall Street banker (I said roughly). This scuzzy-looking fanged creature with a beak is described as an anorexic, mangy dog that walks on its hind feet and picks on chickens and goats because they are the only creatures too dumb to run.

Legends begin in many ways. The Burro Lady was a legend by the time I moved to Alpine 23 years ago. There were many stories that purported to explain her life and why for over 25 years she was seen plodding along the backroads and byways of West Texas. From El Paso to Del Rio, her mule and burro trekked through all the seasons and conditions. Some said that she had been cheated out of her inheritance and rejected the world and all of its materialism. She never took handouts and would occasionally sell roadside finds to acquaintances in the little towns she passed through. If it can be said she had a home, it would have been in Terlingua. Her official address was "by Terlingua Creek."

Bill Ivey helped her obtain that as an address at the local post office. Bill probably knew her better than anyone else in West Texas and respected her need for personal space. He tells the story of a Terlingua couple who decided to beat the high cost of funerals by going to East Texas and buying a simple pine coffin. They made it back to West Texas before the truck broke down and they were forced to camp by the side of the road at night. As they sat by their campfire The Burro Lady rode in and asked if she could share their campfire. They knew her from Terlingua and made her welcome. They explained their dilemma and their coffin. The Burro Lady remarked, "I'd like to be buried in Terlingua."

Years later, she was found dead of natural causes east of El Paso near Sierra Blanca. Bill Ivey, knowing of her request, drove to El Paso, and was on his way back to Terlingua. His cell phone rang and it was the couple from years before who had also remembered her request. They said, "Bill, we got this coffin…" The Burro Lady's wishes were carried out when a hundred or so of us met at the graveyard in Terlingua and laid her to rest.

I like to think on moonlit nights along the beautiful backroads and byways of the Big Bend, the Burro Lady's spirit plods down the road towards lights on the horizon, and she knows that be it Alpine or Marathon or Terlingua or a hundred other small towns, she'll always be welcome.

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.

DYSLEXIA INFORMATION

By CINDA MUENCH

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month. Estimates reveal that as many as 15-20% of people have dyslexia at varying degrees. Because of this, it is important to know some basic facts about it.

Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge. These difficulties in phonological awareness are unexpected for the person's age and educational level. Additionally, there is often a family history of similar difficulties.

The process of identifying dyslexia starts with screening. Throughout Texas, all kindergarten, first and second grade students are screened. Seventh graders who failed STAAR are also screened. If screening indicates the possibility of dyslexia, letters are sent home to get permission for testing and to get further information. Once the information is returned, the testing process can start. Students are given a battery of tests and cumulative data is collected. If testing, data collection and family surveys reveal that the problem is likely dyslexia, a letter will be sent home requesting a meeting. The dyslexia committee will then meet with the parents to make decisions about how best to serve the student.

When a student at Marfa ISD is determined to need dyslexia intervention, they are placed in a pull-out program called Reading by Design. This program is offered in small group arrangements and includes a holistic approach to reading, writing and spelling. The major instructional strategies utilize individualized, intensive and multisensory methods. Instruction is organized and presented in a way that follows a logical, sequential plan, fits the nature of language and has no assumption of prior skills or language knowledge, and maximizes student engagement. This instruction proceeds at a rate commensurate with students' needs, ability levels and demonstration of progress. A reading curriculum that matches each student's individual ability level and contains all of the components of instruction mandated by the state is also incorporated.

Students with dyslexia, dyslexia characteristics and reading difficulties may be eligible for a wide range of accommodations on all content areas of the STAAR. If the student has accommodations, they must use them routinely in classroom and testing situations. The accommodation decisions and plans will be made and documented by a Student Support Team, a Section 504 Committee, or an ARD Committee depending on the situation.

Students meeting the eligibility may have access to oral administration of question and answer choices for the reading portion of the STAAR. Oral administration of test question and answer choices (including reading of tables, graphs, etc.) in the subject areas of mathematics, science and social studies is also an allowable accommodation for eligible students. For STAAR writing in fourth, seventh, and English I-III, writing prompts ONLY may be read aloud to eligible dyslexic students. The student's committee may also decide that the student needs extended time, allowable until the end of the school day. For further accommodation guidelines go to the link below. http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/accommodations/staar-telpas/

Cinda Muench is the dyslexia coordinator at Marfa ISD. She has a master's degree in education, certification as a diagnostician and a specialty in special education. She was trained and taught the dyslexia program 30 years ago, at the beginning of the movement for dyslexia legislation. Mrs. Muench was retrained when she took the dyslexia position at MISD. Please contact her at the Marfa Elementary School, 432-729-5500, should you have questions regarding dyslexia or related matters.

