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by order of the State of Texas

Former sheriff’s candidate charged for allegedly lying to FBI

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
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BREWSTER COUNTY — A former sheriff’s candidate in Brewster County is facing federal charges after the FBI last year said the phone number of Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson was “spoofed” to send offensive messages. Phone spoofing occurs when someone uses technology to make it appear as though a text or call is coming from a different sender.

The candidate in question — Devon Portillo, a Republican — was charged last month with making a false statement or representation after he allegedly lied to FBI agents who were investigating the spoofing of Dodson’s phone. When agents asked Portillo whether he had created the spoofed text, he said no, according to court documents.

While spoofing is sometimes a crime in the United States, Portillo has not apparently been charged for the actual spoofing. Instead, he faces a charge for lying to the FBI, which was looking into the matter.

The FBI says Portillo allegedly “knew that he had created the fake text message” and therefore made a willfully false statement to federal authorities, according to court filings. If convicted, Portillo faces up to five years in prison.

Portillo made an initial court appearance last Friday at a federal courthouse in Alpine. A follow-up hearing is tentatively scheduled for March, and by press time, he has not yet entered a plea.

At his hearing last week, Portillo agreed to a \$10,000 surety bond — meaning that while Portillo did not have to pay \$10,000 to secure his release, he will be on the hook for those funds if he violates his bond. Portillo agreed to a number of conditions as part of that agreement, including abstaining from all alcohol and agreeing not to travel to Mexico. He was also ordered to promptly report any contact with law enforcement and to remove all firearms from his apartment in San Angelo.

Portillo did not respond to a request for comment on the charge. His lawyer, Steve Spurgin, declined to comment.

Sheriff Ronny Dodson declined to comment in detail on the incident, citing the fact that the case was still ongoing. But Dodson did say he was pleased to be vindicated in this incident and said he wanted the public to know he did not send out any offensive or racist text messages.

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Marfa Clinic gets additional shots for those skipped over during mass vaccine event



Photo by Carlos Morales / Marfa Public Radio

Residents made appointments and traveled from across the tri-county to get vaccinated on Tuesday at the USO Building in Marfa. Around 500 individuals were successfully vaccinated that day, but as some without appointments got in, many with appointments were turned away in the afternoon as vaccines ran out.

By ABBIE PERRAULT
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — While a mass vaccination event in Marfa on Tuesday successfully put 500 vaccines into the arms of area residents, dozens of people left disappointed when doses ran out before their afternoon appointments.

The event was run by Midland Memorial Hospital, which brought Pfizer vaccines and a handful of vaccinators for the one-day event. Marfa Clinic workers volunteered to assist, setting up the 500 appointments by painstakingly finding individuals eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. The City of Marfa offered up the USO Building as a venue, and elected officials and staff from the city, the clinic and Presidio County volunteered time to ensure the event ran smoothly.

At its morning start, the event was “so well organized,” said Marfa Councilmember Buck Johnston, who volunteered at the event. Eight vaccination stations were set up, and patients arrived in five minute increments. They filled out forms and received their first dose of Pfizer’s vaccine.

But the efficiency turned out to be a problem: The event was moving so quickly that medical staff were seeing downtime between patients. At that point, the hospital urged local officials to contact people with appointments and request they arrive earlier, according to Marfa City Manager Mandy Roane.

Hospital officials “just said we weren’t moving fast enough,” Roane told city council at a meeting Tuesday night after the event. County Emergency Management Coordinator Gary Mitschke was asked to send out a reverse 911 call and text, urging residents with an appointment

for the COVID-19 vaccine to come to the USO Building. Shots could be administered “earlier than your appointment time,” the message told residents.

Elvira Hermosillo, a 33-year-old Presidio resident who teaches English to adults, was eligible for the vaccine because a previous brain-tumor qualified her as having a pre-existing condition. Hermosillo got the reverse 911 text message at 11:55 a.m. — but she was unable to go early.

“I work, and I have a 3-year-old son,” she said. She had already arranged for a babysitter so she could make the one-hour drive to her 2:25 p.m. appointment.

The reverse 911 call ultimately caused more confusion, triggering a flood of people who didn’t have appointments to show up, “thinking there were extras,” City Manager Roane said.

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Appearing in Zoom hearing as cat, local attorney Rod Ponton goes viral

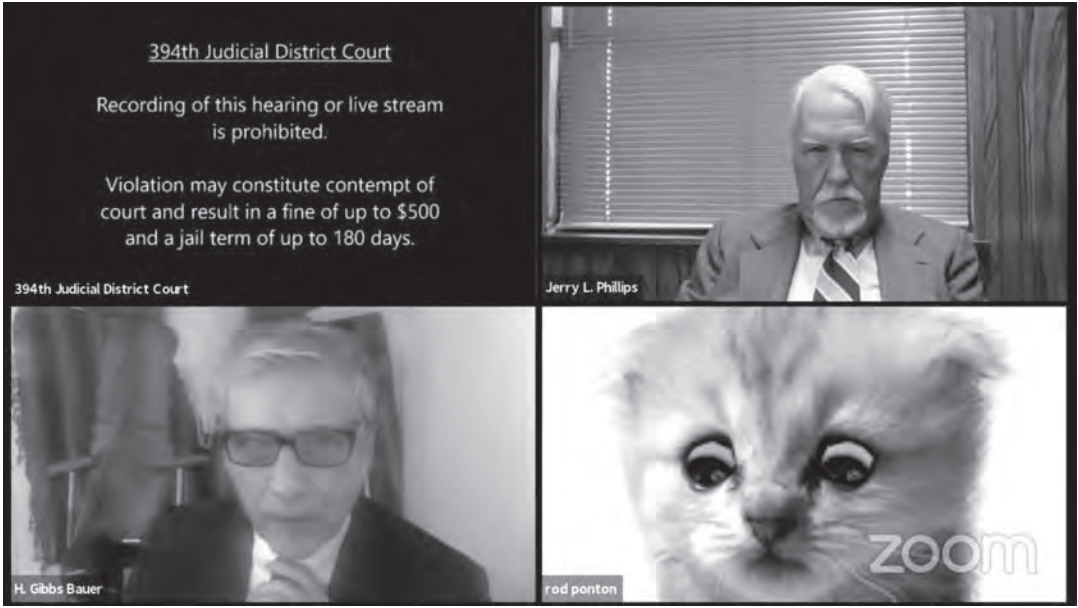
By STEPHEN PAULSEN
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FAR WEST TEXAS — Roy Ferguson, the local judge for the 394th district of Texas, has been doing a lot of Zoom hearings during the coronavirus pandemic. The pivot to online hearings hasn’t always gone smoothly. There was the time someone logged into a court hearing while driving. Another time, someone tried to attend court from bed.

Ferguson has a Twitter account, which he likes to use as “a teaching tool for virtual hearings,” he said in a phone interview on Tuesday. That morning, his court saw a comical mishap that seemed to him like a perfect teachable moment.

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A screenshot taken from the courtroom video shared by Texas’ 394th district court judge Roy Ferguson.



Sul Ross looms large at Gutierrez town hall

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
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FAR WEST TEXAS — New State Sen. Roland Gutierrez held a virtual town hall with constituents last week, including those in Alpine. The conversation covered a range of topics, from rural broadband and COVID relief to one of his hallmark issues: cannabis reform.

Looming large in those conversations, though, was a proposed bill that Gutierrez filed last week. That bill, as *The Big Bend Sentinel* previously reported, would move Sul Ross State University from the Texas State University system to the Texas A&M one.

That bill caught some Alpine residents off guard — but at his town hall, Gutierrez reiterated his

reasons for filing the bill. Sul Ross was struggling under the TSU system, he said, and could be better served by A&M. He also stressed another point he made in an interview last week with *The Big Bend Sentinel*: that far from being an out-of-thin-air bill, he’d discussed the proposal for years, including with Alpine Mayor Andy Ramos and Brewster County Judge Eleazar Cano.

Since *The Big Bend Sentinel* went to press last week, more officials have spoken out about the transition. In an email to *The Big Bend Sentinel*, Eddie Morales, the new state rep. for Alpine, said he was discussing filing a companion bill in the state house but needed more time to read through the bill and discuss it with constituents. Morales is planning a town hall for this Saturday, February 13, with more details to be announced.

At the virtual town hall, Judge Cano also confirmed that he and Gutierrez had previously discussed the proposal. “I support you, Roland,” he said. “You’re doing the right things by asking the right questions.”

The bill made sense, Cano said, because regardless of the outcome, it would allow residents and officials to look “behind the scenes” on issues like enrollment and funding and “make some hard decisions.” But to be clear, Gutierrez’s bill is about more than transparency and cost-cutting; it would transfer Sul Ross from TSU to A&M.

Feelings on the bill were mixed at the meeting. Josh Lira, a recent student at the SRSU-affiliated Rio Grande College, thanked Gutierrez for the

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After Capitol riots, feds raid home of Alpine man

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
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ALPINE — The FBI last Thursday raided the home of Alpine resident Sean David Watson. FBI agents were assisted by a number of other agencies, including both Alpine police and U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The FBI declined to offer details on the incident, except to say they were “present conducting a law enforcement activity” in Alpine. However, in an interview with CBS7, Watson said he was “proud” of his involvement in the January 6 storming of the U.S. Capitol and that he felt like he was “fighting for my country.”

Watson works as a lab technician at the Big Bend Regional Medical Center in Alpine, a hospital spokesperson confirmed in an email on Monday. His precise involvement in the Capitol riots is unclear. At press time, no formal charges have been filed against him in the federal courts system.

Watson could not be reached for comment, and an ATF spokesperson did not respond to requests for comment. The Alpine Police Department declined to comment, instead referring questions to the FBI.

“APD did assist the FBI at their request,” Alpine Police Chief Robert Martin said in a phone interview last week. “I can neither confirm or deny anything.” He stressed that the incident was part of “the FBI’s investigation” and referred any follow-up questions to them.

In an interview with CBS7 last week, Watson acknowledged that he participated in the storming of the U.S. Capitol. “I was one of the people who went into the Capitol Building,” he told the station.

Five people died as a result of the riot, including Brian Sicknick, a Capitol police officer who was injured by rioters.

In his interview with CBS7, Watson also offered more context on last week’s raid on his home. “They came and banged [on] the door,” he said of federal agents who arrived last week with a search warrant.

The FBI ultimately carted off several devices, including computers and a cell phone, according to Watson. He acknowledged that the raid was likely related to his recent trip to Washington, D.C.

Watson’s home — if not Watson himself — is already well-known outside of Alpine. Last year, he covered his house with conspiratorial messages, including “COVID1984,” “take your masks off” and “Democrats stole the election.” He also put up banners with similar messages, including one mocking Biden and suggesting he suffered from cognitive decline. Photos of the house went viral on social media.

Nor was last week’s raid Watson’s first run-in with authorities. The day before the Capitol riots — on January 5 — Watson was arrested after he crossed a police line at a Black Lives Matter protest, he told CBS7.

