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by order of Presidio County

Former assistant alleges discrimination, cronyism and retaliatory termination in suit filed against DA Ori White and 4 local counties

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

FAR WEST TEXAS — Attorney Jerry Phillips has filed a lawsuit seeking damages, reinstatement and other injunctive relief against 83rd District Attorney Ori White individually and as head of the DA’s office, and against Presidio, Brewster, Jeff Davis and Pecos counties that are within the 83rd district.

The plaintiff, Phillips, is bringing the lawsuit under the Texas Whistleblower Act, claiming there were “adverse personnel actions” as a result of the plaintiff’s reporting of alleged illegal conduct.

Phillips is an attorney who lives in Sonora, and was announced as first assistant district attorney this January, when White was sworn into the top spot in the 83rd DA’s office.

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Sul Ross announces next vaccine drive for Big Bend residents

ALPINE — Sul Ross State University is helping to host another vaccine drive with DSHS and Nomi Health. This event will be on September 30 to administer COVID-19 vaccines to Big Bend area residents over the age of 12.

Those who line up to get vaccinated will be able to choose the Moderna or Pfizer shot, and both vaccines require two doses for the most protection. Individuals will be able to get the first or second dose. Also, third doses will be available for those who are immunocompromised. Those seeking a second dose or a “booster” dose should make sure to bring their CDC vaccine card with them.

The Thursday, September 30, vaccine event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m at SRSU’s University Center on the second floor. For those not familiar with campus, use Entrance 4 off Harrison. It will be the parking lot to the right, and the University Center is the large building along that parking lot.

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Push for historical marker at Lipan Apache Cemetery challenges who tells region’s history



Photo by Hannah Gentiles for The Big Bend Sentinel

The cross on Manuel Aguilar’s grave is one of only a couple of remaining grave markers among a sea of seemingly ambiguous rock piles, only loosely marking the many graves that exist at the Lipan Apache Cemetery in the center of Presidio.

By SACHI MCCLENDON
sachi@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — The Lipan Apache Cemetery sits just off of Market street in Presidio, the final resting place for a number of deceased members of the Lipan Apache Tribe that settled in the region during the 1790s.

Even though it’s a sacred site to the tribe, the cemetery has largely been left to wither over the years. In the 1970s, as the surrounding neighborhood expanded, the cemetery — or at least its recognized bounds — shrunk, with homes likely built over outlying graves. At some point, the city created an alley, complete with water and sewer lines, that cut through the southern end of the cemetery. Rocks from cairns that marked certain graves were pilfered. And without a fence, the soil began to erode.

That said — while in need of maintenance — the cemetery has not been abandoned. And one recent effort to protect it was not limited to restoring just the grounds, but extended to

preserving the history and significance of the cemetery to the Lipan Apache Tribe. Starting in February, the Big Bend Conservation Alliance, working alongside tribal members and descendants of those interred at the cemetery, sought to get a historical marker placed on the property.

In order to do so, the coalition submitted an application to the Texas Historical Commission’s Undertold Markers program, which was established to “document significant underrepresented subjects or untold stories,” according to the agency’s website. Included in the application was a three-paragraph draft of the marker inscription that had been vetted by tribal members and enjoyed broad appeal from those who have intimate knowledge of the cemetery.

Months later, THC returned the marker inscription draft with significant edits — sparking outrage among those pushing to see a marker at the cemetery.

Yet THC was simply following its own internal procedure: Despite creating a program

that attempts to showcase histories that few — including THC — know about, the agency retains full editorial control over a marker’s inscription, leaving little room for those connected to these histories to tell their own stories.

Because of this — according to emails obtained by and shared with *The Big Bend Sentinel* — BBCA, Lipan Apache members and descendants of those buried have had to fight THC for a seat at the table to ensure that the marker’s inscription accurately represents and contextualizes the history of the cemetery.

While, at least for the moment, it appears THC has largely acquiesced to the wishes of the tribe and the descendants, the struggle this coalition had to endure highlights how the lofty ethos driving THC’s Undertold Marker program clashes with the system through which the marker gets made.

In early February, BBCA submitted a six-page narrative history of the cemetery alongside a

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Judd Foundation begins work to learn cause of fire at Architecture Office

By SACHI MCCLENDON
sachi@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — It’s been over three months since a fire broke out inside Judd Foundation’s Architecture Office that had been undergoing historic renovations since 2018. On June 4, the day of the fire, the flames spread quickly, leaving the building a husk of its former self.

Yet in the aftermath of the fire, the building remained largely untouched. There has been little activity outside of the building once Judd Foundation installed vertical steel beams to shore up the sides of the building. However, the foundation finally received permission from the

city and its insurance company to clean up the debris inside and try to determine the cause of the fire — a process known as remediation.

There will be two phases to the remediation process, which is expected to continue through to the end of October. The first phase is all about protecting the structural integrity of the building, as the damage to its walls is still in question. Specialized contractors are scheduled to add steel beams to the inside to provide more support to the structure.

To install the beams, the contractors will have to use a crane to lift materials and equipment into the building. While the crane is in operation, Highland Avenue will be intermittently closed

down. Judd Foundation said that it expects this work to last as long as seven to ten days, but that the contractors could finish sooner.

The second phase will begin toward the beginning of October after the shoring is complete and continue for approximately three weeks. This is when the investigation into the cause and origin of the fire will begin. Contractors will go inside the building to remove debris in hopes of determining what caused the fire that night.

As *The Big Bend Sentinel* previously reported, in September 2018 the Judd Foundation began renovating the 5,000-square-foot building that the late artist Donald Judd used as his architecture

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COVID roundup: The latest on vaccines, boosters and cases in West Texas

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — West Texas is not immune to the COVID-19 delta variant, and in the past month, Presidio County has recorded over 40 confirmed and probable cases of coronavirus. Brewster County has added 30 cases to its numbers, and neighboring Jeff Davis County has added another handful. Together, the area has avoided seeing case numbers anywhere near the worst of the pandemic last winter, but healthcare officials are urging the continuation of safe practices to prevent a worsened surge.

Last Thursday and Friday, local healthcare facility the Marfa Clinic closed its doors to patients after its staff experienced an exposure

to coronavirus. “It’s not surprising that a medical facility would see a COVID exposure,” said Dr. Christie Alexander, a provider at the clinic. She credits the uptick in cases to the delta variant, including some breakthrough cases where vaccinated individuals in the area have tested positive for the virus.

After a mostly quiet summer, and with the pandemic raging on elsewhere in the country, the clinic has diagnosed 15 to 20 cases in the past month, Alexander said. But the doctor hasn’t been able to pinpoint any major source for those cases. “It’s been scattered all throughout. It hasn’t been one specific location or group,” she said. “We don’t know if it’s people visiting or internal to Marfa.”

ata provided by the Texas Department of State

Health Services, a majority of cases reported in the area at this time are “probable” rather than confirmed. Probable cases are determined using rapid antigen tests or when an individual has a combination of COVID-19 symptoms and a known exposure to someone with the disease.

Conversely, confirmed cases can only be identified using molecular testing, which has become more difficult to access in Far West Texas. Through much of the early parts of the pandemic, tri-county residents relied on Texas National Guard-run testing events, which brought hundreds of tests at a time to the region’s cities. Now the testing is subcontracted and available only sporadically.

Even among doctors’ offices, testing is limited.

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Marfa council lands on narrowly balanced budget

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Cost-cutting measures became the focus of the Monday and Tuesday budget meetings this week, and everything from improving the city’s fire station and adding a grant writer contract position, all the way to cutting a paint job on city hall and reducing the Marfa police’s potential new vehicle fleet were up for reconsideration. In a heated moment on Monday, the city’s contract accountant Dan Dunlap’s suggestion to demolish an ailing city-owned adobe led Councilmember Buck Johnston to threaten to resign before walking out of the meeting early.

After the mayor had presented a balanced budget in August, the council made edits, adding funding to two projects that put the city into a negative balance, where expenses exceeded revenues. The two projects, both proposed by Councilmember Yoseff Ben-Yehuda, were to add a contract grant writer employee at \$50,000 a year part time, and to allocate more funding than previous years toward an unrealized project to expand and update the Marfa fire station building the city owns. Those projects and others were on the chopping block on Monday and Tuesday, as the council hashed out what cuts could be made to bring the city back into good financial standings.

Council’s first cut of the meeting was to reduce the Marfa Police Department’s plan to lease new vehicles, allowing MPD to lease only two vehicles instead of replacing their whole fleet this year. Councilmember Eddie Pallarez pointed out that staggering the replacements would allow the city to see how the leasing goes, reduce the upfront costs and avoid the risk that the new vehicles would all age out of use at the same time in the future.

Immediately after that vote, council added \$8,000 for new tasers. Like the current police vehicles, the city police’s tasers had been purchased in used condition when the department was launched. In a recent incident, the aging tasers failed. “We had tasers that did not work the way they should’ve worked. When we had to use one the other day, it didn’t function,” the mayor told council, saying he wanted new ones so that the city police could utilize the non-lethal tools when needed.

On Monday, council took on the Hotel Occupancy Tax fund, which brings in hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue, but has legal limits as to where that revenue can be spent. This year, over \$200,000 of that money has been allocated to the historic preservation of the Marfa and Presidio County Museum’s building, which the city owns and leases to the local museum.

Looking for cost-cutting opportunities, contract accountant Dan Dunlap suggested tearing down the ailing Marfa and Presidio County Museum building, rather than investing in a restoration project. He pointed to a house on Lincoln Street that was recently demolished, making way for the property owner to build a new house on the lot.

“They’re going to build something new in there,” he said, and meanwhile, “we’re talking about putting \$250,000 to \$500,000 into this place. What about just tearing it down and building something nice?”

Councilmember Johnston reacted strongly against the idea, saying, “Oh my God, I am never, ever going to be for tearing down adobes in

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DA suit

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In the suit, Phillips alleges that what began as a good working relationship in the DA's office quickly devolved, ultimately ending in what he believes was retaliatory termination in May for whistleblowing on activities in the office.

The filing is filled with detailed, explosive accusations of cronyism, discrimination and near brushes with improper influence in the DA's office under White, also bringing in allegations against Brewster County Attorney Steve Houston, Presidio County Attorney Rod Ponton and unnamed county attorneys within the district.

The filing was made in Travis County, and when it was announced in Presidio County Commissioners Court on Wednesday, Ponton informed the commissioners that White will be represented by the attorney general's office, and all four counties will be represented by the Texas Association of Counties. Phillips is represented by Alpine attorney Jodi Cole.

The plaintiff is seeking \$250,000 to \$1,000,000 in relief and demanded a jury trial in his filing.

This suit was announced in Presidio County Commissioners Court on Wednesday as the newspaper was preparing to go to press. It is a developing story that The Big Bend Sentinel will continue to follow.

Fire

(Continued from page 1)

office, with a living quarters on the second floor intended for guests. The plan — budgeted at \$2,000,000 — was to open the first floor to the public, showcasing some of Judd's architectural designs, while the second floor would include the fully-restored guest space.

The restoration was set to be complete in July, opening up to the public this fall. Then, in the early hours of June 4, the fire broke out inside the building, eventually setting the roof ablaze. The middle section of the second floor caved into the first. Inside, construction materials and equipment burned black.

"It's a total loss for the most part. The building is basically gutted," said Gary Mitschke, the chief of the Marfa Volunteer Fire Department, on the morning after the fire. "They had a top-of-the-line sprinkler system and alarm system that wasn't hooked up quite yet, which is really unfortunate because it probably would've saved the building."

Since then Judd Foundation has been waiting to determine the structural integrity of the building and whether it could salvage any of the renovation materials.

Coinciding with the remediation process is The Texas Department of Transportation's months-long road improvement project to Highland Avenue, as *The Big Bend Sentinel* previously [reported](#). As the worksites for the projects overlap, Judd Foundation is coordinating with TxDOT to work around the agency's schedule.

Lipan Apache Cemetery

(Continued from page 1)

240-word text to go on the marker inscription as part of its application to THC. The text covered a number of topics, from the establishment of the cemetery to the history of the tribe's migration to Texas and their continued presence in the Big Bend region today.

According to Christina Hernandez, who is a descendant of two separate families buried in the cemetery, the proposed inscription took extensive time, resources and political capital to draft. "It was exhaustively vetted by the tribal leadership, elders, scholars and descendants locally and outside Presidio County. The Tribal Council deliberated it in a regular meeting in the spring and approved it unanimously. The same language was also discussed and approved by local descendant families," she wrote in an email to THC.

After months of silence from THC, BBCA followed up with the agency, only to learn that it had sent its own inscription draft to the Presidio County Historical Commission, whose job it was to forward the draft to BBCA and others — something PCHC had failed to do.