2020 ELECTION DEADLINES

~~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**

Radio for Marfa!
Valentine RADIO.NET
For Van Horn, Fort Davis, Marfa, and Valentine
Available on iTunes
ANDROID APP ON Google play

MNB
THE MARFA NATIONAL BANK
24 Hour ATM
Loans
Personal Banking
Business Banking
301 S. Highland Ave. - Marfa
432-729-4344 or 877-729-4344 www.marfanb.com

RE-ELECT
BRENDA
SILVA BENTLEY
PRESIDIO COUNTY
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1
PAID POL. ADV. BY BRENDA SILVA BENTLEY, P.O. BOX 1372, MARFA, TX 79843

FINE SPIRITS BEER & WINE
NATIVE TREES & PLANTS
LOCAL PRODUCE & WARES
Cactus Liquors
405 S Highland (432)729-7070
cactusliquors@gmail.com

WTG Fuels, Inc.
GASCARD™
Your Full Service Propane, Gasoline & Diesel Distributor for Brewster, Jeff Davis & Presidio Counties of West Texas
ALPINE OFFICE:
2411 East Highway 90
ph: 432-837-2518
MARATHON OFFICE:
Highway 385 South
ph:432-386-4422

FINDARANCH OUT WEST
SUPERIOR Land Network
Specializing in Texas Ranch and Rural Properties
FAR Out West Properties, LLC Marfa, Texas
Cleat L. Stephens, Broker (432)249-0401
cleat@findaranch.com (833)Out-West
www.faroutwestproperties.com

SUBSCRIBE AT BIGBENSENTINEL.COM

Arts & Community

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



"Cactus Pot" by Seth
Marfa Elementary School

Octavio Solis returns to mark 10 years of Playwriting Program

By JD GARCIA
Marfa Live Arts

MARFA — Marfa Live Arts announces the return of renowned playwright Octavio Solis for the 2021 Playwriting Program this coming spring at Marfa High School.

Considered by many to be one of the most prominent Latino playwrights in America, Solis' work details and transcends the Mexican American experience. The El Paso native has written and directed over 20 plays (*Mother Road*, *Quixote Nuevo*, *Lydia*) that have been performed throughout the country, earning numerous awards from the Kennedy Center, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Playwrights' Center.

Aside from writing plays, Solis served as a consultant on Disney-Pixar's blockbuster hit *Coco,* which draws heavily on the themes of Día de Muertos. "We were there from the beginning to ensure that the culture was represented accurately. They had us look at every aspect of the film. We became the firewall between something that could be cooked up just for sales and something that was authentic to the culture. Disney-Pixar wanted to get it right."



Playwright and Actor Octavio Solis plays Arrival Agent in Disney Pixar's blockbuster hit Coco.

Solis continues, "It was a way for general American audiences to relate to someone that looks like me in a way that is so immediate, visceral and humane. That's what's so puzzling and so disturbing about the times we are living in, that a film like *Coco* can attract such a wide audience, and yet at the same time a lot of that audience is demonizing us. It's very hard to see that. I don't understand." His work on the film earned him the Imagen Award for Consultant in 2018.

In *Coco,* Solis also voiced the Arrival Agent, who ushers the young boy Miguel into The Land of the Dead. A public holiday in Mexico, Día de Muertos is celebrated on November 1-2, and is devoted to remembering and praying for friends and family who have passed away. Some Mexican academics believe the holiday has indigenous pre-Hispanic roots, while others believe it was a Spanish tradition rebranded to commemorate Aztec heritage.

Solis' first workshop with Marfa Live Arts was a part of a month-long artist-in-residency program. The school workshop, he said, introduced students to the art of playwriting.

"I like that Marfa Live Arts is on a mission to bring art and writing to the kids of working families in the area," Solis said. Recounting his first visit to the city, "We had them tap into their lives. To hear their voices. To tell us what they thought we needed to hear. I think what Marfa Live Arts Director Jennie Lyn Hamilton created is very special." The students, Solis added, quickly caught on and delved into themselves during the program, using the art of playwriting to express themselves in ways foreign to them. "There was one session where the kids read and got emotional about what they wrote. It was powerful and electric. It was cathartic for the kids, giving expression to their voices. I was deeply blown away."