If Watson is ultimately charged for his role in Capitol riots, he won’t be the first Far West Texan to face legal troubles over the incident. Jenny Cudd, a former mayoral candidate in Midland, was arrested last month after she posted a social media video describing her participation in the protests that day.

“We didn’t vandalize anything,” Cudd says in the video as she chuckles. “But we did — as I say that — we did break down [House Speaker] Nancy Pelosi’s office door, and someone stole her gavel.” Cudd later retracted part of that statement, saying that she was referring in general to rioters — and not herself specifically — when she described what “we” had done.

Lying to FBI

(Continued from page 1)

“I’m glad this part of it is over,” Dodson said in a phone interview on Monday. “I didn’t want people to think I had done what was done.” Portillo’s political troubles — and later, his legal ones — started last summer. Around June, an online petition started circulating after tweets from 2013 on Portillo’s Twitter account resurfaced. The tweets in question used the n-word, along with derogatory racial stereotypes.

The petition, which ultimately garnered more than 5,000 signatures, said that “Alpine does not condone racism or discrimination.” It asked that Portillo be removed from the sheriff’s ballot.

In an interview with *The Big Bend Sentinel* at the time, Portillo blamed “sabotage” for the tweets and said his account had been hacked or that the offensive tweets had been otherwise doctored. At that point, the tweets were no longer on Portillo’s Twitter profile.

The Big Bend Sentinel found evidence that the tweets were posted in 2013 and therefore could not be part of a recent political hit. When presented with this evidence, Portillo declined to comment.

“We’re not commenting on anything else,” Portillo said in a follow-up interview last year. However, he did acknowledge that he had authored another controversial social media post, in which he wrote that American soldiers fought in international conflicts “so that we can live freely”

and “not so man can lay with man.” Just days later, the FBI confirmed it was investigating after Sheriff Ronny Dodson’s number was spoofed to also send out racist text messages. While *The Big Bend Sentinel* does not know details about the content of those messages, a spokesperson for the FBI said they were “racially insensitive and hateful in nature” and were sent to “several members of the community.” The agency also said it could verify that “none of the offensive messages originated with any of Sheriff Dodson’s devices.”

In a social media post at the time, the Brewster County Sheriff’s Office said that Sheriff Dodson had filed a criminal complaint for identity theft and threatening a police officer. Dodson did not “condone any of the language” in the messages, the post said.

In a phone interview at the time, Dodson said he had to temporarily stop using his phone after he started receiving “call after call after call” complaining and threatening him for the racist messages. He called the situation “horrible” and warned that phone spoofing technology was “dangerous.”

Portillo, whose candidacy never quite recovered from the controversy, ultimately dropped out in August. A write-in candidate, Alpine police officer Will Drawe, replaced him on the ballot. Unfortunately for Portillo, there’s no option to drop out when it comes to the new federal indictment against him.

Vaccine event

(Continued from page 1)

The city wanted to stick to the appointment schedule, Roane said at the meeting, but they couldn’t override the decision by Midland workers, who were handing out paperwork to anyone that arrived. People were getting vaccines on a first-come, first-serve basis, regardless of their eligibility under state guidelines.

Roane and Marfa Clinic workers tried to grab anyone with an appointment and put them ahead of those who didn’t. She counted the pages of remaining appointments and informed the vaccinators that the number of people on the list outnumbered the rest of the vaccines.

Hermosillo arrived on time for her vaccine that afternoon, but it was too late. Every vaccine dose had already been administered. She was turned away by Marfa police officers stationed at the doors of the USO Building. “I was confused because nobody gave me an explanation,” she said. First she felt shock and disbelief, “but then I was angry, because I made the drive up [to Marfa] for nothing.”

“I didn’t think it would be a problem,” Hermosillo said. “I had an appointment.”

As the vaccination stations were disassembled and carted out of the building a little before 3 p.m., James Jackson, 71, pulled up in Marfa after driving over 100 miles one-way from his home near Terlingua. He’d had some reservations about the vaccine, but heard Marfa had the shot available and booked an appointment. Like Hermosillo, he was turned away, with little understanding of what had gone wrong.

Midland Memorial Hospital was unable to return a request for comment before press time. Ahead of the event, a representative said the hospital was looking into the option of having more of these one-day vaccine clinics “depending on the need for one, but also depending on the state’s allocations of vaccines.”

Those allocations, the spokesperson said, would be a determining factor in whether they will return for more first-round vaccinations. The hospital is currently scheduled to return on March 2 to give second-round vaccines to those who were vaccinated this Tuesday.



Graphic by the Texas Department of State Health Services

While Fort Davis and Marfa received staffed events from the hospital, Presidio’s Preventative Care Health Services clinic was instead given 400 Pfizer vaccines from Midland Memorial Hospital in late January. It was fewer than Marfa’s 500 doses, despite having a population nearly three times the size.

Still, PCHS clinic staff was able to successfully administer those shots, along with additional Moderna shots, to Presidio residents between January 30 and February 2. Between that week and the following week, “We did over 1,000 vaccines for the first and second dose,” PCHS CEO Linda Molinar said.

Before the Marfa event, Hermosillo was already somewhat disillusioned with the vaccine rollout process. “I feel like here in Presidio we always get treated like second-class citizens. The clinic here has told us they have no idea when they’ll be getting more vaccines, so we feel here in Presidio, nobody considers us.”

Molinar said the clinic isn’t sure at this point when they will be given shots again. Despite requesting vaccines through the state system multiple times over the past weeks, PCHS has

not had any of those requests fulfilled.

The attempt to get vaccinated in Marfa left Hermosillo even more disaffected. “I think what really upset me was that idea that Presidio always gets overlooked,” she said. “It’s not even an idea – that’s our experience.” She’s now considering driving to Pecos, three hours from her home, to get the shot.

At the Tuesday night city meeting, Councilmember Johnston said, “I don’t want Marfa Clinic and City of Marfa to take this hit. That was not the plan. The plan was not followed, and we’re sorry.”

After learning he would not be receiving a shot on Tuesday, Jackson, the Terlingua-area resident, stood outside the USO building. “I don’t blame anyone,” he said, “but I just wish I hadn’t driven all that way for nothing.”

On Wednesday, Marfa Clinic worked with Midland Memorial to secure additional doses for those whose appointments weren’t fulfilled on Tuesday. “We’re calling all of our 60 people who failed to obtain their vaccination yesterday, and we’re going to distribute them on Friday,” said Don Culbertson of Marfa Clinic.

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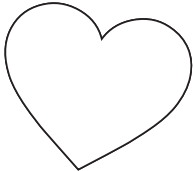


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Zoom cat

(Continued from page 1)

During a civil hearing around 11 a.m., Rod Ponton — the county attorney for Presidio County, the city attorney for Presidio and a local private lawyer — made an appearance as a kitten on a Zoom call. Ponton and his secretary couldn’t figure out how to turn the filter off.

“I’m prepared to go forward,” Ponton says in a 42-second video of that Zoom hearing. “I’m here live. I’m not a cat.”

“I can see that,” Judge Ferguson replies in the video. Shortly after the video ended, Ferguson told *The Big Bend Sentinel*, Ponton managed to turn off his filter, and the hearing went on as planned.

Later, Ferguson uploaded a clip of the video. He posted about it on Twitter. “IMPORTANT ZOOM TIP: If a child used your computer, before you join a virtual hearing check the Zoom Video Options to be sure filters are off,” he wrote. “This kitten just made a formal announcement on a case in the 394th.”

Within an hour, the clip was going viral. By that afternoon, tens of thousands of people had liked and shared versions of the video online.

By Wednesday, one version of the video on Twitter had almost 30 million views. At press time, it was the top Google result for the word “cat.”

Vice News covered the situation, describing Ponton as “cat-Ponton.” *Houston Chronicle* put the story at the top of their Tuesday afternoon newsletter with the headline: “‘I’m not a cat’: Texas lawyer caught in Zoom filter mishap.” *The New York Times* wrote about Ponton’s mishap, as did *Texas Monthly*. International news outlets were soon also covering the story, from the BBC in the United Kingdom to the *South China Morning Post* in Hong Kong.

“I’m regularly tweeting things that happen in hearings as warnings and teaching moments,” Judge Ferguson said. “I never expected that any one [of them] was going to spread as this one has.”

Texas courts have done well over a million virtual hearings, he said. He himself has done more than 1000. To him, the mistake was a natural result

of the “drive” of Texas lawyers and judges to “keeping the justice system operational.” He commended Ponton for “the grace with which he handled a very difficult situation.”

“It was a nice moment of levity,” Judge Ferguson acknowledged of Ponton’s appearance as a kitten. But for him, the main takeaway was “the level of professionalism that Texas lawyers bring to virtual courts.”

In his own interview on Tuesday, Ponton was taking his moment of viral fame in stride.

“I’ve had interviews with the *Today* show, *New York Times*, CNN, Fox News, *Texas Monthly*, you name it,” he said with a laugh. “You never know what’s going to tweak the attention of the Twittersverse. And this just happened at 11 a.m. this morning.”

“You never know what’s going to tweak the attention of the Twittersverse. And this just happened at 11 a.m. this morning.”

Ponton had mixed feelings about the situation. “On the one hand, you want to feel embarrassed because you feel [you] screwed up a court hearing,” he said. He was acutely aware that all over the country, people were having a laugh about the video.

“On the other hand, it was unintentional,” he said. “I think everybody relates to it. Who hasn’t had a screw-up on their computer?” And as far as Zoom-meeting screw-ups go, this one was pretty benign.

“We’ve been going through such stressful times, between COVID and politics,” Ponton said. “If the country gets to have a laugh at my expense over the cat video, I’m happy to take it.”

One mystery remained, though: How did the kitten filter show up on Ponton’s Zoom call in the first place? Ponton said he wasn’t sure.

Ponton was in Presidio on Tuesday morning, and he logged into the hearing from his secretary’s computer. She has kids — and maybe, Ponton speculated, that was why the kitten filter was on. But even that was just a guess.

“I don’t know how it got there, and she doesn’t know how it got there,” Ponton said. “Shit happens.”

Town hall

(Continued from page 1)

bill. He said RGC had suffered from a deficit of important resources, including no child-care center for parents and a lack of educational materials. The student body included many young mothers who needed child care options, he said.

“We had no available and accessible library,” he said. “We had no books in our library.”

Even among the detractors, concerns seemed to have more to do with the apparent suddenness of the bill than with any particular allegiance to the TSU system — though there was community support for University President Pete Gallego. Jack Cooper, an Alpine resident and Sul Ross alum who’d previously written to Gutierrez about the bill, stressed that Gallego was new to the job and had so far been serving the community well, including with COVID testing drives last year.

“I’m not saying I’m for or against your bill,” Cooper said. “I’m just saying, why can’t we hold off your bill through COVID?” In response, Gutierrez reiterated that he’d discussed the proposal for years and said he aimed to be a transformational leader.

“I don’t know if I’ll die tomorrow,” Gutierrez said. “Time is fleeting.”