BBCA finally got its hands on THC's draft earlier this month. And THC

Inscription submitted by BBCA

The *Cementerio del Barrio de los Lipanes* (Cemetery of the Lipan Neighborhood) is a sacred site to the Lipan Apache Tribe. It became the final resting place of Lipan who settled in the immediate vicinity beginning in the 1790s, when the Spanish colonial government named the area an *establecimiento de paz* (peace settlement). At that time, the Spanish offered peace to Apaches who moved to designated settlement areas close to a Spanish *presidio* (fort) to try to end a centuries-long war. The Lipan who settled here were members of the Little Breech Cloth and the Prairie Grass Bands, two of the bands that made up the tribe at the time. Their descendants continue to live in the Big Bend region and the southern Rio Grande Valley on both sides of the US-Mexico border.

In 1880 the US Census referred to this then-outlying settlement as Lipanes. As Presidio grew and encompassed it, this part of town came to be known as the *Barrio de los Lipanes*. Forty-five graves have been identified within the cemetery with more lying in the outer perimeter.

The Lipan are Southern Athabaskan Native Americans whose traditional homeland used to be the Great Plains. The Lipan Apache Tribe is the southernmost of the ten surviving Apache tribes. Today most Lipan live in Texas. The name Lipan comes from the Athabaskan language phrase, *lepa-inde*, meaning Light Gray People, which commemorates the tribe's ancient journey to Texas from what is now north-central Canada.

Inscription drafted by THC

Before their early 1700s first contact with the people of La Junta (The Junction) of two rivers, Río Conchos and Río Grande, the Lipan lived on the Great Plains as a confederation of different bands. The *Cementerio del Barrio de los Lipanes* (Cemetery of the Lipan Neighborhood) at Presidio became the final resting place for many Lipan who settled in the immediate vicinity in the 1790s, when the Spanish colonial government named the are an *establecimiento de paz* (peace settlement).

The Lipan who settled here were members of the Little Breech Cloth and the Prairie Grass Bands, two of the bands that made up the tribe at the time. Their descendants continue to live in the Big Bend region and the southern Rio Grande Valley on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. In 1880, the U.S. Census referred to this then-outlying settlement as Lipanes. As Presidio grew and encompassed it, this part of the town came to be known as Barrio de los Lipanes. Forty-five graves were identified within the cemetery with more lying in the outer perimeter. Through the 1960s, the burial mound lay undisturbed with graves clearly marked by individual cairn barrows, along with wooden crosses, occasional flowers and a few tombstones protruding from the rock piles, as descendants continued to tend the graves. However, as urban development approached the area, the cemetery was divided into narrow residential lots, footpaths installed and fences built. Now, few of the graves are marked by the piles of cairns solemnly gathered by the people who buried their dead there generations ago. Rock walls made with these stones are visible throughout the neighborhood today.

made several alterations to the tribe's submitted draft. Here's how THC's draft opens: "Before their early 1700s first contact with the people of La Junta (the junction) of two rivers, Río Conchos and Río Grande, the Lipan lived on the great plains as a confederation of different bands." Compare that to the original inscription submitted by BBCA: "The Cementerio del Barrio de los Lipanes (Cemetery of the Lipan Neighborhood) is a sacred site to the Lipan Apache Tribe."

The descendants, according to Hernandez, had several issues with the historical commission's version of the inscription. "THC's current draft has numerous, egregious grammatical errors that make it hard to read and distract from what should be an inviting, positive first impression of the marker," Hernandez wrote to the agency. The text, she wrote, was now disjointed, full of clunky appositives that distract from the content of the inscription.

In THC's draft, the agency removed the paragraph discussing the historic roots of the Lipan, replacing it with a couple of sentences focused on the rocks that had been taken from the cairns. "Unconscionably, this draft language gives more space to the removal of the grave stones by the neighbors than anything else about the Lipan, all without indicating any disapproval of the pilfering," Hernandez wrote.

Hernandez also expressed frustration with the way THC erased the historical significance of the cemetery to the tribe. "THC's draft does not explain why the cemetery is worthy of a State Antiquities Landmark, other than the fact that it was started in the 1790s. It deleted the key insights that it is a longstanding sacred site, which the Tribe noted at the very top of its text, and that it marks the origins of the continuing Lipan community in the Big Bend," Hernandez wrote.

According to the emails, BBCA, Lipan Apache members and descendants were not only taken aback by the edits, but also the system through which a marker is produced.

It is the exclusive duty of the agency to draft the inscription that will eventually appear on the placard. "The final wording, phrasing and punctuation of Official Texas Historical Marker texts are the sole responsibility of the Texas Historical Commission," the agency writes in application documents. While THC invites sponsors and applicants to suggest edits, the decision ultimately comes down to the historical commission.

In fact, according to an outline of the agency's historical marker procedures, the tribe should never have written a draft inscription in the first place — a key point BBCA said it was never informed of until recently.

"Discarding what was submitted by the Tribe and starting over with the THC as the primary drafter unfairly changes the process and discounts the role that the Lipan, both enrolled tribal members and local descendants of the interred, can possibly play in telling their story," Hernandez wrote to the agency.

On September 13, Oscar Rodriguez, a tribal administrator for the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas, emailed a director at THC to try and convey the tribe's position on the matter. "I understand your need to vet the language submitted before it's finalized in the name of your program. The Tribe has the same requirement," Rodriguez said. "Our Council votes on the language on all documents, including markers, referencing the Lipan Apaches. Without that vote, it cannot be said that the Tribe has signed off on the marker."

Following this pushback, the agency largely submitted to the requests coming from BBCA, the tribe and descendants, eventually returning to the coalition with a draft inscription that, while not identical to the original text submitted by the tribe, closely resembled it. A few days later both Hernandez and Rodriguez signed off on this new edition.

Despite a happy ending, THC has set up the Undertold Marker program in a way that gives little power to those petitioning for a marker and, at least in this case, have the historical knowledge to accurately write the inscription.

Yet the agency stands by its process. In a written response to questions from *The Big Bend Sentinel*, THC spokesperson Chris Florance wrote, "Official Texas Historical Markers are state of Texas property. The responsibility for writing the markers can't be given to other organizations or to individuals; it's ultimately the THC's responsibility to write them."

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Judd Foundation is now open for guided visits of Donald Judd's home and studios at La Mansana de Chinati/ The Block.

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Advance reservations are required and are only available online. Guided visits begin at the gated entrance at 400 West El Paso Street.

For more information and to book tickets visit juddfoundation.org

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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.

News

Marfa police warn public about ‘kidnapping ransom’ spam calls

MARFA — The Marfa Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation El Paso Division are urging West Texas residents to be cautious and not fall prey to a new slew of spam phone calls that are demanding a ransom be paid for a kidnapped family member, after locals reported receiving these phone calls.

The calls are part of a scam intended to frighten the victim into paying money to the caller. “DO NOT give any personal information to the callers!!” the Marfa Police Department warned in a message on social media, asking Marfans to pass the warnings and related information on to Marfa elders.

Local victims have received phone calls of this scam from U.S. and Mexican phone numbers, and calls have been hitting the broader West Texas area, according to the FBI’s El Paso division, who put out their own warning on the new scam scheme.

Explaining the scheme, the FBI El Paso Division said virtual kidnappings happen when a victim is told, over the phone, that his or her family member has been kidnapped. Then, through deception and threats, criminals coerce victims to pay a ransom. The criminals also threaten harm to the party(s) if they call law enforcement or alert authorities. No one is physically kidnapped in these schemes, but they are often traumatic for everyone involved. On average, the El Paso division said, the family sends thousands of dollars to the scammers before contacting law enforcement.

Authorities believe many more individuals have been victimized as well, but have not reported the incidents to law enforcement — either out of fear or embarrassment. Individuals, families and small businesses have all been the targets of the calls.

Callers, sometimes representing themselves as members of a drug cartel or corrupt law enforcement, will typically provide the victim with specific instructions to ensure safe “return” of the allegedly kidnapped individual. These instructions usually involve demands of a ransom payment. Most schemes use various techniques to instill a sense of fear, panic and urgency in an effort to rush the victim into making a very hasty decision. Instructions usually require the ransom payment be made immediately and typically by wire transfer. These schemes involve varying amounts of ransom demands, which often decrease at the first indication of resistance.

"If you receive a phone call from someone who demands payment of a ransom for a kidnapped victim, the following should be considered: stay calm; try to slow the situation down."

The perpetrators will often go to great lengths to engage victims in ongoing conversations to prevent them from verifying the status and location of the “kidnapped” individuals. Callers will often make their victims believe they are being watched and were

personally targeted. In reality, many of these callers are outside of the United States, simply making hundreds of calls, possibly using phone directories or other phone lists.

Authorities have seen a new version of the scam where extortionists are calling rooms at U.S. hotels near the border and telling guests that the hotel is surrounded by armed enforcers. The criminals convince the guests to leave their hotel and drive across the border to a Mexico-based hotel. The extortionist then convinces the victim to video-call them and take a screenshot. The criminals will then send the photo to the victim’s family, convince them that their loved one is kidnapped, and coerce them to pay a ransom.

It’s important to note that the victims are crossing into Mexico on their own, but are doing so under the fear of death. Victims report that the threats feel frighteningly real. Between 2013 and 2015, investigators were tracking virtual kidnapping calls from Mexico — almost all of these schemes originated from within Mexican prisons. Investigators now see that these telephone calls are originating from other countries as well as inside the United States.

To avoid becoming a victim of this extortion scheme, look for the following possible indicators:

Calls are usually made from an outside area code, may involve multiple phone calls, calls do not come from the kidnapped victim’s phone, callers go to great lengths to keep you on the phone, callers prevent you from calling or locating the “kidnapped” victim, or ransom money is only accepted via wire transfer service.

If you receive a phone call from someone who demands payment of a ransom for a kidnapped victim, the following should be considered: stay calm; try to slow the situation down; avoid sharing information about you or your family during the call; request to speak to the victim directly; ask, “How do I know my loved one is okay?”; request the kidnapped victim call back from his/her cell phone; listen carefully to the voice of the kidnapped victim if they speak and ask questions only they would know.

If they don’t let you speak to the victim, ask them to describe the victim or describe the vehicle they drive, if applicable, while staying on the line with alleged kidnappers. Other tactics are to try to call the alleged kidnap victim from another phone, attempt to text or contact the victim via social media, or attempt to physically locate the victim.

To buy time, repeat the caller’s request and tell them you are writing down the demand, or tell the caller you need time to get things moving. Don’t directly challenge or argue with the caller. Keep your voice low and steady. If you have any question about whether the call is an extortion scheme or a legitimate kidnapping, contact your nearest FBI office or call 911 immediately.

The El Paso FBI will continue to investigate and refer these types of cases for prosecution. Tips can also be submitted online at <https://tips.fbi.gov>. All tipsters may remain anonymous.

Please contact the Marfa Police Department at (432) 729-1841 if you have received a call or have any questions.

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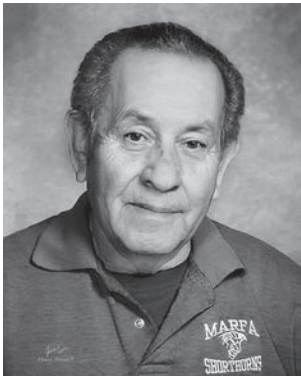
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Our business operations have temporarily changed. Currently, we are not open to the public for in-office appointments, however we are available to assist you by phone

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

OBITUARY



Razo

Johnny Nunez Razo passed away on September 16, 2021, in Marfa, Texas.

Johnny was born in Fort Davis, Texas, to Juan and Ida Razo on November 12, 1939. He attended school in Fort Davis. He married the love of his life, Viola Pacheco, on June 2, 1963, in Marfa at St. Mary’s Church. Johnny and Viola renewed their wedding vows on their 25th and on their 50th anniversaries at St. Mary’s Church.

He worked for many years with Exxon as a roustabout and worked for 30 years for Marfa Independent School District as a most beloved custodian. Johnny was a veteran and served in the Army. He was a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Marfa and enjoyed spending time with his wife and family.

Johnny was preceded in death by his mother, Ida Razo; infant son, John Anthony Razo; sisters Irene

Sotello and Sara Saldana; father Juan Razo; brothers Joe and Manuel Razo; and son-in-law James Gilly.

Johnny is survived by his wife of 58 years, Viola; daughters Yvonne Zubiate and Tony Manriquez of Shafter, Texas; Naomi Gilly of Marfa; Yolanda Gordon and Clifford of Odessa, Texas; and Valerie Razo of El Paso. He is also survived by grandchildren John Anthony (Estrella- Kendra, Kiara), Luz Alma (Jesse), Yvette (George-Diego, Juan, Emilio, Amaya), Aaron, Jasalyn (Jr.), Cencee, Faith, CJ, Vanessa (Caleb), Justice and Martika. Johnny is survived by his brothers, Mike and Chuck Razo.

