THE BIG BEND
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BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES
by order of Presidio County

Program will train UTEP, Sul Ross students to provide culturally competent mental healthcare

By UTEP COMMUNICATIONS

WEST TEXAS — A new partnership between The University of Texas at El Paso, Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas, and Preventative Care Health Services in Presidio will develop a behavioral health specialists' workforce to improve access to mental health services in five southwest Texas rural counties.

With support from a $1.9 million grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Services Resources Administration to PCHS, also known as Presidio County Health Services, UTEP and Sul Ross will train students to provide culturally competent mental healthcare to residents of Presidio, Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth and Jeff Davis counties.

"What is significant about this grant is that it will build a behavioral health workforce in five rural binational Texas counties, which have been designated as medically underserved areas and health professional shortage areas," said Thenral Mangadu, M.D., Ph.D., UTEP associate professor of public health sciences in the College of Health Sciences. "The COVID-19 pandemic has affected many people's mental health and increased their risk for substance use disorder, depression and other behavioral health issues. Our goal is to build an interprofessional health care workforce that can address the growing mental health needs of residents in these underserved border communities."

This community-engaged program will leverage and expand upon the existing interdisciplinary partnerships of UTEP's Minority AIDS Research Center and a service provision in Texas Public Health Region 9/10 to vbuild and sustain healthcare workforce capacity.

Throughout the next four years, 16 UTEP and Sul Ross students will be selected each year for the rural Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training program (BHWET). Program teams will work with community partners in Presidio and surrounding counties to provide students with hands-on practical experiences in local primary care clinics, rehabilitation facilities and other healthcare organizations. Students who are trained through the program will receive a stipend.

Adrian N. Billings, M.D., Ph.D., PCHS chief medical officer, said the

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC



(L-R): Photo by Cristina Fisher; Photo by Chad Wadsworth; Photo by Chad Wadsworth

The Trans-Pecos Festival of Music + Love celebrated its 15th year last weekend with musical performances, sandlot baseball and 1,200 attendees spread across five days. TO READ MORE ABOUT THE FESTIVAL SEE PAGE 5.

West Texas healthcare providers grapple with new federal mandate requiring staff COVID vaccination

By ABBIE PERRAULT
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FAR WEST TEXAS — Amid staffing shortages and vaccine hesitancy, some local healthcare providers are reluctant to implement mandatory vaccine policies ahead of a federal mandate that goes into effect in October.

Earlier this month, President Joe Biden announced that vaccines would become mandatory for all staff at healthcare facilities that accept Medicare and Medicaid. That expanded the requirement on nursing homes to now include hospitals, home healthcare providers, dialysis facilities and more. Failure to comply could lead to the withdrawal of Medicare funding.

Meanwhile, Texas Governor Greg Abbott plans to fight the mandate, having already banned public hospitals in the state from enacting vaccine requirement policies.

Last week, the Big Bend Regional Medical Center, the only hospital within the tri-county area, announced it is taking "new federal requirements seriously and have begun efforts to comply," hospital spokesperson Ruth Hucke said.

The facility is privately owned by Quorum Health and not subject to Abbott's bans. Big Bend Regional Medical Center supports COVID-19 vaccines as one of the most effective measures against the pandemic," Hucke said. "As we have throughout the pandemic, we continue to monitor developments and follow federal guidelines."

Medical Center Hospital in Odessa — which receives transfer patients from the tri-county and has recently served Presidio and Alpine residents hospitalized with COVID-19 — has been more reluctant to implement the mandate. In a letter to employees, Russell Tippin, the Medical Center Health System President and CEO who oversees MCH in Odessa, wrote, "While we HIGHLY encourage all of our employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19 (more than 60-percent are fully vaccinated), this is NOT a decision that we want to be forced upon our employees by federal leadership."

"As a healthcare facility that receives Medicare and Medicaid funding, not complying with this mandate would put us in a dire financial situation," Tippin wrote.

It was a message echoed by others, including Preventative Care Health Services CEO Linda Molinar. "The majority of our patients are using Medicaid and Medicare. To lose those patients, it's not an option, those patients are the reason we're here," she said in an interview last week.

PCHS, a federally qualified health center that has clinics in Alpine, Marfa and Presidio is also waiting for the final implementation of the new rule to decide how to proceed. "We currently don't require our staff to be vaccinated," said Molinar. While she said most of the staff are vaccinated, "We're still waiting for the last ruling to see what they say so we can come up with some kind of policy to put in place. We don't force our staff or require them."

Tippin of MCH isn't just waiting for the final directive, however. The Odessa hospital plans to exhaust "all of our resources to determine how to approach this situation and a FINAL decision has NOT been made by hospital leadership and the Ector County Hospital District's Board of Directors. We are already in the process of consulting with legal experts, as well as local, state and federal agencies to determine our rights and abilities under this federal mandate," Tippin

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Highland Avenue construction nears midway point

By SAM KARAS
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MARFA — Residents and tourists alike have taken notice of the road construction near downtown Marfa as the project concludes its third week of an estimated eight week span. At press time, activity was concentrated in front of the fire station. Dean Street remained closed for repaving, with detours directing traffic through the neighborhood east of the courthouse.

Previous reporting by The Big Bend Sentinel explained that road improvements span the northern city limit down to the four-way stop. They include revamping the three-way intersection on the south side of the courthouse, adding pedestrian safety and accessibility features on sidewalks, and resurfacing the road with a spray paver to minimize noise and the amount of time the road is closed.

The road construction in Marfa is part of the Texas Department of Transportation's U.S. 67 Master Plan, which aims to increase safety and mobility in communities along the highway between Fort Stockton and Presidio-Ojinaga. The Master Plan was developed with community input between 2017 and 2019, recognizing the growth of the region and its importance as a hub for tourism and truck cargo. Marfans are finally starting to see these plans put into action — during some of the busiest weeks for tourism of the year.

According to Laura Macias-Cervantes, a spokesperson for TxDOT, the project is proceeding according to schedule. She explained that the timing for this project was determined by when permits and approvals for proposals could be matched with funding. The process requires coordination between city, state and county governments, and lining up all the moving parts takes time.

"We are aware of the importance of tourism to the area and are working with the contractor to complete the project safely and with the least inconvenience to those impacted," Macias-Cervantes said. "In this case, we have conducted personal outreach to businesses and will implement a faster paving method."

Macias-Cervantes explained that TxDOT aims to move forward with considerations for parking concerns, access to the fire station, pedestrian traffic, impacts to trees and shrubs along the street, and the designation of the

(Continued on page 2)

Art enthusiasts will reunite in Marfa for Chinati Weekend Oct. 8-10

MARFA — The Chinati Foundation/La Fundación Chinati will open its gates to visitors Friday, October 8, through Sunday, October 10, for a weekend of exhibitions, music, food, public programs and the reopening of the Dan Flavin installation. The 34th iteration of Chinati Weekend will return to in-person attendance after a 2020 virtual festival.

Entrance to Chinati and public programs will be free for all. Chinati will require visitors to wear face masks, and further health precautions and requirements will be communicated on Chinati's website as they develop.

The weekend begins in downtown Marfa on Friday with an open studio displaying works by Artist in Residence Alan Ruiz at the Locker Plant. That same night, Made in Marfa will return, inviting local creatives to vend their wares throughout town.

Entrance to the Chinati Foundation will be free on Saturday and Sunday for open house viewing of the art, architecture and land that make artist Donald Judd's vision for Chinati unique.

On Saturday, the Chinati Weekend program features the opening of special exhibitions of works by Donald Judd, Dan Flavin and Hyong-Keun Yun; a performance by improvisational trombonist David Dove with an ensemble of musicians; and an artist's talk by Alan Ruiz.

Dan Flavin's untitled (Marfa project) (1996) has occasioned four new commissions and a special exhibition. Over the past year, the Flavin installation, one of the foundational works in Chinati's collection, received significant maintenance, as well as a new set of 336 fluorescent lamps. The reopening of the installation over Chinati Weekend will be marked by a series of events.

