THE BIG BEND
Sentinel

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BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

Daylight saving time ends Sunday

UNITED STATES — Daylight saving time comes to an end on Sunday, November 7, adding an hour of time to the day and making mornings a little brighter and evenings darker going into the winter months.

At 2 a.m. CST on Sunday, time will "fall back," winding the clocks one hour in reverse, so that an hour will be repeated in the early morning.

On Sunday, the sun will rise at 7:15 a.m. and set at 6:03 p.m., and while phones and online devices may change automatically, adjust your clocks, watches, car and appliances accordingly to assure alarms ring on time!

Fire burns Shafter pumphouse, leaving most residents without water

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

SHAFTER — A persistent water outage has struck the old mining town of Shafter this week, after a fire that blazed Saturday burned down a pump house owned by the Rio Grande Mining Company.

The fire at the pumphouse, located right along Highway 67, attracted a response from the Presidio Fire Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety and the county sheriff's office. No individuals were harmed, but water to the community has been out since the incident.

Around 33 Presidio County residents make their home in Shafter, an unincorporated community on U.S. 67, south of Marfa and north of Presidio. While a few Shafter residents have their own wells, many in the town depend upon a water well on the property of the Rio Grande Mining Company (RGMC), rather than personal or government-run ones. Tony Manriquez, a Shafter resident and an environmental specialist with the RGMC, said that instead of being charged water bills for using water from the mining property, Shafter residents have been provided with free water services since 1997.

On Saturday, Manriquez said, a suspected electrical fire broke out. "The pumphouse, where all the electrical equipment for the well is, had a malfunction of some sort and burned down." Not only was the pumphouse burned, the high voltage power line that runs through the property was damaged.

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC



Photo by Mary Cantrell

Lasya Dulla harvests grapes at Blue Mountain Trail Vineyard for the Chateau Wright wine label in Fort Davis. Blue Mountain now plays host to three wineries looking to establish the Davis Mountains as Texas' premiere grape growing region. READ MORE ON PAGE 6.

Local voters approve horse race betting initiatives, alcohol sales in special election

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

TRI-COUNTY — Texas voters weighed in on a slate of statewide constitutional amendments in the November 2 special election, and Presidio County decided whether or not to legalize two types of horse betting.

Presidio County voters passed two referendums legalizing pari mutuel and simulcast betting in the area. This decision opens the door for a horse racetrack to be established in Presidio, if it can first receive approval from the Texas Racing Commission. Referendum 1, legalizing pari mutuel betting on simulcast races, passed 60% to 40% with a total of 318 votes. Referendum 2, legalizing pari mutuel wagering on horse races, passed 60% to 40% with a total of 321 votes.

The referendums received more support from Presidio-area precincts and less from Marfa-area precincts. Precincts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, which cover south county, all voted a majority in favor of legalizing the betting, while precincts 1 and 7 in north county both cast a majority of their votes to reject the referendums.

In Jeff Davis County, voters approved the legal sale of all alcoholic beverages including mixed beverages, with 80% voting for and 20% against the initiative. The decision will allow for the sale of alcohol in all precincts, and resolves an ongoing issue in the county by unifying all precincts under the same law. Previously, various precincts allowed the sale of alcoholic beverages and others did not, causing confusion among visiting populations and complications for business owners in the area.

Brewster County voters had nothing of local interest on the ballot and only voted on the statewide constitutional amendments.

All eight statewide propositions to amend the Texas Constitution passed. Turnout was low with only 9% of registered Texas voters casting a ballot, according to the Texas Tribune.

Propositions 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 passed in Presidio County with an overwhelming majority, and Presidio and Marfa voters were aligned. Issues ranged from rodeo charity raffles to nursing

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Presidio County makes history by transferring ownership of cemetery to the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — In a historic vote on Monday night, Presidio City Council authorized the transfer of its lots within the Lipan Apache cemetery to Presidio County, which had pre-authorized a donation of the land to the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas.

Over the course of two years, the city and county fretted over who should care for the cemetery. Its history dates back to the 18th century, when the Spanish granted reservations to the Apache near the Río Grande as part of a peace settlement. Some Lipan fled the area; members of the Prairie Grass band stayed behind. They married into other families in what's now Presidio and the present-day Mexican village of El Mulato, about 20 miles downstream.

This cemetery is not the only Lipan cemetery in the area — small, privately-tended cemeteries dot the landscape from just north of Presidio and south to Redford. This is just the only one in the middle of town. It's not too far from Porter's grocery store and the bustling businesses on O'Reilly Street. You could miss it, if you didn't know what you were looking for.

A simple wire fence staked into buckets of concrete is all that marks its boundaries today — or what's left of them. Family representative Christina Hernandez explained that the cemetery used to take up the whole block before it was swallowed by the city. There are a handful of abandoned houses hugging the base of the mound crowned by a row of simple crosses with the name Aguilar. "Where the houses are, they basically razed that part of the cemetery," she said.

For much of the cemetery's history, descendants of the interred have been its primary caretakers. Presidio community members have pushed back against urban encroachment for decades, but previous reporting by The Big Bend Sentinel explained that the land wound up in the hands of government entities in the '90s, complicating attempts by descendants to protect and improve the site. First on the list of improvements is a real fence to mark the space as sacred and special, off-limits to errant bicyclists and dog walkers.

At a commissioners court meeting on October 13, family representative Christina Hernandez and Big Bend Conservation Alliance Executive Director Shelley Bernstein explained that construction of the fence would require the services of an archaeologist and ground-penetrating radar. Their estimate came to between

(Continued on page 3)

Marfa City Council throws weight behind new tourism app, appoints interim judge

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — At last Thursday's regular meeting, Marfa City Council enthusiastically discussed an app presented by Director of Tourism Abby Boyd that could help business owners and locals address the dreaded question, "What's open today?"

"Right now, every business is acting as its own visitors center," Boyd said, outlining a common scenario: a Marfa visitor walks into the nearest business that happens to be open, and asks what else there is to do in town. In the next few months, tourists may have a more streamlined way of putting together itineraries, thanks to an app dreamed up by Boyd and representatives from other communities along the Texas Mountain Trail, a tourism corridor spanning the Guadalupe Mountains all the way to the Big Bend parks.

Boyd hopes to apply for Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant funding for an app that visitors to the region can pull up on their phones, pointing them to shops, restaurants, landmarks and other points of interest, as well as extended tours based on their areas of interest. At Thursday's meeting, she demonstrated a tour hosted on the platform STQRY, which provides GPS-triggered audio and visual content as users navigate from one point of interest to the next, and tapped local IT specialist Elbert Bassham for the needed programming.

Through apps like STQRY, users can choose a theme — history, art, architecture, nature — to customize their experience, and the app runs off of GPS, not cell data, alleviating concerns about poor connectivity in the more remote reaches of the Big Bend.

"I think it's interesting from a regional perspective, because the tourists in Fort Davis are not the same as the tourists in Marfa," said City Attorney Teresa Todd. "But there are a few things that do transcend."

The discussion raised an interesting question: does the council need to be working to increase tourism, even as local businesses are struggling to keep up with staffing demands and residents still harbor fears about pandemic safety?

"I don't know that we need to boost our numbers, but this is a generous offering," said Councilmember Yoseff Ben-Yehuda. "It could improve the quality of their experience — maybe

(Continued on page 2)

County to discuss redistricting county commissioner precincts

PRESIDIO COUNTY — Presidio County Commissioners Court will convene at 9 a.m. on Monday, November 8, at the courthouse in Marfa to consider a proposal for redistricting the county, potentially shifting the boundaries of the four precincts.

The county has contracted with the law firm Allison, Bass & Magee, and on Monday, Stan Reid, an associate attorney at the firm, will visit with Presidio County Commissioners Court to discuss redistricting the current four county precincts.

After the Monday meeting, the court plans to hold a hearing on the potential redistricting proposal within a week's time.

Concerns about redistricting were raised by County Attorney Rod Ponton after the 2020 Census results were returned late, due in part to the pandemic. Previous reporting on last year's census by The Big Bend Sentinel showed a population decrease in southern Presidio county of 25% — a figure that local officials disputed.

"People on the border just don't get counted, for a number of reasons," said Presidio City Administrator Brad Newton at Monday night's Presidio City Council meeting. Newton, Ponton and other advocates for the City of Presidio redistricting will address the population discrepancies between the two halves of the vast border county.

At Monday's meeting, Newton estimated the actual number of southern Presidio county residents at 5400—nearly double the census numbers for north county, which includes Marfa, Candelaria, and Ruidosa. "The people of Presidio need a voice," Ponton said.

If redistricting takes place at the rapid pace some hope, the revised districts could impact the ballot, where Presidio Commissioner Eloy Aranda and Marfa Commissioner Buddy Knight's seats are up for election this coming spring.

Despite resistance from Rep. Gonzales and Border Patrol union, DHS works to comply with President Biden's vaccine mandate

TRI-COUNTY — President Biden recently announced a sweeping coronavirus vaccine mandate for all federal employees in an executive order released September 9, requiring full vaccination of federal workers by a November 22 deadline.

The order states the nationwide public health emergency remains in effect, and in keeping with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations, the most effective way to prevent against COVID-19 and the highly

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Local voters

(Continued from page 1)

home residents establishing essential caregivers for in-person visitations.

Proposition 4 passed, 56% for, 44% against, but with some opposition — Presidio voters leaned against it, compared to those in Marfa. The amendment would require candidates to have 10 years of experience practicing law in Texas to be eligible for election to the Texas Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals or a Texas court of appeals. Currently, the law requires 10 years of experience but allows for out-of-state experience. Statewide, voters passed the proposition 59% to 41%.

Proposition 3, which would prevent the state from prohibiting or limiting religious services of religious organizations, was the only amendment that did not get approval from Presidio voters, with 47% for and 53% against. Marfa voters showed stronger opposition to the amendment than elsewhere in the county. Statewide, voters passed the proposition 62% to 38%.

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Jimmy & Ramona Lara



November 5, 1961 - November 5, 2021

Congratulations to our parents on this special anniversary of 60 years. Jimmy and Ramona (Armendariz) Lara were married on November 5, 1961 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Marfa, Texas. They have three daughters Rose (Danny), Imelda (Mike), and Jamie. They are also proud grandparents of Lorinda, Kristina, Justin, Alexis, Kaelyn, and Dimetrey and proud great grandparents of Charlize, Anthony, Hayden, Jade, Jazlyn, Tynsley, and Kyrie.

Congratulations to you both, for honoring love's greatest oath - trust, compassion, and a true understanding of commitment. Wishing you both continued love and happiness for many years to come. Love from us all!

Shafter fire

(Continued from page 1)

"The primary power line that goes to the pumphouse is owned by the mining company," County Emergency Management Coordinator Gary Mitschke said Tuesday. "It's a little unusual. AEP supplies power to them, but they do not own the distribution line that goes into the mining company." The unusual ownership means it is up to RGMC to restore water service.

Manriquez said the company is now seeking repairmen to work on the power line as soon as possible. "They need a high voltage contractor to go out there," Presidio County Judge Cinderela Guevara explained, in addition to a well service contractor to repair damage.

"Aurcana, which owns the Rio Grande Mining Company, has given full approval to do the repairs and get the water up and running. Money and approval isn't the issue, what holds us back a few days is finding contractors to come out and do the work," Manriquez said.

"We've got Arrowhead Drilling from Alpine that is ready to come down and get the electrical infrastructure going. What we're having trouble with is finding a high voltage company," he continued; most high voltage companies are in the Permian Basin and reluctant to make the long trek to Shafter. On Tuesday, the environmental specialist said, "It looks like we have one set up to come down and evaluate the situation on Thursday." However, there isn't yet a firm timeline of when the taps in Shafter will flow freely again.

On Tuesday morning, Judge Guevara went to Shafter to discuss the water outage with impacted residents, and about eight turned out to discuss the outage, their water needs and even the potential for residents to form a water board for the interests of Shafter residents. She also promised to bring cases of bottled water to the church in town for residents who need it.