Pallbearers were John Anthony Razo, Clifford John “CJ” Gordon, Jesse Brito, George Muniz, Edward Catano and Chuck Salgado. Honorary pallbearers were Tony Manriquez, Cliff Gordon, Robert Melendez, Aaron Razo, Diego Muniz, Juan Muniz and Emilio Muniz.

The Razo Family wishes to extend our sincere thanks to Rose Mary Jacquez, Hilda Marquez, Sammy Sailor, Claudio Nunez and everyone who stopped by to assist our parents in some way.

The rosary was held September 21, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, and funeral services were at 11 a.m. at St. Mary’s Catholic Church with Father Pablo Matta. Burial followed at Merced Cemetery. Arrangements were made by Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.



Obituaries presented in partnership with Alpine Memorial Funeral Home
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alpinememorialfuneralhome.com | 432-837-2222

Notice of a Public Hearing on the City of Marfa Proposed 2021-2022 Budget

A Public Hearing on the proposed FY 2021-2022 Budget for the City of Marfa will be held at 5:30 PM, September 28th, 2021 at Marfa City Hall in the Casner room. Any person may attend and participate in the hearing. At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Marfa City Council will take action on the proposed FY 2021-2022 budget.

This budget will raise less total property taxes than last year’s budget by an amount of \$1,933.51 which is a .13% decrease from last year’s budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$5,905.83.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX DECREASE

A tax rate of \$.362748 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of the City of Marfa, Texas.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$.362748 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$.364501 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$.362749 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2021 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for the City of Marfa from the same properties in both the 2020 tax year and the 2021 tax year.

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

The proposed tax rate is less than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that the City of Marfa is proposing to decrease property taxes for the 2021 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 28th at 5:30 PM following the adoption of the City budget at the Casner Room, City Hall, Marfa, Texas.

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

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

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

(List names of all members of the governing body below, showing how each voted on the proposal to consider the tax decrease or, if one or more were absent, indicating absences.)

FOR the proposal: Mayor Pro-Tem Salgado, Council Members Lara, Ben-Yehuda, Pallarez & Johnston

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

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

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

	2020	2021	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	2019 adopted tax rate: \$.417280	2020 proposed tax Rate: \$.362748	-13.07%
Average homestead taxable value	2019 average taxable value of residence homestead: \$115,834	2020 average taxable value of residence homestead: \$133,420	15.18%
Tax on average homestead	2019 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead: \$483.35	2020 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead: \$483.98	.13%
Total tax levy on all properties	2019 levy: \$827,889.00	2020 proposed levy: \$825,955.49	-.23%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for the City of Marfa
At 432-729-4081 or natalia.williams.pctac@co.presidio.tx.us .

Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the Rev. Barry for his thoughts on the events in Texas (in the September 9 issue) and the “Right On” from Marjie (in the September 16 issue.) I myself agree with these brave citizens who let their thinking show the rest of us how we as a human race should treat our people. Let us not fall or falter in our quest for human rights.

Also let me thank the courage of *The Big Bend Sentinel* for giving “We the People” a platform for “Freedom of the Press.”

Ronnie Adams
Alpine

...

Dear Editor,

Although many locals are unaware, for the past several years there has been a quiet but incredible northward migration of animals from the Big Bend region. Literally thousands of dogs and cats have had a second chance to live, because of the continued efforts of a handful of people: Heather Hall (Terlingua), Marilyn McGhee (Alpine), Nicole Bennett (Ft. Stockton) and DJ Hensley (Marathon) have worked heroically to pull dogs and cats from their scheduled dates for euthanasia and send them to better places like Oregon, Wisconsin and Canada.

If only this were the happy ending. The sad truth is that these women cannot keep it up indefinitely. Their energy and money is limited. They all have other jobs: Marilyn works for Sul Ross, Heather is a public defender, DJ cleans houses. Although they have dedicated the past few years to saving so many unwanted, neglected and often mistreated animals, they need help.

Here are three ways you can help them give the dogs and cats a chance to live:

1. Consider fostering to save a life. Too many local dogs and cats are still being euthanized because of a lack of foster homes. Fostering buys time to arrange for a transport out. Usually it’s only for a couple or three weeks. And it’s incredibly gratifying; many of these former pets have never before known kindness. They respond and blossom.
2. Donate some money if you can. These women saviors have continual costs of vet charges, transport fees, medications and food. They obviously have no spare time for fundraising.
3. And above all, please help them by becoming aware of some important truths: In many areas, including ours, an animal shelter isn’t so much a shelter as it is a place to euthanize your pet. Know this if you plan to drop off the family dog there or if you can’t manage to get around to sterilizing your pet. What kind of society would routinely kill puppies and kittens? Ours does. Because there are too many.

Please: SPAY AND NEUTER your animals so that other people don’t have to work so hard to fix the problem you create.

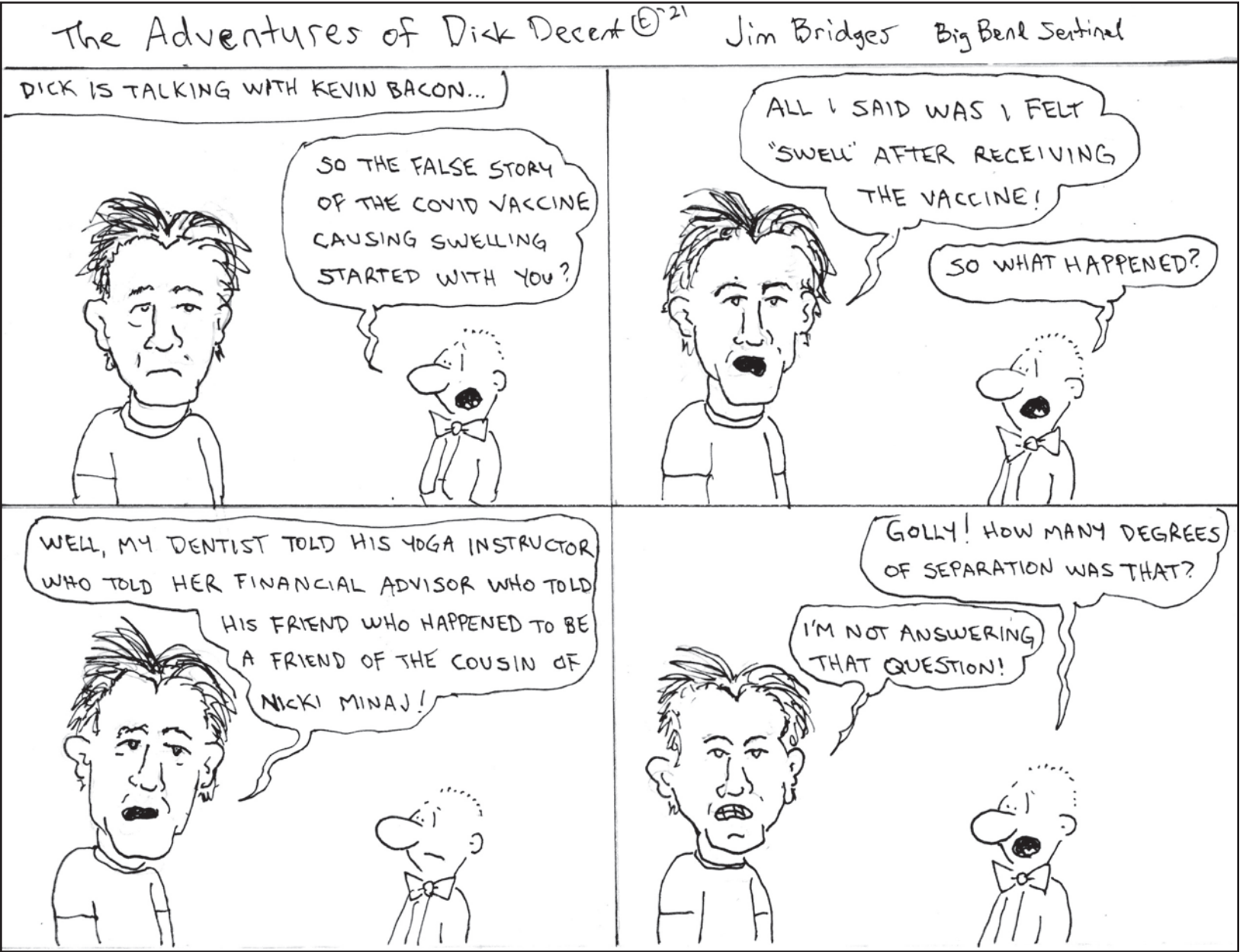
Mary Baxter
Marfa

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Nicole Bennett - cherishedpetsrescue@yahoo.com
Marilyn McGhee - mmwesttx@yahoo.com
DJ Hensley - 432-386-4593

...

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



STUDIO VISIT

A studio visit with Valerie Arber

By INGRID SCHAFFNER

“Where are all the artists?” a new acquaintance asked, as if the artists were in hiding. And to some degree they are, in their studios, homes and spaces throughout the town of Marfa, where evidence of artists at work is everywhere in sight — in galleries and backyards, the bookstore, the coffee shops, the hotels, the library, the art supply shop. Most declaratively hidden was the artist Donald Judd, who moved to Marfa from New York in the 1970s and bought entire buildings — including a supermarket and a bank — to spread out and work in behind closed doors and covered windows. The fortress-like adobe walls facing Kelly Street and Highway 90 shield from view his private compound for art and living, while up on top of South Hill Street is the former Fort D.A. Russell, which Judd transformed into a museum that integrates art, architecture and the land: the Chinati Foundation. As pilgrimage sights for ever-growing numbers of people, Judd’s spaces have contributed greatly to Marfa’s reputation as a one-horse art town.

But, it’s not just artists. Haven’t we all grown relatively hidden to one another during this period of pandemic, first under quarantine and now still wearing masks? When I moved to Marfa last year to start my job as curator at Chinati, the museum was already closed to the public. Now as the community opens up, I’m happy to be able to pursue my avocation and everyday curiosity about artists and their work in this justly renowned creative town. With thanks to the editorial staff at *The Big Bend Sentinel*, I will be reporting on my studio visits with local artists. When I told my colleague Rob Weiner about this occasional column, he reminded me of Vincent Dilio’s excellent blog “The Real Artists of Marfa.” Written in 2012 for *T: The New York Times Style Magazine*, these online portraits remain relevant. Look for an upcoming studio visit with one of Dilio’s subjects, Ann Marie Nafziger, to be published here in the coming weeks.

To be welcomed by an artist into their studio is always a privilege. A studio may be messy with materials and works in process percolating in every corner. Or, it may be as neat as a pin, with a computer on a table and a single chair. Books, music, pictures, postcards offer frames of reference and signs of inspiration. Plants, photos, a dog bowl, a cat, a baby, a couch, bottles, an ashtray, snacks, a comfy sweater, weird old work shoes — or the complete lack of any such distractions — display various habits and attitudes toward what constitutes a conducive working environment. Because no matter how relaxed or formal, intimate or vast, every studio is set up for the same purpose: to experiment, conceive, practice and perform creative work, for which there is no prescribed approach or outcome. When visiting an artist, I’m often struck by how the studio is — as much as any of the work going on inside of it — an expression of the vulnerability and joy of making one’s art.

Valerie Arber is one of the first artists I met on my maiden trip to Marfa for Chinati Weekend in October 2003. Arber’s studio next to the train track comprises a discrete compound with a neat metal shack of a structure surrounded by a rusty corrugated fence. Perhaps the location is why it felt like I had arrived at a far western outpost of Provincetown, the East Coast artists’ colony that boomed after the railroad started bringing Greenwich Village modernists to the beach. Or maybe it was the rusty lawn chair in the gravel yard that evoked another time and place. Inside, however, was a different story.

A white, open space with a peaked ceiling and a minimum of windows to offer a maximum of wall to hang and view art is the basic plan. There is a work table, metal flat files (boxy pieces of furniture with shallow drawers that are good for storing works on paper), and a slim mattress with a few bolsters and books piled around — noticeably *Donald Judd Writings*, a handsome brick in orange binding that we of Marfa consider something of a psalter. I was immediately drawn to the wall that presented itself as a studio survey of framed works that are apparently touchstones for Arber. They hang almost as a question: What does Valerie do? An artist who works on paper, drawing images and making marks, stamping shapes and printing patterns; she invents.

A package of 3x5 index cards is at the root of her compositions of satisfyingly proportioned rectangles. A bin of stamps for random alphabet

letters led to patterned fields of abstract ciphers. Scraps of mat board, constructed into V-shapes, produced blotted nets of ink on paper. My favorite origin story comes from the bingo emporium in Albuquerque, where Arber discovered daubers: an essential part of today’s turbo game, in which wooden markers are for chumps. Daubers make dots. And so does Valerie Arber, who for a time used bingo daubers in various colors to ink the shape that literally forms a dotted line throughout her work’s many serial investigations, which all go back to pearls.