David Dove has composed a new score in response to the installation's acoustical qualities. As visitors travel through the six buildings of Flavin's installation on Saturday, October 8, they will conduct their own experiences of Dove's immersive performance. This work is being presented with special permission from the estate of Dan Flavin.

Alan Ruiz, Chinati's artist in residence, will present new perspectives on Dan Flavin's art, relative to Ruiz's own work's interest in the readymade and networked systems, in a public talk on Saturday, October 8.

The Chinati newsletter (volume 26) will be launched with an essay by Jennifer Burris on Dan Flavin as a collector and curator, and an artist's project by Leslie Hewitt that reflects on Flavin's use of natural and fluorescent light.

A special installation of Dan Flavin's untitled (in memory of my father, D. Nicholas Flavin)

(Continued on page 2)

Ernie Villareal appointed to MISD school board

MARFA — At last week's Marfa ISD school board meeting, Ernie Villareal was appointed to replace Mark Cash, who recently stepped down from his position. Villareal will begin his term at the next board meeting on October 25 and will serve until May 2022. The school board selected Villareal for his administrative experience, which includes almost 15 years at Valentine ISD, where he still serves as the director of finance and tax assessor collector.

Villareal is a third-generation Marfan who graduated from Marfa High School in 1999. He received a degree in business administration from Sul Ross State University in 2005. In an interview with The Big Bend Sentinel, he expressed a desire to serve the students and teachers of Marfa ISD while also advocating for facilities maintenance and repairs. "I want to work with current board members, administration, teachers and staff and not against them," he said. "I want to give back to the school that has given so much to me."

Marfa City Council slashes proposed grant writing position, passes budget and tax rate for 2021-2022

By ABBIE PERRAULT
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MARFA — The city council managed to move its budget up to $24,281.30 net positive at the last minute before passing its final budget for 2021-2022 on Tuesday evening. Immediately after, they passed a 13.07% decrease in the tax rate for the new fiscal year.

There was no public input at the city's budget hearing on Tuesday, September 28, as the council held its last discussions on the city budget and the tax rate. While public participation was down, this year's budget cycle incorporated more involvement from department heads within the city, including meetings with each to hash out what was absolutely needed for the new fiscal year.

Still, the budget was only narrowly balanced by the time Tuesday's final budget hearing rolled around. After edits to Mayor Manny Baeza's initial proposed budget, the council had left just $281.30.

"$281 keeps me awake at night," City Manager Mandy Roane told council during the meeting. The narrow margin meant if any forecasted income fell short, or if unexpected expenses arose, the city would be dipping into its banked savings to cover the difference.

"It's such a tight budget; I'm thinking about the grant position," said Councilmember Buck Johnston. The newly budgeted position had been hotly debated throughout the budget workshops this summer.

Roane suggested that instead of adding the new grant writer position, she and City Secretary Kelly Perez

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UTEP, Sul Ross

(Continued from page 1)

program will bring much-needed health services to the rural Big Bend region of Texas, which includes counties with some of the highest mental health professional shortage area scores in the United States.

"Training of these mental health professional students in these rural and underserved counties will hopefully translate to a workforce pipeline for the Big Bend and similarly under-resourced rural areas so as to decrease mental health care disparities," Billings said.

In total, the program will train 64 students who can be recruited to practice professionally in the region after graduation.

Barbara Tucker, Ph.D., dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies at Sul Ross, said the grant will provide opportunities to reduce mental health disparities in the Big Bend region, which is on the U.S.-Mexico border.

"As a small university, Sul Ross has limited resources to implement larger grants independently," Tucker said. "Our partnership with UTEP has opened the door for Sul Ross to take part in grants such as BHWET, which will also allow us to better serve our students and our community."

Chinati weekend

(Continued from page 1)

(1974) will open over Chinati Weekend. Comprised of discrete modules of circular fixtures and white fluorescent light, the work will offer a historic contrast to Chinati's large scale installation of colored light.

An open house supper will be hosted by the Chinati Foundation on Saturday night in the Arena. Recognizing that this has been a challenging year for many, this gathering will be an opportunity to enjoy community, a meal and mariachi under the West Texas sky.

Sunday morning starts with sunrise viewings of Judd's 15 untitled works in concrete and 100 untitled works in mill aluminum, followed by open house viewing of the collection.

The Chinati Weekend tradition was inaugurated in 1987 by the museum's founder, artist Donald Judd, as a means to bring together Chinati's local, national and international communities. More than 30 years later, the October weekend has grown to be Chinati's most important annual event and a much anticipated cultural celebration for the West Texas region, bringing scores of visitors to Marfa for a weekend of free public programs.

The Chinati Weekend 2021 program concludes Sunday afternoon, October 10. To learn more about the weekend schedule, visit chinati.org.

Marfa budget

(Continued from page 1)

could take on the responsibility for the leanly budgeted year. In that time, she hoped to meet with department heads to figure out needs, identify grants that could be applied for, and send Perez to a grant writing training.

City Attorney Teresa Todd added that the city only needed to apply to the grants, noting that many grants allow for part of the grant funds to be used for administration costs, once the grant has been received.

The proposed new position had been brought by Councilmember Yoseff Ben-Yehuda as $50,000 budgeted for a part-time grant writer for the city and earned narrow support early on, but at subsequent meetings, Mayor Pro Tem Irma Salgado proposed reducing it to $24,000 due to the tight budget constraints.

On Tuesday, Ben-Yehuda urged, "The best time to plant a tree is yesterday. This is an investment and putting it off another year doesn't make sense."

Roane told council, "It's not the position itself, it's the $281. It's no cushion at all. Something is going to come up and $281 isn't going to cover it. I know we have banked funds," she told them, but added, "I don't feel comfortable using the public's money because we didn't plan."

The position was ultimately struck down entirely when Salgado expressed confidence that the staff could handle the grant writing in house and motioned to dash the position. The motion passed, with only Ben-Yehuda dissenting. That $24,000 gave the city a small cushion for contingencies that might arise, and will cover a small amount of depreciation expenses if unexpected costs don't come along.

Tourism Director Abby Boyd requested a part-time assistant, but pointing at the already tight budget, council ultimately shut down the proposal, with all but Ben-Yehuda voting it down. "I know all our departments need help," Mayor Baeza said, "but we are short staffed throughout the city."

The council did move $5,000 from the budget for historical preservation of buildings over to professional services to help the tourism department afford cleaning its facilities which are frequently rented out.

The city passed the budget unanimously, and then voted all together on a 0.362748 tax per $100, a 13.07% decrease in the tax rate from the previous year. As valuations have climbed in the city, tax rates are able to drop while still collecting a similar or slightly smaller amount of income.

Finally, the city approved an agreement with Tyler Technologies to provide Incode software, services and support for the City of Marfa.

Kirk Cunningham of Tyler Technologies, who attended the meeting, said the company could offer improved systems for meter reading, and believes that the city's current three-day efforts to do bank reconciliation could be sped up to just three hours with his company's software. Billing, utilities and payroll will all be able to use the software for their work.

"It is expensive, I get that, but with software you get what you pay for," said Roane, who worked closely with city hall employees to figure out their software needs. While she spoke with various companies, some came with bad recommendations from cities currently using them, while others were unable to demonstrate functions that the city employees knew they needed.

Ben-Yehuda asked if the city could use the system while the internet was out, since the information storage will be cloud-based, to which Cunningham said, "You've got to have internet connectivity to connect to the system. If you have a down time with your internet we will get involved and help."

The contract was approved unanimously, and the new agreement is a recurring cost of $30,634 annually, with the rate fixed for three years. It also carries an upfront cost of $73,380 for implementation of the software in the city's system.

Rio Grande Council of Governments names Guevara as elected official of the year

EL PASO — Presidio County Judge Cinderela Guevara was awarded elected official of the year by the Rio Grande Council of Governments at its annual meeting last Friday, September 24.

Judge Guevara, who was also completing her one year term as the RGCOG's president, was presented the award by RGCOG Executive Director Annette Gutierrez. She credited Guevara with galvanizing the region to find opportunities to collaborate and partner with each other.