The Texas legislature meets for just a few months every two years, and a large majority of the bills introduced each session never get passed or even see a vote. It remains to be seen what will happen to Gutierrez’s bill, much less to the future of Sul Ross.

But regardless, one thing is clear: Whether Sul Ross stays part of TSU or moves to A&M, Gutierrez had no plans to change the name.

“I have no intent on changing the name,” Gutierrez told constituents. “If some of you believe we should, well, I apologize.” Last year, as Black Lives Matter protests rocked the country, SRSU saw a student-led movement to rename the school “Alpine State University.” Activists cited Lawrence Sullivan “Sull” Ross’s involvement in slavery, the Confederacy and what *Texas Monthly* recently called a “massacre” of Comanches at Pease River in 1860.

Ashley Chapman Hoff sworn in as U.S. Attorney for Western District of Texas

FAR WEST TEXAS — Far West Texans have a new top federal prosecutor. On January 26, Ashley Chapman Hoff was appointed to be the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas. She officially took office on Sunday.

“I am grateful to the Court for the appointment. I acknowledge and embrace the immense responsibility of this position,” Hoff said in a statement. “I am privileged to work alongside the incredibly talented and dedicated women and men of this office, who give their all every day to protect the public, defend the Constitution, and represent the United States of America.”

A native Texan, Hoff was born and raised in Sherman. She graduated from Texas Christian University in 1991, later receiving a law degree from Baylor University in 1994.

Hoff began her legal career as an assistant district attorney in the Harris County district attorney’s office in Houston, where she served as a state trial prosecutor starting in 1995. Later, she also served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Texas, where she joined a counterterrorism unit created after 9/11.

Hoff has spent 26 years as a public official and prosecutor, including more than 17 years with the Western District of Texas. Since 2018, she has served as the First Assistant U.S. Attorney. She has prosecuted a wide variety of federal offenses in her career, including violent crimes, drug trafficking, firearms violations, identity theft, health care fraud and complex white collar crimes.

The Western District of Texas includes 68 counties spanning about 93,000 square miles. The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Texas has staffed offices in Austin, Alpine, Del Rio, El Paso, Midland, Waco and San Antonio.

Friday deadline to file for Marfa school board

MARFA — The Marfa ISD School Board is having its next election on May 2, and interested candidates have until tomorrow (Friday) at 5 p.m. to file.

While the board has seven members, only two seats — those currently occupied by David Walstrom and Yolanda Jurardo — are currently up for grabs. Walstrom has said he will not seek reelection, according to Marfa ISD Superintendent Oscar Aguero. Jurardo will likely seek reelection but at press time had not formally filed.

Candidates must meet certain qualifications to qualify to be on the school board. They must be a United States citizen and at least 18 years of age. They must not be a teacher or otherwise an employee of the school district. They must be registered to vote in Marfa, as well as eligible to vote — meaning candidates cannot be a convicted felon or ruled mentally incapacitated by a court. Finally, candidates must have lived in Texas for at least 12 months and in the school district for at least six months.

Anyone interested in running can pick up a filing packet at the Marfa ISD administrative office. The packet will offer more detailed information on candidate eligibility.

To file, candidates must complete any relevant paperwork and return the documentation to the same administrative office. Again, the deadline to do so is 5 p.m. on Friday, February 12.

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www.chinati.org

Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Letter from the Marfa Clinic

Having the privilege of participating in a mass vaccination drive in our town was exhilarating. Midland Memorial Hospital offered a chance to some 500+ residents of our area to receive their first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine this past Tuesday. Our clinic partnered with the City of Marfa, who hosted the event at the Marfa Visitors Center. The City of Marfa, Presidio County, the Rio Grande Council of Governments and the Marfa Independent School District provided volunteer staff to help with both scheduling and administrative support over the past 10 days. Tuesday’s vaccination event was a true example of a successful group effort and we would like to thank everyone involved.

Charged with the task of bringing in “1B” qualifying vaccine recipients, we produced a highly choreographed schedule for the day, offering eight appointments every five minutes from 10 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. to residents who drove to us from as far as Presidio or Terlingua. Midland Memorial Hospital staff, our partner dispensing the vaccines, decided to accelerate the vaccination process, bypassing the schedule and enlisting walk-up participants on a first-come first-serve basis. The supply of 500 vaccines was exhausted by 1:45 p.m., well before the end of our 3:15 p.m. scheduled appointments, leaving about 50 who were scheduled without a vaccine. No excuses are being made; this is what happened. There are many individuals who are rightfully upset. The Marfa Clinic is sorry that this occurred. By scheduling vaccine participants, we made a commitment to those individuals, and while we have no definitive solution at the time this goes to press, we will endeavor to orchestrate a solution for this mishap.

Don Culbertson PA-C
Marfa

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Dear Editor,

I find it patently absurd for there to have been a scheduling system for the recent COVID vaccination event at the Marfa USO building if it was never to be honored. Personally, as a member of category 1B, I would have gladly showed up early had I known that this would become a first come first serve event à la Fort Davis vaccinations. Instead, I was turned away by a police presence as I arrived for my duly scheduled appointment and watched as biohazard containers were carted away in front of me.

This callous disregard for protocol substantiates an undermining of faith in area public health systems and services at a time where – frankly – nobody needs that due to the crisis.

The entire point is to provide equity and access to those at risk. I can’t help but wonder the conditions of others who were passed up. In my mind this is inexcusable, and is doubly so if the officer who told me that this occurred due to Midland/Odessa staff wanting to “get home early.”

Sincerely,
Lauren Klotzman
Marfa

...

Dear Editor,

After finishing the story about Tom Arthur’s conviction trial, I had every intention of doing what everyone else was going to do: mutter, “Well, that’s what ya get, ya creep,” finish my biscuits with jam and never think of it again. But I’m a professional artist. I’ve kept myself alive for the last 20-plus years by selling pictures I create and writing things down. Cases like this put me on edge.

All art comes from the same place. No matter what it is, who made it or where it came from: SOMEBODY had to abandon their body, take up the spiritual spade and pickaxe, go through that portal inside — the one that goes to the World of Fantasy — find some of that precious ore that might be of some worth in the Real World, then return to the material plane with as much intact as possible.

Sometimes you bring back lead or fools gold, other times, it’s an emerald the size of a tangerine. You never know; but there’s no other way to get good art.

Good art is like funky cheese. The expensive, gourmet kind: creamy, fragrant, buttery deliciousness with veins of stinking, awful mold shooting through it all. Making it a bit disgusting if you think too hard about it — but it wouldn’t be the same without it. When you have cheese that’s all sugar, all cream and no mold, you’ve got Walt Disney cheese. Basically, it’s cake frosting. It’s a lie.

It shouldn’t be a shock to anyone that the profane and forbidden are potent factors in art. Many great artists use their skill and talent harnessing our attraction to these dark elements to great effect. When these great artists go through the portal, on the way to the mine to collect their horde of ore, they go by way of private helicopter to the happiest of hunting grounds. In route, these artists may look out the window and see the wretched, toiling in dank crags on the outer fringes of the mine, scratching out tiny specks of low-grade ore that will become ugly, little sex stories (involving babies, murder and all kinds of rot). These artists may shake their heads and wonder, “Yeesh, these damned freaks make me sick.” Then get on with it. They know there’s no getting around it. Whether for demented thrills or the quick buck, you’re going to have creatures like these splashing around in the sewers of creation looking for anything they can use for their own ends.

Personally, I don’t believe art is Good or Evil. Only the intention of the creator is worth examining and, even then, it’s only a matter of taste. One artist wants to enrich the human condition; while others seek gratification and don’t care if people get anything out of it. They want to use art as a sex toy. Let them. It is ALL art: Good or bad, effective or ineffective; it’s up to the viewers and readers to decide.

Governments and prosecution lawyers, on the other hand, have different aims entirely.

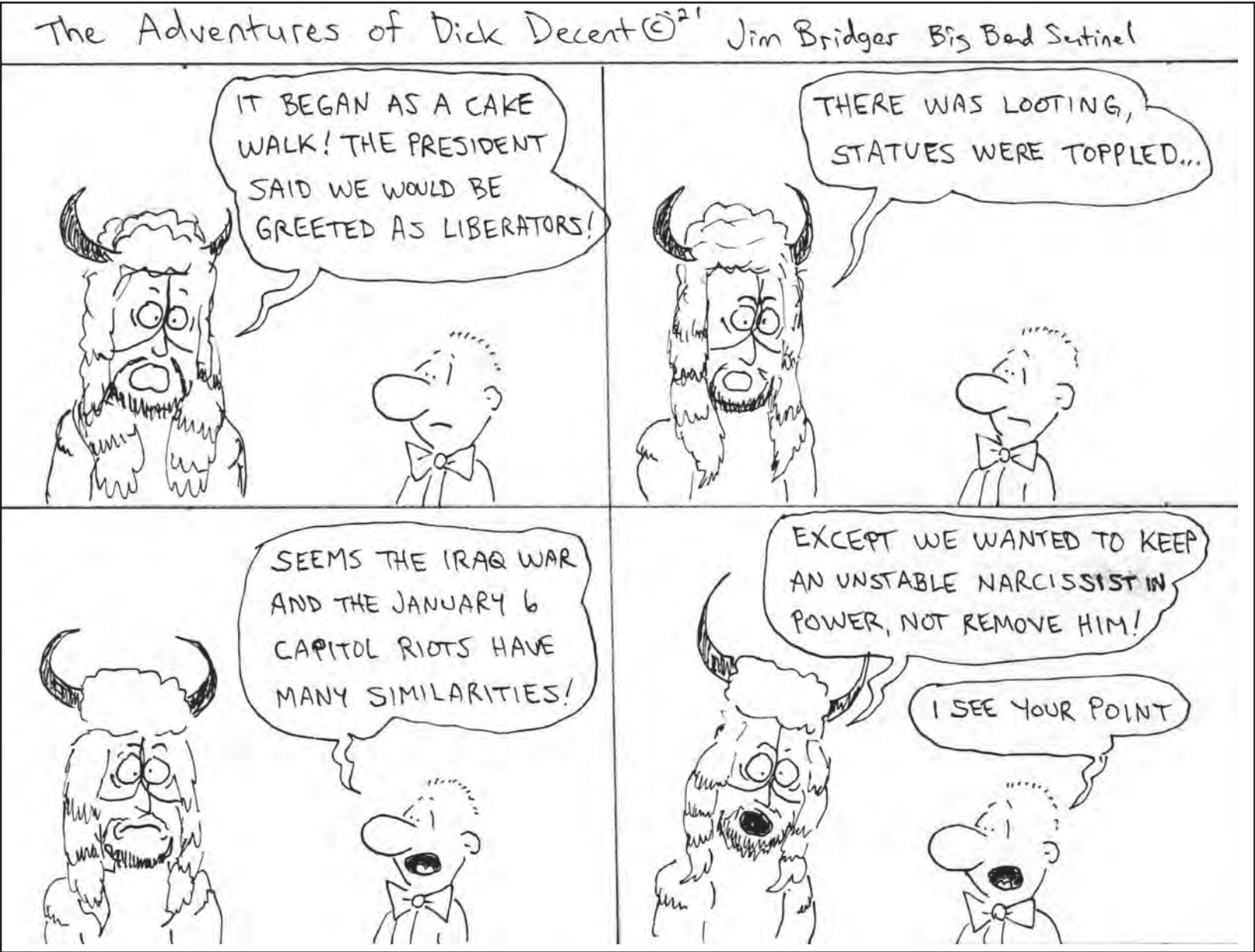
I wasn’t on that jury. I haven’t seen any evidence against Tom Arthur. But if FBI agents found footage and/or photographs of ACTUAL children being abused in Tom’s possession, there would be no need in blowing 90 years worth of dust off these obscenity laws. It would’ve been a very different case — and far shorter, too.