One of the earliest works in the studio is a small drawing of a pearl



Photo by Ingrid Schaffner
Valerie Arber in her studio

necklace. The necklace belonged to Arber’s mother, whom she lost when she was young. As shapes encircling a void on an empty ground, the necklace prefigures many abstract compositions to come. Gooiest of which are the monotype prints, which I loved, of beefy dots topping cones of trippy colors. As Arber explained how she made them — by painting small plexiglass circles and arranging them on a press in order to squish the desired but unpredictable skids of color — I came to appreciate the craft and discipline that generally goes into creating works of extreme simplicity.

We opened flat file drawers and flipped through folders. As an artist whose work is always close to printmaking and, for that matter, a printmaker — Valerie Arber’s husband is Robert Arber of Arber & Son Editions — she often creates multiple series of images that get loosely bound together in envelopes and portfolios, the design and making of which is also part of the work. Lettered in foggy graphite, one album, titled *Smoke Rings*, reveals a set of prints, each with four luminously hazed circles of a particular shade of Gauloises blue. Due to some unanticipated fugitive property of the pigment medium, these prints are slowly fading, ephemerally enough, like smoke rings.

A next drawer in the flat files contains folders of large drawings that had originally come together in 2009 for an exhibition at the Marfa Book Company. As I looked through the drawings, Arber described the installation of some 75 works, which were hung salon style and may have looked like a group show. There were variously patterned abstractions intermingled with unique images of boxed forms that upon closer examination revealed aquariums, swimming pools, an ant farm. When I asked about the uniformly strange palette, Arber attributed the overall body of work to a bargain. On a trip to Pearl Paint, the one-time mecca for artists in New York, she just couldn’t pass on the grossly colored gouaches that were priced to move.

When I asked Arber what she is currently working on, she pointed to a large, white foam-core construction taking shape in the corner of her studio. “That’s my tree,” she explained of the project that had taken root during the pandemic, adding that while this has been a very productive time for many of her peers, she herself has found it difficult to maintain a studio routine. Fallow periods are followed by new growth. On the wall behind the tree hangs a pink-and-white text, a motivational message Arber painted in 2011 after a move into a previous studio led to creative block. It reads: GO VAL GO. All studio indications show that she does, and will, continue to work the steady beat of modest shapes, repetition and patterns that give her art its quiet authority.

Valerie Arber’s art can be seen in Marfa in the lobby storefront of the Hotel Saint George (where a wall of her works is displayed in, coincidentally, the same space as her 2009 show); behind the checkout desk at the public library; through her website valeriarber.com; and in the window of Arber & Son Editions, where a banner overhead bears the Arber emblem, an abstraction of a tree.

Ingrid Schaffner is a writer and the curator at Chinati Foundation.

JEFF

Straight on Til Morning

Agnes Barley
Tina Hejtmanek
Sam Schonzeit

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107 Dean Street, Marfa, TX
September 17th - October 25th, 2021
Opening September 17, 6 - 8 PM

JEFF is open 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Thursday through Monday. @jeffmarfa

Tina Hejtmanek. Untitled, 2021. Archival Pigment Print on Baryta Paper. 16 x 20". Ed:10

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OUR WATER MATTERS

Texas water law – rule of capture

By TREY GERFERS

Water law in Texas (or anywhere) is not very sexy. But when there’s a contentious situation, you need to know your rights. *Our Water Matters* is intended to help you understand the legal framework governing water in our state in the hope of building a consensus in our region that best serves current and future interests.

Texas law draws a distinction between surface water (such as lakes and rivers) and groundwater (underground aquifers accessed by wells). According to Texas Water Code Section 11.0235, surface water “is owned by the state and held in trust for the citizens of the state.” The state grants surface-water use permits to farmers, ranchers, cities, industries and other public and private interests on the basis of prior appropriation, also known as “first in time, first in right.” Rights to the water in the Rio Grande River are governed by prior appropriation.

Since the Big Bend region has very little surface water in relation to the size of our area, this issue of *Our Water Matters* will focus primarily on groundwater. When you turn on a faucet in a typical home in our region, the water that comes out is groundwater. If you notice a tank near a windmill or solar pump out on the land, the water in that tank is groundwater. We use it to shower, irrigate our crops and water our livestock. Groundwater is the foundation upon which everything in our lives is based.

Groundwater regulation can seem confusing because it stems mainly from decisions handed down by the courts in the absence of clear legislation. According to Amy Hardberger, director of the Texas Tech University Center for Water Law and Policy, “Much of the complexity surrounding Texas groundwater law is due to the silence of the Legislature.”

When tracing the roots of groundwater law in Texas, all routes lead east, and more specifically to the “East decision,” which was handed down by the Texas Supreme Court in a 1904 case known as *Houston & Texas Central Railway v. East*. In that case, the Houston and Texas Central Railway had drilled a large well on several lots adjacent to property owned by W.A. East. The railway company’s steam-powered pump withdrew 25,000 gallons a day, causing East’s much smaller residential well to go dry. East filed suit and the case went all the way to the Texas Supreme Court.

At that time, there were no laws governing groundwater in Texas, so the court used the English common law right of capture to guide its decision. Also known as the “rule of capture,” the right of capture stems from a nifty little doctrine called *ad coelum*, which states that a property owner is vested with property rights in all of the sky above his property up to the heavens and everything beneath his property to the center of the earth.

Although East could point to an obvious injury, the court sided with the railway company, stating that groundwater was part of the soil and therefore the owner of the soil also had ownership of all the water it contained. The court based its decision on two conclusions: 1) “groundwater is so secret, occult and concealed” that it is too difficult to govern; and 2) limiting the rights of landowners to a reasonable share of a resource like groundwater (also known as “correlative rights”) would interfere with economic development.

According to Hardberger, the East decision “essentially allows, with some limited exceptions, a landowner to pump as much groundwater as the landowner chooses, without liability to neighbors who claim that the pumping has depleted their wells.” This seems simple from an ownership perspective: groundwater is the private property of the surface owner and landowners have the right to capture groundwater beneath their land. But adjoining landowners also have the right to pump water from beneath their properties and this pumping can sometimes cause the neighboring landowners’ wells to go dry. As Texas has continued to grow in the decades since the East decision, the ensuing clashes between neighbors have become increasingly commonplace.

Some have also identified a conflict between the East decision, also known as the “biggest pump wins,” and the long-term sustainability of our groundwater supplies. In fact, almost every other state in the Union has moved away from pure English common law as the basis for their groundwater management, and this wisdom seems straightforward. As Hardberger likes to ask her law students in Lubbock, “Look outside. Does it look like England out there to you?”

While the rule of capture may be the law of the land from a case-law perspective, the Legislature did not remain silent on the issue of groundwater regulation. Tune in next time when *Our Water Matters* will take a look at Texas’ unique legislative response to the “rule of the biggest pump”: local groundwater districts.

Trey Gerfers is a San Antonio native and serves as Board Chairman of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District. He earns his living as a translator of technical documents from German to English for the German and Swiss pharmaceutical and medical-science industries. Trey has lived in Marfa since 2013.

PATRIOTIC MILLIONAIRES

House Democrats’ tax plan keeps special treatment for wealthy people like me

By DREW POMERANCE

This week Democrats released the details of their upcoming budget reconciliation deal, but thanks to the work of a group of Democrats in the House and Senate, the revised \$1.5 trillion dollar plan falls far short of the ambitious plans set by President Biden and ultimately fails to address the inequities built into our tax code that continue to exacerbate inequality.

While the updated plan does increase taxes on wealthy individuals and large corporations, it only tinkers at the edges of a tax code designed for the wealthy at the expense of working Americans. Chief among them is the plan to only tax capital gains income by an additional 5 percent — up to a total of 25 percent — a far cry from Biden’s initial plan to tax capital gains income above \$1 million at the same rate as ordinary income at 39.6 percent. As a wealthy individual, I assure you that there’s absolutely no reason to keep this absurd giveaway to the rich.

Unlike those who work for a paycheck, most well-off individuals can easily make a living through their investments, and the capital gains made off those investments are taxed at a lower rate than earned income. This means that wealthy individuals pay a far lower tax rate than working Americans, for doing far less to contribute to the productivity of the country. How can that possibly be right?

Take the last year and a half. While so many struggled, wealthy people like me continued to make a killing. My net worth has drastically increased since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic due to the success of the market, and it’s only increasing because the gains I make in the market are taxed at a significantly low rate. This is one of the many ways our system institutionally favors wealthy Americans and helps them get ahead once they’re already ahead.

All income should be treated the same, regardless of how it’s earned. Splitting it into two separate categories is extremely unfair and serves no purpose but to give wealthy folks another advantage. Politicians that defend the lower rate for capital gains taxes have long emphasized that the special rate is necessary to encourage spending in the economy. But the idea that wealthy individuals somehow will spend more only if they pay less in taxes is part of the same misguided logic that justified decades of trickle-down economics.

In reality, when rich people are flush with extra cash, they don’t spend it like most working families do. They simply invest it or hand it over to their wealth managers who stash it in places most working people will never have access to. This is because they already have more than enough money to spend on whatever they want whenever they want. Large corporations engage in a similar process, where they give their c-suite executives a bonus rather than raise the wages of their employees or invest in their own infrastructure.

Democrats cannot continue to allow our government to actively contribute to growing inequality. Our country is facing the largest disparity of wealth in the last 100 years, and things are only getting worse. However, rather than working on policies and legislation that will address this crisis, some members of the Democratic party are fighting changes to our tax code that would alleviate the burden on everyday Americans.

If the committee’s proposal becomes law, billionaires in America will pay a lower tax rate than working people, and inequality, the root cause of social unrest, will continue to destabilize the country. We must roll back the worst, most regressive parts of our tax code, from the low top marginal rates, raising capital gains rates, and eliminating the stepped-up basis. We need anything that moves us towards a tax code where the rich can’t game the system to pay lower rates than the average American.

Wealthy Americans aren’t currently taxed enough, we can afford to pay more, and we must ensure that we pay more as part of the upcoming budget deal so we can invest in our citizens and our communities. The American people deserve better, and we can do better. We just need to tax the rich.

Drew Pomerance is a co-founding partner of Roxborough, Pomerance, Nye & Adreani, a boutique law firm in Woodland Hills, specializing in representing small and medium-sized businesses in complex business and insurance litigation. He’s a native Californian, UC Hastings Law School





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Buck Johnston
councilmemberjohnston@cityofmarfa.com
Raúl Lara
councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com
Eddie Pallarez
councilmemberpallarez@cityofmarfa.com
Yoseff Ben-Yehuda
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Community

Free exercise and wellness classes at Marfa Public Library



Photo by Jessica Lutz

Kristal Cuevas leads ages 3-10 in yoga class in Marfa Public Library Courtyard.



Photo by Jessica Lutz

Elizabeth Gutierrez leads a lively Zumba class in Marfa Public Library Courtyard.

MARFA — During the pandemic people stocked up on athletic leisure and yoga gear in order to work from home — now Marfa Public Library can help you put all those comfy clothes to a new beneficial use. Marfa Public Library offers three types of free classes four times weekly: Zumba on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Meditation on Tuesdays at 6 p.m.; and Kids’ Yoga on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. (ages 3-10). Currently, all classes are hosted outside in the Community Room Courtyard.

The library in Marfa has always been much more than a repository for books — it is one of our most important cultural and community hubs. These classes will appeal to a wider audience of existing patrons and attract a demographic who might not be regularly visiting the spaces. Most importantly, the library has dedicated itself to raising outside funding and making all ongoing exercise and wellness classes free to people who might not otherwise be able to afford them.

Zumba is led by Elizabeth Gutierrez, a Marfa resident and licensed teacher, from 6:30–7:30

p.m. Monday and Wednesday evenings. When asked why everyone loves her class, Gutierrez says, “The reason is simple: Every class feels like a party!” Zumba combines Latin and international music with dance moves. Zumba routines incorporate interval training — alternating fast and slow rhythms — to help improve cardiovascular fitness.

Meditation is led by Nick Terry, a Marfa resident and long-time practitioner, from 6–7 p.m. Tuesday evenings. Generally, within the hour there are two meditation periods, with walking meditation between, followed by a brief practice-related open discussion. Meditation can aid in calming the mind and opening the heart. Please arrive shortly before 6 p.m. to attend. If a patron is new to meditation, please contact the library, as Terry offers orientations.

Kids’ Yoga is led by Kristal Cuevas, a Marfa resident and long-time practitioner, from 10:30–11:15 a.m. Sunday mornings. This 45-minute class is for students ages 3–10. Students will strengthen their body through basic yoga poses,

play fun yoga games, and enjoy mindfulness stories and activities. They will also learn useful breathing exercises and relaxation/visualization techniques.