Gutierrez mentioned how it was Guevara who started weekly video meetings to discuss vaccination efforts and was sure to include all five of the rural counties in the discussions, adding that knowing that local elected officials couldn't accomplish this alone, she tirelessly worked to have state and local agencies participate on the call. Finally, Gutierrez recognized the tangible outcome that Guevara's county became one of the first to reach vaccine levels that confer herd immunity.

"What I'm most proud of is that we are the most vaccinated county in the state, and we reached herd immunity very early on," Guevara said, speaking about her role as an elected official over the past year. "My idea was everybody would be vaccinated by July but more or less we were able to be fully vaccinated by May."

"I'm proud to have helped bring the vaccine to our county. That was just because of how well everyone worked together," she added, crediting Marfa EMS Director Bert Lagarde, the mayors of Marfa and Presidio, Gutierrez and the COG and the many other officials who worked together to accomplish the high vaccination rate in the area. Because of the five-county cooperation, "We were even able to help Hudspeth and Culberson get vaccines over there," she said.

Guevara enjoyed her term as president of the RGCOG, saying it felt good to be called upon by other county judges to assist them. Up next, the judge said she is joining a committee for the West Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association.

At the same RGCOG meeting, Guevara exited her term as president of the RGCOG, and new officers and directors were put in place across the organization. Peter Svarzbein, representative for District #1, City of El Paso, is the new president of the RGCOG for FY 2022. Svarzbein, the 54th president of the RGCOG, will begin his one-year term on October 1, 2021, and will serve until September 30, 2022.

Summer Webb, the mayor for the town of Valentine, will serve as the first vice president and will be tasked with the responsibility to step in for the president if he is unable to carry out duties, and she will serve on the finance committee.

Mayor Webb will represent small communities outside of El Paso County and will be charged with representing the interests of the communities she serves.

The RGCOG's general membership on Friday also approved the organization's Annual Work Program and Budget of $8,882,124.

Flooding feedback needed from residents, organizations across West Texas

EL PASO — If you live in West Texas and have experienced flooding at your home or business, the Upper Rio Grande Regional Flood Planning Group (URGRFPG) wants to hear from you.

As part of the Texas Water Development Board's statewide flood planning process, the Rio Grande Council of Governments has sponsored the URGRFPG to ensure West Texans from across the 23-county area have a voice in helping the state prioritize flood control projects. The ongoing Upper Rio Grande (Region 14) Flood Plan is identifying and evaluating projects to mitigate flooding for people, property and businesses across the region.

"The URGRFPG brings together technical experts from across the state and across the region to help leaders strategically plan investments in flood control infrastructure," said URGRFPG Chairman Omar L. Martinez of the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1. "Since the planning area is larger than the state of Indiana, public input from across the region is critically important to ensure local issues from El Paso to Sonora and from Presidio to Kermit are addressed."

Participating in the planning process helps ensure that flood mitigation projects, strategies and priorities are represented in the Upper Rio Grande Regional Flood Plan and ultimately, the 2023 State Flood Plan. Going forward, only the projects listed in the 2023 State Flood Plan will be eligible for funding support through TWDB's Flood Infrastructure Fund.

Here's How You Can Get Involved:

- Attend Regional Flood Planning Group meetings and subcommittee meetings in-person or online. Go to http://www.urgfpg.org/meeting-notices/ for information on meetings.
- Complete an online survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BF9GHMQ to provide feedback for your community or for flooding impacts to your home or business.
- The survey is also available in Spanish by visiting https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HXHTNM6
- Review the online data collector and submit observations for flood prone areas in your community and other information: https://twdb-region14.maps.arcgis.com/apps/CrowdsourceReporter/index.html?appid=62227b35f3fa40228bcbaf54bee176b5
- Attend one of three open house public meetings which will be held in El Paso, Presidio and Pecos later this year and in early 2022. When those meetings are scheduled, they'll be posted at http://www.urgfpg.org/meeting-notices/

Highland

(Continued from page 1)

county courthouse as a historic structure. "Public involvement is a critical component of TxDOT projects," she said.

Kate Calder, the owner of Communitie on ighland, has had a front row seat to the action on the city's main drag. "We were pretty lucky with Trans-Pecos weekend," she said, referring to a busy festival weekend that coincided with a number of road closures. "I noticed one day we were down to one lane in front of the shop, and by the next morning both lanes were open again, which we all appreciated because we were looking forward to having a strong weekend."

Calder explained that as part of their outreach, TxDOT had distributed business cards to shop owners on Highland before construction began. She had also begun to see other business owners post construction updates on their websites and social media, but didn't yet feel the need to alert potential shoppers. "Recently a customer came in and one of my coworkers started talking about the construction and the customer said, 'No worries, Austin is always under construction.'"

She went on to say, "Marfa has a pretty limited number of things to do — in a good way — so I think people will still seek out those things, even if they have to move down the street a little differently."



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Vaccine mandate

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told employees.

Other privately run facilities in the tri-county area like the Marfa Clinic and Agave Home Health were already in compliance when the mandate was announced, with their staff fully vaccinated. Cynthia Kirkpatrick, the clinical manager for Agave Home Health, said, "I can tell you that we actually are fully vaccinated and we had done that prior to that order. It was all on a volunteer basis. Everyone was great, they just stepped up and volunteered."

In contrast to some of the smaller facilities, those with a larger share of employees have struggled with vaccination rates and maintaining a full staff during the pandemic.

"During the most recent surge in cases, we experienced the same staffing concerns as hospitals around the country," said Hucke of BBRMC. Molinar concurred, saying that the already existent staffing shortage in her facilities could be exacerbated with the new mandate. "We have a staff shortage, so if there's another requirement on top of everything, of course it's going to get more difficult," she said.

Tippin shared the concern. "We understand that this mandate would affect roughly 40-percent of our employees, and if forced upon us, we know that we would inevitably lose a valuable portion of our staff – a loss that would be unimaginable in our current shorthanded situation," he wrote earlier this month.

Another shared sentiment among the facilities is an uncertainty about how it will be implemented. Tippin believed there would be no alternative option like regularly scheduled testing for those refusing the vaccine. Hucke said BBRMC was "unclear if there will be a weekly testing alternative or other exception to the federal requirement, as our many states allow." More information is expected to arrive in October to clarify.

Molinar of PCHS said, "I hope we don't lose anybody and I hope it doesn't affect recruiting, but we don't have a choice." The facility relies so heavily on Medicare and Medicaid patients, that to lose that funding would be too dire a consequence.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will issue an interim final rule with a comment period in October, expecting healthcare workers and support staff to immediately begin the process of getting vaccinated if not already.

"There is no question that staff, across any health care setting, who remain unvaccinated pose both direct and indirect threats to patient safety and population health," said U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra in a news release about the coming mandate. "Ensuring safety and access to all patients, regardless of their entry point into the health care system, is essential."

The White House's new directive comes during the continued spread of the delta variant of COVID-19 throughout the United States. According to the Texas Tribune, on average, over 250 Texans have died every day for the past 30 days from COVID-19.

According to CMS, data shows that higher vaccination rates among healthcare providers and staff correlate to lower infection rates among patients who see them for care.

"Now is the time to act," said CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. "I'm urging everyone, but especially those fighting this virus on the front lines, to get vaccinated and protect themselves, their families, and their patients from COVID-19."

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Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Thank you for covering "Push for historical marker at Lipan Apache Cemetery challenges who tells region's history" by Sachi McClendon in The Big Bend Sentinel and Presidio International on September 23, 2021.

The Cementerio del Barrio de los Lipanes — a Lipan Apache Tribe cemetery in Presidio, Texas — is a sacred site of the Lipan Apache Tribe that is important to the hundreds of descendants who live in Presidio and beyond. I am one of those descendants and recently joined the process, as a family representative, in conversations regarding the ongoing preservation of the cemetery. I would like to acknowledge the work of many who are supporting the ongoing efforts to preserve the cemetery.

Presidio County Commissioners Court supported descendants in a recent ruling that would have transferred the cemetery's land ownership without input from the families. We expressed our concerns to Judge Guevara, Commissioner Bentley, Commissioner Cabezuela, along with County Attorney Rod Ponton — we extend our thanks for holding this decision and creating space for these conversations to take place.