Drawings and stories, folks, are ink smears on paper. If people are killed or raped in a story or drawing — nobody gets hurt. *Hustler* magazine prints illustrated comics where young girls are sadistically tortured (or so a little birdy tells me). Are the sobbing, pleading subjects of these comics over 18 years old? Is that a silly question? The crimes depicted in these comics couldn’t be shown in any other way than through a creative medium because they are scenarios in a fantasy. Anything else would be a crime.

Cybercrime concerning the sexual mistreatment of children is a massive issue; I don’t make light of it. My point is that some distinction should be made between crime and the creative act. And I question whether the peddling of charcoal drawings and fiction make one as guilty as the most unscrupulous pornographer. Art is similar to virtual reality in that the brain can’t tell the two apart. Often, what feels real also seems real; that’s why the line between fantasy and reality can blur and we find ourselves reeling in the haze. But stifling the creative act is wrong and unhealthy. Like speech — one shouldn’t be silenced just because you don’t like what they have to say

Marshall McCorcle
Alpine

...



Dear Editor,

The Very Idea

According to what I’ve read, the prevailing conditions of our time are very similar to what our predecessors faced following the election of Abraham Lincoln. A significant number of the citizenry refused to recognize him as the legally-elected president and proposed civil war as the solution. It did, in fact, resolve the conflict between separatists and unionists but it failed to reconcile the root problem of the conflict, white supremacy, the very idea!

It seems to me that we have been headed for this moment in history for a long time. I believe the underlying cause of the past four years is yet another wake up call for humanity which we will not be able to ignore though, as is always the case, many will attempt to do just that, and many others will continue to advocate white supremacy, the very idea!

I am put in mind of Gandhi, Mandela, and King Jr. All three of them had the courage to stand up against white supremacy and all three achieved partial success using only nonviolent methods. I say partial because, despite bringing new light and hope into the world, they were unable to apprehend the culprit, white supremacy, the very idea.

The idea of supremacy seems to have pervaded every culture of which we have any historical knowledge. It has such an incredible shelf life due to the fact that, for the most part, humanity continues to nurture supremacy, white or any other color, religious or national ideology, the very idea!

We have seen horrors of this line of thinking over and over; a line of thinking birthed from a profound ignorance. There have always been so-called “leaders” who exploit that ignorance for the sole purpose of their own agendas, and they do not hesitate to promote violence as a means. The favored method of ensuring things go their way is to sow the seeds of distrust among the people through rumor, conspiracy theories and outright lies. It is quite easy to sell their ideas because so many people share those ideas and long for a leader who will validate their darker inclinations. (Nazi Germany is a perfect example of this dark phenomenon.) The resulting violence has taken the lives of untold millions of people, a great many of whom are innocents caught up in circumstances not of their making, and has yet to bring an end to hatred, fear and war, yet we continue to fall back on it as if it were inevitable, which it is not; it is a choice. Violence will never end violence. Supremacy cannot be attained, the very idea!

It is time for healing and for standing in opposition to violence in any form against any of God’s creation. It is time to eliminate the idea, not those who live by the idea. It should be obvious by now that we humans are incapable of finding a way to accomplish this task so crucial to the advancement of ourselves, or even to our survival. We must finally surrender to the Divine, our higher power, the creator, the universe, or any other wholly inadequate label we have attached to the great Mystery. The Mystery runs the show, not us. Our ongoing attempts to control serve only to interfere. Look around the world at the ego-driven chaos we have created all the while seeking to lay the blame on anyone or anything but ourselves. Political parties point fingers at each other, religious groups all claim exclusive understanding of the truth, ethnic groups decry as inferior anyone outside their particular ethnicity, and never recognize that it all stems from greed, fear and hatred; traits that appear nowhere in creation outside of human beings, the very idea.

We are at a crossroads, not only here in the fractured Union of the States, but in the world at large. We are desperately in need of a revolution of consciousness. The only way this can come about is through the individual. We cannot wait for “the right government,” the “right” leader or “sufficient” laws for the world to be ready, or a miracle to make it happen. Making it happen **will be the miracle**. Each man and woman must look deep within themselves and look honestly at their thoughts, words and actions and, just as important, teach their children to do the same. Most people will be quite surprised to find out they are in fact not as free of racism, hatred, judgements and unforgiveness as they believe themselves to be. (I know I was shocked when I realized the truth of who I actually am.) It is, unfortunately, the condition of humanity. The ego relentlessly defends itself, deftly convinces one of the truth of any fantasy one chooses, and invariably leads to delusion about oneself and others. The good news is that one does not undertake self-examination alone. We are all guided, those who are committed to living in accordance with their chosen religion know this through faith. Others may interrupt their own knowing as intuition, while others may see it as coincidence. Of course, there are vast numbers of us who think it’s all smoke and mirrors, and to think there is a power greater than humankind is absurd and only for the meek and weak minded, but even they are guided whether they believe it or not. It is crucial to understand this in order to realize God’s love is unconditional. It is freely given to all. If God gives without judgement, how are we to justify doing less? We are all one, the very idea.

Larry McNeill
Alpine

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Dear Editor,

Why does this small town newspaper RARELY publish news from Marfa ISD? You do not cover the school board meetings or if you do, you do not print what happened. Where are the stories on the Shorthorn sport activities? Most small town papers cover their local school sports.

The *Dispatch* and the *Avalanche* always have something in print while you do not. Why not??? Students and athletes love to see their names in print and articles are cut out by them, their parents, or more frequently, their grandparents.

Why is nothing published concerning upcoming school board elections??? Just curious!!!!

Bernie Kelly
Marfa

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Dear Editor,

Election integrity is important to me. Our right to vote is what protects our freedom. Voters must be able easily to vote and to trust in the integrity of our election system. Texas lags far behind other states in making improvements to the election system.

It is past time for our Texas legislators to support legislation that will ensure a safe, secure and more accurate voting experience. Voting should not be difficult and should be fair.

In particular, it is time for:

- An electronic voter registration system that can be tracked and easily updated.
- A stronger ballot-by-mail process, including simplified forms, required ballot tracking, and expanded times and places for hand-delivery.

We need to vote efficiently and to be sure our votes count. County election officials are dedicated to fair elections and they need our support. Please urge your legislators to vote for meaningful improvements to our election system.

Sincerely,
Genie Mitchell
Fort Davis

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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.
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WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Carpet shoes in a
borderland canyon

By TYLER PRIEST

I’m walking up a lonely canyon wash on a cool early Sunday morning in late January. It’s a big, beautiful, dramatic, but relatively unknown canyon, that has inspired several personal trips over the past year. On each visit I’ve pushed farther and farther in, always finding more to explore. Despite it being on public land, I seem to have had it pretty much to myself. Or so I thought. Now I’m realizing, based on some solid evidence, that I’m not the only one who’s been here lately. And I begin to wonder if I’m not alone.

If you know me well, you might have heard me talk about my hikes and trail runs here, or perhaps you’ve been among the dozen or so friends who’ve joined me. There’s no established trail in this canyon. But the wide, mostly dry gravel wash makes for nature’s perfect trail. Like the flowing waters that formed this canyon over eons, I follow the path of least resistance. And as I come across more and more signs of recent human activity, I get an uneasy feeling that I’m not the only one who’s been using this route. And this has me glancing over my shoulder.

I’ll soon explain what it is that’s putting me on edge, but first I want to better convey the beauty of this canyon, which I’ve explored maybe seven or eight different times before today. My hike begins in a wide wash that drains towering mountains in the near distance. The farther in I hike, the more dramatic the canyon walls become, eventually rising up 1000 feet above the canyon floor on both sides. In these walls, the layers of volcanic activity are stunning in form and texture, ranging in color from pink to white to brownish red with some brush strokes of turquoise. Seeps and streams surface intermittently along the canyon floor, revealing that, even in dry stretches, water is flowing just beneath my feet. The occasional cluster of skinny cottonwood trees stand tall and drink deeply from these hidden waters, their leaves rustling in the cool breeze. In warmer months, zone-tailed hawks will fly in circles above me, crying out in alarm as I hike beneath their nests perched high in the cottonwoods.

After several miles in, the brown volcanic walls suddenly narrow and form a slot canyon, a place where the sheer walls are much taller than the canyon floor is wide. Winding through the darkening corridor, I can hear the sound of flowing water bouncing off the smooth rock walls.

And then rounding the corner, a hidden oasis in the desert is revealed. Cool, clean, clear water flows abundantly here year round. Small gurgling waterfalls trickle down into pools that reflect the narrow slice of blue sky above. At the end of this slot canyon I come to the emergence of these spring waters where maidenhair ferns grow around large boulders lodged between the narrow canyon walls. Beneath these boulders, the cleanest of water is gushing out at perhaps 10 gallons per minute. It’s at this source that I’ve learned over time that I can drink all I want, unfiltered and untreated, a wonderful gift from the desert. It’s a magical place.

After scrambling over the boulders and out of the slot canyon, the stunning canyon scenery continues steadily for another few miles before the canyon suddenly splits to the left and the right and later fragments into a labyrinth of lesser canyons and dry washes that climb up in elevation.

On a cool day, I could spend all day peacefully ambling through this canyon and never tire from the mostly gentle terrain, the stunning geology and the peaceful solitude. But this time is different.

On this particular morning, my senses are heightened and I’m paying more attention to what’s going on around me. I keep coming across pieces of trash that weren’t here the last time. Lots of it. Empty plastic bottles everywhere. Black trash bags caught in the brush. A packet of caffeine pills. Lots of socks. A few facemasks. A pair of womens jeans. Gloves. Other pieces of clothing. A whole lime that looks relatively fresh. A Gatorade bottle, a Coca Cola can, and a variety of other food packaging. And even before glancing at the Spanish that’s on every single label I come across, I already know in a general sense where it came from and how it got here.

If there was still any question that this is an immigrant route from Mexico into the U.S., it’s the carpet shoes that lay all doubts to rest. Under rock ledges, in bushes, on the canyon floor and in shallow pools, I find 16 discarded pieces of carpet that had been wrapped around shoes like booties. These carpet shoes are commonly used to prevent travellers’ tracks from being detected and pursued by authorities in the dirt and sand. The impressions of hiking boots can be made out on the inside each piece of carpet.