For Hamilton, the return of Solis to the program is a reason for excitement. "Octavio is phenomenal, we are thrilled he will be working with our youth again," she said. "I've followed his career since I first saw his tour de force *El Paso Blue* at the Milagro Theatre in Portland, Oregon in 2000. His portrayal of our border region rings so true with its intense and layered complexity. His upbringing along the Rio Grande definitely influences all his work."

The 2021 program will bookend the first decade of the program with Solis, who was the first Marfa Live Arts playwright-in-residence to work with Marfa High School students.

Open Tue-Sun 10-6
503.970.2833
Find us in the alley
behind Frama Coffee
MARFA ART SUPPLY

MORE OPTIONS
MORE DISCOUNTS
■ Auto ■ Home ■ Life



DONA WARD BLEVINS
Your Local Agent
710 E AVENUE E, ALPINE, TX 79830
DBLEVINS@FARMERSAGENT.COM
https://agents.farmers.com/dblevins

Call 432.837.2225 today!
Smart choices last a lifetime.
FARMERS INSURANCE

Insurance underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange and other affiliated insurance companies. Life insurance is issued by Farmers New World Life Insurance Company, 3003 77th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040. Each insurer has sole financial responsibility for its own insurance. Visit farmers.com for a complete list of companies. Not all insurers are authorized in all states. Not all products, coverages, and discounts are available in all states. See agent for details.



Ballroom resident Rob Frye shares 'the magic and beauty' of West Texas birds

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Refrigerators hum, clocks tick, birds chirp – and then inevitably, humans tune out the persistent noise, until it hardly exists at all. But musician, birder and recent Ballroom Marfa resident Rob Frye wants to tune people back into the melodies of local birds and his latest album, *Chihuahuan Desert Birdscapes*, is an invitation for locals to begin to hear again.

The album itself relies on Frye's field recordings from the area and his own improvised instruments from invasive grasses found on the border, along with audio contributions from Xeno-canto, a site where citizen scientists upload birdsong recordings. The artist is a trained musician, but also spent three seasons as a field biologist, counting birds by ear in California.

"One of my goals with the project is to make people more aware of their environment. It's so vast, it's easy to look over the whole thing," said Frye. "For some reason, the general public thinks bird watching is over your head or for dorks."

But Frye is passionate about helping people begin to see with fresh eyes these creatures that have evolved intricately over millions of years. "We really should pay attention to them and stop pretending that we can't understand or stop overlooking it. It's not like people are deliberately not paying attention, but it's one of those things that's subtle. But my job as a musician and bird watcher is to show them the magic and beauty of the hidden stuff."



Photo by Evan Jenkins

Rob Frye

In the album, Frye made a point to sample endangered birds in the area, wanting to make sure to capture some of the unique threatened species in the area, "but also highlight what we share," he said. From his home in Chicago, he discussed eastern meadowlark ranges, which span from his area all the way to West Texas.

Alongside the Ballroom commissioned album, Frye has presented a "Hearing Hidden Melodies" lecture, organized with the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute in Fort Davis. "Listen to the lecture first," Frye suggested. He admitted he's the type to read the plaques when visiting museums, and hopes the lecture enlightens subsequent listens to the album in the same way.

"Their sounds are just insanely cool to me as a musician and when you slow it down, you can hear it," he added. "We have to really appreciate it."

The lecture is available through November 1 on Ballroom Marfa's website and the album is available on Ballroom Marfa's Bandcamp.

Now anyone under 18 can eat for free from Marfa schools

MARFA — Marfa ISD has been informed that all children 18 years of age and younger will be able to get free breakfast and lunch at Robinson Cafeteria, from Monday, November 2 to May 2021, regardless of whether the child is enrolled at Marfa ISD.

At the beginning of the school year, households were informed that all students enrolled at Marfa ISD would be receiving free meals (breakfast and lunch), but Marfa ISD has been approved, once again, to provide free meals to any child 18 years of age or younger.