Library Director Nicki Ittner concludes, “We are thrilled to host these classes. We see our library as an essential part of the ecosystem of this rural community — not only are we a place where people go to seek help, but we are also a place where people go to give help. This suite of classes is just one way we are transforming the library into a learning center and a hub of volunteerism, which supports our vision where the library is the heart of our town.”

If you have a body and you can move any part of it, you can participate in some portion of all three of these classes. If you have accessibility questions, please contact the library before attending a class. Programs at the Marfa Public Library welcome individuals of different abilities.

These programs are made possible through a grant from the Tocker Foundation.

DRAWING OF THE WEEK

La Mariposa by Laura Navarette
Reduction print
12th grade

Marfa Chamber of Commerce hosts member meeting and mixer next Wednesday

MARFA — The Marfa Chamber of Commerce is hosting a members meeting at the USO Building on Wednesday, September 29 at 5:30 p.m.

In addition to introducing new members to chamber procedure, they will discuss the mission of the Chamber of Commerce and provide an opportunity for members to share thoughts, hopes and needs the chamber may be able to help address. This is an opportunity for the chamber to begin narrowing in on shared goals among the Marfa business community.

The chamber is also recruiting new members, looking for individuals, nonprofits and for-profit businesses to join the organization. To learn more, visit <https://marfachamberofcommerce.org/members-1>.

The formal meeting on Wednesday will be followed by light snacks and drinks in the outdoor pavilion behind the USO. Please feel free to bring something to share.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg September 6, 2021

ACROSS

1 Word before “Sea” or “snake”

6 Sounds at pounds

10 Musician’s booking

13 “Am not” retort

14 Medicinal succulent

15 “Duke of _____” (’60s song title that contains two titles)

16 “Thrift Shop” rapper (Theme hint: Note the last several letters of each starred clue’s answer)

18 Fruit in a gin cocktail

19 Bang shut

20 National Gallery of British Art, today

21 Part of an act

22 The best man gives one

24 Soul seller?

25 “Cagney & Lacey” co-star

31 Hiking trails

35 Clearing in the woods

36 Three-layered cookie

37 Order a la _____

39 Penalize, informally

40 Bras and slips

42 Polite chaps

43 “Former country that residents called Deutsche Demokratische Republik

46 Veer, like a jet

47 Vice President Harris

51 Ice’s state of matter

54 Musical about hippies protesting the draft

56 Show up for

58 Analogous

59 “Out too late

61 Pull with effort

62 ____ Pet (terra-cotta “companion”)

63 Lead or gold

64 Corn unit

65 Lip or cheek

66 Little brothers, maybe

11 Golf club with grooves

12 Elation

15 Cadillac SUV

17 Engrave

21 Leo or Libra

23 Start’s start?

24 Leg joint

26 Composer Ned

27 Make a choice

28 CNN anchor Burnett

29 No longer in Drafts

30 Droops

31 ____ vault (Olympic event)

32 Opera solo

33 Two ____ for a twenty

34 Hampering

37 Ship’s staff

38 Make public, as grievances

41 Old oath that anagrams to “aged”

42 Dodgeball venue

44 Dogs from Japan

45 DEA agent

48 Concur

49 Garrets’ relatives

50 Vexed constantly

51 “The Sweetest Taboo” singer

52 Gumbo vegetable

53 One may cheat a polygraph test

54 “That’s funny!”

55 Yard sale stipulation

57 Birds that fly almost silently

59 Lenovo laptops, e.g.

60 Person who’s often booed, briefly

DOWN

1 Engine parts

2 Ph.D. students’ exams

3 Summarize

4 Words on a volunteer’s name tag

5 Texter’s chuckle

6 Kawasaki rival

7 Tons

8 Skin opening

9 Take notice of

10 Wind that may blow down a tree

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

9/6 © 2021 Andrews McMeel Universal www.upuzzles.com

9/6 Final Amount by Chris Gross

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12
13						14					15		
16						17					18		
19						20				21			
	22				23					24			
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31	32	33	34					35					
36						37	38					39	
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43									44	45			
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51	52	53				54	55				56		57
58						59				60			
61						62				63			
64						65				66			

Sul Ross rodeo team kicks off 2021-2022 season

ALPINE — This is a talented team. In fact, it’s the most talented team that CJ Aragon has ever coached. They’re also now the most experienced group Coach Aragon has entered a season with. After last year’s success, that’s definitely not an understatement.

With the start of the 2021-2022 season on September 16 at Eastern New Mexico University, the Sul Ross Rodeo Team will start their journey to live up to the expectations. Those expectations were set after a successful campaign last year that was highlighted by Tristen Hutchings claiming the title for Bull Riding at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming.

Notable students on 21-22 Team

- Blake Bentley (junior) - Transfer from Weatherford College and roped at the 2021 CNFR with Lane Cooper
- Kirby Blankenship (senior) - CNFR Qualifier in Team Roping
- Lane Cooper (senior) - 2021 CNFR Qualifier in Team Roping — Roped with Blake Bentley
- Will Eddleman (junior) - Transfer from Cisco College and won third in the nation in Team Roping at the 2021 CNFR with Garret Jacobs
- McKenzie Frizzell (grad student) - Transfer from NMSU and two-time CNFR contestant in Breakaway Roping
- McKenna Hickson (junior) - Transfer from Weatherford College and currently ranked 22nd in the world in Breakaway Roping
- Timmi Hutchings (grad student) - 2020 CNFR qualifier in Goat Tying

- Tristen Hutchings (senior) - 2021 National Champion Bull Rider
- Morgan Kessler (senior) - 2021 Scholar All-American
- Hadley Kibbe (grad student) - 2021 Scholar All-American
- Nichole Lake (grad student) - CNFR Qualifier in Breakaway Roping, 2021 Scholar All-American
- Brandon Lansford (senior) - 2018 Junior NFR World Champion Saddle Bronc Rider
- Hannah Martin (senior) - 2020 CNFR qualifier in Breakaway Roping
- Kade Smith (junior) - CNFR Qualifier in Team Roping

The experience comes from the bevy of upperclassmen and the presence of graduate students. They know expectations are high and have been working hard all off-season to get ready to answer the challenge. It’s going to be a long haul in the competitive Southwest Region with five rodeos in the fall and five in the spring, with the possibility of an invitational event, and Coach Aragon has been impressed and pleased with all of the time his team has put in to live up to what it means to compete for Sul Ross.

Sul Ross rodeo team members return to Alpine from Portales and plan to put in long hours next week, preparing the arena and taking care of the myriad details to produce the SRSU rodeo the following weekend, set for September 23 – 25. While it’s plenty of work, Coach C.J. Aragon and his crew are up to task as another rodeo season gets underway.

MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

SEP	Thu, Sep 23	Fri, Sep 24	Mon, Sep 27	Tue, Sep 28	Wed, Sep 29
BREAKFAST	B-FAST BURRITO, HASH BROWN	FRENCH TOAST, YOGURT	BREAKFAST SANDWICH	MUFFIN, YOGURT	PANCAKE WRAP, YOGURT
LUNCH Menu courtesy of  Celebrating 70+ years of serving our customers. 432-729-4375 www.myporters.net	POPCORN CHICKEN, ROLL, CORN, FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS, FRESH APPLE SLICES, COOKIE	HOT DOG, BAKED FRIES, TINY TOMATO CUP, SNOWBALL SALAD	ENCHILADAS, REFRIED BEANS, CORN, SALSA, ORANGE SMILES, PUDDING	CHILI CHEESE TOTCHOS, MINI CORNBREAD, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, STRAWBERRY CUP	PEPPERONI PIZZA, CARROTS, GREEN BEANS, GRAPES

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Mon - Sat 10 am - 9 pm
432-729-4682 • Alpine

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CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

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

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MARFA SHORTHORNS
SPORTS CALENDAR

FRI, SEP 24: Varsity Volleyball vs Marathon in Marfa 5:00 pm
FRI, SEP 24: Football vs Sierra Blanca in Sierra Blanca, JH 5:00 pm, V 7:30 pm
SAT, SEP 25: Cross Country in Lubbock
TUE, SEP 28: JH Volleyball vs. Fort Davis in Marfa, 4:00 pm
TUE, SEP 28: HS Volleyball vs Fort Davis in Marfa JV 5:00pm, V 6:00 pm

DISPATCHES FROM MISD JOURNALISM CLASS

Marfa Maniacs cheer Lady Horns to victory!

By CHRIS CONNERS
“HERE COMES THE BOOM!” The Marfa Maniacs have been dominating the crowds and getting in people’s heads at Shorthorn games, cheering on the varsity volleyball team from the stands. The group, of which I am a member, goes all out: we wear costumes with a theme (we vote on what it should be), have a catchphrase each time the ball is served, and have even expanded to cheering on any team that plays our rivals. For example, we cheered on Irion County against the Fort Davis football team last week.

Ian Marquez and Cristian Ontiveros started the Marfa Maniacs when they saw that no one was cheering for the Lady Horns while they were playing against our rivals, the Fort Davis Indians. Ian and Cristian, along with others from the football team, began to hype up the crowd. Many joined in to cheer on the Lady Horns as they played. Even though they ended up losing that game, they still put up a fight. And that’s how the Maniacs were born.

When talking about why they started the group, Cristian and Ian said they just want to cheer for the volleyball team like they would want to be cheered on when they play football. They want to get them hyped and help them stay confident. Also, most of the volleyball players on the court are cheerleaders on the field. They lead cheers for us, so Cristian and Ian decided to lead cheers for them in a more organized way after this first game when it happened out of the blue.

Uriel Torres, a member of the Maniacs says, “I think it’s the best thing that the students have done without the influence/help from the teachers.”

Some of the volleyball players shared their opinions about the Marfa Maniacs, saying that the maniacs help them keep their spirits up, even when they’re losing, and that the Maniacs keep the players focused and confident, and that it encourages them to do better.

On Saturday, September 11, the Marfa Maniacs went all out Hawaiian for the Lady Horns’ first district volleyball game against the Balmorhea Bears. And I believe the Maniacs played a big role in the game by getting in the Bears’ heads, and helping the Lady Horns keep their heads up after the Bears scored or after a mistake. The Shorthorns and Maniacs had the Bears looking like cubs. The Lady Horns won three sets in a row, ending with a tight 25-24 victory in the last set to cheers and the sounds of Ian’s ukulele.

Marfa Lights recap

By TORI TORRES

A couple of weekends ago, it was Marfa Lights and homecoming weekend. A very exciting weekend, I should say as there was plenty of stuff to keep you busy on your days off.

From August 30 – September 3, it was Spirit Week. Some people took the themes very seriously, and it blew me away. They looked so cool in hippie outfits and alien suits. On Friday, not only was it Purple Power Day, it was also the day that candidates of the homecoming court were chosen as king and queen. It was cute seeing a couple — Ian and Soraya — get elected as king and queen. I was very happy for both of them. It was also nice seeing them get crowned and handed a bouquet of flowers.

“I thought homecoming was really fun,” my pal Aubrie said. “It was a new experience for me, since I was elected homecoming duchess for the junior class.” She took in a deep breath and sighed, “But I wish we had more time to prepare for everything. But, for it to come so fast, I think we did very well.”

Friday night’s football game was just as exciting. I was a bit nervous at first, because I didn’t know the team we were up against. I went with my friends, and it seems like they enjoyed it as well. They were hollering and yelling while eating sausage wraps and hot cheetos with cheese. We won against the opposing team with little effort, 45-ing them 61-13!

Later that night and the next, the Marfa Lights Festival was blaring with lights and music. There weren’t as many stations to visit as usual, but there was plenty to do: get a bunch of food, buy useless and cute stuff and listen to the booming music. The band Makeup Sex also performed! It was nice seeing friends and acquaintances dance their hearts out as they listened to the band. I went there with my friends. While at the festival, I ran into some old friends that had moved away some time ago. It was nice to see them and talk with them for a while.

Another friend had some stuff to say about this weekend, “I thought it was really good, maybe a little less than usual. The food was good and it felt a little normal, considering what we’ve been going through. Although it was canceled last year, it looked like everyone was enjoying it,” she said, clasping her hands together. “I’m content with what was there, especially since they had so little time to get everything ready. In the end, it did what the Marfa Lights has always done best: bring people together.” She finished with a big grin.

In conclusion, the weekend was spectacular and enjoyable. The football game, the festival, everything. I had a blast seeing people be brought together and have the time of their lives while stuffing food in their mouths. Seeing the little kids run around with gadgets was nice as well. Hopefully next Marfa Lights weekend will be just as good and epic.