In *The Big Bend Sentinel* just a few weeks ago, I read about the recent surge in immigration here in the borderlands of Far West Texas. Among other factors, winter corresponds with the most opportune time for low river crossings and long treks on long, cold nights through the desert. Immigrants, led by human smugglers, have been making brazen pushes across the border in large groups. And here it appears they’ve been leaving some things behind.

But long before today I already knew that this canyon is a moderately

Photo by Tyler Priest
A layout of trash collected from a borderland canyon.

travelled route for those emigrating from the south. During my hikes over the past year, I’d occasionally come across various packages like dehydrated refried beans and other foods, the labels entirely in Spanish. I found a half-dozen tall bottles of water cached on the sides of the canyon that, for whatever reason, had been slipped into tube socks. But it was a relatively small amount of trash. This time the litter was everywhere and it was obvious. This canyon had been heavily trafficked in recent weeks.

I assume these fellow canyon travellers are moving under the cover of darkness, so as long as I stick to daylight hours, I tell myself, I have little reason to worry. But to be honest, on this day it’s unnerving walking this canyon alone, even in broad daylight. I begin thinking. What if I stumble across someone who’s destitute, injured, lost or out of food? What if, by chance, they’re smuggling contraband across the border and don’t want a record of having been seen? What if I find myself outnumbered by people in dire need of the resources in my backpack? Running through the possibilities, the mind can start racing. Especially in a remote wilderness. Especially alone.

For immigrants moving through this canyon, I assume the basic rules are simple: keep moving, don’t get caught and don’t die. And with that survival mentality, outdoor ethics like Leave No Trace principles that usually govern our parklands are understandably not even an afterthought here. Even so, one might think that a collective trail of trash strung out over 10 miles on publicly accessible land could tip off the wrong person.

I continue to find various discarded items as I hike along. On my way out of the canyon, having filled my arms and my backpack’s outer pouches with trash, I at last come across a large trash bag I’d passed by on my way in. With a sigh of relief I drop the trash from my full arms, bag it, and then bag more and more trash as I hike out the rest of the way. I do this out of respect for this beautiful remote canyon I’ve come to love and the sensitive springs and lifeforms it protects. And because those of us who enjoy public lands share the responsibility of stewardship, regardless of who’s left trash behind.

But over the course of my hike, I find myself going through a wide range of emotional responses to these anonymous travellers who left behind this trash. Fear of the unknown. Frustration of the seeming carelessness, followed by understanding of their desperate situations. And later, gratitude that these travellers had blazed trails through sections of catclaw acacia that had otherwise choked out sections of the wash, making my hike a lot less thorny.

I think about how different our motivations are for walking this canyon. There’s of course a gulf between immigration and recreation. I begin to wonder whether or not these people could be said to be “hiking.” I’ve always understood hiking to be a leisurely recreational activity, not something done in a desperate attempt to escape the impossibilities of life in one’s homeland. I wonder if they have the luxury of appreciating the scenic beauty of this canyon by moonlight, or if the inspired geography is just an obstacle to be overcome. When the human brain is in fight or flight mode, admiring the world-class beauty of a canyon isn’t top of mind.

With a 20-pound bag of trash slung over my shoulder, I slowly exit the canyon and make it back to my car, having experienced a far wider range of emotions than I had expected. My experience today was a bit rattling. It forced me to think of who these others might be that I’m sharing this canyon with. Where are they from? What are their stories? How long have they been walking? What has this journey cost them? What will be their fate in these borderlands? I’ll never know. And I’ll never see this canyon I love in the same way again.

Yet as I drive home in the golden hour of a beautiful sunset, my uncertainties begin to subside. I realize it’s not so much the humble immigrant crossing a river that I should fear. And amid all the complexities of these borderland realities for which I have no easy answers, I settle into a place of compassion for these fellow desert travellers. Compassion for those who’ve so lost hope in their homeland that they risk their lives to gain a new one. Compassion for those who’ve spent cold winter nights not so much hiking for their enjoyment, but for their survival. Compassion for someone in whose carpet shoes I’ve never walked a mile.

Thanks for following along, friends, and until next time, keep walking on the wild side.

Tyler Priest is a park ranger and outdoor adventurer in Far West Texas. When he’s not at work he can be found hiking, climbing, running, paddling or cycling his way across the Big Bend. He landed in Fort Davis in 2018 where he hangs out with his cat Chico while plotting his next adventure.

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Arts & Community

Expanding Alpine mural scene catches statewide attention

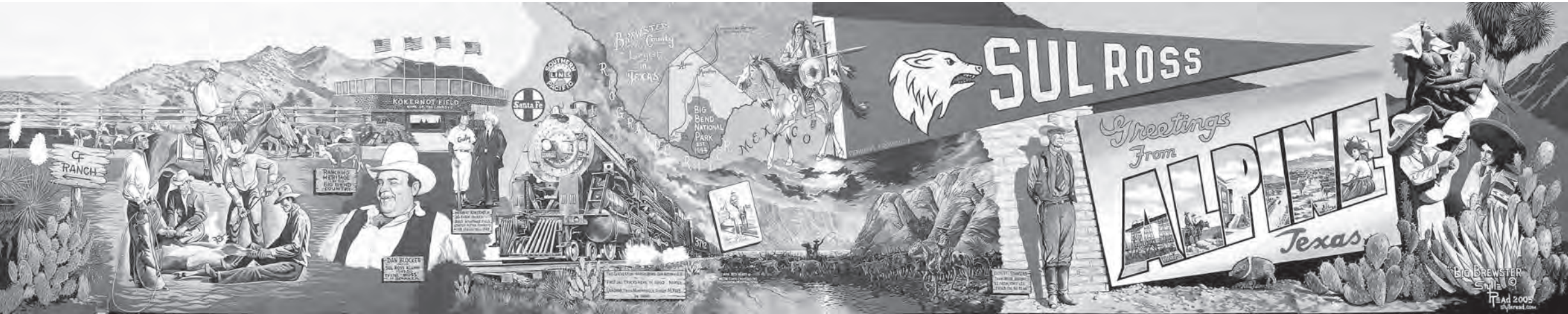


Photo by Chris Ruggia

The “Big Brewster” mural displays Alpine people and places such as the CF Ranch, Big Bend National Park, the iconic Twin Peaks west of town and a steam-engine train to signify the first laid tracks in 1882 that helped create the town.

By JIM STREET

ALPINE — *Texas CEO Magazine*, a quarterly aimed at some of the state’s leading business executives, plans a feature story for its spring edition on an ever-increasing inventory of murals appearing all over Alpine, particularly in the downtown area.

Alpine has been known for its art colony for more than 85 years, but the spate of murals is a more recent phenomenon.

“The first thing is to acknowledge Keri [Blackman] and her ArtWalk committee producing originals by Styllle [Read],” Tourism Director Chris Ruggia said.

“Keri really started the concept of iconic downtown murals with the one on the west side of Kiowa Gallery before that,” he said. “Efforts of that committee really established Alpine as a place for murals.”

It was Blackman who gave the initial boost to the mural experience while preparing for the 20th anniversary of ArtWalk in 2013. She commissioned Cleburne artist Styllle Read, who had painted the earlier mural on the west side of her Kiowa Gallery, to create a new mural in one weekend.

That result quickly became the most iconic mural in town. Called “Poco a Poquito,” it features a calendar in Spanish

topped with a picture of a man serenading a woman. Read took some poetic license with the art, adding an image of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church four blocks due south of the mural.

The earlier mural on Kiowa Gallery is called “Big Brewster.” It has images of people and places such as the CF Ranch, Big Bend National Park, the iconic Twin Peaks west of town and a steam-engine train to signify the first laid tracks in 1882 that helped create the town.

Television actor Dan Blocker, best known for his role as Hoss Cartwright on *Bonanza*, is prominent. He graduated from Sul Ross State Teacher’s College in 1950 where he also played football. Also pictured is 06 Ranch owner Herbert Kokernot, who founded the Alpine Cowboys baseball team along with Kokernot Field.

For years, a food truck selling Thai food partially blocked parts of the first mural from view, but new landowners Ryan and Vanessa Kinkade have already changed that. While they plan to keep the food truck concept, crews this month moved in and began removing the superstructure and other items blocking the mural. Now both murals are once again clearly visible from the street.

“It’s really exciting to see the different

individuals who picked up on the [murals] concept and ran with that, particularly in the alley between 5th and 6th [Streets],” Tourism Director Ruggia said.

While Alpine has been known for its attractive, high quality murals for more than a decade, the downtown “Alley Art” scene is a rather new addition to an increasingly popular tourist and local venue. It is in a recently-repaved alley just north of the 100 block of East Holland Avenue.

“That activity has expanded not just the number but the variety with so many local artists,” Ruggia said. “It’s very exciting and has given visitors so much more to spend time exploring.”

Alley Art was a creation of several local artists, led primarily by Liz Sibley, Nancy Whitlock and Carolyn Mangrem. Whitlock also has created a walking tour featuring the murals and a brochure to go along with it. Alley Art built on a project 25 years ago with help from the Texas Historical Commission’s Main Street program when Alpine was a participant.

“The number of murals I was aware of began to grow as I kept walking around town,” Whitlock said. “Yet once completed, I learned the map was missing several very good murals. The final publication of the map helped cause sparks to fly for more

murals and ideas for funding more murals are being proposed as I type.”

The Alpine Downtown Association has used the arts as a key draw to the area and it has worked well. The ADA created the slogan “Heart of the Arts” for one event and that has kind of stuck as a slogan for Alpine in general.

Its most successful event to date has been what it calls “Harvest Moon” centered largely around the Alley Art project. One of the first murals by a local artist was dedicated in that Alley Art location in the first Harvest Moon in 2017.

Pauline Hernandez was putting the final touches on her “Desert Scene” mural on the side of Mangrem’s Studio in the alley even as it was being dedicated.

Harvest Moon also has had music by John Ferguson of Presidio and his noted Mariachi Santa Cruz and a jazz concert at the Holland Hotel all three years. Ferguson also sat in on the jam sessions with his trumpet each year. Other musicians performed in the alley.

The concept of an “art colony” goes back more than 85 years. Mary Bones, director of the popular Museum of the Big Bend on the Sul Ross campus, said a summer art colony in 1932 was held on the campus of Sul Ross State Teachers College, now Sul Ross State University.

“Two six-week courses were offered for enrolled Sul Ross students and artists who wished to refine their skills,” she said. “Led by Xaveir Gonzalez and Julius Woeltz, the Art Colony was a successful and popular offering for the college.”

She said before coming to Sul Ross, Gonzalez and Woeltz traveled to Mexico to study the great Mexican muralist Diego Rivera. At Sul Ross, they each worked on a number of large works that are in the collection of the Museum of the Big Bend.

“During the Depression, Gonzalez won competitions for post office murals in Covington and Hammond, Louisiana, Huntsville and Kilgore, Texas,” Bones said.