Manriquez estimated that about three quarters of Shafter residents have storage tanks of 1500 or 2500 gallons that can get them through a couple weeks if the outage persists. He pointed out that this isn't the first water outage the tiny town has faced, saying, "There's been years where we had [outages] a couple times, maybe out for a week or two weeks."

It is still undetermined when work will be completed to repair the system that supplies water to Shafter residents, and Mitschke said, "It may be a few days before they can get the powerline reconstructed down there. They may be looking at a few days of issues with water."

Marfa city council

(Continued from page 1)

making them stay another night while they do a day trip down to Presidio."

The council moved to work with other interested communities and apply for funding as a collective under the Rio Grande Council of Governments.

The council also moved to appoint Viviana Cataño, who is currently municipal judge for the city of Presidio, as interim municipal judge for the city of Marfa. Cataño will fill the vacancy left by David Beebe, who stepped down from his position at the end of the last fiscal year.

"I have worked with her all the way back since 1984," said Todd. "She knows this job inside and out, and she has already done all the training."

Noting that many of the municipal judge's duties happen in the middle of the night, Todd explained that Cataño will mostly be working virtually until her post ends on January 11, 2022. There will be a council meeting that day, during which Beebe's permanent replacement will be selected.

In miscellaneous business, the city rubber-stamped its support for Operation Lone Star, the final moving piece in securing $417,500 in funding for the Marfa Police Department through the governor's initiative to support law enforcement in border communities. The money will go to support police overtime, salary for an administrative assistant and costs associated with building leases and equipment.

The council also received a call from Justin Till of Lyda Strategies, a political consulting firm, with updates from the third special legislative session that wrapped October 19 in Austin. In reference to the controversy over redistricting roiling in other parts of Texas, he put it simply: "No monumental changes are in store for you guys."

Vaccine mandate

(Continued from page 1)

contagious delta variant is to get vaccinated.

Agencies are required to implement a program to require COVID-19 vaccinations, with few exceptions according to the order. Department of Homeland Security spokespersons stated they are actively working to comply with President Biden's order. An online system has been developed in order for personnel to report their vaccination status. Employees must notify the agency of their status or request reasonable accommodation, including a religious or medical exemption, by November 9.

"Employees who choose to remain unvaccinated for COVID-19 and have not received or have a pending request for a legally required exemption will be subject to discipline, up to and including removal from federal service," DHS spokespeople said.

Within the employee resources provided by DHS to its workers — including those in FEMA, Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and more — the department explains the timeline that employees must meet in order to be in compliance. The deadline to get in compliance is nearer than it seems, since a requirement of full vaccination by November 22 means employees must have their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna, or first shot of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine, by next Thursday, November 8. To reach full vaccination, employees needed to begin their Pfizer doses by October 18, or their Moderna doses by October 11.

The National Border Patrol Council, a union that represents Border Patrol employees across the U.S., including some members in the Big Bend sector, said in late September, "From the moment the EO [executive order] was issued, the National Border Patrol Council (NBPC) instructed its seven attorneys to drop all other matters to study the issue and develop strategies to attack the EO. After spending several days reviewing all pertinent laws, to include all relevant case law, our attorneys determined the EO was legal and that there was no viable avenue of challenge," the NBPC, a labor union for Border Patrol agents, said in a statement released to its members in September.

Big Bend Sector Public Affairs Officer for the CBP Greg Davis stated via email that the agency believes vaccination rates to be higher than officially reported, citing DHS personnel's focus on fieldwork rather than deskwork, and the previous policy of volunteer reporting as possible reasons for underreporting. They said they expect reported vaccination rates to go up in the coming weeks. Davis declined to comment on how the mandate could affect the sector more broadly should vaccine mandates cause vacancies to occur.

Local Congressman Tony Gonzales (TX-23) led public opposition against the vaccine mandate, specifically for Customs and Border Protection agents, in a letter to DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on October 27. A press release from Gonzales' office stated the average hiring process for Border Patrol agents can last over 400 days, followed by 20-plus weeks of training at the Border Patrol Academy. With recruitment rates already at an all-time low, the letter speculated whether the agency would be able to fill vacancies expeditiously.

"Our men and women in the Border Patrol have worked tirelessly to manage the crisis at our southern border," said the letter. "This year especially, they have been subject to extraordinary amounts of mental and physical stress. With morale at an all-time low, this mandate will serve as a last straw for agents who can easily leave the agency for other law enforcement organizations at the state and local level or retire."

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Lipan Apache

(Continued from page 1)

$40,000 and $60,000 — and has since grown. "We've been told we can expect to triple that," Bernstein said on Tuesday, to an audience of county officials and Lipan descendants.

Presidio County's decision to authorize a land transfer back to the Lipan Apache is a groundbreaking shift in government policy toward indigenous people in the era of the Land Back movement, which aims to "return indigenous land to indigenous hands." According to a 2014 figure from the Texas Politics Project, only 4,705 acres of land in the nation's second-largest state has been allotted by the state for indigenous groups.

In the Big Bend, the only other land owned by a tribal organization is Chilicote Ranch outside of Valentine, a 70,000 acre property owned by the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, headquartered in El Paso. The ranch was purchased with earnings from the Pueblo's casino, and is home to the tribe's herd of cattle.

In other parts of the country — like the Black Hills of South Dakota, where the movement originated — Land Back has been marked with tense confrontations between protestors and police. That couldn't be further from the reality on the ground in Presidio, where the radical act of returning land to a tribal government was born from one family's quiet desire to take care of their own and one local government's desire not to pay for it.

Enrique Madrid, a Jumano activist and historian from Redford who has worked to protect the cemetery for decades, couldn't think of a historical precedent. His wife, Ruby Madrid, has had a front row seat to his struggle to represent indigenous interests in regional conflicts, spanning the drug wars to the Trans-Pecos pipeline to the proposed border wall. "Everything was taken from the natives — first the land, then the artifacts," she explained. "Then the people were all but driven out of Texas."

The Lipan Apache arrived in Central Texas around 1600, beating the Spanish to the site of present-day San Antonio by almost a hundred years. Lipan were present for the founding of a mission at Presidio; they were witness to the storming of the Alamo. Despite its important role in the Lone Star state's history, the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas only became formally recognized by Governor Greg Abbott in 2019. Their application for federal recognition, filed in 2012, is still pending.

Federally recognized tribes are regarded as "having a government-to-government relationship with the United States" and are eligible for certain types of funding, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Despite Texas' vast and diverse indigenous history, only three groups are recognized federally and three are recognized by the state.

Many members of the Ornelas and Aguilar families who have been tending to the cemetery for decades are now looking to become official members of the Lipan Tribe. Tribal enrollment is not currently open to the public, but interest in formally recognizing the cemetery has also sparked many people in Presidio to formally recognize their indigenous heritage.

The Lipan Apache Tribal Council has reached out to individuals of these families to personally invite them to apply for membership. "What we've been told by the Lipan representatives is that we never left the tribe, we're just returning to our roots," Hernandez said.



Photo by Hannah Gentiles

Alicia A. Jimenez and Amelia Portillo, whose ancestors are interred in the cemetery, meet with Presidio County Judge Cinderela Guevara at the site.

After a long process of holding family meetings to talk about the future of the site and keeping a close watch on local politics, Hernandez feels a sense of relief. "Now we can move forward with the plans to preserve it," she said.

The fence project has already received a pledge for $10,000 from Amerigroup, which provides funding and health insurance services through the Presidio clinic. "We also want it to be an educational and cultural site, so we're putting a lot of thought and care on how to prevent erosion and also create an environment where people can learn more about the Lipan tribe," Herdandez explained.

The Ornelas and Aguilar families, along with the Big Bend Conservation Alliance and the City of Presidio, are launching a public information campaign to try to retrieve rocks that were taken from the cemetery. As the city expanded around the site, neighbors took cairns from the mound to use in landscaping and construction projects. To the Lipan Apache, the cairns aren't just decorative rocks — they're sentinels that stand watch over the deceased.

Members of the tribal council are planning a visit to Presidio in late November to hold a ceremony to return the cairns to their rightful place. If you know of the location of any of these rocks, you can place them along Market Street in the cemetery grounds. If you would like help transporting the rocks to the site, please text or call Elvira Hermosillo at 281-744-5254 or email elvira@bigbendconservationalliance.org.

"It's an honor for the city," said Mayor John Ferguson at a special ceremony held at city hall and in the cemetery on Tuesday — incidentally, the day many in the area celebrated Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. "I'd like to congratulate the Lipan on the return of their land so it can receive the respect it deserves."

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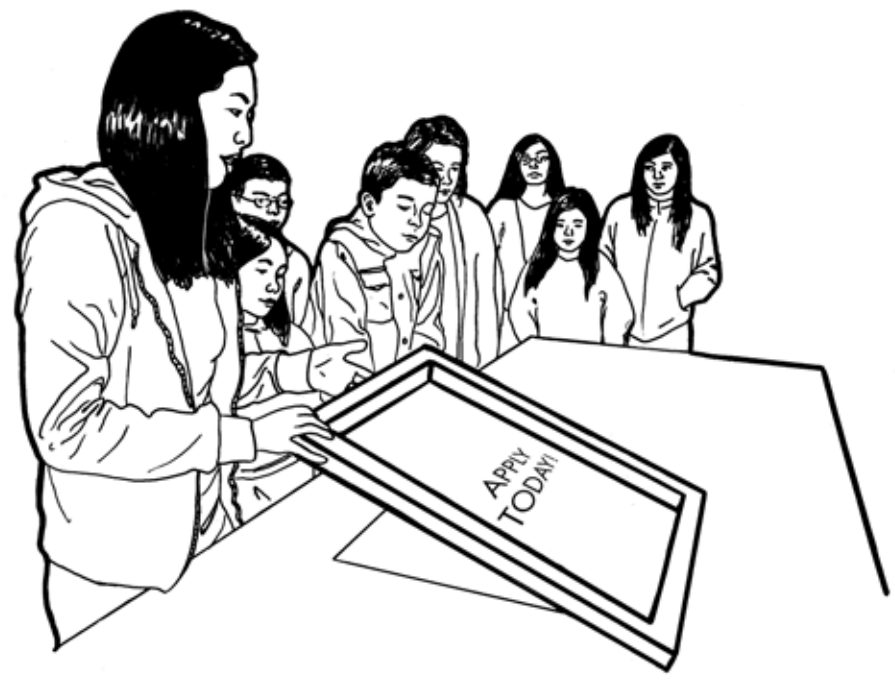
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These 5 to 6 month internships pay $15 per hour plus benefits and include free housing on the museum's grounds.
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Deadline for tri-county residents to apply is December 1, 2021. To learn more, email mbondy@chinati.org or visit our website at www.chinati.org/programs/internships.

Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Movie night under the stars at the Blackwell School was a big hit with 50 guests. Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed a thematic holiday movie, crafts, snacks, and more kids playing in the Blackwell Park than I have ever seen. Thanks especially to our face painters, Adele Powers and Van Hanos, for bringing color and smiles; Michael Roch and the Marfa Fire Department for the loan of their popcorn machine; Para Llevar for some yummy cookies; all the folks at Marfa ISD for sharing the news about the event; Natalie Melendez for popping the corn and brewing the cocoa and wonderfully pulling the event together; and most of all to Laura Cowling, only in town for a short few months as a Chinati intern, who brought her love of children and fun to our door. Laura went above and beyond to envision this event and bring it to life for the South Marfa community and the Blackwell School. Thank you, Laura, for a night we will long remember. And we wish you all a meaningful Dia de los Muertos and treasured memories of all whom we have lost and all who made our lives so rich.

Gretel Enck
President, The Blackwell School Alliance

• • •

Dear Editor,

Sam Karas did a wonderful job of capturing the memorial gathering at the Jeff Davis County Library honoring Lonn Taylor.

This bit of writing was worthy of the man being remembered, and he would have been quite pleased.

Regards.
Adios.