Presidio City Mayor John Ferguson and Presidio City Council — Nancy Arevalo, Billy Hernandez, Irvin Olivas, John Razo, Alcee Tavarez, Rogelio Zubia — along with City Administrator Brad Newton have supported our efforts by approving a public education campaign seeking to bring awareness to the cemetery. The city is now helping coordinate the return of missing cairns, or rocks, that mark the graves, which have been taken over the years and found in neighboring lots. Mayor Ferguson and Councilman Hernandez have been appointed as points of contact as we move forward, helping streamline communications. My deepest respect to Enrique Madrid for attending this meeting to talk about the cemetery's importance in a way few others can.

The Presidio County Historical Commission has supported the families and tribal members by publicly supporting the descendants' version of the marker text. In addition, Elbert Bassham and Robert Arber have taken meetings to hear concerns, and Terry Bishop has been central in surfacing text and helping coordinate responses. They have been right by our side standing up to the Texas Historical Commission when we needed them most.

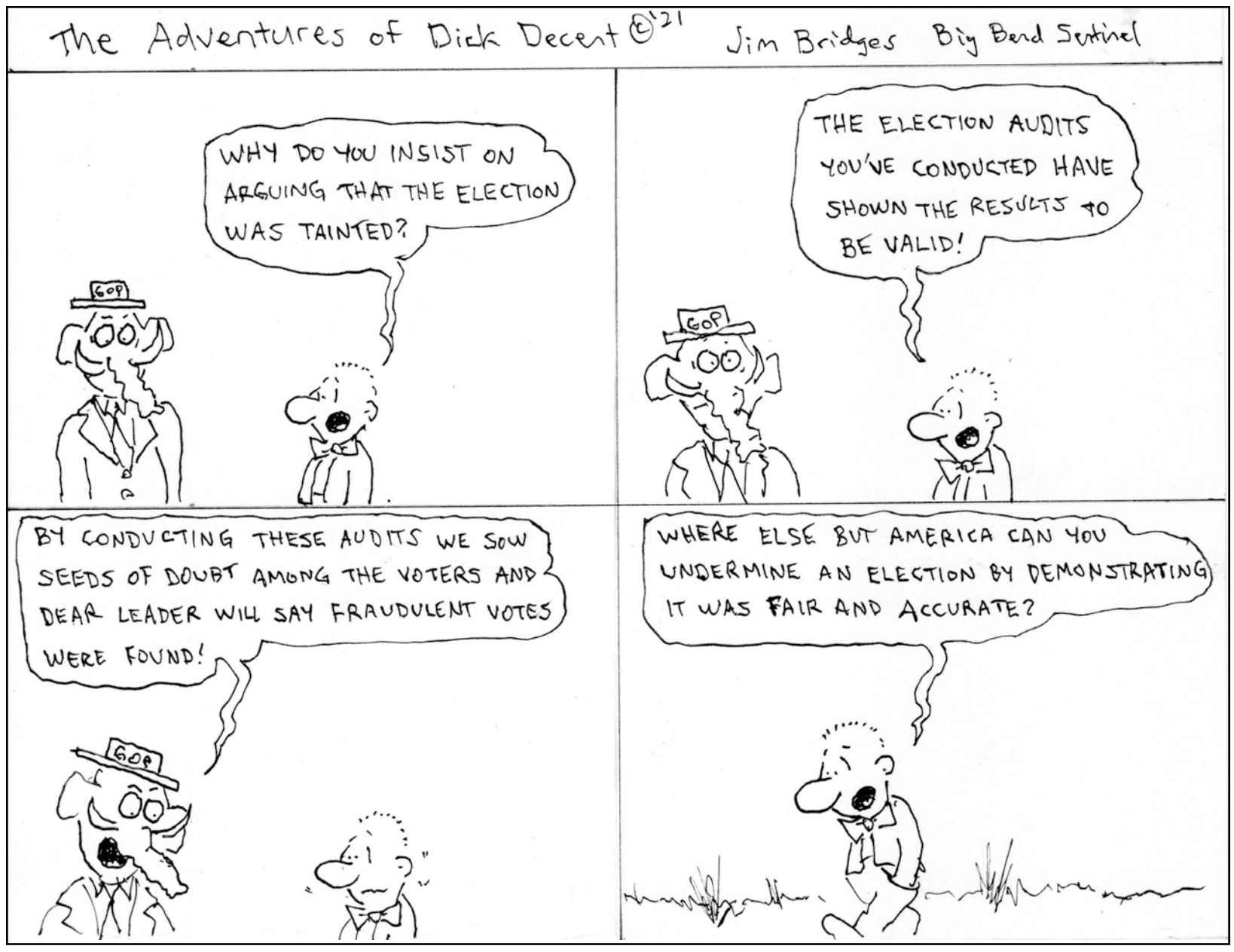
We have been fortunate to have press covering this developing story, helping get word to the public about the history of the site, the families who take care of it, and the process to get a marker. Thank you Sterry Butcher, writing for Texas Monthly; Annie Rosenthal, reporting for Marfa Public Radio; Sachi McClendon and the editors at The Big Bend Sentinel.

Christina Hernandez
Descendant of the Aguilar and Ornelas Families- interred at Cementerio del Barrio de los Lipanes

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***





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Return of Trans-Pecos Music Festival saw smaller crowd and more opportunities for local residents amid global pandemic

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — The stage lights dimmed over the field at El Cosmico in the early morning hours of September 26, marking the end of another Trans-Pecos Festival of Music and Love. The music festival — now celebrating its 15th year — typically comes to Marfa in the fall, accompanied by the rumble of food trucks, tourists and rowdy lineups that have featured some of the biggest-name musical artists to step off tour buses into the West Texas dust.

Last year was a little different. Music fans who typically flock to Marfa for Trans-Pecos were told to stay home in 2020, amid fears that a surge in tourism would spark a COVID outbreak in the remote community of Marfa, where access to healthcare was already stretched thin before news of the coronavirus pandemic reached the Big Bend.

In 2021, Bunkhouse — a hotel group that includes El Cosmico — announced the return of its festival with pandemic precautions in place: capacity would be limited to 50% and attendees would be required to provide proof of vaccination or the results of a recent negative COVID test. Ticket sales went live, and the community waited to see what it would mean to attempt a return to pre-pandemic life.

It's no secret that Marfa and its neighboring communities rely on tourism to make ends meet. "[The pandemic] devastated me," said Chris Ramming, owner of Casita Bar, which closed in March 2020. "It was very hard. I'm still not over it. But I feel like a bar is the absolute last thing you should reopen. We're a very small town, and we have to look out for each other."

In previous years, Bunkhouse had imported an Austin team to serve alcohol at the event. But this year, Ramming was asked to run a rotating series of six beer-and-wine bars at the festival, staffed by 15 local bartenders hand-selected by Ramming. Local bar and restaurant The Water Stop ran a liquor bar — a first for the festival.

"Everyone I saw who was local was killing it," Ramming said. His sentiments were echoed by James Richard Smith, who runs the Too Hot for TABC food truck at Chateau Wright Vineyard outside of Fort Davis. Smith had hoped to serve the vineyard's wine at the festival, but was told alcohol vendors had already been selected. So Smith did what he's learned to do as a service industry professional trying to survive a global pandemic: adapt.

Smith's food truck is a case study in pandemic-era ingenuity. The truck, which was loaned by Presidio County Justice of the Peace David Beebe, was a response to TABC rules that cropped up around "to-go" alcohol sales amid the first waves of COVID lockdown. The vineyard opened its tasting room doors a week before shutdown, but the team could still sell wine to-go during lockdown if they were also able to provide hot food items. So Smith switched his focus from working sales and marketing for the vineyard to grilling up burgers made from locally-sourced meats.

At the festival, he once again put his professional flexibility to the test. "I was the first one there to drop stuff off, so I saw all the vendors, and I went through all their menus. I decided to fill in the gaps. So we focused on vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options, and we could add meat to those things if people wanted."