Woman on the street interviews Marfa High students

By AUBRIE AGUILAR

I went around school and interviewed a few students and staff members of Marfa ISD to see what their magical powers would be. I’ve discussed this with my close friends and family members, so why not ask some of the people here at school?

I was surprised to find that many of the people I asked were already prepared for this question since they were quick to decide. My thoughts about some people changed after hearing their choice of magical power. To me, mind readers seem sneaky, but a few want to use their hypothetical powers for good, and it seemed really sweet in my eyes. You can read and see for yourself.

Q: “If you could have a magical power, what power would you choose and why?”

A: “Flight so I can travel for free.” - Mrs. Mackie

“Reading people’s minds to see if someone is talking smack!”- Soraya

“Infinite food supply because I’m fat.”- Anonymous

“Invisibility so I can go around messing with people.”- Ms. Lara

“The ability to control weather because I hate it when it’s hot and suddenly changes.”- Anonymous

“Invisibility because it is cool.” - Anonymous

“Flight, just because.” - Loretta

“Mind reader, so when someone isn’t comfortable with telling me something is wrong or they’re in trouble, I would at least know so I could provide help.” - Anonymous

“Teleportation so I can go to Mexico.” - Evelyn

“Flight, so I can go anywhere.” - Raul

“Laser beams that shoot out of my eyes! I would also be able to control the intensity and my theme song would be maybe an AC/DC song, maybe ‘Hells Bells’ or ‘Highway to Hell!’” - Mrs. Donaldson

“Mind reader. I know it would hurt my feelings, but I want to know if someone is being 100% with me because they might be uncomfortable with telling me something.” - Luis

“Flight so I can get there faster.” - Anonymous

As you can see, we have some passionate people amongst our students and staff, so villains beware!

Marfa, from the perspective of a newcomer

By TYLER CAVANESS

Since I’ve moved to Marfa, it has been a huge adjustment from the place I was at before. I came from De Leon, a small town in Central Texas. Like De Leon, Marfa is small. There’s not much to do around here and not many places to hang out. From what I’ve experienced so far, this town is extremely hot and there are a lot of annoying tourists. I’ve barely been here and I’m already wanting to deck them across the face, but I won’t.

At Marfa High School, the school is combined with the junior high building. There are a lot of classrooms, which I’m not quite sure where all mine are at. I’m like five percent sure I can make some friends here. I’ve made a few friends, I think, but I kinda forgot their names.

The only decent thing I’ve seen in this town was the Marfa Lights Festival. I went with my sister and walked around the courthouse a few times, looking at the stands. Most of them were filled with overpriced toys. I’m pretty sure my sister bought a few things; An Among Us cape and then an inflatable Paw Patrol hammer. I, myself, bought a Saints dog tag.

Yeah, that’s the only decent thing that happened so far. This town is okay, but I really wish it had more things to do or had more festivals every year. Plus, everything is expensive. I wish the stupid stores had cheaper stuff.

Cross-country: An inside scoop

By MEMO GUARDIOLA

I am in cross-country, a sport that, to be honest, I really don’t enjoy. A lot of other people do enjoy it, but some agree with me. I interviewed some people in cross-country and these were their responses:

I first interviewed Alex Rodriguez, an eighth grade student in his first year of cross-country. I asked him why he liked cross-country and he said, “Because I like running and it takes me out of school.” I agree with Alex on this: even running is better than school.

I also talked to Marco Ruiz, a sophomore in his first year of cross-country. When I asked him why he joined, he stated, “Because it helps me with basketball.” Then he paused, and added, “Or if you want to be realistic, Coach Ramirez made me.” Honestly, I agree with this statement completely, since Coach Ramirez also kinda pressured me into this sport.

I then interviewed Francisco “Kiko” Rosas, a freshman in his third year of cross-country. I asked him if he was good at cross-country, and he replied, “I’m kinda good at cross-country, probably a bit better than Marco.” I think Kiko just has more stamina than Marco, since he’s a long-distance runner.

Then I spoke with Ava Flores, an eighth grade student in her second year of cross-country, about her thoughts on cross-country and she said, “Um, it’s ... I don’t know ... It’s good. I like it.” I don’t agree with Ava, since I don’t like running long distances.

Next, I interviewed Juan Avila, a senior doing his last year of cross-country. I asked him if cross-country was hard, and he said, “It’s as hard as you make it.” I guess he’s right. To be honest it’s just a really hard sport for me.

Lastly I interviewed Kassandra Garcia, a freshman doing her first year of cross-country. I asked her what she thought about cross-country, and she said, “Honestly I don’t think it’s that bad.” She actually really likes it. This, clearly, confuses me.

I also interviewed Derick Campos, a freshman doing his third year of cross-country. I asked him what he thought of cross-country: “Terrible! Probably one of the worst sports,” he replied. As you know, I agree with him, since it’s my least favorite sport.

Journalism student recalls pre-K near-catastrophe

By KASSANDRA GARCIA

When I was in pre-K I had a best friend whose name was Amber. We are still friends to this day — she is currently sitting next to me in class. Amber and I did almost everything together, and one day I thought everything was going okay until something unusual happened. It was a nice, warm day out, so our teacher took the whole class outside to play in the playground. Amber and I went to the slide, and that’s when things started going downhill.

“Kassandra, do you want to go down the slide with me?” Amber asked me with joy.

“No, I don’t want to.” I said in return to her query.

We stood there staring at each other.

Next thing I know Amber was mad at me for not going down the slide.

I didn’t know what to do! I didn’t want to make my friend angry at me! So, after a long time, in which we were just staring at each other, I decided to go down the slide. Everything turned out just fine. In fact, I think maybe Amber’s scary stare helped me face a fear that day. I’m glad we’re still friends.

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- Black Bean Spaghetti
- Truffle Mac and Cheese
- Oaxacan Green Grits
- Paella Rice
- Red and White Quinoa
- Fonio Pilaf

Cheese and Salumi

- Marinated Sheep & Goat Cheese
- Beehive Cheese with Espresso
- Beehive Cheese with Hatch Chili
- Prairie Breeze Cheese
- Lavender Smoked Gouda
- Smoked Gouda
- Mature Gouda
- Salumis: Loukanika, Saucisson Sec,
- Chorizo Rioja, Finocchiona

Crackers and Snacks

- Moonshot Sourdough Crackers
- Quinoa Crackers
- Rosemary Crackers
- Cassava Crackers
- Seed Crackers
- Black Truffle Almonds
- Ranch Smoked Almonds Edamame
- Beans
- Seasoned Sunflower Seeds
- Barbecue Roasted Corn Snack

Teas, Coffees and Creamers

- Pour Over Vietnamese Coffee
- Chai Iced Tea
- Thai Iced Tea
- Matcha Iced Tea
- Elderberry Healing Tea
- Organic Matcha Tea
- Organic Gunpowder Green Tea
- Wellness Detox Tea
- Adaptogenic Matcha Latte
- Adaptogenic Turmeric Latte
- Marfa Coffee
- Oat creamer, Coconut Creamer and
- Collagen Creamer

Drinks

- Dozen Cocktail Mixers & Shrubs
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- Kombuchas
- Diverse Beer Selection
- Flavored Waters
- Sodas
- Delta Eight Products
- Red, White and Rose Wine
- Champagne and Prosecco

Olive Oil & Sauces

- Japanese Barbecue Sauce
- Chipotle Marinade
- Moroccan Harissa Sauce
- Sichuan Chili Sauce
- Umami Ketchup
- Specialty Olive Oils and Vinegars
- Rustic Vodka Pasta Sauce
- Romesco Sauce
- Over a Dozen Salts
- ...And More

Spreads

- Quince Paste
- Fig Paste
- Hazelnut Spread
- Various Nut Butters
- Uncured Bacon Jam
- Fig Spread
- Rhubarb, Raspberry & Vanilla Jam
- Black Cherry, Dark Chocolate,
- Espelette Pepper Jam

Chips and Salsas

- Siete Corn Chips
- Taco Deli Corn Chips
- Tiny But Mighty Popcorn
- Crispy Potato and Bacon Chips
- Pipcorn Cheddar Cheese Balls
- Cheddar Jalapeño Crunchies
- Parmesan Truffle Crunchies
- Native Andean Potato Chips Golden
- Plantain Chips
- Cactus Grain Free Tortilla Chips
- Salsas, Hot Sauces & Sriracha

Sweets and Bars

- Dried Fruits
- Moon Pies and Mindy Lou’s Pies
- Oaxacan Shortbread Cookies
- Oreo Fudge
- Bonbons with Sea Salt Caramel
- Bonbons with Peanut Butter Toffee
- Mexican Wedding Cookies
- Killer Sweet Pecans
- Organic Sour Chewy Candies
- Matcha Butter Waffles
- Lemon Blueberry Bar, Chocolate
- Cherry Bar, Figgy Chai Bar & Mexican
- Hot Chocolate Bar
- (many soy-free, gluten free and no refined sugar)

Personal Care

- Hand Creams
- Body Wash & Dry Shampoo
- Facial and Skin Care
- Insect Spray
- Deodorants
- Immune Boosters
- Toothpaste, Teeth Whitener &
- Toothbrushes
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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.

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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Blessing of the animals this weekend at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

MARFA — A free community event for pets of all sizes and shapes will take place on Sunday, September 26 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Marfa. In celebration of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, you are invited to a drive-up blessing of the animals. Your pets — large or small, winged or walking, swimming or slithering — will be blessed for good health and well being.

If your pet can't be there in person, please bring a photo or drawing. Children may also bring their favorite stuffed animals for a blessing.

Treats for pets and refreshments for their people will be offered.

Everyone is invited to St. Paul's, the rock church behind the Marfa Courthouse, for this drive-up, contact-free event.

76th annual Sul Ross N.I.R.A. Southwest Region Rodeo schedule

ALPINE — The 76th annual Sul Ross National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Southwest Region Rodeo will be held at the S.A.L.E. Arena in Alpine September 23-25. It will stream exclusively on the Sul Ross Sports Network.

“Last week's rodeo at Eastern New Mexico University broke our record from 2020,” said Rodeo Head Coach CJ Aragon. “This week's rodeo in Alpine will break that record and again give us the distinction of hosting the largest collegiate rodeo in history.”

Each day will feature slack events in the lead up to the nightly 7 p.m. main performance.

TEAMS:

- Clarendon College
- Cisco College
- Frank Phillips College
- Eastern New Mexico University
- Howard College
- New Mexico Junior College
- North Central Texas College
- Odessa College
- Ranger College
- South Plains College
- Sul Ross State University
- Tarleton State University
- Texas Tech University-Lubbock
- Vernon College
- Weatherford College
- West Texas A&M University
- Western Texas College

EVENTS:

- Bareback Riding
- Tie-down Roping
- Breakaway Roping
- Steer Wrestling
- Saddle Bronc Riding
- Goat Tying
- Team Roping
- Barrel Racing
- Bull Riding

SCHEDULE:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

5 p.m. - Slack events

7 p.m. - Main rodeo performance

Slack events to follow

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9 a.m. - Slack events

7 p.m. - Main rodeo performance

Slack events to follow

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

9 a.m. - Slack events

7 p.m. - Main rodeo performance

(featuring the top 10 in each event)

Awards Ceremony to follow

TICKETS/ADMISSION:

Tickets can be purchased at the gate on each day of the rodeo.

Adults: \$10

Adults 55+: \$5

Children (12 and under): \$5

SRSU Students & Employees: Free with ID

WATCH/STREAM:

The Sul Ross Sports Network will again be the exclusive streaming home of the 76th annual event.

Streaming tickets will be \$8 for the Thursday and Friday events. The final night on Saturday will be \$10

Links to purchase and watch can be found below:

Rodeo Day 1 •

Thursday, September 23:

<https://bit.ly/3Ez0YM8>

Rodeo Day 2 •

Friday, September 24:

<https://bit.ly/3nPrrPD>

Rodeo Day 3 •

Saturday, September 25:

<https://bit.ly/3nR2Xpi>



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TRANS-PECOS FESTIVAL OF MUSIC & LOVE

SPECIAL SECTION

Local musicians take the stage at Trans-Pecos Festival

Rob Mazurek / Exploding Star Orchestra



Photo by Luciano Rossetti

Marfa’s Rob Mazurek performs with Damon Locks. Both musicians will be onstage as part of a sextet performing as Exploding Star Orchestra during the Saturday night lineup at Trans-Pecos Festival.

Rob Mazurek is a Marfa-based artist and musician who will be bringing his cosmic tunes to the Trans-Pecos stage with Exploding Star Orchestra on Saturday night.

How would you describe Exploding Star Orchestra’s sound to someone that’s a newcomer to your music?

Wow, how can I explain it? That’s probably one of the hardest questions I’ve been asked, because it’s so many things. I guess, psychedelic space opera.

Who’s joining you on stage at Trans-Pecos this year?