Rick Pratt
Jeff Davis County Historical Commission
Fort Davis

• • •

Dear Editor,

Hooyii (hello). I'm writing to express thanks to everybody who helped, morally, materially or otherwise, in the effort to return the Lipan Apache Cemetery in Presidio to the Lipan Apaches.

This week's historical signing of the deeds to the Tribe by Presidio city and county officials was a dear wish that took a lot of work by a lot of people to make come true. On behalf of the Tribe and the many descendants, Lipans who never forgot, thanks to the community and its elected officials not just for the return of the land, but also for making it a joyful event. Thanks to the recently-arrived neighbors and the legacy families who saw this as a just and good-hearted thing to do. Thanks also to the Jumanos who, like the sentinel stones that still protect the graves in that camposanto, spoke up in support of protecting it over the years. Thanks to the Big Bend Conservation Alliance for demonstrating how preserving native culture is also conserving nature.

As it is the final resting place of Lipan Apaches who migrated to La Junta seeking refuge starting in the 1700s, it was very important to those of us who have ancestors buried that the recognition and transfer of the care of that site be respectful and positive. This happened, and we recognize it for the blessing that it is. We see the 100% support we received all along the way by everybody as refuge. You proved in bunches what I've always been proud to say about us West Texans: We're good people.

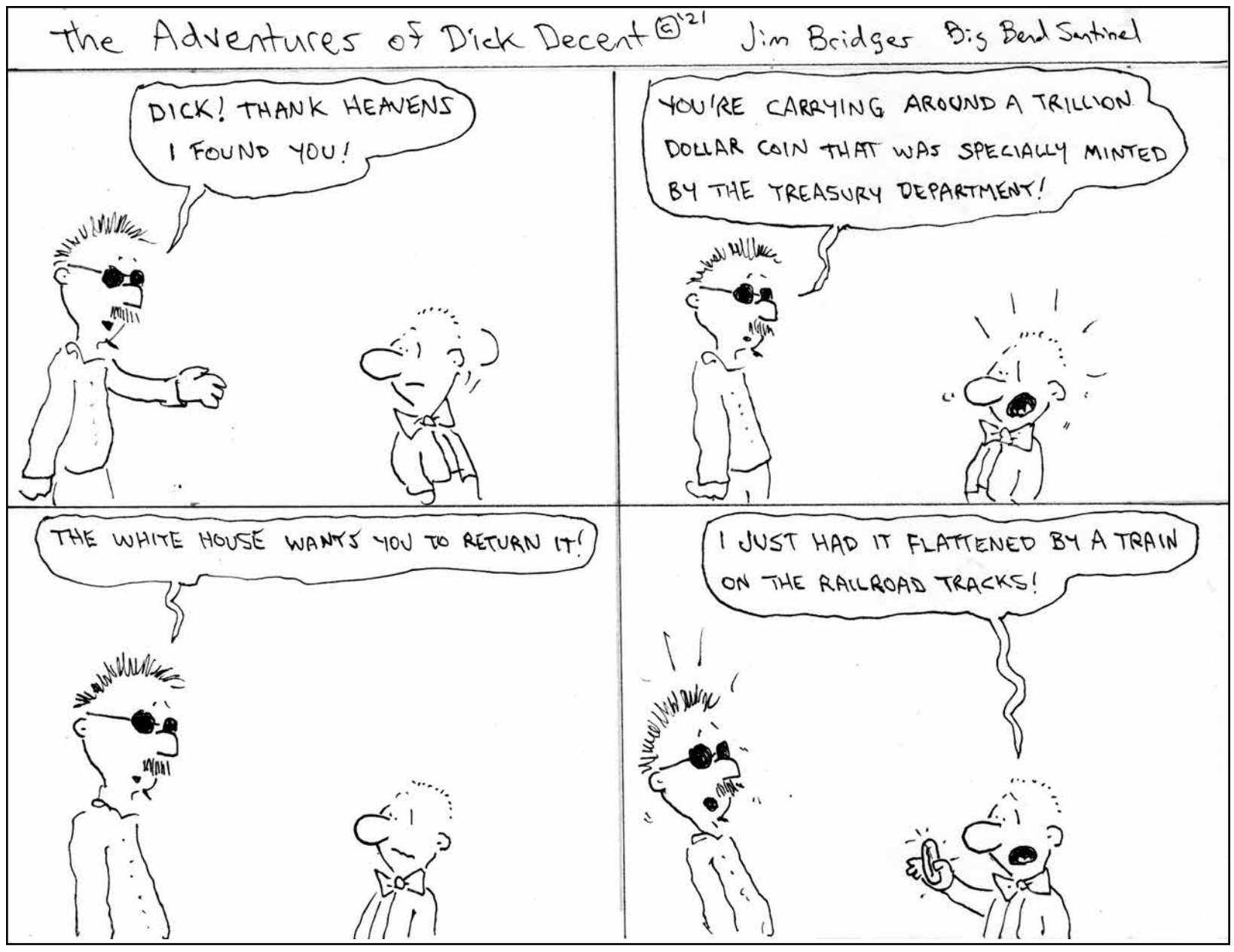
Kasteyo (thanks),

Oscar Rodriguez
Tribal Administrator, Lipan Apache Tribe

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- ***The Big Bend Sentinel Editorial Staff***



STUDIO VISIT

A studio visit with the cartoon drawings of David Tompkins

By INGRID SCHAFFNER

The level of concentration was remarkable. How often do you find yourself in a space full of people quietly pouring over works of art? I never visited David Tompkins' studio, but this introduction to his work had the intimacy of a studio visit. The immersive state was greatly due to the sensitive and workmanly installation, which had been created by the artist's friends at Marfa Book Company on South Kelly Street. The rough adobe interior was entirely occupied by one behemoth table with many sawhorse legs, upon which some 30 drawings were displayed. The act of viewing the works came close to making them — to bending over a table or desk to draw. Standing shoulder-to-shoulder, friends, neighbors and other familiar faces (all protectively masked) moved around the table, quietly studying Tompkins' art and performing another intimacy: one of mourning, through communion with his work, an artist who had recently passed from our small community.

Tompkins was a cartoonist in the richest sense. Technically, a cartoon is what you call the underdrawing for a fresco painting. Historically, cartoons have been animating art with storytelling since people first drew. And as everyone who has picked up a comic knows, cartoons are funny papers. Tompkins was no fresco painter, but one can see from the traces of lines and lots of erasure how carefully he drew in pencil before he started inking with pen and brush. Occasional spots of white-out further indicate Tompkins' graphic precision. His use of tagboard was also in keeping with the cartoonist's craft: when it comes to making art for mechanical reproduction, you want a surface that is smooth and sturdy.

Cartoonists create characters who go on adventures that are dangerous, mysterious, romantic, silly, or, best, an alloy of quests as strong as the artist's imagination. One of my favorite works by Tompkins is an ambitious 16-panel drawing that acted as sort of a key or codex to his pantheon of stories by assembling his various characters, like tiny action figures, on the branches of a giant tree. The way Tompkins turned the structure of the tree — its trunk, boughs, roots and canopy — into one big cartoon space reminded me of Winsor McCay's fantastically composed full-page episodes of Little Nemo in Slumberland. As a tree of knowledge, Tompkins' cartoon reveals an artist deeply grounded in Nordic myth, the golden age of comics, and other more idiosyncratic realms of creation.

There is old Odin hanging from a branch of the tree while his son Balder, the wisest and most beautiful of the gods whom no one can harm, gets shot by an arrow. The monstrous snake Niohöger guards the way to the underworld, which happens to be located at the base of this very tree, the sacred tree, Yggdrasil. All feature in other comics by Tompkins, including one based on the opera spin-off from the Germanic lore, the Ring cycle by Richard Wagner, who we find anxiously occupying a branch with his champion and nemesis, the "superman" philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. Beyond them in the sky, we see a tiny biplane crashing, a reference to German artist Joseph Beuys's self-made creation myth, involving flames, felt, rebirth and yak butter. Appearing as another of Tompkins' cartoon characters, Beuys has a strip in which he talks about art to a dead rabbit — something the shamanistic artist actually did. "Listen, mac, you mind laying off the mumbo jumbo a little?" quips the hard-boiled hare.

Perched on opposite limbs of the great tree are two more of Tompkins'



Photo by Caitlin Murray

David Tompkins' work on display at a memorial exhibition held this summer.

many talking creatures. Hugin and Munin are a pair of crows, who, like their Terrytoons cousins Heckle and Jeckle, are a couple of tricksters. The installation included one full-color newsprint page showing the cartoon that Tompkins self-published. In this episode, Hugin and Munin are dispatched to the underworld by Odin, who wants "news of the doings of the dead." The birds return to report: "Hell stinks and a wolf is gonna eat you."

Acerbic and sweet, Tompkins' sense of humor is the existential glue that holds together A Project of Bird. Impossible to condense, suffice to say these 16 cartoon drawings bring together Albert Einstein, Evel Knieval, Captain Ahab, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Marcel Duchamp, Werner von Braun, Walter Benjamin and Phineas Gage (the historic survivor of a brain-injury; look him up) for one BIG BANG of a story. It ends with a fleet of visionary rocket ships — including a vintage Bird in Space by the sculptor Constantin Brancusi — busting through Earth's layer of gravity and entering the universe. "Thar she blows," intones our "orbital DJ" and cowboy narrator Walt Dangerfield, echoing the nuclear finale of Stanley Kubrick's film Dr. Strangelove. Art Spiegelman's graphic novel Maus and Ad Reinhardt's satiric art world cartoons also feel not far outside the frame of Tompkins's intelligent attempt to make sense of a tragicomically creative modern world.

The most immediate references for us viewers were to be found in Tompkins' full-page Marfa cartoons. How did he manage to hold together on a page such wide affection for his adopted hometown and cynicism about its ever ongoing gentrification? Humor, of course. A speculative future of the town imagines the Quanah Parker Bubble Teahouse, a Wymann's Dog Bakery and Bail House, and, in a nod to the artist Donald Judd — the force who has probably factored most in the town's recent real estate transformation — the Specific Objects Antiques shop. Most instructive is Tompkins' adaptation of a 1965 manual, "How to Make an Adobe Brick," with its elegiac understory simply conveyed by drawings of family photographs of the generations of Mexican Americans who have built this town. Then, like a siren's call to believers and doubters alike, is Tompkins' take on the train. "Clackety-crack. Rickety-wrack: Cold down. Old tracks," the toon begins. "Soft morning, Marfa! Happy new year, little town," it ends.

This afternoon, I went with Alan Ruiz, who is currently the artist in residence at Chinati, to pay a visit to Rosario and Robert Halpern. As the former owners of The Big Bend Sentinel, the Halperns shed light on Tompkins as a contributor to the paper, whose talent they recognized by publishing his cartoons throughout the aughts. I would also like to thank Jeff and Mark Tompkins for illuminating their brother's work as a cartoonist. I look forward to returning to this column after a holiday hiatus.

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

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HIGH DESERT SKETCHES

Save our children from the Taliban

By GEORGE A. COVINGTON



We held the Rio Grande, not one Taliban crossed while JoAnn, Nicola, and I were on guard.

No, the Taliban isn't coming. They are too busy back in Afghanistan trying to prevent their mosque from being blown up by radicals who don't believe the Taliban are radical enough. The photoshopped photo I'm using as art this week is of two of my first assistants to help me with this column.

The danger to our children, particularly the poor, comes from within and always has. For more than half a century, studies have shown that poor children that are placed in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs earn more money as adults and have fewer brushes with the law than poor children who do not have the same exposure. Too often in the past, society has written off poor children instead of making programs that give them the opportunity they need to succeed.

Although I was born into poverty, the happiest three years of my life were spent in a housing project with my grandmother and teenage aunt and uncle. Despite poverty and a 1/10th normal vision that could not be corrected, I managed to make it through one of the best journalism schools and best law schools in the country. I even became a college professor, although most children born with my conditions did not make it. You might say I made it from the housing project to the White House as special assistant to the vice president of the United States for disability policy. My point is that this country has for too long ignored what could have been a valuable resource, our poor children and childcare.