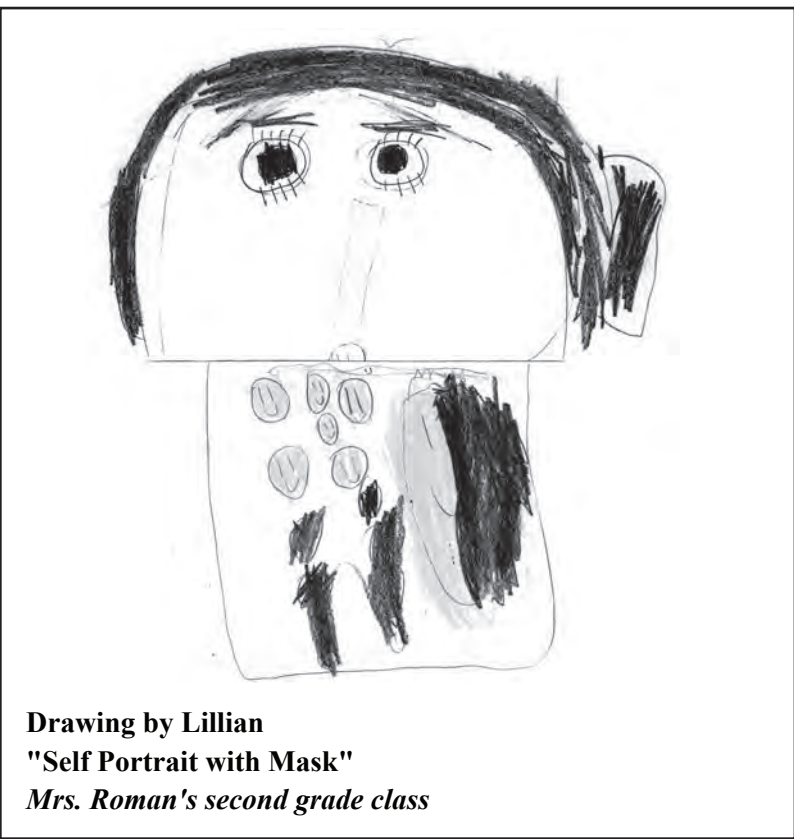
A large mural of his now dominates the lobby of the Limpia Hotel in Fort Davis.

“Woeltz’s post office murals were in Benton, Arkansas, and in Elgin and Amarillo, Texas,” she said. “The summer Art Colony continued until 1950 with some of the most prominent Texas regionalist artists coming to the high desert county of the Big Bend to teach studio work and plein air.”

But 70 years later, the arts at the heart of Alpine continue to grow.

Disclaimer: *The writer of this story, Jim Street, is president of the Alpine Downtown Association.*

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Drawing by Lillian
"Self Portrait with Mask"
Mrs. Roman's second grade class

Star-studded Valentine’s Eve concert raises money for neighbors to the west

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

NEW MEXICO – Jo Harvey and Terry Allen, the multi-hyphenate artist and the famed county musician, are inviting Marfa residents to attend a free virtual benefit concert, Food for Love, which they have organized as a fundraiser for the New Mexico Association of Food Banks.

The Valentine’s Eve event kicks off at 6 p.m. on February 13 and will showcase performances from the likes of Lyle Lovett, The Chicks, David Byrne and Jackson Browne, among nearly 60 other artists.

The Allen couple, both born in West Texas, were returning to their home in Santa Fe after a benefit concert for Austin performers last spring when the idea for a New Mexico benefit came to mind.

“We were mostly aware of the dire straits that the Native American people and pueblos were in,” Jo Harvey said. As they learned more, the desperate situation of food access in New Mexico became more apparent. “One in three children don’t have enough food in New Mexico and one in five adults,” she said. “It’s the second poorest state in the U.S., but the food issue is terrible right now.”

Having just participated in a successful music-based benefit fundraiser, Jo Harvey and Terry called upon friends and fellow performers. The outpouring of support became overwhelming. One friend offered to cover the costs to promote and set up the virtual event, meaning every dollar donated goes to fighting New Mexico hunger. And even \$1 goes far, Jo Harvey said: each dollar converts to four square meals the association of food banks can provide.

The Allens have become staples of Marfa stages, usually performing here at least once a year, and producing Terry’s last album in town. “Marfa has always, really felt like our hometown,” said Jo Harvey this week. They hope friends and fans will join the free event, even just to spread a little joy.

“We think everybody has been in such a turmoil with COVID, just shut down right and left, and politics and everything else, that we just want to do something good. We all want to do something for our neighbors,” she said. “It’s a celebration we all need.”

Ahead of the Saturday premiere, the event page already boasted over \$100,000 raised to combat hunger. Visit foodforlove.org to donate, see the full lineup of country, rock and folk stars and to join the event this Saturday.

“Be absolute for death; either death or life
Shall thereby be the sweeter.”

—the Duke, advising a condemned young man to expect death and not a pardon, because then he’s prepared no matter what happens.
(Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure*, in rehearsal in Marfa)

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 To boot
- 5 Tummy mus- cles
- 8 Writer Rice
- 12 Appeared suddenly
- 14 Earth
- 15 Regatta
- 16 Pout
- 17 “— a Camera”
- 18 Decisive moments
- 20 A Musketeer
- 23 Prejudice
- 24 Reddish horse
- 25 Lake activity
- 28 CCV x X
- 29 Pre-diploma hurdles
- 30 Dig in
- 32 Straw hats
- 34 Carton sealer
- 35 School orgs.
- 36 Used a sponge
- 37 Stir-fry veggie
- 40 Crony
- 41 Slanted type (Abbr.)
- 42 Yacht lover’s event
- 47 French 101 verb
- 48 Veteran
- 49 Easy targets
- 50 Ballot marks

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15								16		
			17			18	19			
20	21	22			23					
24				25				26	27	
28			29					30		31
	32		33				34			
				35			36			
37	38	39				40				
41				42	43			44	45	46
47				48						
49				50			51			

- 51 Whig’s rival
- 10 Egyptian river
- 11 BPOE mem- bers
- 33 Granny Smiths
- 1 NYPD alert
- 13 Historic times
- 19 “Phooey!”
- 20 Branch
- 34 Mild cheese
- 36 Bulb measure
- 37 Slapstick arsenal
- 38 Jazzy James
- 39 Seniors’ org.
- 40 Cushions
- 43 Flamenco cheer
- 44 Med. plan option
- 45 Not ‘neath Bailey” dog
- 46 Like some humor

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Solutions from last week’s puzzles

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answer

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

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

MARFA 12 STEP MEETINGS ONLINE

Go to zoom.us or download the app:

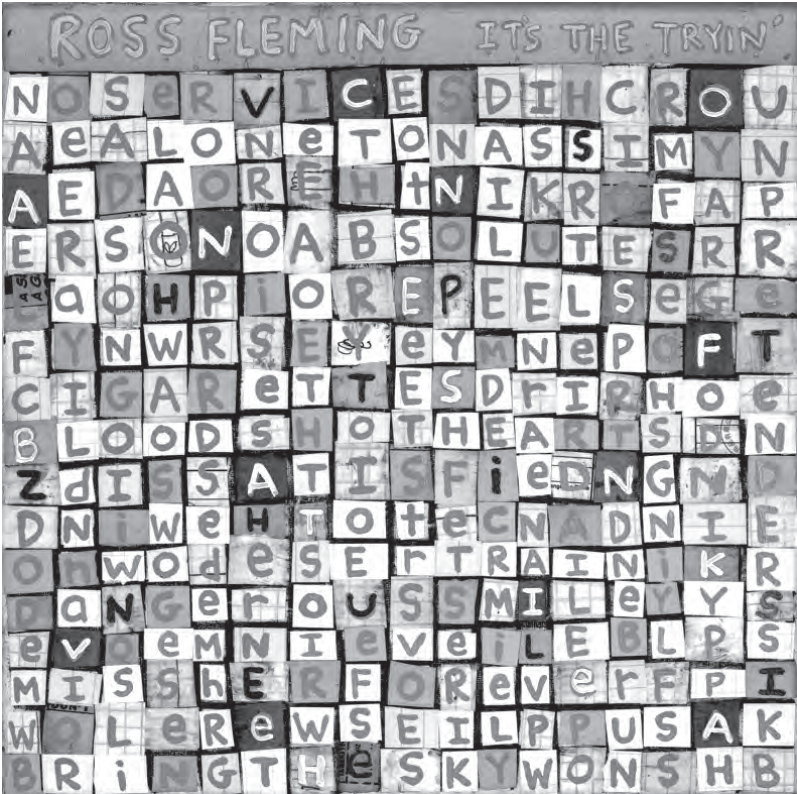
- **ACA - Thursday 5:30 PM** <https://tinyurl.com/y7qyghga>
- **AI Anon. - Sunday 2:00 PM** <https://tinyurl.com/yd78lsa6>
- **AA - Monday, Tuesday, Friday 6:00 PM** <https://tinyurl.com/y25rsguo> (new link!)
- **AA - Wednesday 6:00 PM** St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (masks, distance, sanitizer, wipe down surfaces required)
- **AA - Saturday 12:00 Noon** <https://tinyurl.com/y686nnw2> (new link!)

*Please note, you can find online meetings at any time at <https://aa-intergroup.org/oiaa/meetings/>

ALPINE SMALL ANIMAL PRACTICE AND LARGE ANIMAL SERVICES

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Zachary Dodson, D.V.M.
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Alpine, Texas 79830
432-837-5416

Mon. - Fri. 7:45 - 12:00 & 1:30 - 5:30
after hours - emergency 432.837.5416



Album art by Tad Lauritzen-Wright for Ross Fleming's debut album "It's the Tryin'." The album was released through Ellipses Records, a new label founded for the occasion by his girlfriend Jenny Hatch. Were it not for coronavirus lockdowns last year, the couple said, the album may have never happened.

From lockdown, a new relationship — and a new record label

By STEPHEN PAULSEN
stephen@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — Even before last year's coronavirus lockdowns, Alpine residents Jenny Hatch and Ross Fleming say they had eyes for each other. Hatch is a barber with a background in theater; Fleming is a theater professor with a passion for music. Fleming had recently moved to Lubbock after stints teaching theater in Lubbock and El Paso. He gave up a tenured job at UTEP for the move. "I've been coming here all my life," Fleming, 49, said of the Big Bend. "I had my eyes set on maybe this is where I was going to end up."

They met shortly before lockdown. Around February, when coronavirus was still a distant threat for most tri-county residents, Fleming stopped by Hatch's salon for a haircut. "She was checking me out," Fleming recalled. Fleming invited Hatch to a show he was doing at Old Gringo. Hatch, 52, asked him what kind of music. He told her Americana. "That's the name of her shop," Fleming said. They laughed.

When Hatch showed up, Fleming was covering a song by The Replacements. "I don't do many covers," he said. But Hatch recognized the song — and when she yelled out the band's name, Fleming stopped playing and asked her if she knew them. "I said, 'I'm middle-aged and relatively hip,'" Hatch recalled. "He was happy to see someone in Alpine knew who The Replacements were." They realized they had a lot in common, and they made plans to see each other again.