The lineup is extraordinary. It’s Damon Locks on voice and electronics; he’s been with the group for years and is the voice of the group. Jeff Parker, the amazing guitarist. Angelica Sanchez, one of the greatest pianists on earth at the moment from New York. Craig Taborn — I hate to repeat myself, but he’s one of the most amazing pianists, electronics, and a world renowned keyboardist/composer. Gerald Cleaver, one of the most amazing, incredible drummers who lived in New York for years and years and very prevalent in creative music and free jazz music. And myself, that’s six. I wrote this new suite for the festival, so it’s going to be the world premiere of — I don’t even know what I’m calling it. [Mazurek

pauses.] We’ll call the suite *Lightning Dreamer*. What inspired the new suite?

Liz [Lambert, the owner of El Cosmico] contacted me and asked me what I wanted to do, and I thought Exploding Star would be exciting. This composition, *Lightning Dreamer*, was written for these specific players and instrumentation. I’ve been working on it the past few months, rather than playing stuff that’s already been played or done. We’ll also play a few things off *Dimensional Stardust*, the new record, but this is the debut of the Exploding Star Orchestra sextet. It doesn’t take a lot to get me inspired, especially this instrumentation is very unique. There’s two Wurlitzers, two Moogs, drums, guitar, voice and I’m going to play some trumpet and electronics; that’s all I need to get the creative energies moving.

Almost everything has been shaken up in the past year or two; how has it affected the music you make?

Myself and a lot of these musicians, it’ll be one of their first concerts or close to it in the past year and a half. I feel very lucky to have a sound studio and painting studio right here in Marfa, so I was able to dig further into myself in finding new areas, trying to surprise myself with new ways of experiencing things, because we weren’t able to experience things in person in the past year and a

half. The main thing has been just learning about oneself more and through that self-learning, coming up with something new and I think that’s what the new music is.

You’re a pretty prolific musician — are you working on any new projects?

I’m working on something I started at Ballroom Marfa at the beginning of the year. Ballroom gave me a residency for a month and a half and it’s a work I’ve been thinking about and accruing information for in the past 10 years. It’s called *The Book of Sound* and is an experimental opera that I’ve been working on for quite a long time, but especially since the Ballroom residency. The premiere of that work is going to be in Paris on February 6 at a festival, and I’ll also present an installation at Maintenant [a venue in Marfa] for Chinati Weekend.

What excites you about playing live music this year?

What excites me is just being able to connect with the people. The stage over at El Cosmico is great and it’s intimate. I do make my living making art, whether it’s sound or visual, but I don’t do this stuff to make money. I do it as an exchange of energy, whether it’s on a turntable or a live situation where you can really connect to people who are getting down with it.

Jacqueline Del Olmo / Sweetheart of the Rodeo

Jacqueline Del Olmo (aka Sweetheart of the Rodeo) owns Mira Marfa, a skincare studio and beauty boutique, and is a DJ in town. She opened up Trans-Pecos with a set yesterday during the festival’s welcoming party.

How long have you been DJing?

Actually when I moved to Marfa I guess four years ago — I really started DJing here. I had just started my little business and I was starting from the ground up, but I needed supplemental income to pay the bills until I actually started seeing clients. I started doing the Capri, Al Campo and little parties on the weekend. So that’s why I kind of really started DJing, surprisingly enough.

What got you interested in DJing?

I like to provide the vibe of the party because I’m an introvert, to be honest. It’s something where I can kind of control the direction of the party. Even in my own business, when people come in for a facial, the minute they walk in the door it’s about the smells, the scents, the noise. So it’s a similar thing when I want to go to a party — I want the feel of the party to be something I would enjoy.

And since I’m Latina in Marfa, there’s this longing for my culture. But I want to provide it on my terms rather than on somebody else’s.

Do you have a process you go through when selecting songs or

choosing what to play in a set?

I take all my 45s [records] and kind of wing it — I go by how it feels in the moment. I just take a huge amount of my records, and 45s are so easy to lug around. I try to play musicians I know, friends I know, but also stick with stuff I grew up with.

Is there a theme or a main genre that you like to play? What’s your go-to vibe?

I’ll do cumbia stuff. But I really try to do the Afro-influence of it all, because a lot of cumbia and Latin American music are really a culmination of all these cultures together. But then I’ll do doo-wop and stuff because that’s what I grew up with, so there’s this huge influence of older music. I also try to do a little bit of contemporary so it’s not stuck in one genre, but it’s definitely more Latina than anything.

Will you be attending Trans-Pecos this year beyond your set?

Yes, I am. I love Sleater-Kinney and Parquet Courts — it’s going to be rad. I kind of blocked out my schedule so I can do that, and I’m really not seeing clients [this week] so I can go to the festival. I feel bad because I was supposed to DJ a wedding, and I had to back out. I was like, “Hey lady, Sleater-Kinney is playing.” I feel bad, but really not that bad.



Photo by Jackson Montgomery Schwartz

DJ Jacqueline Del Olmo (aka Sweetheart of the Rodeo) kicked off Trans-Pecos at the festival’s welcoming party on Wednesday.

Ross Fleming

Ross Fleming is a singer-songwriter based in Alpine. He performed at the festival’s welcoming party on Wednesday afternoon. You can listen to his LP “It’s the Tryin’” on Spotify and Apple Music.

Can you tell me how you first got into playing music? Well, I started writing songs when I was probably 15, so I’ve been doing it for a while. I’ve played lots of gigs for years and years, but recently I just put out my first record. We recorded it in Marfa — I’ve been getting more gigs based on that.

How would you describe your music?

Americana. This record that we just put out, a theme would be the desert, but I don’t really know. Every song just about was written in West Texas and is about West Texas.

Do you listen to a lot of singer-songwriter stuff?

I listen to a lot of different music, but I guess my heroes are Townes Van Zandt, John Prine, and The Replacements. However, I don’t think my music sounds much at all like the music I listen to.

Do you have a specific way to get in the zone to start working on a new project?

It comes to me in different ways. Sometimes I get a melody first and sometimes I get the lyrics first. I wrote one song on the record because I stopped at a roadside historical marker and it gave me the song “Maximilian’s Gold” that was written on Highway 67.

What’s the historical marker?

It’s a historical marker between McCamey and Rankin on Highway 67. It’s a story about the Emperor Maximilian of Mexico knowing that he was going to get killed by [President Benito] Juárez. He sent some guys with all of his money in a wagon to get to Galveston to be sent back to Austria. But the wagon never made it



Photo by Jean Nored Cornell

Alpine resident Ross Fleming recently released his first album, “It’s the Tryin’,” which he described as distinctly Americana.

anywhere except north of the border, and no one’s ever found the gold.

Will you be attending the festival outside of your gig?

Oh yeah, we will be there every day, and I’m most excited about seeing Jade Bird.

Who is that?

She’s a pretty young singer-songwriter. She’s from England I believe, and now lives in Austin. She’s a great songwriter.

Scrappy Jud Newcomb

Marfa resident Scrappy Jud Newcomb helped open the festival with Ross Fleming on Wednesday and is playing a solo set on Thursday.

Who are you performing with at Trans-Pecos?

I’m going to be doing a set under my own name on Thursday at 3, that will just be me and Fran Christina [on drums]. I’m also accompanying Ross Fleming on Wednesday, who I produced a record for in the fall of 2020 at Marfa Recording Company. How long have you known them? Fran I’ve known a long long time, since maybe the mid-90s, and Ross I’ve known tangentially for a little while. He teaches at Sul Ross. When the pandemic started, he was without a job except for online stuff and had never made a record before, so he took the opportunity to do that.

How would you describe the set you’re going to play under your own name?

Fran — who played on my last record some — is a perfect accompanist because he’s so versed in old school stuff. It’s going to be original material, kind of a rock ‘n’ roll, R&B mashup sound. All fairly vintage sounding.

What is your connection to Marfa

and Far West Texas?

I spent most of my youth in Austin. I started playing out here when the Railroad Blues in Alpine opened, I think in ‘95. I’ve had a place here since 2013. I’ve lived out here for big chunks of time. Depending on my touring schedule and what’s going on in Austin, I’ll sometimes just go back and forth.

Do you think it adds anything to your creative process or to your music?

Definitely. It’s just the place that I have always been more comfortable



Photo by Mary Keating Bruton

Musician Scrappy Jud Newcomb will take the stage at Trans-Pecos on Thursday, supported by Fran Christina.

and inspired in. I used to come out here a lot, especially in the 90s, just to write. Everything — you know how it is, if you love it out here, you really love it out here.

What have you been up to outside of playing music?

Up to March 2020, my life was all about music. I’ve been playing professionally for the past 32 years or something like that. Whenever everything shut down I was just taking any kind of work I could get, and Fran was very helpful, and then I ended up doing a lot of things for a lot of different people. Like I painted the bar at the Water Stop — a job for which I had absolutely no experience.

Where else is your music available?

It’s on all of the streaming services, there’s hard copies available and CDs you can order.

Do you have plans to play in Far West Texas after this festival?

I’m playing it by ear, hoping that a couple tours that are planned with other people in the later fall and winter come through. It looks pretty positive that they’re going to happen. This is the longest that I’ve been in one place for a long, long time.

MORE ARTISTS ON PAGE

Pat Keesey / Loviband

Pat Keesey, local woodworker and artist, is playing with Loviband on Thursday from 12-1. He also plays with the Grand Tourists.

Who's in the band?

Loviband is me, Pat Keesey. I play guitar and I sing. "Sing" should definitely be in quotation marks. David Garcia plays bass. He was born and raised in Marfa, maybe the first person born and raised in Marfa to play at Trans-Pecos. David and I have been playing together for a few months. And then we got Cale Hand on drums. He started playing with us a week ago.

So y'all have only been a band for one week?

Well, technically the band started in 1999 with my brother and somebody named John Levine, and we made a record and we started to have a following. Then people in the Grand Tourists found the record and thought it was great, so me, Paul, and Ross did a show at Marfa Open, so I kind of got back into it. But they're busy and Ross is doing his solo thing, so I created my own lineup.

How would you describe your musical stylings?

I'm calling Loviband "dirge-ibilly." It's kind of mixed rockabilly, bluegrass, and then it all has kind of a swampy sound. King Buzzo — the lead singer of the Melvins back when the original Loviband was performing — called us "the next Creedence Clearwater Revival." But it's much more contemporary than that, it's a little more rock 'n' roll. It's very guitar heavy, very messy.

Are you hoping to keep the band together with this lineup?

The practice has been sounding great. We're having a lot of fun, and it's a nice group of people and they all learn really quickly. Everybody's working full time so it's hard to do too much, but we have a fantasy of hosting some kind of music event at Vizcaino and getting all the bands in Marfa to play all day long.

What's it like having a band in Marfa?

It's hard and we have to be very respectful with people's



Photo by Sam Karas

Marfa's Loviband — from left to right, Pat Keesey, Cale Hand and David Garcia — practice for their set at the Lumberyard.

schedules. My other band is starting to make a little money at weddings so there's a little more incentive. But we only practice once a week, maybe twice. But compared to living in New York City, it's a breeze because everything's ten minutes away. It's not as hard to meet up.

How long have you been in town?

I originally came to Marfa in 1994, and I bought a house for practically nothing because it was the middle of the 90s. I just kept coming down and then finally decided to move into my house.

Apart from music, what do you do in town?

I have a woodshop that makes custom furniture. I'm a painter, I just had an opening at Do Right Hall that'll be on display during Trans-Pecos. And I'm also a yoga teacher.

Mateo Mares / Marijuana Sweet Tooth

Mateo Mares, who co-owns Cedar Coffee Supply in Alpine, opened Trans-Pecos with Marijuana Sweet Tooth on Wednesday.



Photo by Chris Vigue

Alpine resident and coffee purveyor Mateo Mares hit the stage with Marijuana Sweet Tooth Wednesday afternoon.

songs over the last year and a half. I write them, and then whenever everybody's here we record rough demos. It's definitely not as convenient as it used to be. I've played with some folks out here, but it's mostly fun jamming around. I mostly play the drums or bass when I play with other people.

What's your relationship to Far West Texas?

It was a year in May — so a year and a half or so [I've lived in Alpine]. Not too long, but I have spent years and years coming out here growing up. My dad was a big camper, took us to Fort Davis and Big Bend every

summer. All through my twenties in Austin I found myself out here maybe two or three times a year. If I ever heard of a friend coming out here I would see if they had an extra seat.

What do you do outside of music?

I spend a lot of time working at [Cedar Coffee], keeping the shop stocked with cups and coffee.

What made you want to co-own a coffee shop in Alpine, TX?

Oh man, it was not a part of the plan when I came out here. I was happy with just being in a new environment and working for other people. Then the opportunity came about, and it seemed like a good idea. After being in coffee for 20 years, I know what makes a shop run. There isn't too much that has changed for me other than, like, taxes and city building ordinances and all the little legal stuff you have to get into. It's a whole new and different kind of feeling when I'm on my way to work. It feels better. I feel proud.