We've all heard the stories: Mothers who return to work less than two weeks after giving birth. Parents scrimping and saving in order to afford childcare, which now costs more than in-state college tuition or even rent in some places. Workers without sick leave who are forced to forgo pay to take care of a sick child. Such is the reality for millions of families in the United States.

Many policymakers don't think to address this lack of support for children and working parents, assuming it is an individual responsibility. But once we look at other wealthy countries it's clear that the United States is alone in this sentiment, spending less than almost all other developed countries.

The United States ranks 30th out of 33 member nations of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in public spending on families and children, which includes policies such as child payments and allowances, parental leave benefits, and childcare support.

In terms of cash benefits, which provides parents the most flexibility in how to provide for their children, the United States ranks last.

Only 28 percent of children ages 0-2 in the United States are enrolled in formal care, far behind most other advanced economies.

President Biden has proposed legislation that would save most American families more than half of their spending on childcare, deliver two years of free preschool for every 3- and 4-year-old in America, give more than 35 million families a major tax cut by extending the expanded Child Tax Credit, and expand access to high-quality home care for older Americans and people with disabilities. His proposals will reduce premiums for more than 9 million Americans by extending the expanded Premium Tax Credit, deliver healthcare coverage to up to 4 million uninsured people in states that have locked them out of Medicaid (including Texas), and help older Americans access affordable hearing care by expanding Medicare. He claims that his legislation will make the single largest and most comprehensive investment in affordable housing in history. It will expand access to affordable, high-quality education beyond high school, and cut taxes for 17 million low-wage workers by extending the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit. President Biden's plan for social reform would start us on the road to matching other industrialized nations.

George A. Covington has worked in the fields of law, education, journalism and disability rights. He considers himself retired from every one of them with the possible exception of journalism. He is a graduate of the University of Texas schools of Journalism and Law. He moved to West Texas – Alpine - in 1997 after a 20-year career in Washington, D.C. where he once served on the staff of the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (Democrat) and shortly thereafter served as Special Assistant to the Vice President of the United States (Republican) 1989 to 1993.

OUR WATER MATTERS

Groundwater districts: Local control, part of a greater whole

By TREY GERFERS
trey.pcuwcd@gmail.com

As we learned in an earlier issue of "Our Water Matters," the Texas Supreme Court established groundwater as a property right in the East Decision of 1904. Also known as the "rule of capture," this decision set the stage for conflict between neighbors because it essentially allows a landowner to pump as much groundwater as the landowner chooses, without liability to neighbors who claim that the pumping has depleted their wells.

In the wake of state-wide droughts in 1909 and 1917, the Legislature amended the state Constitution to shore up its authority over the protection of the state's natural resources, including water. By 1949, lawmakers decided that the most agreeable way to manage the conflicts between groundwater users was to establish groundwater conservation districts, or GCDs, as the preferred method of groundwater management because they provide for local control by those most familiar with the resource and most affected by any regulation. However, by 1996, only 34 groundwater conservation districts had been created. Despite a predictable cycle of increased attention to water issues during and after the state's frequent dry spells, Texas continued to enjoy enough water resources to meet demand and avoid major conflicts between groundwater users, and this seemed to obviate the need for more GCDs.

That all changed in 1997 with Senate Bill 1, or SB1, an omnibus bill aimed specifically at managing water issues. This would have tremendous impacts on groundwater because SB1 marked a historic initial step toward regional, state-wide water planning by setting up a system of regional planning groups to look at surface and groundwater resources and treat the state as a whole. It also mandated additional data collection to close the many gaps that made it difficult, if not impossible, to plan for the state's future water needs.

SB1 also expanded the regulatory power of individual districts to provide for a more regionalized, bottom-up approach to planning that is better suited to managing individual aquifers, and consolidated the laws governing GCDs into Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code. Perhaps most importantly, the bill increased the statutory authority of GCDs to manage groundwater withdrawals and required landowners to obtain permits for newly drilled water wells. Permitting processes could require landowners to report their use and specify the purpose of the groundwater being withdrawn.

Other legislation, including SB2 in 2001 and SB660 in 2011, further clarified the issues surrounding groundwater management and planning. For example, SB660 defined the term "desired future condition," or "DFC," as "a quantitative description … of the desired condition of the groundwater resources in a management area at one or more specified future times … [to] provide a balance between the highest practicable level of groundwater production and the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste …"

In practice, GCDs are organized into so-called groundwater management areas, or GMAs, that roughly follow a region's aquifers. The GMAs work with consultants to parse the available data and create desired future conditions that essentially define an agreed level of drawdown in each aquifer over a 50-year period. The DFCs are defined and adopted in 5-year cycles and published in explanatory reports after a 90-day public comment period. These reports are submitted for approval to the Texas Water Development Board and, once approved, the DFCs are intended to guide the planning and permitting decisions of the groundwater conservation districts.

Although the purpose of SB1 and subsequent legislation was to implement groundwater planning where there had previously been none, there has been no targeted legislative attempt to change the rule of capture. However, as SB1's biggest supporter, Lt. Governor Bob Bullock stated at the time "… As urban and industrial water demand continues to grow, these users will be looking for alternate sources of water to satisfy their needs. When this happens, and property owners are faced with the prospect of a large water pumper depleting their groundwater supplies, property owners may begin considering additional ways to protect their right to use the groundwater."

These words would prove prophetic, as the number of groundwater conservation districts increased from just 34 in 1996 to 100 today, covering over half of the total land area of Texas and almost 90% of groundwater produced. GCDs remain the most effective means under the law for managing the inevitable conflict not only among existing users within a region, but also for handling conflicts that arise when outside interests come a-knocking. Indeed, many groundwater conservation districts have been created in response to a specific threat to local landowners, such as a large pumper or an export scheme.

Be on the lookout for future issues of "Our Water Matters," where we will explore the history of how individual GCDs within our region came into existence.

Are you interested in getting more involved in groundwater issues? The Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District (PCUWCD) is looking to hire a part-time general manager and the Brewster County Groundwater Conservation District is seeking a part-time assistant general manager. No background in groundwater is required. Corresponding training is available. The PCUWCD is also looking for a Presidio County resident to serve on our board and the Far West Texas Regional Planning Group has several volunteer positions available. Contact me at the email address above for further details.

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.

la fundación the CHINATI foundation

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

Open to the public Thursday – Saturday

Guided Tours of the work of Donald Judd
Outdoor Self-guided Walking Tours

Reservations are required and space is limited.
Tickets are timed.

Experience the connection between art, architecture, and the land unique to Chinati. The hour-long guided tour covers Judd's art and architecture, including the Artillery Sheds. The walking tour path follows along Judd's 15 untitled works in concrete, covers 1.6 miles, takes approximately 1½ hours to complete, and is best enjoyed wearing sturdy shoes.

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

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

JUDD

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

For the safety of everyone, masks and social distancing are required. Group capacity is limited.

La Mansana de Chinati/The Block
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
11:00am–12:45pm
4:30–6:15pm

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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Community

Emerging wineries aim to put Davis Mountains on the map as Texas' premiere grape growing region

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY — Maura and Dan Sharp knew they made the right decision to purchase the old vineyard at Blue Mountain when they first tasted a bottle of red wine produced years earlier on the land. The wine, made by Mamie "Nell" Weisbach, was nearly impossible to come by since wine had not been produced on the property since the early 2000s, but Weisbach's son had a small stash of bottles in his garage he'd sent the Sharps, not thinking they intended to drink it.

"The wines were phenomenal. They still had freshness and acidity, they definitely were an aged wine," said Maura. "Everything was all integrated, like the fruit and the acidity, all of these earthy flavors. Like a stew that cooks on the stove all day, it all becomes one better than the sum of its parts."

In its heyday, Blue Mountain Winery had a cult following, and now the Sharps understood why.

"I can't explain to you the relief I felt when I tasted the wine. Because we basically bet the farm on this," Dan laughs.

The Sharps, having done their research on grape growing in Texas, were on the hunt for a property in the Davis Mountains region in 2018 when their broker casually mentioned the old Blue Mountain Vineyard was for sale. Not yet on the market, they went by to check out the 1,000 acre spread — where the old vineyard languished long dead, its twisted vines no longer bearing fruit — and decided to put an offer on the land.

They cashed out their 401ks, wrote up a business plan and presented their best offer to the descendants of Weisbach. It was accepted. From there, they set out to live full time on the property and start cultivating a world-class vineyard. They are in good company; the area seems to be experiencing a renaissance as of late, said Maura, and is gaining a wider reputation as a bonafide grape-growing region.

"We know of other people looking to grow grapes out here, or who are getting started in the early phases of their projects. I'm proud of what we do, but I'm proud of the whole region. I think we have a ton of potential to continue to grow this industry out here. It feels, even though people have been doing it out here for a long time commercially, it feels like a bit of a resurgence lately and there's a lot of energy around it," said Maura.

Winemaking on the Sharp's property dates back to the '70s when a woman named Gretchen Glasscock researched extensively and discovered the Davis Mountains, with its nutrient rich, volcanic soil and cool summers, would be the ideal place to grow grapes in Texas.

The Davis Mountains became a designated American Viticultural Area (AVA), one of eight grape-growing regions in Texas, officially in 1998. Three vineyards now nest in the southern foothills of the Davis Mountains. The area receives cooler temperatures and more rainfall than the surrounding Chihuahuan Desert, and elevations range from 4,500 to 8,300 feet above sea level. The AVA label symbolizes the quality, reputation and distinguishing features of grapes grown within the region. In order for a specific AVA to be mentioned on the label, 85% of the wine must be from grapes grown in the region. This distinction allows wine makers to designate the AVA on their bottle — like Sonoma, Willamette Valley and Napa Valley. Maura said despite the AVA distinction, all wines from the Davis Mountains will taste differently, a quality in wine referred to as "terroir."

The pair chose to plant their vineyard at the foothills of Blue Mountain, a different site than the previous vineyard. Their vines, exclusively cabernet sauvignon, extend 2.5 acres with the intent to eventually occupy 10 acres.

"One of the most important things in grape growing, and why I think Davis Mountains AVA has so much potential for really exceptional world class wine, is because we do have that big shift in temperature between day and night," said Maura. "The cool temperatures at night are the recovery for the vines. They're working really hard all day growing, putting their energy into fruit when it's a fruit bearing season, and going through their growth cycle. At night they need to chill out and recover."

The Sharps, with the exception of their vineyard weather station, have kept operations manual and low tech in an effort to spend as much time as possible with the vines. They pull pests from vines by hand, do not use herbicides, and cultivate native plants. Unlike some wines which are chemically manipulated, the Sharps aim to produce a truly minimal intervention wine. As the popular saying in winemaking goes, "the best fertilizer for a vineyard is the grape grower's footsteps."

Conservation is top of mind for the Sharps — they intend to plant only 1% of their land and leave the rest for the native wildlife. They've partnered with Borderlands Research Institute to study the Montezuma quail on their property, and have been working with a Sul Ross range management student in the vineyard. They hope to continue to share their space with students to help educate them on conservation and sustainable agriculture. In keeping with the belief that all labor on a vineyard is skilled labor, the couple intends to hire full-time employees eventually to help run the business.

September and October were busy months at The Vineyard at Blue Mountain. Although their grapes will not be ready for a real commercial harvest for at least another year, the duo chose to do an experimental harvest. They also installed hail netting to help protect vines from severe weather and hungry birds. The couple, in addition to their roles on the ranch, both work day jobs as lawyers.

"This was a hard season. We were tired a lot. Just to get out of bed on a weekend, when you really want to have a weekend, but you can't because the vines need attention. That motivates you, because you need to go do that thing, because it's going to show up in the wine one day when you finally make it in the winery," said Maura.