Though Smith couldn't serve wine, he kept his tent stocked with electrolyte drinks, a go-to for festival attendees during long days dancing under the West Texas sun. After a lesson in cold brew coffee from staff of Cedar Coffee in Alpine — whose owner, Mateo Mares, also played in the festival as a member of Marijuana Sweet Tooth — he was able to serve caffeine as well.

"I went in with zero expectations and was just hoping to break even," Wright said. "We did really well. I definitely want to do it next year, for sure."

Service industry professionals weren't the only locals called in for their expertise. Christie Alexander, interim medical director at the Marfa Country Clinic, was asked to run the Medical Tent at the festival. She was assisted by Kasey Hernandez, Bianca Sales and Kaela Donaldson, who staffed the tent each day of the festival late into the night.

It was important to Alexander — a medical professional in a remote area in the midst of a pandemic — to divert potential patients away from a strained rural emergency room.

Alexander and her team treated a variety of ailments including scrapes, eye irritation, allergy outbreaks and minor pain management. Patients needing fluids were referred next door to the Hydration Station, where vitamin-infused IV drips were on offer. Anyone requiring more intensive care was sent to the clinic for treatment.

Though it was a first for Alexander, Don Culbertson had staffed the tent in previous years. "This is nothing new for Marfa Country Clinic," she said. "We all work so well together that it was very fluid and very easy."

According to Alison Marlborough, marketing manager at Bunkhouse, the festival saw 1,200 attendees across five days — on track with previous years, despite the 50% cap. In addition to the festival's boon to Marfa tourism, she stressed Bunkhouse's local contributions through charity. "We're proud to support local nonprofits like Marfa Public Radio, Marfa Studio Arts and Big Bend Conservation Alliance."

Marlborough reported no problems with enforcement of the festival's new COVID restrictions. "We'll keep these protocols in place should they continue to be necessary," she said.



Photo by Hannah Gentiles for The Big Bend Sentinel

Musicians David Garza, Tift Merritt & Robert Ellis take a break from the Trans-Pecos festival to perform for Marfa High School students.

Trans-Pecos musicians rock Martin Field, inspire the next generation in special set for MISD students

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Marfa High School students piled into the Martin Field bleachers last Thursday, facing a modest PA system and three microphone stands lined up on the grass behind the track. For the next hour, toes tapped, knees bounced and students started clapping to the rhythm as three musicians from Trans-Pecos Festival took turns strumming out tunes and talking about following their dreams.

The morning performance at MISD has been running around five years – minus last year when Trans-Pecos took a hiatus – where a few musicians sneak away from the sprawling high-end campground to give the local students a taste of the festival.

Nearly 100 high schoolers filed into the back rows of the Martin Field stands, but when David Garza, Tift Merritt and Robert Ellis got behind the mics, the students crowded closer, filling out the front rows to get a better seat for the show.

In preparation for the set, each performer brought something special. Merritt performed "Feeling of Beauty," picking it because it's a song she wrote about Marfa. While at the mic, she said, "I wanted to say a little bit about making your own way in the world. A lot of work happens off stage. It's more than an Instagram post of looking cool with your breakfast," she said. Instead she told students to go into creativity like a science experiment, asking questions without knowing exactly what the outcome will be.

Garza picked a song he had written in his sophomore year of high school called "Fishsticks," which has become a cult favorite among the Marfa students over the years. As the chorus rolled in, the students shouted along to the steely bop, chanting "fishsticks!" along with Garza, pumping their fists in the air.

Ahead of the performance, Ellis swore to shred, and shred he did, wailing on his acoustic guitar with backup from Garza and Merritt. Some fans in the audience even shouted song requests from his repertoire, which he obliged. "None of us have played these songs together and we're completely winging it," he confessed to the students. "But it's really fun, and I think half of the fun of choosing music as a career is getting to see your friends and make stuff up together, wing it and vibe out."

Ellis asked how many students played guitar and hands shot up around the stadium seats. Marfa ISD Superintendent Oscar Aguero had explained ahead of the performance, "We just started a guitar class this year, so I'm glad they got guitarists here so the students can see this, and that this is something that they can do."

"It gives the kids a different venue of arts. We have so many of the minimalists here and then they bring in this concert, and it just shows them that 'Hey, you can do this,'" Aguero said. "The kids get to see other people doing something that they love and it just gives them a break. They're celebrating something that's happening in their city, and they get to be a part of it."

Maribel Meraz, a junior, said she enjoyed the songs and thought it was "pretty cool." While she aspires to be a marine biologist rather than a musician, she saw how working hard toward a goal can lead to success. Garza was her favorite act of the morning. "He had an upbeat kind of thing," Meraz said.

The upbeat vibe was intentional for Garza, who wanted to give students a good time. "I think music is something that we as musicians take it for granted that there's always music around, but for people age 13, 14, 15, 16, it can really be a beautiful shot of good vibes to put your mind in a different place that it wasn't before, and it's that simple," said Garza after the show.

All three of the artists hail from Texas originally, and Garza had advice for Marfa's younger generation looking to pursue their dreams the way these musicians did. "Put your heart into it. There's a lot of stuff you can get done these days that you don't really need to put your heart into, but if you really literally put your heart into it, it'll happen," he said as he loaded into the bus heading back to the grounds of El Cosmico. "Whether it's football or computer programming or rock 'n' roll. If you put your heart into it, it'll work."



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Chinati follows COVID-19 precautions.
Masks and social distancing are required.

Visit chinati.org for more information and to book reservations.

Arts & Community

Marfa's Lisa Kettyle named new program director for National Federation of Community Broadcasters



Photo by Sarah M. Vasquez

Lisa Kettyle

MARFA — The National Federation of Community Broadcasters has hired Marfa resident Lisa Kettyle to join their team as program director, beginning October 25.

Kettyle has worked in nonprofit and arts management for over 20 years, specializing in project management and audience engagement. Previous to joining NFCB, she served as the chief operating officer at Marfa Public Radio, where she oversaw day-to-day administrative and broadcast operations, planned and executed successful membership drives and provided administrative support to the award-winning editorial team. Kettyle excels in programming, event production, fundraising and building organizational capacity. She also has experience with change management, DEIJ work, and is a social media maven.

"We had a stellar applicant pool for this position and we are grateful to the colleagues who threw their hat in the ring and thrilled to welcome Lisa to our team. We think she is a perfect fit for the work we do with community stations across the country," said Sally Kane, CEO at the National Federation of Community Broadcasters.

"Community media is a vital resource with a responsibility to amplify local voices and stories. It is a national treasure that I am proud of," said Kettyle. "I am deeply honored to have this opportunity to support NFCB member stations and help them optimize their impact and reach for the stars."

Founded in 1975, NFCB is the oldest and largest national organization dedicated to community stations within the public media system.



Photo courtesy of Marfa Open Arts

New artworks by Texas artist PONO on display in the main gallery at Marfa Open Arts on S. Plateau St.

Marfa Open brings 3-week immersive festival for its 6th annual event

MARFA — The Marfa Open Arts Festival is underway, with a slate of exhibitions and performances spanning September 23 to October 17, with the events organized for artists, by artists.

A selection of both local and visiting artists across a broad variety of mediums are invited to Marfa to participate. This year's festival emphasizes cross-media collaborations between artists and features a rotating program of exhibitions, film screenings, workshops, live demonstrations, site-specific installations, and live music and dance performances from over 25 artists, all of which are open to the public and free of charge.

The Marfa Open Arts venue at 102 S. Plateau St. and Building 98 at 705 W. Bonnie St. will host the wide variety of programming this year.

Presented by Raquel Bell and Primary Mystical Experience of Galecstasy, The Animal Ballet opens on Saturday, October 2 at 8 p.m. at Marfa Open Arts, bringing a live multimedia video performance that explores animal physicality in relationship to humans in the shared environments we inhabit.

PAYing HOMEage, a group show curated by Mangus Art Collective of Austin, will be on view at Building 98 on weekends and by appointment on weekdays through the duration of the art festival. The exhibition also has an "additional layer of social initiative as art," according to the festival announcement. Like the title of the show suggests, art sales paid to the group will be shared to help native Marfans and Austinites that are facing housing insecurity.