- **Where:** Robinson Cafeteria curbside pick-up
- **When:** Monday - Friday 10 am - 11 am (excluding weekends & school holidays)

Call the cafeteria for any questions: 432-729-5500 ext 1050 or 1051

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

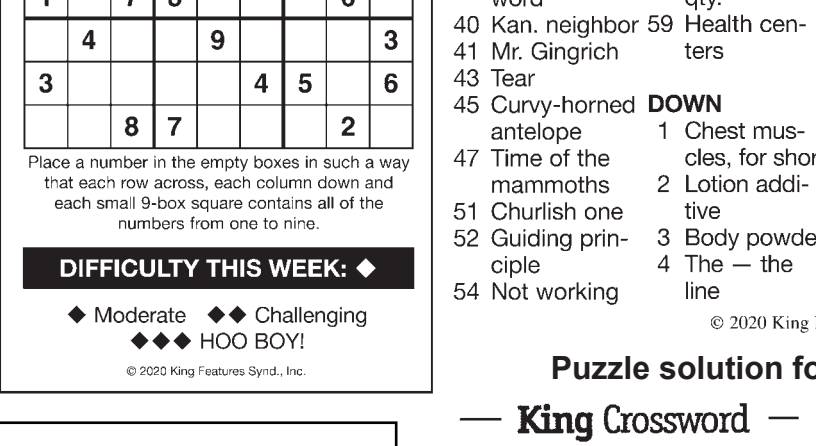
MARFA 12 STEP MEETINGS ONLINE

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

King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Cracker spread
5 Easter entree
8 "The Thin Man" dog
12 Verve
13 Past
14 Use scissors
15 Sudden temperature drop
17 — Christian Andersen
18 Dueler's ally
19 Pass by
21 Watch chain
22 Foolish
23 Andrews or Edwards, for ex.
26 Path
28 Gaggle members
31 Conks out
33 Joke
35 Paint crudely
36 "Yes we can" man
38 Oft-tattooed word
40 Kan. neighbor
41 Mr. Gingrich
43 Tear
45 Curvy-horned antelope
47 Time of the mammoths
51 Churlish one
52 Guiding principle
54 Not working
55 Under the weather
56 Takeout phrase
57 Start a garden
58 Nutritional qty.
59 Health centers

DOWN
1 Chest muscles, for short
2 Lotion additive
3 Body powder
4 The — the line
5 Purse
6 Khan title
7 Motorized bike
8 Embarrassed
9 Crisp-pod legume
10 Supermarket stack
11 Church section
16 Winter forecast
20 Drag along
23 Commotion
24 Little white lie
25 Tall thin person
27 Thanksgiving veggie
29 Seek damages
30 "Chicago" lyricist
32 Slandered
34 Ape
37 Piercing tool
39 Cinderella's horses, really
42 Long-snouted critter
44 Nuisances
45 Wading bird
46 Fashion
48 On
49 Infatuated
50 Cupid's alias
53 Antiquated



© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

Puzzle solution for last week's issue

— King Crossword —
Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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

Students invited to participate in 2020-2021 Letters About Literature Texas competition

TEXAS — The Texas Center for the Book has launched the 2020-2021 Letters About Literature Texas contest, a program that invites students to respond to authors of books or poetry who have touched their lives. The contest opens November 4, 2020, and is open to Texas students in grades 4 through 12.

Participants select a book, book series, essay, play poem, short story or speech that has made a lasting impact on their lives. They then write a personal letter to the author that reflects how they have been changed, inspired or motivated by the work they selected. State winners receive $100 and travel assistance for the 2021 Texas Library Association Annual Conference.

All submissions for the contest must be submitted through the online submission platform by December 17, 2020, 5 p.m. (CST). A permission form is required for all students who will be younger than 13 on November 4, 2020.

To learn more about the contest, how to submit and to view winning entries from previous years, visit www.tsl.texas.gov/lettersaboutliterature. The website also features an educator resources page, including printable bookmarks and student handouts, participation certificates, key dates, permission forms and a step-by-step teaching guide featuring writing prompts. The site also includes a frequently asked questions page, student and teacher submission guidelines, letters from past winners, videos from authors and the official contest rules.

For more information on Texas Center for the Book initiatives, a project of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, visit www.tsl.texas.gov/centerforthebook or contact Ms. Manley at rmanley@tsl.texas.gov or 512-936-2505.

Established in 1987, the Center for the Book seeks to stimulate public interest in books, reading, literacy and libraries. The center builds partnerships with library professionals, educators, authors, publishers and booksellers who provide support to our shared mission of promoting a love of literature throughout the Lone Star State. The Texas Center for the Book is under the direction of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission at the Lorenzo De Zavala State Archives and Library Building in Austin, Texas.

After 24 years at library, Marquez retires again — for now

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com



Marquez, far left, celebrates the grand opening of the Marfa Public Library courtyard in 2019.

MARFA — Maggie Marquez worked at the Marfa Public Library for more than two decades and loved every minute of it. But over the summer, as the coronavirus pandemic continued to rage across Texas and Marquez grew more worried about her family's safety, she decided to call it quits.