In some ways, Fleming and Hatch's story is typical of a new relationship. There were drinks at The Ritchey, drives through West Texas, and eventually, the couple got serious. But both Hatch and Fleming agree that the lockdown helped accelerate things.

r's going to happen is going to happen faster," Hatch said, recalling a radio interview she'd heard about the effect the pandemic was having on relationships. "So, we got serious faster." Besides, were it not for lockdown, Hatch would likely not own a record label, and Fleming

may have never released an LP. But he did, and his album — "It's the Tryin'" — is now available for purchase and streaming on several platforms, including Spotify and Apple Music.

As Hatch got to know Fleming and his music, she thought he should go professional. "His songs are so good, and he had been playing for so long," she said. "I said, 'Hey, we should make a record.'"

Hatch had recently decided to leave a program in criminal-justice. She offered to use her school money to start a record label, Ellipses Records.

"I'm the boss," Hatch joked. "I'm the merch girl-slash-record executive."

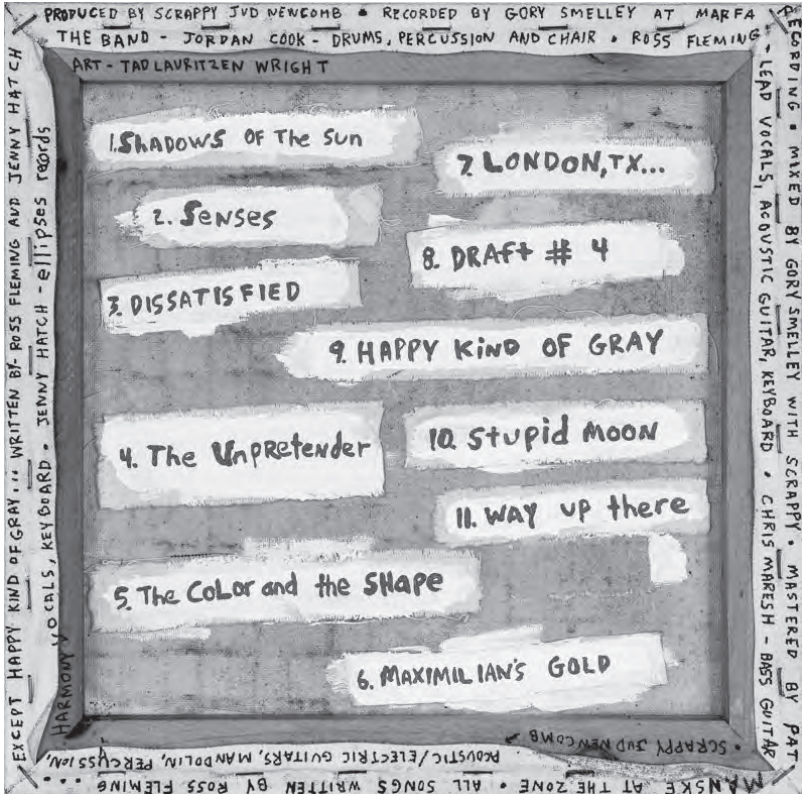
Fleming noted that likewise, he had encouraged Hatch to follow her dreams in real estate. "I wouldn't have made a record without her support," he said, "and she probably wouldn't have started buying houses without mine."

Fleming had been singing and writing songs for years, all the way back to the days in his hometown of San Angelo. His friends sometimes teased him that while he'd never had an album, he had enough songs to fill at least a dozen. But theater was the "breadwinner," he said, and as life went on, the opportunity to make an album never quite came up. Fleming stayed busy with his work as a professor, teaching scene design and working as tech director on student plays.

Then, the pandemic hit Far West Texas. The new couple found themselves with a lot more time on their hands. Hatch's salon was ordered closed. Fleming was still teaching classes online — but with student plays canceled and no sets to build, he was also looking for other ways to fill the days. "You can't really teach somebody how to use a saw online," he joked.

One day, towards the start of their relationship, it snowed in Alpine. Hunkering inside, the couple wrote a song together. The song — "Happy Kind of Gray" — later appeared on Fleming's album. "It's the only song we've written together," Hatch said. "We wrote that song very early on."

"We hung out all day and just



Album art by Tad Lauritzen-Wright, Photos by Chip Pankey

started writing lyrics and ideas down," Fleming recalled. "The next day I came back with that song, and I gave her songwriting credits." That song, Fleming stressed, was technically before the lockdown and before the couple made the decision to devote their newfound free time to an album. Even still, coronavirus made an appearance.

"No time for sad songs," he sings on the track, "[the] virus's still smoldering."

As the pandemic dragged on, inspiration kept coming. One day, they went to visit Fleming's family ranch in Menard County near San Angelo. They drove around, looking for a cell signal. They never found any. They passed a sign for the town of London, where there's a dancehall.

"I wrote down everything he said on that drive," Hatch said. "He was just being hilarious, saying some really poignant and funny things." That drive — and those notes — influenced Fleming's favorite song on the album, entitled "London, TX..."



Photo by Leslie Fleming
Ross Fleming and Jenny Hatch

"I call it my Buddhist country song," Fleming said. He quoted from the track: "We make our choices carefully, we'll end up right here."

The actual recording of the album happened just as spontaneously. Fleming had music connections from his years of playing shows across the state. Hatch did too, including Marfa songwriter and producer "Scrappy" Jud Newcomb, whom she knew from back in high school.

They called up Newcomb. Like

them, Newcomb had found himself with a surplus of extra time during the pandemic. "It was amazing to get a call from Ross saying, 'Hey, I've got some time and some money and I've never made a record,'" Newcomb recalled. He helped set Fleming up with some accompanying musicians, including Chris Maresh on bass and Jordan Cook on percussion and drums. (Newcomb also appears on the album.) Newcomb set aside some time at Marfa Recording Company, where Gory Smelley helped engineer it. After a couple months of planning, they were ready to record.

Newcomb had fun with the album. "It's the Tryin'" was a passion project, Newcomb explained, and it was nice to make an album where "we weren't under the gun." But despite the fact that Fleming had never recorded an album, his years of experience as a musician made the project "not the least bit amateur."

"He's living in these songs," Newcomb said. "He's singing these songs he really believes in."

The group recorded the whole album in just a few days in the studio. It officially dropped on January 8.

"I'm a huge fan of the album," Newcomb added. "Everybody who worked on it just did a great job. Gory is an incredible engineer and knows that studio inside and out. Chris and Jordan were just killer on the rhythm section."

In an interview on Tuesday, Hatch reflected on her new role as a record executive.

"When we started dating, it kind of bothered me that I couldn't listen to him on Spotify," she said. "I wanted to hear my boyfriend's music on Spotify — and now I can. I'm really happy that those songs are out there."

Fleming agreed it was good to finally put his music out into the world. After years of playing shows, it was nice to have an LP.

"When you make art, you want people to hear it," he said. "The chances of it becoming a big record are pretty slim." Regardless, "I'm still really proud of the quality of the songs. Maybe someone will hear it."

OBITUARY



O'Connor

Michael William O'Connor was born February 28, 1943, to Perry and Opal O'Connor in the Panama Canal Zone. He died of pancreatic cancer on February 1, 2021.

Mike grew up in Carlsbad, New Mexico. He first attended New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell, and received a degree in English from New Mexico State University Las Cruces in 1965. He pursued a juris doctorate at the University of Wyoming Law School but quickly realized he had higher, yet more grounded, aspirations than the law. He permanently relocated to Marfa in the early 1970s. Attracted

to the *genius loci* of Marfa, he began to build a life there. He initially worked for Diamond A Cattle Company, owner of the Big Bend Ranch. Feeling an entrepreneurial spirit that would shape the rest of his life, he soon struck out on his own, forming O'Connor Brothers, Inc. with his brother Ron. They sold liquid feed for cattle. The business was successful, enjoying continuous operation for almost 50 years.

But one job was insufficient to quell Mike's spirit. He farmed in Presidio, growing wheat and rye for grazing. He also leased the Rosenow Rogers Ranch in Brewster County where he spent most every weekend of the last 25 years, tending his small herd of Brite Ranch Herefords.

His parents and his brother predeceased him. He is survived by his longtime sweetheart, Liz Rogers, of Alpine. His cremation is being handled by Alpine Funeral Home. No services are planned at this time, but a memorial will be held in the next few months, when it is safe to travel. Marfa Public Library, Center for Big Bend Studies or the Marfa and Presidio County Museum are suggested for memorial contributions.

Alpine Artwalk pushed to November 2021

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.co

ALPINE — Artwalk, the multi-day event hosted by Gallery Night, Inc. to showcase artists in Alpine, has once again rescheduled its 27th iteration of the event, moving it to November 19 and 20, 2021.

The annual art event draws thousands of visitors to the Alpine art scene, and with coronavirus still impacting the region and the country at large, the board hopes the fall dates will mean the event happens once the pandemic has been abated enough to gather crowds in public once more.

The group initially postponed the fall 2020 event to spring 2021 after reviewing information on the rising cases of COVID-19 that were being reported in El Paso and Midland/Odessa last October. This second postponement comes as cases are declining in Texas, but still sit near the peak of the state's first wave in July, with nearly 10,000 new cases reported per day.

"The Board felt like it is too risky to invite over 9,000 attendees to come to Alpine during our event," they wrote in a press release last fall. "Our main concern is the health of our community."

While the event has been pushed to a year later than planned, the November 2021 event's honored artist is still planned to be Tim Roberts, the Fort Davis resident, archaeologist and artist.

In a press release shared by Keri Blackman, the founder and executive director of the event, the organization wrote, "With a brighter future on the horizon, we are looking forward to celebrating the arts again with you."

RULE Gallery opens 'Color Fields,' introducing the late Wilma Fiori to Texas

MARFA — RULE Gallery opened a new exhibition by Wilma Fiori this month, introducing another accomplished Colorado artist to the West Texas art landscape. Color Fields, the artist's inaugural solo exhibition in Texas, highlights the work of Fiori (1929-2019), an enduring member of the Denver arts community and a key figure in the regional exploration of abstraction.

Fiori, like many artists, focused her initial practice on representational work during her years in the 1950s at Loretto Heights College, now Regis University in Denver. After completing her BFA, Fiori found another passion in the study of anthropology, where she closely analyzed the Denver Art Museum's Indigenous Arts of North America Collection.

The intricate shapes, patterns, and compositions on items in the collection profoundly impacted her as an artist. As Fiori's career continued to evolve, her abstractions became increasingly meditative and minimal. Her inspiration was developed further in the printmaking studio, honing her understanding of color and composition while experimenting with various tools such as the brush, the pen, and brayer roller, creating both paintings on paper and monotype prints.

The artist's works are dynamic interactions between line, color, and shape, with sharp X-like forms spanning the composition and rectangles folding and stretching inwards. Bulbous figures in vibrant red overlap bands of silvery paint, offering sensations of space and depth. The series of works on paper presented in this exhibition reveal her interest in color field painting, the style of abstraction informed by European Modernism in which areas of color are independent of the other elements. *Color Fields* focuses on the artist's decades-long career and the impact of her paintings on the larger Colorado abstract movement.