They have plans to renovate the preexisting winery on their property, which will have a separate name from the vineyard and involve their winemaking partner Ben Calais of Calais Winery and French Connection Wine, both located in Hye, Texas. They will operate a "true estate winery," meaning they will not sell their grapes or buy from other vendors, and will offer private tastings. Their first release will likely not be until 2023; Maura jokes that by the time her 17-year-old niece graduates from college, she'll have a bottle to celebrate. In order to give back to the community, they hope to partner with other grape growers to produce a Big Bend region charity wine.

One of the Sharp's neighbors in the Davis Mountains AVA is Chateau Wright, which operates Jack Rabbit Winery and Blue Mountain Trail Vineyard, established in 2012. Adam White, co-owner, agreed interest in the locale has recently gained momentum.

"I think a lot of people are getting excited about it. You can see there's several new vineyards going in. It's been really a beautiful thing for me to see, because I really want a lot more going on in the area. It's never going to be Napa Valley or anything like that, but it could be the area where most noteworthy wines in Texas are produced or at least where the grapes are farmed," said White.

Tempranillo, grenache and cabernet sauvignon grape varieties fill the rows of the 16-acre vineyard. Elsewhere on the property lies a winery, a tasting patio that doubles as a crush pad for grapes, accommodations for visiting laborers and a food truck. Due to the tight labor market locally, Chateau Wright frequently hosts paid workers from websites like WWOOF and Workaway who stay on the property and work the harvests.

White said he most identifies with regenerative farming practices and the area has allowed for them to run an almost all-organic program. Chateau Wright purchases Malbec grapes from local grape grower Bobby Roberts and sells the lion's share of their cabernet sauvignon grapes to Calais, the Sharps' winemaking partner and Hye vineyard operator. They bottle and sell a range of wine from rosés to rieslings. They try to keep their wine accessible and fair priced, said White.

"We're not big fans of the idea that an average person can't afford to buy a bottle and enjoy it," said White.

Wine is made on site at the winery, which recently opened to the public at the start of the pandemic and is now solely hosting outdoor tastings. They see repeat local visitors and hope to keep a casual, fun environment, said White.

"We're pretty laid back in how we do our tastings," said White. "We're not trying to be fancy, we just want to offer you a good glass of wine and have you enjoy it without any stress."

Just up the road from Chateau Wright, and next to the Sharps, another burgeoning vineyard is putting down roots in the Davis Mountains AVA. Ricky Taylor, who runs Alta Marfa with wife Katie Jablonski, purchased 30 acres in 2016 and began experimenting with grape growing techniques and varieties. Taylor did not have a formal background in winemaking nor grape growing, but wanted to utilize his can-do spirit to start a venture that would allow him to work for himself and spend more time outdoors. During the pandemic, Taylor quit his office job in Houston and moved to the area full-time with Jablonski to focus on making Alta Marfa a reality.

After a few failed attempts to establish a winery in the region, Taylor finally secured a space in Marfa he plans to open to the public by the end of 2021. They are still in the process of defining the winery space, but it will likely be open by appointment for tastings, with potential to grow to include events and food.

At their vineyard in the Davis Mountains, Taylor has three acres of vines planted, including many Portuguese red varieties. Alta Marfa's vineyard will develop for another two to six years before Taylor will use grapes produced there to make wine.

Despite Texas' climate variation and abundance of vineyards, Taylor said he was uninspired by wines being made in the state and sought to create a wine-focused, small production enterprise. From visiting Texas wineries, he noticed most were primarily focused on hospitality rather than the wine itself, and many wines being produced were geared toward a predictable American palette. Taylor wanted to make a low alcohol, acid-driven, refreshing wine anyone could appreciate.

"I wanted to make wine that is just delicious whether or not you know about wine," said Taylor.

Taylor started building an audience via Instagram and the Alta Marfa blog — an honest, amusing diary of their vineyard-planting journey through the years, rich with photographs of wildlife and portraits of baby vines. In addition to the compelling backdrop of Blue Mountain, audiences found it refreshing to see a person making wine versus faceless corporations, he said.

"Part of the story is me, part of the story is this place. The story is a window, it's like reality TV. It's feeling like you're participating in a weird way," Taylor said. "Wine has the physical wine that you drink, and it has the story that goes along with it. And you enjoy both of those things."

Each year Alta Marfa gradually scales up their wine-making efforts. In 2019 they started small by producing 10 cases of wine and selling the product in Austin, Houston and Marfa. In 2020, using grapes they purchased from Noisy Water Vineyards in New Mexico, Taylor produced 250 cases. Most recently, their 2021 batch amounted to 1,500 cases, which will soon move to the new winery space in Marfa. Taylor has been shipping orders all over the country, and will continue to do so while operating a local tasting room.

Hesitant to prescribe labels to the wine Alta Marfa makes, Taylor said one of his goals for the future is to produce wine with no herbicides or pesticide residue. Designations like "organic" and "natural" come pretty close to what Taylor is trying to achieve, and he hopes to work with others to push the industry forward to more natural processes and products.

Taylor has not disrupted the land by tilling, and preserves native grasses and plants for biodiversity. Unlike the other vineyards which have chosen to trellis their vines, Taylor opted to grow his vines on metal T posts which go into the ground with relative ease and withstand harsh weather.

"What works in California, or in Oregon, or in France, a lot of things apply here, but a lot of things do not. In order to do it at a very high level, whoever you are, you're just gonna have to trial and error, because sometimes you have to do what makes sense here. And that's going to be just a little different than anywhere else," said Taylor.

Because their land in the Davis Mountains is located near residential homes, the couple decided to build a spot for visitors in Marfa, and hopes new developments will also be mindful of their neighbors. Taylor anticipates many more vineyards will populate the Davis Mountains soon, but sees the growth as an opportunity for collaboration.

"It's better for all of us if there's more people, one, because of spreading the word, but also just because it's nice to have neighbors who are in the same boat as you and you can help each other and share," Taylor said. "Ten years from now, there's going to be more than 10 vineyards here. I would bet on it."

Artwalk will finally make its return this month

ALPINE — Alpine's Artwalk is finally slated to return to its usual programming this month, announcing the 2021 event will take place November 19 and 20 this year.

Alpine's Gallery Night, Inc. Board of Directors announced their 28th annual Artwalk in Alpine event. "We are excited to announce that Tim Roberts will be the honored artist this year and will have his show at the Kishmish Plaza and at Catch Light Gallery," said John Davis, president of Alpine's Gallery Night, Inc.

This year's event will have 13 official locations, over 20 art vendors at the Kishmish Plaza, eight art vendors on 5th street, food vendors at the train depot parking lot, a music stage at 5th street and Holland Avenue, and music at the Holland Hotel and the Kiowa Gallery Hideout.

The Alpine Public Library will have the silent auction and "buy it now" at Kiowa Gallery this year.

Artwalk 2020, which had been set for last November, was postponed to the spring when coronavirus cases spiked last fall. In the spring, the organization once again pushed their event, saying, "After closely reviewing the new information on the rising cases of COVID-19 that are being reported in El Paso and Midland/Odessa the Board felt like it is too risky to invite over 9,000 attendees to come to Alpine during our event. Our main concern is the health of our community." With case numbers declining after a spike driven by the delta variant earlier this year, the board finally reached consensus to go forward with the outdoor event.

For more information about this event and the music schedule check out their website www.artwalkalpine.com or visit their Facebook page: ArtWalk Alpine.



August Ezra Crow-Kabat

August Ezra Crow-Kabat was born October 27, 2021, to parents Maisie Crow and Max Kabat of Marfa, both of whom think he hung the moon. August made his entry into this world in dramatic fashion at 4:53 p.m., weighing 7 lbs 4.4 oz and measuring 19.76 inches. Excited grandparents are Becky and David Crow of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Cindy and Jeff Kabat of Pound Ridge, New York.

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Marfa celebrates Día de los Muertos, honoring community members who have passed away

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — This week, many Marfa residents observed the traditional Mexican holiday Día de los Muertos to pay their respects and remember family, friends and the unknown or forgotten who have died.

Ofrendas at the Capri, Marfa Open and Marfa Studio of Arts welcomed visitors, who came to place candles, photographs, flowers, precious items and favorite foods in honor of those who have passed away.

Vicente Celis, a Marfa resident who has assembled an ofrenda at the Capri since 2017, said that along with the usual visits, this year there were people who came all three nights, spending extra time with the photos of loved ones.

Celis' ofrenda is composed of nine elements, including four rectangular altars, "Each to put offerings to family, children and pets, the unknown or forgotten and friends," he explained. Celis, with the help of a handful of community members, built the ofrenda out of organic materials.

Four segments representing water, air, dirt and fire lie between the altars, and in the center is the ninth element, a clay pot filled with water, marigolds and a candle, sitting on the husky remains of an agave. "It's an old dead agave, but we brought it back to life," Celis said.

"They come alive when people put pictures, candles and flowers," Celis said of the ofrenda. On the altars, some leave behind letters or poems to their late loved ones. Others come and speak. This year, students visited the ofrenda and wished happiness to Marfa teacher Sophia Sullivan who was killed in 2018, and let her know they were doing well.

Marfa resident Sandro Canovas, who built the ofrenda at Marfa Open this year, at first faced frustration when the $300 of traditional marigold flowers he wanted to bring to the ofrenda were indefinitely held up at the U.S.-Mexico border, as customs inspected them for bugs and quibbled about the amount of soil attached to the roots.

The flowers never made it to the ofrenda, but Canovas said what was most important to him this year "was that the community had a space to grieve and honor the members of the community that passed in the last year because of COVID or the ones that passed recently." At both ofrendas, photos of community members like Jeffrey Hester, Ben Castro and Zandralina Acosta, who have recently passed away, were placed on the altars.

"It was really beautiful to see in the last couple of days of the ofrenda that people that were not Mexican or Mexican Americans took the invitation to bring the photos of their loved ones in the altar and spend quite a bit of time there with them," Canovas added.

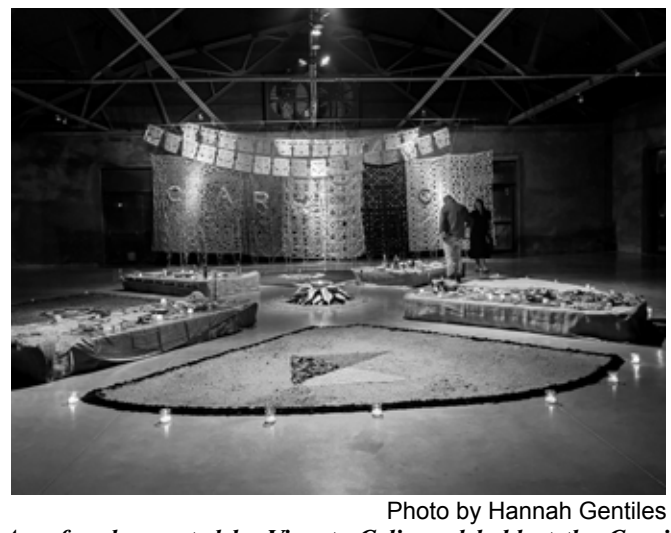


Photo by Hannah Gentiles

An ofrenda created by Vicente Celis and held at the Capri marked Día de los Muertos and commemorated the lives of many Marfa loved ones this year.

"This year to me was very special because we have lost so many dear friends," said Celis. "I was very close to Jeff Hester. I felt special, because we would cook together, we would do trips, and we'd hang out very nicely. But then I realized that he did that with everybody. But to me, he was very dear."

Last time Celis made an altar, in 2019, Hester and Christy Miller helped him deconstruct the entire ofrenda when the event was over.

In homage to Hester, who was in a coma when the ofrenda was assembled, Celis glued the words "CARRY ON" in white onto the papel picado that covered the back wall. It was a phrase Hester often said in parting. When Miller told Celis of Hester's passing on November 1, he pasted marigold petals to the words for his late friend.