In July, the library was getting ready to start allowing residents into the library building again — and for Marquez, that seemed like a risky prospect. At 76, her age range puts her at risk for complications from COVID-19. But more than herself, Marquez said she worried about the safety of her husband, who has diabetes and is legally blind.

When Marquez first retired from the library in 2012, then-Mayor Dan Dunlap threw her a big retirement party at Hotel Paisano. There were no such celebrations this time, as public officials have encouraged Americans to practice social distancing and many Marfans have hunkered down.

Mandy Roane, the current city manager and former library director, described Marquez as a "mainstay" and "fixture" at the Marfa Library and said she practically considered her family. She was sad the library couldn't give Marquez a better send-off.

"I feel so terrible about it," Roane said in an interview this week. "She deserved so much more than what we could give her." Once the coronavirus pandemic dies down, she hopes to do something for Marquez's retirement, even if it's just dinner with friends.

Marquez, who grew up in Marfa, has always worked in public-facing jobs. It started at age 13, when she got her first job at what was then the Snow Cream ice cream shop in town.

She held several service industry jobs after that, including as a waitress at the Thunderbird Restaurant and a cashier at the local Winn's Department Store. Eventually, she started cooking and serving meals at the Marfa Nutrition Center. "I've always worked in public," she said. And with her library job now behind her, "I miss my public."

Marquez first started working at the Marfa Library in 1996. Back then, she said, the city's public library was more barebones than it is now.

"We were crammed in there with very little stuff," she said. "Very few books and movies, and only two computers." That started to change, she said, as the library was able to raise more money, including through grants and with donations from the Lannan Foundation.

At the Marfa Library, Marquez earned a reputation as someone tuned in not only to library issues, but to the needs of the Marfa community. Roane, the former library director, called her a source of "institutional knowledge." Marquez knew stuff that "you only get from working there for so long," she said.

"A book would come in, and she'd immediately know the first three or four people to call who were waiting for it," Roane said. "It was amazing."

Asked about these characterizations, Marquez agreed that she stayed up-to-date on the reading interests of Marfans. "I learned through the years what people liked and what kind of stories they wanted," she said. "Some wanted romance. Some wanted Victorian. Some wanted crime."

There was a group of library visitors, Marquez recalled, who enjoyed novels by the romance author Danielle Steel. She kept a running list of those consumers, so she could let them know when new books by the author came in.



Photos courtesy of Maggie Marquez

Marquez, back center, poses for a photo with other library staff in 2005.

Then there was Jim White, a resident who preferred crime and suspense. "I would call him and tell him, 'We have this book,'" Marquez recalled.

As for Marquez, her interests fall somewhere in the middle. "I like a little bit of suspense," she said. "I also like romantic books."

Marquez first decided to retire from the library in 2012, after she had a couple surgeries. Marquez officially left the library in June of that year, but she missed the job and the library didn't want to see her go.

Around late September, she said, the library called to offer her a part-time job. "All my kids said, 'Mom, go back to work,'" Marquez recalled. "They didn't want to see me depressed." After getting a letter of approval from her doctor, she picked up a part-time job working mornings — staying at the library for around another eight years.

Now on her second round of retirement, Marquez said she's staying busier this time. She credits that in part to the coronavirus crisis, which has kept her grandkids out of in-person school. To stay busy, she's helping one of them with their at-home classwork.

"It feels good because when I worked at the library, I used to be in charge of the children's program," she said. "Teaching is fun." She spends her mornings helping her grandkid with homework, typically returning home for lunch with her husband around noon.

Marquez still works with the Marfa and Presidio County Museum, where she is president of their board. She works on sewing projects, including finishing some throw pillows started by her late mother. She bakes, cooks and does chores, which sometimes means "I just go to the post office and come back," she said with a laugh.

The Marfa Library may not have seen the last of Marquez, though. Asked whether she'd ever consider returning, she didn't hesitate.

"If this virus hadn't come in, I'd probably still be there," Marquez said. "I love the library. And if they need me after everything is clear, I probably would go help."