The show is on view through March 20, 2021, at 204 E San Antonio St in Marfa. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. With public and staff safety in mind, all visitors must wear masks and observe social distancing guidelines during their time in the gallery.

Fiori has exhibited her artwork for over 30 years in Colorado, Indiana, Illinois and New York. Her work can be found in the permanent collections of the Ritz Carlton Hotel, Denver; Regis University, Denver; and numerous business and private collections.

For more information, visit rulegallery.com

☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

FEBRUARY	Thurs, Feb 11	Fri, Feb 12	Mon, Feb 15	Tues, Feb 16	Wed, Feb 17
BREAKFAST	EGG, BISCUIT	CINNAMON ROLL, SAUSAGE		SAUSAGE BISCUIT	B-FAST BURRITO, HASH BROWNS
LUNCH Menu courtesy of PORTER'S SINCE 1945 Celebrating 70+ years of serving our customers. 432-729-4375 www.myporters.net	CHICKEN SPAGHETTI, GARDEN SALAD, BABY CARROTS, FRUIT	ENCHILADAS, SALSA, ZESTY CUCUMBERS, REFRIED BEANS, LETTUCE & TOMATO GARNISH, FRUIT	TEACHER WORKDAY ☺	PEPPERONI FRENCH BREAD PIZZA, MARINARA SAUCE, GARDEN SALAD, CALIFORNIA BLEND VEGETABLES, FRUIT	BONELESS CHICKEN WINGS, MULTIGRAIN CHIPS, BROCCOLI FLORETS, CARROTS

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
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Celebration Liquor Marfa

Mon - Thu 11:30 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, February 12 HS BASKETBALL: Boys 6:00 vs Balmorhea, HOME

**WEST TEXAS
PEST MANAGEMENT**
TPCL 13335



**CALL:
432-940-4075**

Classifieds & public notices

UPCOMING CORONAVIRUS TESTING

Tuesday, February 16, in Presidio
at the Presidio Fire Dept. at 100 East FM 170

Wednesday, February 17, in Alpine
at the Alpine Fire Station at 102 South Second Street

Thursday, February 18, in Marfa
at the Presidio County Courthouse at 300 Highland Street

Friday, February 19, in Fort Davis
at the Fort Davis Fire Station at 200 Court Avenue

Preregistration can be made online at <https://docs.healthtesting.com> or by texting "DOCSTX" to 41411. These will be saliva tests. Officials ask that residents please not eat, drink or use mouthwash or tobacco within 30 minutes of being tested.

MAY 1, 2021 CITY OF MARFA GENERAL ELECTION

CITY OF MARFA WILL BE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS TO FILE FOR A PLACE ON THE MAY 1, 2021 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT.

- JANUARY 13, 2021 - FIRST DAY TO FILE APPLICATION
- FEBRUARY 12, 2021 - LAST DAY TO FILE APPLICATION
- OPEN ELECTED POSITIONS: MAYOR AND TWO AT-LARGE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
- APPLICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED IN PERSON AT MARFA CITY HALL OR ONLINE AT [HTTPS://CITYOFMARFA.COM/ELECTIONS](https://CITYOFMARFA.COM/ELECTIONS)
- APPLICATIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED BY THE FOLLOWING:
 - IN PERSON TO MARFA CITY HALL
 - VIA EMAIL TO SECRETARY@CITYOFMARFA.COM
 - VIA MAIL TO P.O. BOX 787 MARFA, TEXAS 79843
 - VIA FAX TO 432-729-3158
- ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE DELIVERED BY 5PM FEBRUARY 12, 2021.
- IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MAYRA DEL BOSQUE AT SECRETARY@CITYOFMARFA.COM OR AT 432-729-4315.

MARFA CITY HALL

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8AM-12PM ; 1PM-4PM
113 S. HIGHLAND AVE. MARFA, TEXAS 79843
P.O. BOX 787 MARFA, TEXAS 79843
432-729-4315 Fax 432-729-3158

LOST

Lost: Brass money clip with silver star. It had several hundred dollars, credit cards, drivers license and park pass. I last saw it on January 27 at Blue Water Grocery. You can keep the money but please return everything else. Thank you. 512-560-8269.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Marfa Parks and Recreation Development Corporation will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom to take public comments on the proposed capital improvements to Coffield Park, including a shade structure and other improvements at the playground, in an amount not to exceed \$55,000. The public is invited to attend and participate. The Zoom Meeting information for the Public Hearing is: <https://zoom.us/j/93472432282?pwd=NldLSU1McWlkYXRqU20xTnRkWkVOZz09>

Meeting ID: **934 7243 2282**

Passcode: **368068**

Call-in number: **+1 346 248 7799**

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HELP WANTED

Jeff Davis County County Treasurer Deputy Clerk

Seeking individual to assist the County Treasurer in the day-to-day financial operations of the County.

Duties can include account payables, payroll, filing and other miscellaneous duties. Person should have computer experience, be skilled in general Office procedures.

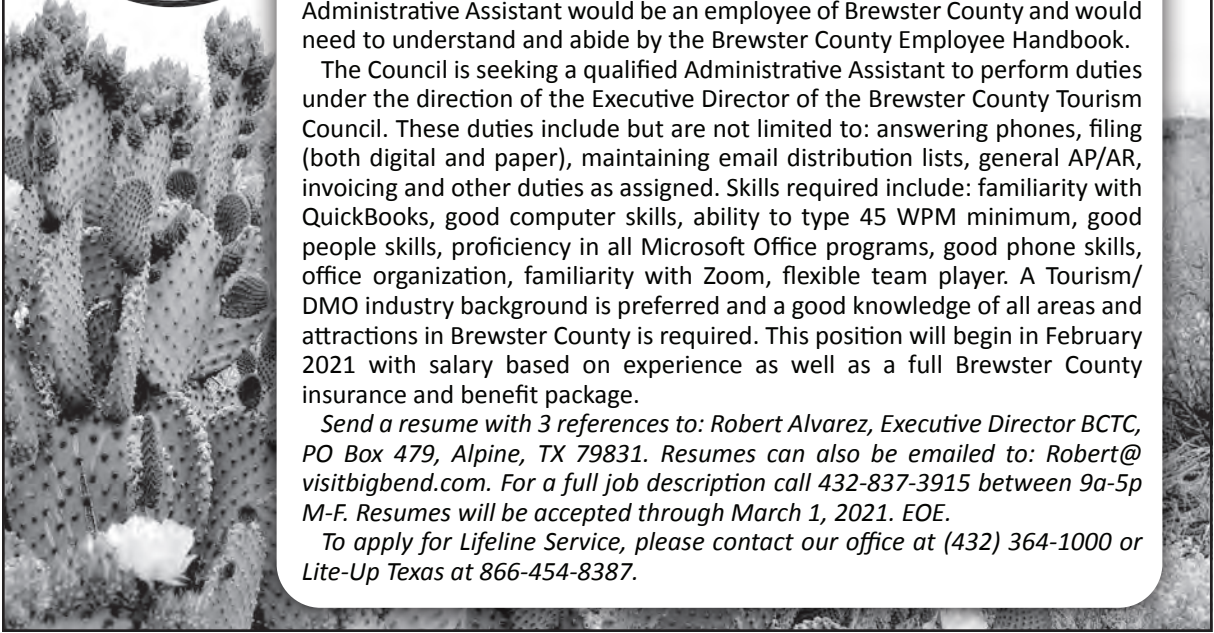
Annual salary is \$26,000 with benefits-medical/dental insurance, retirement paid Holidays. Applications are available at the Treasures Office located in the John Robert Prude building at 105 Court Street



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Fort Davis, Texas 79734
Phone: (432) 426-3592 Fax: (432) 426-3140
E-mail: office@jarrattdirtwork.com



Help Wanted: Experienced Heavy Equipment Operators, with a clean Class A CDL preferred. Company yards in Fort Davis and Alpine, Texas. Wages based on experience. Health Insurance and Retirement Options available after qualifying time period. Contact Jarratt Dirt Work and Paving, Inc. @ 432-426-3592 or send Resume' to office@jarrattdirtwork.com. Contact Lance Jarratt at 432-249-0187 in Fort Davis, Texas for job related questions. EOE



The Brewster County Tourism Council/Visit Big Bend is currently accepting applications for a full-time Administrative Assistant!

This position will require 40 hours per week in the BCTC office located in Alpine, TX and may include some weekend and holiday work and travel in the area.

The Brewster County Tourism Council is funded by the Brewster County Hotel/Motel Occupancy tax. The Brewster County Tourism Council operates under the administrative direction of the Brewster County Judge and Brewster County Commissioner's Court. The Brewster County Tourism Council Administrative Assistant would be an employee of Brewster County and would need to understand and abide by the Brewster County Employee Handbook.

The Council is seeking a qualified Administrative Assistant to perform duties under the direction of the Executive Director of the Brewster County Tourism Council. These duties include but are not limited to: answering phones, filing (both digital and paper), maintaining email distribution lists, general AP/AR, invoicing and other duties as assigned. Skills required include: familiarity with QuickBooks, good computer skills, ability to type 45 WPM minimum, good people skills, proficiency in all Microsoft Office programs, good phone skills, office organization, familiarity with Zoom, flexible team player. A Tourism/DMO industry background is preferred and a good knowledge of all areas and attractions in Brewster County is required. This position will begin in February 2021 with salary based on experience as well as a full Brewster County insurance and benefit package.

Send a resume with 3 references to: Robert Alvarez, Executive Director BCTC, PO Box 479, Alpine, TX 79831. Resumes can also be emailed to: Robert@visitbigbend.com. For a full job description call 432-837-3915 between 9a-5p M-F. Resumes will be accepted through March 1, 2021. EOE.

To apply for Lifeline Service, please contact our office at (432) 364-1000 or Lite-Up Texas at 866-454-8387.

HELP WANTED

Construction help wanted for projects in the Tri-County area. Please call Jimmy Counts at 325-340-0175

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.

CITY OF MARFA PUBLIC WORKS IS HIRING:

- **Heavy Equipment Operator**
- **Laborer I and II**

All positions require obtaining a CDL and basic Water License within one year of hire. (Already having a CDL and Water License a plus.) Please pick up an application at Marfa City Hall.

Thank you,
Jeff Boyd
Public Works Director



THE SENTINEL IS HIRING!

We are looking for folks who want to be part of a team and have a good attitude to fill the following positions:

- Barista/Bartender (part-time)
- Line Cook (full-time)

Experience is a plus, happy to train the right candidate. Please email your resume to brian@bigbendsentinel.com or stop by and pick up an application.

♥♥ MARRY US MAY 1, 2021 IN VALENTINE

GREETINGS!

We are a laid-back couple looking to elope May 1, 2021 in Valentine.

Everything is in place but our officiant.

Name your price...

Shoot us an email at *julie dot warner at gmail dot com* to get in touch and discuss the specifics!



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