"It is our hope that by using our platform as creatives to support vulnerable communities through this initiative that we can help make the presence of creative cultures a welcomed addition to the homes of all peoples," the release said.

There are also new artworks and installations in the gallery and on the grounds by an array of local and visiting artists participating in the festival this year. Located in a historic old train depot, Marfa Open is the headquarters for the annual festival, and over the duration of the fest plays host to a variety of weekly events from film screenings to performances, live demonstrations and music.

Marfa Open Arts has a goal of contributing to the community and offering resources and opportunities to both local and visiting artists via gallery exhibitions, events, residency opportunities, gardening and community projects, and through an annual art festival. On-site is a gallery, ceramics studio, workshop, community garden and event venue that are available for local and visiting artists to use, and for visitors to tour.

For more information and for the festival event calendar visit www.marfaopen.org.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Presidio County Appraisal District is seeking proposals for Bank Financial Depository for 2022-2023 fiscal years. Any and all interested Financial Institutions, please submit Depository Collateral Agreement Proposals to the Presidio CAD office at 107 E. Texas, PO Box 879, Marfa, Texas, (432)729-3431. All proposals must be received by October 18, 2021. The Board of Directors of the Presidio CAD reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal.

The Presidio County Appraisal District is searching for anyone interested in serving the taxpayers of Presidio County as an Appraisal Review Board Member for a 2-year term (2022-2023). If interested, please contact the Presidio CAD office at 107 E. Texas St. (432) 729-3431 or info@presidiocad.org. Application and Questionnaire for Appointment are available at the Presidio CAD or our website presidiocad.org, Applications must be submitted to the Presidio CAD by November 1, 2021.

The Alpine Public Library selected for national NASA@ My Library STEAM programming initiative

ALPINE – The Alpine Public Library has been selected through a competitive application process to be part of NASA@ My Library, an education initiative created to increase and enhance STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) learning opportunities for library patrons throughout the nation.

"APL is one of just 60 libraries nationwide to be part of this initiative, and we're thrilled to have been selected," said Mary Beth Garrett, children's librarian. "We look forward to enhancing STEAM concepts to our younger patrons and to exploring the universe together with people of all ages during our public programs in 2021 and 2022."

As a NASA@ My Library Partner, APL will hold public programs that explore NASA science and technology, specifically around NASA's newest next-generation telescope launch this fall, the first telescope images this coming spring, and as part of the Collaborative Summer Library Program this coming summer. More information, including a program schedule, will be available in the coming months at alpinepubliclibrary.org.

Approximately 150 libraries applied to be part of the program.

As part of this initiative, APL will receive training and resources to implement NASA events and programming, access to a university Subject Matter Expert to support patron engagement, and $1,600 for programming expenses.These resources, along with support by the NASA@ My Library team, will enable APL to conduct excellent NASA STEAM programming and activities. NASA@ My Library will create compelling learning experiences for the community and share the story, science and adventure of NASA's scientific explorations of planet Earth, our solar system and the universe beyond.

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OBITUARIES



Minjares

Ernesto G. Minjares, our beloved father, passed away peacefully on September 7, 2021. He was 89 years old. Ernesto was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was born in Bronte, Texas, and resided in Marfa until moving to El Paso in 1968. He attended Marfa High School, where he played football, basketball and baseball. He was a United States veteran who proudly served in the U.S. Army and later retired as a truck driver after 32 years.

Ernesto leaves behind his wife of 64 years, Dominga Minjares, and their three children: Linda, Ernest Jr. (Cira) and Nick (Lorena), all of El Paso. He is succeeded by nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

When his grandchildren were younger, he would often be found watching classic cartoons with them like Bugs Bunny to which he would jokingly call everyone "a long-eared galoot."

He was known for his love of sports, especially football, baseball and golf. His teams were the Dallas Cowboys, New York Yankees and Tiger Woods. Ernesto was a devoted Catholic and attended Cristo Rey Church without fail. Ernesto was a long-time member of the Ex-Marfa Shorthorns, providing scholarships to students in Marfa.

Ernesto was determined to leave his children a fortune. A week would not go by without him going out to purchase lottery tickets; even when he couldn't go, he would make sure that one of his kids would go out and get them for him. But what he didn't realize was that his legacy of kindness and the strong-willed spirit that he left are more valuable and will always be cherished. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.

We could all find comfort knowing Ernesto is now stretching his wings. He had this poem saved at home:

I MADE IT HOME

I just wanted to let you know I made it home.
Everything is so pretty here, so white, so fresh, so new. I wish that you could close your eyes so you could see it too.
Please try not to be sad for me. Try to understand. God is taking care of me. I'm in the shelter of his hands.
Here there is no sadness, and no sorrow, and no pain. Here there is no crying, and I'll never hurt again.
Here it is so peaceful when all angels sing. I really have to go now. I've just got to try my wings.
P.S. I'll be the first face you see when you get here!

• • •



Segura

A memorial mass for **Ron "Cosme" Segura**, who passed away on June 26, 2021, will be held at 10 a.m, on Saturday, October 9, 2021, during the Valentine High School 2021 reunion. Services will be held at Valentine Sacred Heart Catholic Mission in Valentine, Texas. A gathering for family and friends will be hosted following the mass at 111 N. California Avenue, Valentine.



Bustamante

Lauro Joseph Bustamante, 55, entered into eternal rest on September 20, 2021, where he resided in Clint, Texas. He is preceded in death by his parents, Faustino and Anita Bustamante.

Larry was a professional truck driver who loved cooking, gathering with family and friends, and listening and singing to music. Lauro is survived by his beloved wife, Sofia Bustamante; daughters Amanda Pineda, Esmeralda Bustamante, Diana Villalobos and Laura Padilla; son David Rudy Villalobos; and sisters Marta Torres and Gracie Bustamante. He also leaves behind nine grandchildren to cherish his memory.

The visitation was held on Wednesday, September 29, and included the rosary officiated by Deacon William Hernandez at Sunset Funeral Home-Americas in El Paso.

The mass officiated by Father Emmanuel Soto will begin at 11 a.m. on Thursday, September 30, at San Elceario Catholic Church, 1556 San Elizario Rd, San Elizario, TX 79849.

The active pallbearers are Manny Duarte, David Rudy Villalobos, Joshua Pineda, Ignacio Rodriguez, Efren Orozco, Joe Torres and Billy Jack Torres. Services entrusted to Sunset Funeral Home-Americas.

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Arts & Community

Dance workout class this Saturday will support Marfa two-year-old's cancer battle

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — When Elizabeth Gutierrez heard that Marfa two-year-old Nevaeh Ely-Vasquez had been diagnosed with cancer this summer, she felt called to action. Gutierrez, a Zumba instructor, got busy recruiting fellow teachers Angela Ramos of Presidio and Keila Vargas of Alpine to join her in hosting a Zumbathon — a dance workout event to raise funds to support the toddler's cancer treatment. On Saturday, October 2, the trio of certified instructors will welcome the public to join them at 6:30 p.m. in the Saint George Hall for dancing, food and drinks, with all proceeds going toward the toddler's fight against cancer.

Nevaeh was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia two months ago, and her family quickly uprooted their lives in Marfa to seek rapid treatment in El Paso. They struggled to find a place to live and the young girl began receiving intensive treatments.

The generosity of their fellow Marfans has already helped the family through the first part of the journey. "A lot of her medicine wasn't covered by insurance," her mother, Marisol Ely, explained, including steroids and certain chemotherapy drugs. Donations to the family allowed them to get an apartment in El Paso while Nevaeh undergoes treatment, to cover some hospital bills denied by insurance and to pay for a machine for the young girl's breathing treatments.

The youngster is responding well to treatment, her mom said. "She gets a little tired and can't really walk sometimes after chemo, and she's starting to lose her hair," said Ely, "but overall she's been happy."

As treatment goes on and medical expenses continue to arise, the family is grateful to have the financial help from their community. "For Elizabeth, I'd like to say thank you so much. We're really grateful and appreciate it a lot, and hopefully we can be there Saturday if Nevaeh is feeling up to it," Ely said.