Where can people find more of your music?

We have two records online at all the musical platforms.

Do y'all have any plans to play locally in the future?

I don't feel too good about touring just yet, but I'm trying to have one good outdoor show a month for now.

Ross Cashiola / Grand Tourists

Ross Cashiola, a Marfa-based artist and fabricator, will be playing a mix of covers and original material with the Grand Tourists at Trans-Pecos this Friday from 1-3.

How long have the Grand Tourists been together?

We've been together for two or three years. We did some things together before the pandemic started and regrouped this past May for a show we did at the French Grocer in Marathon. That was the first time we played anywhere together since our last show at the Lost Horse before the pandemic hit.

You've played in one band or another in Trans-Pecos every year since the festival began. What keeps you coming back?

Liz [Lambert] and the crew keep asking me back. Every year except one they've asked us to get up there and kick things off. I love doing it and it's great to get up there and play and be a part of it all.

How long have you been in Marfa?

Since 2006. It was supposed to be a brief excursion from life in Chicago. Then it was February and it was 75 degrees down here and 3 degrees in Chicago, so I told everybody I was just going to stick around here. For the first three years, I was back and forth between here and Austin and Chicago.

What genre do you play and how did you land on your sound?

I've always called it "country grunge folk 'n' roll." I started out playing folk songs. After playing with different bands and countless different people over the past 17 years, I've learned that every show has its own sound and its own vibe. When you write simple songs, they just lend themselves to all kinds of different interpretations. I'm not a classically trained musician or anything, so it's all composed very simply. I let people who know more about music hear what they hear in it and go from there.

What effect did the pandemic have on your music?

It shut everything down. I played a show on New Years at the Capri in 2020, and that was really the last show I'd done of my own music. Everything since then has been with the Grand Tourists. It's exciting to get back out there and be playing some songs.

Is the Grand Tourists music available elsewhere?

The Grand Tourists aren't online anywhere right now, but we're hoping to maybe get something recorded soon, something that people can buy while they're in town. We mostly play covers, but there's a few things I've written that we play. We're hoping to get around the tri-county region again and start playing shows again.

What do you do in town outside of music?



Photo by Sarah M. Vasquez

Colt Miller, Joe Cashiola, Ross Cashiola and Riley O'Bryan perform at the Trans-Pecos Festival 2017.

My brother Joe and I have a welding company, and we do that to make money. I also make paintings, and I'm trying to reconnect with that

side of myself. Joe works on films and stuff and I'm usually involved in that. We've always got some kind of project brewing.

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October 12 – Art historian and curator **Lilia Kudelia**

October 19 – Partner and Projects Director for JSa Arquitectos **Aisha Ballesteros**

October 26 – Writer and founder of **Glasstire Rainey Knudson** in conversation with **Kimberly Davenport**, Rice University Art Gallery Founding Director

November 2 – Art historian and curator of **Milton Avery Edith Devaney**

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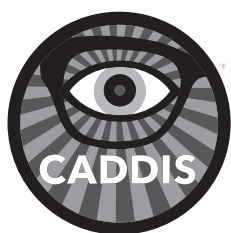
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The scrappy history of Los Yonke Gallos, Marfa’s hometown sandlot baseball team

By MARY ETHERINGTON

MARFA — Marfa has great reach across the country in the art news, however there’s another cultural institution rivaling that reach and connection — baseball, and specifically Los Yonke Gallos, the team that defies explanation. This Saturday at noon the team will play against the Austin Playboys in an annual sandlot challenge during the Trans-Pecos Festival.



Every team member who spoke with *The Big Bend Sentinel* suggested it was Joey Benton who started the team, and Benton agreed that he was at least a part of the conversation. Benton, the owner of a custom design and fabrication studio, and a handful of others agreed to form a team to play against the “old timers” who were over the age of 32, “and now we are that,” Benton said.

Definitive answers are hard to come by about any aspect of the team, and yet all agree it’s great when they are out running around, playing for fun and beer is involved. Whether playing locally or far afield in games in Ft Stockton, Alpine, Oklahoma and Pecos through the seasons, Los Yonke Gallos have had a rotating lineup of Marfa players.

The composition of the team shifts yearly, and sometimes week to week, as players start businesses, have babies, get busy in a myriad of ways and sometimes cycle back in as life shifts again.

The recent game against the Tulsa, Oklahoma team had the most players team member Ross Cashiola has ever seen, and he’s been playing since 2007. Cashiola, a musician, artist and fabricator, allows that his attendance at practices has become fewer and farther between as he’s gotten another business under

development. Cloudy’s Desert Bistro, a food truck debuting at Trans-Pecos this weekend, has taken him away from the game.

So far away that players he’s never seen have thrown on a jersey and played, becoming part of the team while his attention was elsewhere. Will Cashiola be able to pull away to pitch and maybe get in an at bat? Will he show up in his crushed blue velvet blazer with baseball pants posing as the GM? It’s happened before.

J.D. Garcia, a lifelong Marfan, explained that many of the players have jobs connected to the festival, so they may only show up for a couple of innings, as they have staging demands or are preparing for performances. He himself is on the schedule to work on Saturday, so he’s unsure how much of the game he will play. He’s also been known to show up in a blue blazer and take on manager duties.



Michael Camacho, a long-time member and one-time manager (who claims the manager basically lugs the gear) happily acts as treasurer now. It’s much easier managing money rather than the team policy that tequila is not allowed in the dugout until the seventh inning, he said. Once, the team suffered a stinging loss, giving up a double-digit lead before the anti-tequila policy was put in place. Beer, however, is encouraged throughout the game.

Jack Sanders started the Austin Playboys team in Austin and brought Camacho out to work at El Cosmico. Six months into living here back in 2009, Camacho played for the Playboys and was soundly booed and called Benedict Arnold by the Los Yonke Gallos. Ever since, he has played on the town team and has become one of

the dedicated pillars of the group, occasionally waxing poetic about the game.

“We are definitely not in it to win it. I just want to play baseball. As



a kid with an overbearing dad who had played semi-pro and wanted me to be good, I felt the pressure,” Camacho said. “I’m better now than I ever was as a kid.” One perk among Los Yonke Gallos, Camacho explained, is, “Nobody’s dad is telling you what you did wrong.”

Knowing the game isn’t even a prerequisite. Rookies make up nearly 50% of the team at times, and some have literally never played baseball before. Somehow these players get field time and the patience needed to develop the skills. Anthony DeSimone says some hand-eye coordination helps, and with a wildly uneven playing surface, some may win a free trip to the oral surgeon in El Paso. Even



the skilled Carlos Lujan had to make that El Paso trip years ago.

In spite of DeSimone’s claims that he tries to “abstain from sports as much as I can,” he has enjoyed how

the team has pulled together this year and still maintained “some amount of beloved dysfunction.” As more players show up, the momentum builds, and collectively, also the spirit. They chose the jersey design, which changes every year, as a team, which many have mentioned as a solid accomplishment.

Sometimes, “It’s 80% emails and 20% games and no practices,” he said. DeSimone credits Molly Walker with sorting through those emails and turning “chatter into a plan.” Walker put it, “I have a way of filtering through the dude chatter.”

She also seconded the “be ready so you don’t get hurt” aspect of the game. Walker grew up in Alpine, a baseball town, and was coached by rancher Dayna Yarborough through her Little League years. Yarborough put considerable energy in empowering them to throw the ball and be tough. That legacy is part of what inspired Molly to play again 20 years after Little League. Walker met her partner on the team when they started the same season. The pair are moving this coming Saturday, and yes, baseball and moving gods willing, Walker plans to play before they leave.

Walker also remarked on the “mysterious” composition of the team, players who grew up here,

those living here a decade or more, some who played baseball in college or semi-pro in Mexico, and some others, like the guy who rolled up on a motorcycle and joined practice. According to Walker, “Camacho



has been an important part of the cohesion throughout the years,” and yet he sees Marfa as “fickle.”

Some play for a season, think they did that and move on. Meanwhile, Joey Benton may have started the team and subsequently stepped away from playing, however this summer, his 21-year-old son Felix joined up while in town and brought

intergenerational play to the plate.

This year’s T-shirt will be available at the game. Camacho happily claims Luddite status, and only accepts cash for the shirts. Other team members have Venmo and will accommodate those purchases. For the first time ever the team had a sponsor this year who gifted them \$500. They were able to purchase batting helmets and gloves and pay for the shirts and travel.

So as happens every year, on Saturday at the sandlot, a singer will emerge from the stands, maybe drafted from the musical talent in town by Liz Lambert, no one seems sure, to sing the national anthem. “We just show up,” claimed Camacho. Once again he will be in charge of the walk-up music, including the rooster crows over the curse words in select songs. Biff Bolen and David Branch will share the announcer’s booth. Game time is at noon, and Marfa’s hotdog vendor Weinertown will be there to feed the crowd. It’s the game of the year, where it’s discovered who wakes up the base paths and bleacher fans, who’s got a good arm and how much “slapstick,” according to one player, can be packed into one game.

An instant photo collection of Los Yonke Gallos and their biggest fans from recent seasons.
Photos by David Harding

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Anett Gabriel of Garbó sports her signature flight suit.

Photo courtesy of Garbó



Photo courtesy of Chelsea Millikan
Rings designed and made by Far Out Silver.



Photo by Makenzie Goodman
Kendall Craig of Stop & Read Books.



Photo by Adam Gestwicki
Marielle LaRue of Indigo Prophet.

By MARY ETHERINGTON

MARFA — The 15th annual Trans-Pecos Festival of Music and Love has chosen four Marfa businesses to participate in the vendor’s circle at this year’s event. Exhibitions on the grounds of El Cosmico will feature Far Out Silver, Garbó, Indigo Prophet and Stop & Read Books. These four entrepreneurs will show and sell their wares each day of the festival from 5 p.m. until the music stops.

The pandemic closed doors and businesses across the world, and yet these four Marfa businesses found a way forward in the midst of the confusion and turmoil. Stop & Read books has the only brick and mortar shop of the four. The bookstore opened during the pandemic, a move that has worked in part due to the owner’s innovative book subscription service, skill as a bookseller, high visibility location and online presence. The other three businesses found a way forward based on sheer creativity and social media. Here’s a chance to support

local businesses and actually meet the proprietors and see the products in person. They actually exist.

Anett Gabriel of Garbó returns to El Cosmico this year with her signature Flight Suit — a one-piece item both utilitarian and fittingly stylish, under the label Garbó. Gabriel founded Garbo in New York City, relocated to Marfa five years ago, and it was here that the “Flight Suit” was launched. The design was in part to pay tribute to the working class women in Hungary, Gabriel’s homeland. The clothing is designed in Marfa and produced sustainably in small batches in Los Angeles, available at the Sentinel and online at garbomarfa.com. The classic and a new seasonal edition of the “Flight Suit” will be featured at the festival as well as the debut of a new jacket design. A fitting room will be available to remove the guesswork for both Garbo and Indigo Prophet.

When COVD shut down Indigo Prophet’s newly-opened storefront, owner Marielle LaRue knew selling online was the only way forward. Her social media

business model was met with immediate success, and it was clear that working from Marfa would be possible. LaRue designs and sews denim jeans using her own body as a fit model. For the person with wider hips and a smaller waist, these jeans solve the gap in the back familiar to many. Pre-orders will be taken for two styles and six different denims for custom-made jeans across a full range of sizes, and she will debut a new selvedge denim fabric choice in the “High Pope” style at the festival.

Kendall Craig founded Stop & Read Books during the pandemic when her jobs in brand development and event productions evaporated and the book subscription service she belonged to ended without warning. Being an avid reader and wanting a job that didn’t feel like work, she turned her love of books and reading into her business. She loves choosing titles for all readers, from children upwards, with no specific tilt or particular intellectual bent. Craig volunteers at the school with Librarian Crawford Marginot to weed through the

collection and choose new titles to bring the best to Marfa children who love to read just like she did as a kid. For the festival, she’s bringing a small selection of titles related to music and also books by local writers, including the late Lonn Taylor, Eileen Myles and Rachel Monroe.

Silversmith and lapidary Chelsea Millikan moved to Marfa in 2018, and two years ago established Far Out Silver when she began selling her pieces online. River guide Sage Keith later joined Millikan and the two have been out hunting raw materials, which Keith says is really fun, for stones for their jewelry. They also work in turquoise and other gemstones. For the festival, they will bring finished pieces of locally-sourced stones as well as all the other jewelry across the spectrum of their work.

Celebrate the ones who in spite of the odds didn’t miss a beat, weathered the pandemic thus far, and continue to bring innovative design and thinking to Marfa and beyond.





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