"It's a beautiful tradition that I hope we can start to understand a little bit more," Celis said. While he grew up making altars with his family, as he met indigenous people, he learned of the difference between an altar and an ofrenda. "An altar implies sacrifice and this is not about sacrifice. Contrary to what we've been told, ancient people from this land did not do sacrifices. There's no concept of sacrifice in nahuatl," he said. Instead, "It's about life and death."

Animal rescuers face dire challenges in Far West Texas. Now they're forming a coalition to fight together.

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

FAR WEST TEXAS — For decades, small nonprofits, local governments, veterinarians and residents volunteering their time have each worked in Far West Texas to address the overpopulation of stray animals through sheltering, vaccinating, spay and neutering and transporting them to willing owners.

Despite all the effort, pet populations have stayed high, veterinary capacity is stretched, and costs of spay and neuter prove prohibitive to pet owners who want the procedure but just can't afford it. In recent months, a couple organizations have brought "Big Bend Big Fix" events, spaying and neutering over 100 animals in a matter of days; still, the waiting list for the next event is so long that the event likely won't need to be publicly advertised.

As the executive director of the Alpine Humane Society (AHS) and a friend to animals across West Texas, Fort Davis resident Jeanine Bishop was well informed on the challenges animal advocacy groups in the Big Bend are up against, and she was looking for a solution.

Bishop had already formed relationships with a handful of local women who have spearheaded efforts individually to rescue stray animals and find homes for them — even if it means shipping the animals on transport vans to far-off states like Oregon and Wisconsin.

One of the biggest challenges each faced was accessing affordable and timely spay and neuter services, sometimes coming up against a six-week wait time to get animals into the vet's office for the procedure. When the only veterinarian in Terlingua retired, it left an even bigger hole in the animal safety net. The animal advocates needed more hands on deck.

Bishop had recently linked the Jeff Davis County's Library Friends Group and food pantry together to help Jeff Davis County residents access healthcare, food and education resources under the banner of Mobile Comunidad, and she realized that uniting disparate groups toward the same effort was suddenly yielding a steady stream of grant funding.

With the nonprofit 501(c)3 status of the AHS, she set off to replicate the Mobile Comunidad's success, but this time in the name of animal welfare. The Far West Texas Animal Coalition was born, connecting a stunning number of animal welfare groups together.

The coalition will range from Presidio County to Sanderson, up to Fort Stockton, over to Balmorhea and all in between, potentially also including the underserved areas of Van Horn and Pecos. Joining the coalition so far are Alpine Humane Society, Jethro Homeward Bound Pets, Terlingua's The Underground Dog, the Friends of the Terrell County Animal Shelter, Cherished Pets Animal Rescue of Fort Stockton, the Marathon Animal Shelter, independent rescuers in Balmorhea, Municipal shelters in the region, Grand Companions in Fort Davis and Big Bend Pets of Alpine.

"Each one of us is bringing critical missions that need to be addressed and working together to collaborate to strive for a holistic solution," said Laura Langham, the founder and executive director of Grand Companions.

The biggest challenge Grand Companions faces at the moment, Langham said, is that they simply aren't equipped to handle the deluge of requests for help they receive on a daily basis. She said it is disheartening, overwhelming and mentally destabilizing to have people catching strays and calling her organization for help, only to have to say they don't have any resources to assist them. When the animal ends up back on the street instead of being rescued, "It's debilitating," to organizations like hers, "because all of us are helping where we can, but none of us even make a dent in the need," Langham said. "We only have so many resources and so much space. It's soul-sucking."

She called animal control officers the unsung heroes, for taking up the cause, caring for animals, and then having to euthanize them when they get sick or the shelter fills up and there's nowhere else for the animals to go. "Nobody sees it or understands the devastating effect it has on these people in rescue."

It's because of all the hardships mentioned that Langham is so optimistic about the new coalition. "From my perspective this is one of the most exciting things that's happened in the Far West Texas area, in that I don't think the public understands the critical need or what's going on behind the scenes in the world of pet rescue, and this brings so many key players together to try and bring — as a whole — a solution to the table," said Langham.

The new Far West Texas Animal Coalition wants to help subsidize spay and neuter costs to make it more affordable for anyone who wants it. They hope to get large sources of funding from organizations or foundations so they can buy animal medication, vaccines, vet care supplies and more in bulk. They've discussed mobile clinics, grants and ways to create additional shelter space. They're also considering hiring their own veterinarian, perhaps a previously retired one, for pop-up clinics or a young college graduate with student debt that the coalition could help pay off in exchange for choosing to work in the area.

The group hopes to access better funding sources together than they can apart. "We need somebody that recognizes this problem on the scale it exists," Bishop said.

With so many players on board, the group is now moving forward with a fundraising push, launching Monday, November 8, and leading up to the Far West Texas Rescue Giving Day on Friday, November 19. To learn more, visit the individual groups Facebook pages, Bishop said, or call 432-837-2532.

Checks can be made out to Alpine Humane Society, which is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, and donors can designate which rescue group they wish to support or write in "use my donation where needed most" in the memo line. They can also get a tax receipt from AHS for the donation. The mailing address is P.O. Box 1464, Alpine, TX 79831.

OBITUARIES



Castro

Surrounded by his loving family, **Benjamin Castro** passed away peacefully at Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo, Texas, on October 29, 2021, at the young age of 32.

Ben was an integral part of the Marfa community and will be dearly missed by those who knew him. Ben never met a stranger and was sincerely kind to everyone. He always had a way of saying the right thing. The lives of those he touched were made better by his presence, and we will feel the void left by his passing. To know Ben is to know that he was nothing but kind, loving and caring.

Benjamin David Castro was born on March 7, 1989, in Fort Huachuca, Arizona, to Mary Alice Hughes and Davey Castro. Benjamin was raised primarily in Marfa and is a 2007 graduate of Marfa High School. He attended Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. After his studies, Ben enjoyed traveling and living life to the fullest. Ben resided in El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, Los Angeles and had recently returned to Marfa. He was employed by Hotel Saint George where he was a bartender.

Other than travelling, Ben enjoyed dancing and spending time with his family and friends. Ben's love of dancing was evident, as he was often seen dancing at Planet Marfa with his beloved Aunt Yolanda and many others. Recently, Ben enjoyed Sunday afternoons at the Chateau Wright vineyard, sampling wines with his family. Ben had an affinity for fine wines and chocolates.

Benjamin is survived by his parents, Mary Alice Hughes (Thomas) and Davey Castro (Irene), and loving siblings Elizabeth Gandy (Tucker), Javier Castro (Samantha) and Heather Migura (Chris). Ben is also survived by his nephew Nathan and his nieces Chevy, Madison and Emily Alicia, whom he dearly loved. Benjamin leaves behind his beloved grandmother, Alicia Morales. Ben was preceded in death by his brother Eric Hughes; his grandmother, Elvira Castro; and his grandfathers, Moses Castro and Benjamin Morales.

A celebration of life will be held for Ben at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church at 101 E Washington St. in Marfa on November 8, 2021, at 3 p.m. Visitation will precede the service from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the same location. A late luncheon will be held after the ceremony at Saint George Hall at 113 E El Paso St in Marfa from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Honorary pallbearers will be Diego Jurado, Robert Morales, Isabella Morales, Chelsea Rios, Tucker Gandy, Jason Russo, Joel Valladares, John Aaron Castro, Nathan Serrano and Ryan Leos.

• • •

Jeffrey Todd Hester passed away at the age of 53 on Monday, November 1, 2021. A full obituary and details on arrangements will follow next week.

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- Fighting against policies that burden working Texans with higher prices and higher taxes
- Backing law enforcement and ensuring our veterans get the benefits they deserve

Sign up for Tony's newsletter by visiting tonygonzalesforcongress.com

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Community

10 years of persistence and a coconut pecan praline recipe led Fort Davis woman to 2nd-place finish at Texas State Fair

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

DALLAS — Fort Davis baker Barbara Curry said that when she heard the judges at the Texas State Fair in Dallas name her coconut pecan pralines the second best in the state, she "just went bonkers with excitement."

For about 10 years, Curry has made a point to try and try again, submitting a variety of pies, breads, cheeses and confections to the state fair's competitions. She was shocked when her earliest foray — homemade caramels based on her mother's recipe — came in third place the first year she entered.

"My mom was a baker," Curry said. "She wasn't the best in the world at cooking regular food, but boy could she make candy and cakes. I feel like I'm kind of channeling my mom when I do this."

That first taste of victory led her to another third-place win in 2012 for a coconut cream pie, and again in 2019 with a boozy bourbon chocolate chess pie. In the years in between, she had some breads that didn't take the cake and a particularly mix-reviewed, allspice-infused pimento cheese that contorted one stoic-faced judge's face into a look of disgust, as Curry recalled with a laugh. "She got the most horrible look on her face, and I'm sitting there cracking up, because it was just so funny."

"It's just fun," Curry said of her yearly entry into the fair, before tacking on a caveat. "I mean some people are out for blood, are highly competitive and bring their entries in in a wagon," she said. That's just not her style, though. Instead, her favorite part of the fair is the camaraderie that she's found between bakers in the stands.

Despite nearly a decade of entries, a higher prize than third place had evaded Curry's grasp until 2021 rolled around. The theme of the fair this year was "Howdy, folks!" welcoming back visitors from Texas and beyond to the Dallas fairgrounds after the COVID-19 pandemic led to the fair's 2020 event being canceled.



Photo courtesy of Barbara Curry

Barbara Curry's covetable coconut pecan praline cookies won high praise at the Texas State Fair.

Curry, a retired professor from Dallas, became a full-time Fort Davis resident during the pandemic, settling in as a full-time volunteer at the Fort Davis National Historic Site. But her move away from Dallas and a year off from the fair didn't deter her from throwing her baked goods into the ring once again when the fair reopened to the public.

This year, she found the recipe for her pralines on the internet. "They don't have to be original recipes; the judges just look at how you interpret it," she explained. Once Curry picks a recipe for the year, she gets busy tweaking it, hoping to perfect it for judgement.

On the floor of the fair, the judges sit in the middle of a circle and runners ferry trays of goodies, along with the recipes to accompany them. Usually stone faced, the judges sample the treats and have the runners read the recipes aloud, considering each morsel. "They have to have real poker faces, they can't even give you a hint of what they might be thinking," she said, but, she added, "I always feel like if they take a second taste that's a good thing."

Describing her prizewinning coconut pecan pralines, Curry said, "They're not the chewy kind, they're more crispy and sugary. They will make your teeth hurt, they're so sweet." She said she often tells her friends and taste-testers, "You may only want to start with half of it."

The judges weren't deterred by the sugar rush, handing Curry her first red ribbon for a second-place finish. As the fair wrapped up and she cleaned up her entry, she thanked one of the judges for the honor, to which the judge replied, "Oh! Those were so good. We had such a hard time deciding between first and second."

"I almost wish she hadn't told me that," Curry said, laughing again at how close she came to taking the top prize. For now, that blue ribbon, first-place finish is still something for Curry to aspire to.

Depending on the weather in Dallas come the 2022 fair, she said she may attempt a divinity recipe — a light, whipped up egg white treat that is prone to wilt in humidity. "I've also got a flourless chocolate cake that I'm looking at doing. I've tested it, and it's really really good, but it will need some perfecting before I take it to the fair."

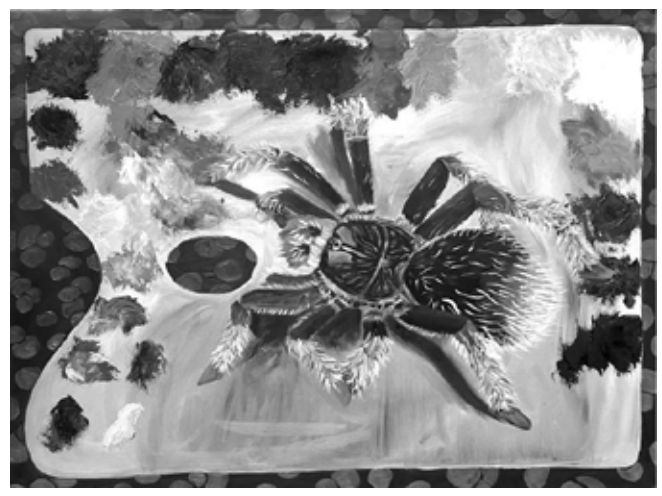


Photo courtesy of Kendall Lopez

A work by Kendall Lopez for her senior capstone exhibition, now on view at Sul Ross.