Photo courtesy of Marisol Ely

Marfa resident Nevaeh Ely-Vasquez, 2, has been undergoing treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia since August. This Saturday, Zumba instructors from Marfa, Alpine and Presidio will hold a class at the Saint George Hall to support Ely-Vasquez and her family as she receives treatment in El Paso.

It's Gutierrez's first time trying a Zumba fundraiser, saying, "We will still do our thing, which is dancing and giving good vibes, and then doing it for someone like Nevaeh, that's even better."

Gutierrez said she felt particularly moved to help, in part because her own daughter is around Marisol's age, and both girls had children of their own around the same time. "My daughter went to school with Marisol, and the difference between my grandson and Nevaeh is just a few months," Gutierrez said. "My daughter got pregnant first and then it was Marisol, so they were going through the same thing."

Cancer had also recently hit close to home for Gutierrez, when the son of her niece recently passed from leukemia. "It hits closer," she explained. "You find out life is short, and when it's a little person, it's more painful for everyone, especially the parents."

Lissa Castro of the Hotel Saint George heard about the event from Gutierrez and donated the hotel's hall space for the Zumba instructors to have a spacious, air conditioned venue. Rob Crowley will help with sound and lighting at the event, and Nevaeh's family will be selling drinks, #NevaehStrong bracelets and burritos.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, but attendees should come early to check in and sign a waiver. The class is $15, though Gutierrez said donations beyond that amount are welcome. Because the instructors' time, the venue and the food are being donated, all proceeds from the event will go directly towards expenses incurred by the family for her treatment.

Disclosure: Marisol Ely is a former employee of The Big Bend Sentinel and her mother, Maria Gerardo, is a current employee of The Big Bend Sentinel.

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



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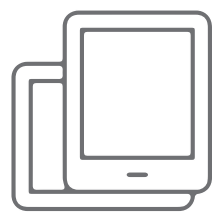
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- Receive EBB Program approval email from USAC
- Enroll for BBT broadband service with an optional tablet
- Contact us at 1.800.592.4781
- Share your EBB Program approval email; csr@bigbend.com
- Start saving $50/month on your broadband bill!



BBT

Sudoku & Crossword puzzles:

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg September 13, 2021

ACROSS
1 Exclude
5 Cheer squad?
9 Microwave's "Done!"
13 Route
14 Drink brand with a wintry logo
15 Pale purple
16 Ending for "teen"
17 Fashion journalist Garcia
18 Spot seller
19 Valuable designation for a collector
22 Zoning unit
23 How many '00s mixtapes were stored
24 Prepare to order a drink
32 One-named Irish singer
33 Negative conjunction
34 Not just punctual
35 Boxer Nico ___ Walsh
36 Requirement when buying booze
39 Outdated
40 North Pole resident
42 Write
43 ___ gras (duck delicacy)
44 Balancing daredevil
48 Printer paper unit
49 "___ we there yet?"
50 Creature comforts? ... and a hint to the words that bookend 19-, 24- and 44-Across
57 Indifferent
58 Main point
59 "Ah, gotcha"
60 Drink with a pumpkin spice variety
61 Water, for a Super Soaker
62 Gluttony and greed
63 Great Basin indigenous group
64 Fiefdom laborer
65 ___ it out (settle a beef)

DOWN
1 Libra's birthstone, often
2 Travelers to Bethlehem
3 Romantic duo, in a tabloid
4 ___ in Manila (iconic 1975 boxing match)
5 Optimize with small adjustments
6 LSD
7 Hawaiian goose found in "pine needles"
8 Personal watercraft brand
9 "I wouldn't do that"
10 French bread?
11 All tied up
12 Liveliness
15 Paired
20 North Pole product
21 Football turnover: Abbr.
24 Godzilla, for example
25 Zhou in Chinese history (A-LINE anagram)
26 Being deceitful
27 '90s collectible disk
28 Von ___ ("The Sound of Music" surname)
29 Small stream
30 Nickname that sounds like a passageway
31 Winona of "Stranger Things"
36 Library penalty
37 Director Spike
38 Needing
41 Pushes forcefully
43 Dutch dialect spoken in Belgium
45 U.K. military flyers
46 High-end watches featuring a Greek letter
47 Singer Grande, familiarly
50 Fence component
51 ___ Modern (London museum)
52 It's worth two nickels
53 Whispery video genre, for short
54 Himalayas' home
55 Camera part
56 Group hangout, slangily
57 ___-ray disc

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

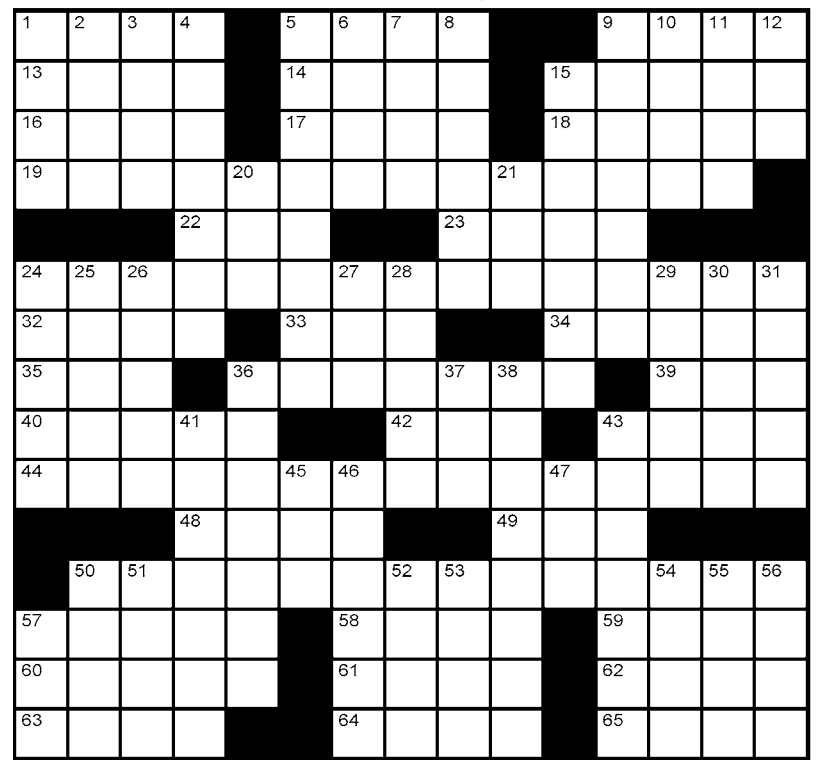
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☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

SEP	Thu, Sep 30	Fri, Oct 1	Mon, Oct 4	Tue, Oct 5	Wed, Oct 6
BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST PIZZA	WAFFLES, CHEESE STICK	BREAKFAST BREAD, YOGURT	BREAKFAST BURRITO	SAUSAGE KOLACHE, CHEESE CUBES
LUNCH Menu courtesy of PORTER'S SINCE 1945 Celebrating 70+ years of serving our customers. 432-729-4375 www.myporters.net	HAMBURGER/ CHEESEBURGER, CHIPS, TOMATO CUP, GARDEN SALAD, PEARS	CHICKEN NUGGETS, MAC & CHEESE, BABY CARROTS, GREEN BEANS, PEACHES	BREADED DRUMSTICK, BISCUIT, GARDEN SALAD, SWEET POTATO FRIES, GRAPES	TACO STICK, BEANS, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, CHILLED PINEAPPLE, COOKIE	PEPPERONI PIZZA, CARROTS, GREEN BEANS, GRAPES

It's a Zoo Out There by Tomas Spiers

9/13



CELEBRATION LIQUOR MARFA
Mon - Thu 11:30 am - 9 pm
Fri - Sat 10 am - 9 pm
432-837-7479 • Marfa
Mon - Sat 10 am - 9 pm
432-729-4682 • Alpine

RAUL LARA
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
Cell# 432-249-1189
councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com
Post Office Box 787
432-729-4315 / fax 432-729-3158