Raul Lara
City Council Member
Cell# 432-249-1189
councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com
Post Office Box 787
432-729-4315 / fax 432-729-3158

Convenience West BBQ
Friday • Saturday • Sunday
5 pm - 9 pm or till gone
1411 W San Antonio/Hwy 90

Bullet Transport Services INC.
for all your transportation needs: local, international, USA, Mexico, Canada
Presidio/Mexico/Canada
229.4427

Prescription Shop Marfa
A full-service pharmacy. Now accepting many insurance plans for service while you wait.
105 East Oak Street,
next to Marfa Country Clinic
432.729.4244
rxshopmarfa@gmail.com

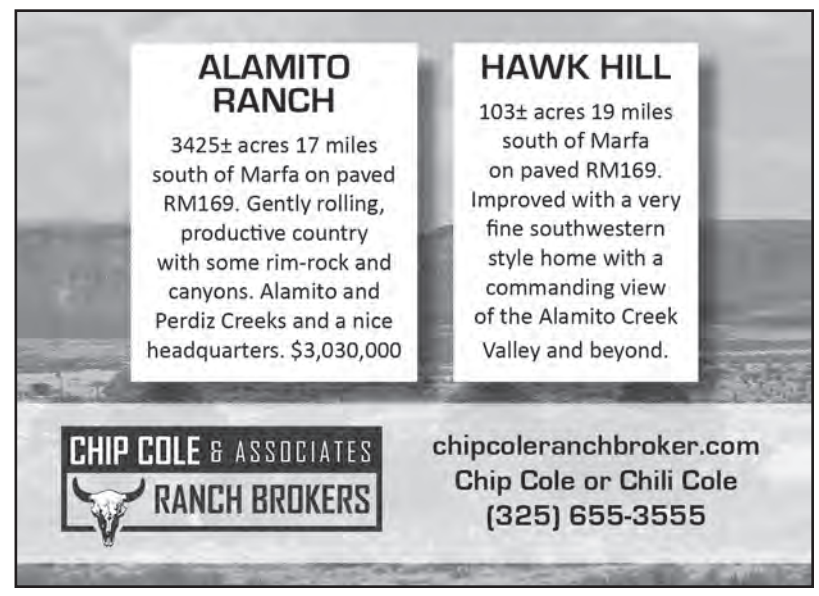
Celebration Liquor Marfa
Mon - Thu11:30 am - 9 pm
Fri - Sat 10 am - 9 pm
729-4682 • Alpine
Mon - Sat 10 am - 9 pm
432-837-7479 • Marfa

MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

Please note that all games are subject to change due to positive COVID cases in the school districts.

Friday, October 30, 7:30 pm: FOOTBALL *vs Buena Vista, Home*
Saturday, October 31, VOLLEYBALL *District certification*

YOUR AD HERE!
ONLY $10 / WEEK
Contact
ads@bigbendsentinel.com



☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

OCT / NOV	Thurs, Oct 29	Fri, Oct 30	Mon, Nov 2	Tues, Nov 3	Wed, Nov 4
BREAKFAST	CINNAMON ROLL, SAUSAGE	MUFFIN, YOGURT	SAUSAGE BISCUIT	CEREAL BAR, YOGURT	CHICKEN N WAFFLES
LUNCH	PEPPERONI PIZZA, GARDEN SALAD, BABY CARROTS, FRUIT	SHREDDED BBQ PORK ON A BUN, MULTIGRAIN CHIPS, COLESLAW, BROCCOLI FLORETS, FRUIT COOKIE	L:STEAK FINGERS, GRAVY, ROLL, FRIES, TOMATO CUP, STRAWBERRY APPLESAUCE	FRENCH BREAD CHEESE PIZZA, MARINARA SAUCE, GARDEN SALAD, CALI BLEND VEGETABLES, MIXED FRUIT	SLOPPY JOE SANDWICH, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, BAKED FRIES, PEARS, COOKIE

Menu courtesy of PORTER'S SINCE 1945
Celebrating 70+ years of serving our customers.
432-729-4375
www.myporters.net

COCHINEAL
MARFA
CASUAL FINE DINING IN FAR WEST TEXAS
107 West San Antonio Street
Marfa, Texas 79843
432 729 3300
cochinealmarfa.com

Classifieds & public notices

Ballot

(Continued from page 1)

things will stay the way they are currently. "Right now, AEP presents its case to all the cities that have retained their jurisdiction, and then also files the case at the PUC for all those areas that have either ceded jurisdiction or are in rural areas where there is no city," said Brewster. Marfa falls in the latter category, but if the measure passes, it would join the cities who have jurisdiction, meaning AEP would have to state their case to Marfa council first.

"Once all the cities with jurisdiction rule on the case, typically AEP will appeal lthat ruling to the PUC, and the PUC bundles it all together and handles it in one case," Brewster said.

Another outcome of rejecting the proposal is it would be one fewer item on the city council's plate to deal with, leaving it all up to the PUC to work on utility prices and negotiations.