Sul Ross artist Kendall Lopez presents 'Beneath the Beasts' capstone exhibition

ALPINE — Have you ever wondered what the peacock symbolizes? What is the spiritual meaning behind a crab? What a tarantula could possibly represent? According to Kendall Lopez, a Sul Ross senior completing her capstone art project this month, animals can provide so much more beyond their physical beauty. To discover the myths and symbolism behind these creatures, Lopez invites viewers to the upcoming art exhibition, Beneath the Beasts at Sul Ross.

The exhibition opens November 8 and is on view through December 10, with a special reception on Saturday, November 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. Regular open hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Studio Gallery in the Francois Fine Arts Building at Sul Ross State University.

In her practice, Lopez creates oil paintings of a range of animals and their symbolic meaning, and many of her paintings illustrate each animal's personal uniqueness and purity in their natural habitats through the unique filter of her interpretations. These depictions of animals and their individual symbolism is something she has always been passionate about exploring through her art.

"Finding metaphors and symbolism through my art helps me tell the stories that I want," Lopez said.

The young artist is a wildlife painter originally from Fort Stockton, currently working for her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree at Sul Ross State University. She is a senior and won the 2020 and 2021 People's Choice Awards at the Juried Art Exhibitions at the Ellen Noël Art Museum in Odessa. She also has some of her work at Gallery on the Square in Alpine. Lopez volunteered at Chinati and Art Walk for the past few years and helped paint several murals in Alpine with Carol Fairlie and other art students.

For more information, contact Lopez at (432) 360-6627, visit her website beneaththebeasts.com or follow @kickstartart21 on Instagram.

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LUNCH	BONELESS CHICKEN WINGS, CHIPS, CELERY, BABY CARROTS, MIXED FRUIT, SHERBET	PB&J SANDWICH, CHEESE STICK, GOLDFISH CRACKERS, BABY CARROTS, CELERY STICKS, FRESH APPLE SLICES	MINI CORN DOG, TATER TOTS, TINY TOMATO CUP, MIXED FRUIT	QUESADILLA, SALSA, REFRIED BEANS, CUCUMBER CUP, APRICOS, SHERBET	PEPPERONI PIZZA, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, GARDEN SALAD, FRUITY GELATIN

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

THU, NOV 4: JH Football vs. Van Horn in Van Horn, 5:00 pm
FRI, NOV 5: V Football vs. Van Horn District Game in Marfa, 7:30 pm
THU - SAT, NOV 4 -6: Area Volleyball at TBD
SAT, NOV 6: Cross Country at Austin State Meet
MON - WED, NOV 8 - 10: Volleyball Regional Quarterfinals at TBD

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg October 18, 2021

ACROSS
1 Spanish greeting
5 Stocking contents for the naughty
9 Corkboard fastener
13 Word before "house" or "bar"
14 Computer's "reverse" action
15 "Now it's clear"
16 *Reputation, slangily
17 *Theme park regular's purchase
20 Buzzing instruments
22 Foxlike
23 ___/her
24 *Predisposed
27 *Plane ticket datum
28 South Indian foods that anagram to "sodas"
29 The "A" in ATV
30 Mythology figures
34 E.R. staffers
35 Least cordial
38 Emulated Moses, or what a black square between each pair of starred clues' answers did?
41 Lift passengers
42 "___ had it!"
43 "NBA Countdown" channel
44 Chill (out)
45 "25" singer
47 *Raised, as Rottweilers
49 *Actor who played the hobbit Sam
53 An elephant's may be six feet in height
54 Hot dog holder
55 More than wanted
57 *Found out
61 *Blacken on the grill
62 Sonic's game company
63 Scheduler for a senator, perhaps
64 Colorful account
65 14-Across's menu
66 ___-of-the-moment
67 Copious amount

DOWN
1 Sell to a pawnshop
2 Emmy-winning host Winfrey
3 Emmy-winning host Gibbons
4 Slashed conjunction
5 They're bleeped out
6 Number below !, on a keyboard
7 Law with ramp standards, briefly
8 Negative bottom-line figures
9 Barely visible
10 Egyptian snake
11 Unending
12 "TiK ToK" singer
18 Not current
19 Mount, as a gem
21 Like this clue's number
25 "___ She Lovely" (Stevie Wonder song)
26 "Parks and Recreation" actress Jones
27 Playground fixture
29 Blackjack card
30 Navigation aid, briefly
31 Strong tree
32 It covers traffic lights
33 "Trusty" horse
35 Dublin resident
36 Labor Day's mo.
37 Goal for a certain beachgoer
39 Bit of work
40 Like this clue's number
45 Trojan son of Aphrodite
46 U-turn from WNW
47 Where dreams are made?
48 Salary boost
49 Ford Explorer, e.g.: Abbr.
50 Tries, as one's patience
51 Most suitable
52 Writer Zora ___ Hurston
54 Fishing vessel
56 Picked from a deck
58 Special FX
59 Run in a stocking, e.g.
60 End of a dean's email address

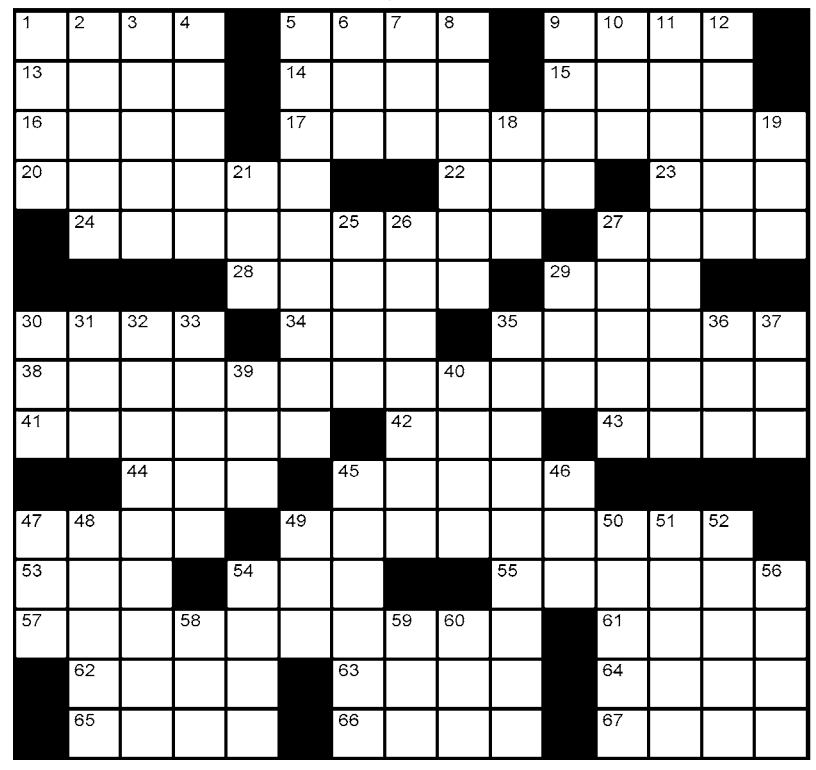
PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	R	C	S		R	U	D	E		S	H	E	A	F
C	E	R	A		A	R	Y	A		L	A	M	B	O
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10/18

Staff Cut *by Adrian Kabigting*



Lady Shorthorns volleyball crowned bi-district champions, 2 runners head to state for cross-country

MARFA — On Monday night, sirens wailed and cars honked on the north side of Marfa as a bus full of Marfa girls volleyball players were ushered home with a warm welcome after their victory at the bi-district competition. The win comes with a recent string of successes for the Marfa sports program, where two cross-country runners also secured a ticket to state competition this Friday.

Chanez and Garcia statebound, once again!

The junior duo of Ummi Chanez and Aundrea Garcia is back for another state appearance after an impressive performance at the regional cross-country meet in San Angelo. Chanez won the bronze medal with her third-place time of 13:29.52, while Garcia executed one of her best runs of her career with a fifth-place finishing time of 13:35.52.

Marfa's girls team narrowly missed a state qualifying spot with a sixth-place team finish for Emily Hernandez, Lesly Torres, Soraya Vallez and Liani Salcido, but the team was unable to advance with a top four finish. Under the direction of second year Head Cross-country Coach Edgar Ramirez, Marfa's runners continue to make their way up in the regional rankings and hope to advance as a unit next year. Ramirez said, "The young athletes continue to buy into the program with the participation numbers growing each year, and the 6 a.m. workouts and strength and conditioning program continuing to grow in attendance as well." The Shorthorns boys team consisting of Francisco Rosas, Marco Ruiz, Diego Estrada, Zach Wilson and Dustin Martinez also competed at the regional meet, but was unable to place within the top four teams to move on to state competition.

Chanez heads into Friday's UIL State Championship Meet with a top 25 ranking, while Garcia is close behind with a top 35 time. The start gun goes off at 8:30 a.m. sharp on November 5 at Round Rock's Old Settlers Park.

Lady Shorthorns are bi-district volleyball champions

Marfa's defensive and offensive attacks proved too much for the Rankin Lady Red Devils this week. The Lady Horns walked into the Fort Stockton Special Events Center determined to walk out with the Gold Ball, and from the opening serve, big blocks and hits from Lesly Torres (4 kills, 2 blocks), Alexis Gonzalez (4 kills), Ummi Chanez (3 kills) and Brianna Sanchez (5 kills, 3 blocks) kept Rankin at bay. Aundrea Garcia led the team in digs and Charlize Martinez tenaciously guarded the net in several long rallies that ended with a block or tip at the net in Marfa's favor. Odalys Chacon and Emily Hernandez tag-teamed the setting duties and combined for a total 26 assists and 6 aces, while Torres put down numerous timely and explosive kills on the Lady Red Devils to end attempted rallies by the opponent and shut down their crowd. The playoff win is Marfa's first since the 2018 season and Head Coach Priscila Serrano's fist career playoff win.

Serrano attributes the team's victory to an aggressive performance by the upperclassmen Loretta Rivera, Maryfer Martinez and Annaka Salcido, and to Annalise Marquez's ability to keep the squad motivated and challenged. "Every player has a job on this team and each player has embraced their role, which has translated to success for this close-knit group of competitors," said Serrano.

Marfa now faces Miami in the area playoff round, the champion out of District 4. Location, date, and time has not yet been determined.

Upcoming games

The Shorthorns junior high football team plays today, November 4, in Van Horn at 5 p.m., and the young Horns are currently 1-0 in district action.

The Marfa Shorthorns' varsity football team will host their final home game at Martin Field Friday, November 5, with pregame ceremonies beginning at 6:30 p.m. Senior football players, senior cheerleaders and senior cross-country team members will be recognized during Senior Recognition Night (lineup is at 6:30 p.m. and introductions begin at 6:45). First Responders Recognition ceremonies will begin at 7 p.m. and the Senior Walk will immediately follow the football game.



Photo courtesy of MISD

The Marfa varsity volleyball team advanced to area competition this week after winning champion status at the bidistrict competition. Kneeling (left to right): Loretta Rivera, Emily Hernandez, Aundrea Garcia, Odalys Chacon, Alexis Gonzales. Standing (left to right): Maryfer Martinez, Annaka Salcido, Coach Priscila Serrano, Ummi Chanez, Brianna Sanchez, Charlize Martinez, Lesly Torres, Coach Ojeda, Desiree Campos and Annalise Marquez.



Photo courtesy of MISD

The Lady Horns cross-country team pose after a second straight district championship title. Left to right: Aundrea Garcia, Emily Hernandez, Lesly Torres, Coach Edgar Ramirez, Ummi Chanez, Soraya Vallez and Liani Salcido.