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

FRI, OCT 1: Volleyball vs Fort Hancock in Marfa, JV 12:00 pm, V 1:00 pm
FRI, OCT 1: Football vs West Texas in Marfa, JH 5:30 pm, V 7:30 pm
SAT, OCT 2: JH & HS Cross Country in Alpine
SAT, OCT 2: JH District Volleyball Tournament in Van Horn, time TBD
TUE, OCT 5: Volleyball vs. Balmorhea in Balmorhea, JH 4:00 pm, JV 5:00 pm, V 6:00 pm

Rio Grande Council of Government Appoints New Board Members



President

The Honorable Peter Svarzbein
City of El Paso, Representative for District 1



1st Vice President & Small Communities outside of El Paso County Director

The Honorable Summer Webb
Mayor, Town of Valentine



2nd Vice President

The Honorable Henry Rivera
City of El Paso, Representative for District 7



Small Communities in El Paso County Director

The Honorable David Cantu Alderman,
City of San Elizario



Special Districts Director

The Honorable Rosalinda Vigil
President, Lower Valley Water District

The Rio Grande Council of Governments is a voluntary association of local governments formed under Texas law. In January of 1967, local elected officials in El Paso County joined together to form the El Paso Council of Governments. This organization was initiated to further intergovernmental cooperation and coordination in the planning, development and delivery of governmental services within El Paso County, Texas.

In 1971, the counties of Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio and Brewster were included in the organization to form a truly "Regional" body, and the organization was renamed West Texas Council of Governments. In 1987, by vote of the membership, Doña Ana County, New Mexico and the local governments within were included as full members and the name of the organization was changed to the Rio Grande Council of Governments.

RIO GRANDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Classifieds & public notices

FOR SALE

Home for sale by owner. 5186 sq. ft. Main home: 1932sf. 3b-2bath. shop. 1932sf. , 2 separate 1b-1bath apts. 576sf. Zoned Commercial on 4 lots. 708 W. San Antonio St. Possible owner financing w 25% down. Call 432-386-0275.

US Government Property for Sale
304 N. Bagley Ave., Presidio, TX
0.23 Acres +/-
3BR, 2 Bath
1,150 Sq. Ft. House

https://realestatesales.gov
For more information contact
William Rollings at 817-978-4324
U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

AIRSTREAM AMBASSADOR FOR SALE

Selling 1971 Airstream Ambassador 27'

Clean Title. Needs work, includes materials bought for repairs including flooring, insulation, toilet, plumbing, wiring, outlets, etc.

$7,500.00

Please text 432-294-0986

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Marfa Parks and Recreation Board meets every third Thursday of the month at 6:00pm in the Casner Room at City Hall. The public is invited to attend.

THE BIG BEND CHAPTER OF THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MEETS THIS SATURDAY
OCT 2ND, 10:00AM - 12:00PM
THE CHIHUAHUAN DESERT NATURE CENTER
NEAR FT. DAVIS.

To attend, please sign up at **big-bend-chapter@npsot.org**

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

MARFA 12 STEP MEETINGS

Go to zoom.us or download the app:
- **AA - Mon 6 PM** https://tinyurl.com/y25rsguo (online only)
- **AA - Mon, Wed 6 PM** St. Paul's Episcopal Church (in person)
- **ACA - Thur 5:30 PM** https://tinyurl.com/y7qyghga (online)
- **Al-Anon, Thur 6 PM,** https://tinyurl.com/kaef22a6
- **AA - Sat 12 Noon** hybrid meeting: in person Marfa Public Library courtyard and online at https://tinyurl.com/y686nnw2

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

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by CAMP MARFA, LLC d/b/a PLANET MARFA, to be located at 200 South Abbott Street, Marfa, Presidio County, Texas. Officer of said Limited Liability Company is Colby Martin, Manager.

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JOBS

MARFA PUBLIC RADIO IS IMMEDIATELY HIRING A FULL-TIME OFFICE MANAGER.

Duties include: coordinating the station's administrative needs, answering the phones, paying bills, mail distribution, maintaining records, use of QuickBooks, managing the online store, preparing documents, and maintaining the office space.
Salary Range: $45,000-$50,000
For more information go to marfapublicradio.org or reach out to elise@marfapublicradio.org
To apply email a resume and cover letter to work@marfapublicradio.org

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Help Wanted: Experienced Heavy Equipment Operators, with a clean Class A CDL preferred. Company yard in Fort Davis, 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

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Or call 432-729-3071 Ext.607 to inquire

JOB POSTING
JEFF DAVIS COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
LEGAL SECRETARY/VICTIM ASSISTANT

The Jeff Davis County Attorney's Office has an immediate opening for a full-time Legal Secretary and Victim Assistant. Duties include preparing legal documents, attending court, assisting victims of crime, research, writing, assisting in nuisance abatement, maintaining files, inputting online criminal case information, maintaining the law library, answering phones, working with people, and maintaining strict confidentiality. Experience with Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, and Google Docs required. Paralegal experience and/or bilingual in Spanish preferred, but not required.

Interested individuals should fill out the application found online at http://www.co.jeff-davis.tx.us/page/jeffdavis.County.Attorney and submit it along with a resume and letter of interest to Teresa.Todd@co.jeff-davis.tx.us. Position open until filled. Salary for 35 hours is $25,837 with additional $3,500 compensation possible for working 40 hours per week.

FOWLKES CATTLE COMPANY INC. IS NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR TRUCK DRIVERS. AT LEAST 3 YEARS EXPERIENCE AND CLASS A CDL LICENSE REQUIRED. MUST HAVE A CLEAN RECORD AND PASS A PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG TEST. COME BY FOWLKES CATTLE CO., INC., 1800 GOLF COURSE ROAD, MARFA, TX TO APPLY. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 432-729-4664.

LOOKING FOR A DENTIST, MEDICAL DOCTOR AND A FNP
FOR FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES OF ALPINE
Applications may be picked up at 1605 N. FT. Davis Hwy
Alpine, TX 79830 or call (432) 837-4555.
Please call first before arrival.
Family Health Service of Alpine • 1605 N. FT. Davis Hwy

THE SENTINEL IS HIRING IMMEDIATELY FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER -- A full-time position to lead our front-of-house staff and operations. Will collaborate with the kitchen manager and ownership. Strong coffee service background preferred. Cocktail experience a plus.

BARTENDER, BARISTA, PREP COOK -- We are seeking individuals with a great attitude and customer service skills for full-time and part-time time positions. Experience is a plus, happy to train the right candidate. The Sentinel offers competitive pay and employee discounts.
Please email your resume to max@thesentinelmarfa.com or come by and fill out an application.

JOBS

The Marfa Nutrition Center is hiring!

FULL TIME COOK
Looking for Energetic, self-Motivated person with kitchen experience.
Hours are From 7:55am to 5:05pm; Monday thru Friday.
Applications can be picked up at City Hall or at the Nutrition Center.

PART-TIME ASST. COOK/DISHWASHER
Looking for an energetic, self-motivated person with at least one year experience.
Hours are from 7:55am to 2pm (Mondays; 8:25 to 2pm (Tues-Wed-Thurs); 8am-2pm Friday.
Applications can be picked up at City Hall or at the Nutrition Center.
City of Marfa is an EOE

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1605 North Fort Davis Highway, Suite B
Alpine, Texas 79830

Separate sealed BIDS for the Renovation and Minor Alteration of 3,800 S.F. of Outpatient Medical Clinic space in an existing building located at 1707 North 4th Street in Alpine, Texas will be received by Presidio County Health Services, Inc. at the Administrative Offices of PCHS, Inc. until 3:00 PM, Central Daylight Savings Time, October 19, 2021, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:
Thomas Greenwood Architect, PLLC
305 South Cockrell Street
Alpine, Texas 79830-6403
(432)837-9419

and

Presidio County Health Services, Inc.
1605 North Fort Davis Highway, Suite B
Alpine, Texas 79830
(432)837-4812

Electronic copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained by contacting the office of Thomas Greenwood Architect, PLLC located at 305 South Cockrell Street, Alpine, Texas, 79830-6403, (432)837-9419

THE BIG BEND Sentinel

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