But many of the benefits of local control, should Marfa vote to have it, come from the city being able to deal directly with AEP. The city would be able to have more of a say about any potential service quality issues, citizen complaints about electric utility service or rate setting. One example given to council this spring was that utility companies often must trim trees in order to provide service – but oftentimes, citizens aren't happy with how those trims happen, sometimes taking off more than necessary. Local control would give council more access to negotiating with AEP.

Brewster said ultimately, it is up to the voters to decide what role they, through their city government, are going to play in regulating electric utility service in the city.

JV boys bring home a win from Fort Davis



Photo courtesy of Florcita Zubia

On Saturday morning, Marfa's junior varsity shorthorns football team headed to Fort Davis to play the Indians. When all was said and done, they brought home a victory with a final score of 57 to 46.
Top row, left to right: Coach Arron Luna, Derrick Campos, Diego Jurado, Andres Solis
Bottom row, left to right: Ayden Alvarez, JV Kelly, Manny Dominguez, Asael Zubia

Día de los Muertos in Marfa



Photo courtesy of Marfa Live Arts

MARFA — The Marfa Studio of Arts will celebrate Dia de los Muertos by building an altar in our gallery window and will be on view starting on Saturday, October 31, through November 15. Visitors are welcome to view it at any time, but the night of Sunday, November 1, it will be lit with candles and decorated with flowers. The location of the gallery is 106 East San Antonio Street in the building with Marfa Public Radio.

For the event, the MSA has invited Austin artist Federico Archuleta to repaint the Virgin of Guadalupe, which has graced the west wall of the building for many years. He will replicate the faded image with the bright, beautiful colors of the original design.

Presidio County is seeking applicants for the position of "Veterans Service Officer". The new hire will begin on November 16, 2020. All interested applicants should submit their resumes to the County Judge's Office no later than 12:00 PM on Monday November 9, 2020. A decision by Presidio County Commissioner's Court will be made at the November 12, 2020 meeting to answer questions or to be interviewed thoroughly. To read all requirements for the position please visit our website at www.co.presidio.tx.us and click on employment. A brief description of duties are as follows:

The Veterans Service Officer preforms administrative work in advising armed forces veterans and dependents of benefits available under federal, state, and local laws. Work involves legal representation of clients in assisting them in determining eligibility for veteran's benefits. The position assists in completing and submitting the required forms, obtaining necessary and legal documents, medical reports and other data as required by law of in support of claim.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Marfa, Texas Parks and Recreation Development Corporation (the "Corporation"), a non-profit corporation created pursuant to the Development Corporation Act of 1979, Article 5190.6, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, Section 4B, and now operating under Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 505 (the "Act"), will hold a public meeting **January 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM** via Zoom to consider a resolution to pursue the following project with city council approval. The public has a right to gather a petition objecting to a particular project if it is submitted within 60 days of this public notice and is signed by more than 10 percent of the registered voters of the city. A public hearing will also be held on this project before funds are expended. THE MARFA, TEXAS, PARKS AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IS PLANNING A PROJECT TO BUILD A SHADE STRUCTURE OVER THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT COFFIELD PARK LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF TEXAS AND RIDGE STREETS. THE PROJECT WILL CONSIST OF BUILDING A SHADE STRUCTURE OVER THE EXISTING PLAYGROUND AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AT A COST OF APPROXIMATELY $55,000.

ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION
https://zoom.us/j/97173912480?pwd=ampvemNLMUxLS09YVU9XSSt1bWZLUT09
MEETING ID: 971 7391 2480
PASSWORD: 861280
DIAL-IN NUMBER: +1 346 248 7799

JOBS & PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice to Offerors
Terlingua CSD

Terlingua CSD is soliciting Request for Proposals for Construction Manager-at-Risk for a New Multi-Purpose Gymnasium Project. For RFP information please contact John Fitzgerald, AIA, 432-362-6565/johnf@jsarch.com or documents may be downloaded from JSA Architects, Inc. website at www.jsarch.com. Proposals from Construction Manager-at-Risk offerors are to be submitted to Terlingua CSD, located at 550 Roadrunner Circle Terlingua, Texas, before **4:00 p.m. CST on Tuesday, November 17, 2020**, in the Superintendent's Office. Terlingua CSD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age and disability in employment or the provision of services.

Faxed Proposals from Construction Manager-at-Risk offerors will not be accepted.

To be advertised Thursday, October 29, 2020 and Thursday, November 5, 2020.