The Shorthorn Stampede takes the field in recent action. (Left to right) Derrick Campos 33, Nathan Pena 70, Luis Solis 44, Adrian Catano 13, Uriel Torres 10

JH Football Coach Arron Luna talks to his players after a win over the Fort Davis Indians. (Left to right) Ausin McGary 10, Manny Dominguez 50, Alejandro Rodriguez 5, Christopher Garcia 12, Josh Kelly.

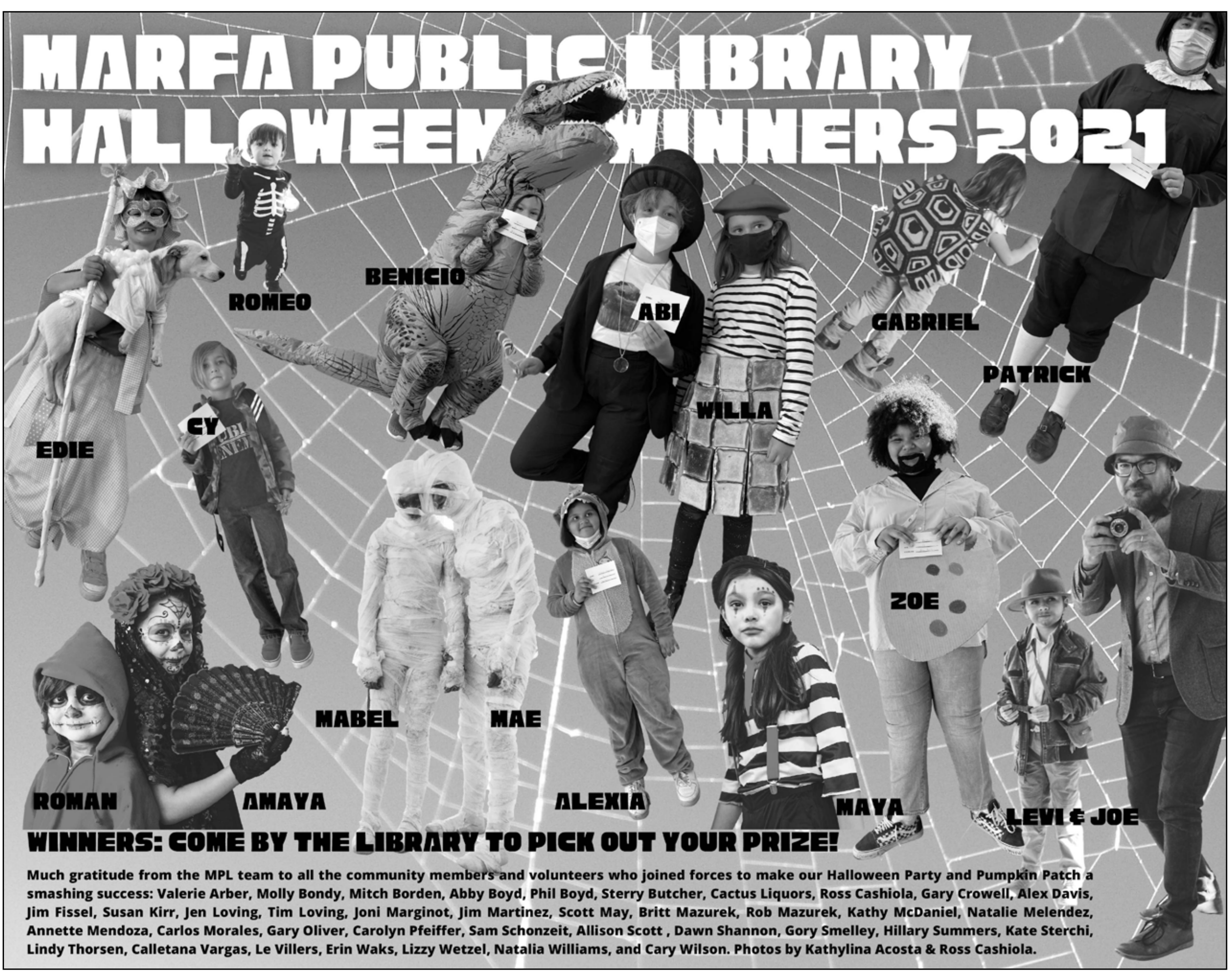


Photos courtesy of MISD

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Madison Cash
Comic
7th grade



Classifieds & public notices

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.

NOTICE

The Presidio County Appraisal District Office in Marfa will be **CLOSED** on Thursday, November 4, 2021
due to Fieldwork in Presidio
If you need any information please call our
Presidio Office at **(432)229-3963**
email **pcad7223@bigbend.net**
Thank you!

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY
TAX ASSESSOR/COLLECTOR CLERK

Seeking individual to assist County Tax Assessor/Collector in day-to-day operations.

Duties include:
General office procedure; Basic mathematics; Computer usage; Effective verbal and written communication; Quality customer service in a courteous and professional manner; Multi-tasking; Accurately handle cash and account for revenue collected; Work as a member of a team; Mantain confidentiality.

Annual Salary based on experience.
Benefits include: medical-dental insurance;
Retirement and paid holidays.
Office hourse are considered full time @ 35 week

Applications are available at Jeff Davis County Tax Office located at 105 Court Avenue, 432-426-3962

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY IS AN EQUALY OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

City of Presidio is requesting RFQs for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds Professional Administration Services.

The RFQ packet is on the City of Presidio website **www.presidiotx.us** under the City Secretary webpage.

Submit your qualifications packet to:
City of Presidio City Secretary
Brenda Acuña
PO Box 1899
507 W. O'Reilly Street
Presidio, Tx 79845
Email: bornelas@presidiotx.us

Please submit your qualifications no later than **November 12, 2021 at 3pm.**

US Government Property for Sale
SEALED BID SALE

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

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

Public Notice

Nominations for voting membership Region E Far West Texas Water Planning Group

The Far West Texas Water Planning Group is seeking nominations to fill three voting positions on the Far West Texas Water Planning Group. The positions are as follows:

Counties – Term expires December 2025

Municipalities – Term expires December 2025

Electric Generating Utilities – Term expires December 2025

Water Districts - Term expires December 2025

Tourism - Term expires

Conditions of Membership: To be eligible for voting membership on the Planning Group, a person must represent the interest for which a member is sought, be willing to participate in the regional water planning process, and abide by the Bylaws of the Region E Far West Texas Water Planning Group.

Nominations (Nomination letter and a Résumé or biography of nominee are required) must be received by December 30, 2021, addressed to:

Annette Gutierrez
Administrative Officer
Far West Texas Water Planning Group
8037 Lockheed Drive, Suite 100
El Paso, Texas 79925

Or

By email to: annetteg@riocog.org

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

JOBS

Substitute Opportunity - Marfa ISD Robinson Cafeteria

Food Service Department in need of kitchen/food service custodial substitutes; available to work early hours on occasion, flexible to sub with minimal advance notice on occasion, dependable, multi-tasker able to follow food service guidelines.

No experience necessary, train as you work,
in a friendly, faced paced, environment.

Application available online/Marfa ISD central office.

Equal Opportunity Employer

Se busca sustituta en la cafetería Robinson Marfa ISD

Departamento de servicio de alimentos necesita servicio sustituto de cocina y de custodia de la cafeteria; disponible para entrar temprano y ser flexible para trabajar con aviso mínimo en ocasiones, confiable, trabajo de tarea multiple, capaz de seguir las reglas del servicio de alimentos.

No se requiere experiencia, entrenas mientras trabajas, en un ambiente con ritmo constante y amigable.

Aplicación online o en la oficina central de Marfa ISD.

Empleador de igualdad de oportunidades

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

Presidio County is accepting applications for the position of Justice of the Peace, Precinct One. The following are the requirements and qualifications necessary to be considered for appointment in the existing unexpired term of office which ends 12-31-2022.

Justice of the Peace Requirements
Justices of the peace are required to obtain 80 hours of continuing education during their first year in office and 20 hours annually thereafter.

County Justice of the Peace Qualifications[10]
- A Justice of the Peace must meet the following qualifications at the time of appointment or election:
- U.S. Citizen
- Resident of Texas for at least 12 consecutive months
- Resident of the precinct for at least six consecutive months
- Registered to vote in the precinct
- At least 18 years of age
- Not have been finally convicted of a felony from which they have not been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities
- Not have been determined by a court with probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote

Candidates for this office generally must meet the above qualifications at the time of filing. Legal source: Government Code, Section 27.005

[10]Vernon's Ann. Texas Const. Art. 5, §18; V.T.C.A., Election Code §141.001
For more information on duties and responsibilities of Justice of the Peace see the "2018 Guide to Texas Laws for County Officials."

Applications may be picked up at the County Judges Office and must be turned in no later than **Friday, November 5, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.** to the County Judges Office. Presidio County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.


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



JOBS

The Hotel Paisano is accepting applications for the following positions:
- Front Desk Clerk Overnight, 10 p.m.-7 a.m. Monday-Wednesday/Thursday
- Front Desk Clerk, part time, evenings/weekends, 2-10 p.m.
- Gift Shop Clerk, part-time, retail experience required, hours TBD
- Housekeeping, part-time
- Maintenance, handyman skills/experience required

Applications available at the front desk or email **manager@hotelpaisano.com** for an online application. References required.

Jett's Grill at the Hotel Paisano is accepting applications for the following FOH positions:
- Servers, will train
- Bartenders, experience preferred.

Applications available on property or email **jettsgrillrestaurant@gmail.com**

PART-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE
The City of Marfa is seeking a part-time Tourism Assistant. For more information, please visit **www.cityofmarfa.com/employment** or go to the USO to fill out an application.

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

FOR SALE

MARFA PLUMBLEY ESTATE SALE

107 W. 1St MARFA (Corner of 1st/Austin)
Saturday/ Sunday NOVEMBER 6th & 7th 2021
8am- 4pm

3000 sqft time capsule.
The house is completely furnished and EVERYTHING must go!
It's a collectors paradise

Items Include:
Furniture, multiple wood room sets, sofas, beds, armoires, paperweight collection, 100's of Vinyls, Handmade European nightgowns, full garage, tools tools tools, ladders, holiday decorations, Yard lawn equipment, extensive pottery collection, fine art, local art, clothing, lighting televisions, computers, kitchenware antiques, Recliners, workout equipment, extensive craft/art supplies, everyday goods, terracotta pots and so much more

CASH or Check ONLY
1/2 price Sunday
Accepting presales and considering bulk buyouts

This is an enormous estate, full.

For more info, call 512-351-1429.

CTLS
Cross Texas Land Services, Inc
Professional Land Surveyors & Planners
Thais Watson Ahlstrand *RPLS* 432-661-2202
Mark Roberts Watson *RPLS* 512-965-2878

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

PRESIDIO COUNTY
Judge Cinderela Guevara: *(432) 729-4452*
Presidio Mayor John Ferguson: *City Hall: (432) 229-3517* *Email: jferguson@presidiotx.us*

CITY OF MARFA
Manny Baeza, City of Marfa Mayor *mayor@cityofmarfa.com* *(432) 295-0048*
Irma Salgado, Mayor Pro Tem *councilmembersalgado@cityofmarfa.com*
Buck Johnston *councilmemberjohnston@cityofmarfa.com*
Raúl Lara *councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com*
Eddie Pallarez *councilmemberpallarez@cityofmarfa.com*
Yoseff Ben-Yehuda *councilmemberbenyehuda@cityofmarfa.com*

BREWSTER COUNTY
Judge Eleazar Cano: *(432) 837-6200 x 124*
Alpine Mayor Andy Ramos: *City Hall: (432) 837-3301* *Email: mayor.ramos@ci.alpine.tx.us*

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY
Judge Curtis Evans: *(432) 426-3968*

FEDERAL:
U.S. Sen. John Cornyn: *(202) 224-2934 (D.C. office)*
U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz: *(202) 224-5922 (D.C. office)*

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

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