The following have been accepted for storage at:
Marfa Tow
506 North Avenue E
Marfa TX 79843
1-432-386-6570
VSF License #0654157-VSF
www.TDLR.texas.gov

10402-R 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe VIN: 1GNEC13V75J115309
Total charges as of October 26, 2020: $1,138.00
10413-R 2020 Chevrolet Malibu VIN: 1G1ZD5ST0LF014782
Total charges as of October 26, 2020: $812.00
10417-R 2000 Ford Taurus VIN: 1FAFP5529YA163965
Total charges as of October 26, 2020: $784.00
10423-R 1997 Honda ATV VIN: 478TE1504VA808391
Total charges as of October 26, 2020: $520.00

TOTAL STORAGE CHARGES CANNOT BE COMPUTED UNTIL VEHICLE IS CLAIMED. THE DAILY STORAGE CHARGES WILL ACCRUE DAILY UNTIL VEHICLE IS RELEASED.

PERMIACARE
MHMR • ECI • SUBSTANCE ABUSE

PermiaCare
Nursing Position– Frontier Division
SIGN ON BONUS

PermiaCare is looking to employ a full-time Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) or Registered Nurse (RN) to assist our physicians in providing outpatient care to individuals with severe and persistent mental illness in our Frontier clinics. This position is scheduled to work week days only. No weekends, and no on-call. PermiaCare offers a friendly and flexible work environment. Successful candidates must be licensed to practice as a Licensed Vocational Nurse, or a Registered Nurse, in Texas. One year of full time nursing experience in a clinical setting is preferred.

All Full Time positions have a full benefit package consisting of excellent health coverage, retirement, life insurance, scheduled pay increases, optional cafeteria coverage and paid leave up to 28 days per year after 5 years of employment. All applicants must have a valid Texas Driver's License, proof of auto liability insurance coverage, and will be subject to a criminal history background check. For additional information and qualifications for all positions, see our electronic application and current job listing available at www.permiacare,org. For questions, contact the Human Resources Department at 432-570-3322.

MARFA FLU CLINIC

Monday - Friday, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Marfa Community Health Clinic
406 S. Summer St.
Insurance accepted and
$25.00 for cash patients.
Please call for an appointment:
432-729-1800

JOB: Part time Receptionist for our Marfa Clinic
Applications maybe picked up at 406 S. Summer
Marfa, TX. or call 432-837-4812.
Please call first before arrival.

THE Sentinel

LINE COOK, BARISTA/BARTENDER
Part time or full time. Experience preferred. Training for the right candidate with a can-do attitude!
Email info@thesentinelmarfa.com to apply.

Plumbco
RESIDENTIAL PLUMBING SERVICE
RESPONSIBLE MASTER PLUMBER • M-39797
Jonathan D. Portillo
Owner / Operator
432-837-9764 Office

Moonlight Gemstones
lapidary, fine silversmithing
rocks, minerals, fossils
Paul Graybeal, owner
Ben Toro, associate
1001 W. San Antonio St.
PO Box 1220
Marfa TX 79843
432.729.4526
moonlightgemstones.com

MARFA VISTA
Specializing in Marfa real estate
MARY FARLEY
Broker/Sales
917.495.8823
marfavistarealty.com
LIZ SERLENGA
Sales
508.272.5699

Alexandra Rau, LCSW
Therapy for individuals and couples
www.alexandrarau.com
917.213.7449
alexandra@alexandrarau.com
Highland Avenue, Marfa

THE BIG BEND Sentinel

Maisie Crow	Editor-in-Chief
Max Kabat	Publisher
Abbie Perrault	Managing Editor
Stephen Paulsen	Reporter
Ariele Gentiles	Copy Editor
Claire Lindsay-McGinn	Designer / Advertising
Brian Byrne	Office Manager
Maria Salgado	Distribution
Tomas Salgado	Distribution
Jessica Mercado	Distribution
Maria Gerardo	Distribution

Office: 209 1/2 W. El Paso St., Marfa, Texas
Mail: Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843
Telephone: 432.729.4342
Contact: editor@bigbendsentinel.com
Advertising Inquiries: ads@bigbendsentinel.com
www.bigbendsentinel.com

The Big Bend Sentinel (ISSN 1076-1004 USPS 055-800) is published weekly, on Thursdays, 50 times a year by West Texan Media Group LLC, Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843. Annual subscription rates are $50 in Presidio, Brewster & Jeff Davis counties, and $60 elsewhere in Texas and the United States. Special rates apply abroad. Periodicals class postage paid at Marfa, Texas 79843.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843.