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Blackwell School Alliance makes strides toward federal recognition, launches fundraising campaign

By SAM KARAS
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MARFA — It's been a busy week for the Blackwell School Alliance, a non-profit that aims to protect and preserve the Blackwell School, Marfa's former segregated school for Mexican-American students. News broke last Wednesday that a bill to make the Blackwell School a National Park Service unit had cleared the House Natural Resources Committee and was on its way to the House floor. "I am thrilled to see the House take this critical step towards giving the Blackwell School the proper recognition it deserves," Congressman Tony Gonzales — who represents the Big Bend in the House — said in a press release.

The Blackwell School dates back to 1909, when an adobe schoolhouse was constructed on the corner of Abbot and Waco Streets in Marfa. For almost 60 years, Blackwell School educated Mexican-American elementary students separately from their white neighbors, well past the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka decision that ended legal segregation of public schools. Many Marfa residents today have ties to the school, either as someone who attended or a relative of someone who did.

The project to make Blackwell School a National Park Service unit began when the Alliance's board president, Gretel Enck, ran into former congressman Will Hurd at a coffee shop in Alpine. Hurd gave Enck the tools to connect with the National Parks Conservation Association, an organization that supports the National Park Service through fundraising and lobbying. Enck was introduced to representatives in Texas and Washington, D.C., where Blackwell's story was met with curiosity and urgency. "They were without hesitation, like 'We're blown away that this site even exists.' That's how it really started, getting that outside view," she explained.

Enck began to understand just how unique the Blackwell School's offerings were as the organization applied for a listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Though de facto segregated schools for Mexican-American students were common throughout the borderlands, only Blackwell had

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC

Driver, passenger, crew survive collision of vehicle and train at railroad crossing west of Marfa



Photo by Abbie Perrault

An accident Friday morning at the railroad crossing west of Marfa city limits resulted in damage to a city vehicle, but the passengers, Chuck Salgado and his young son, managed to escape the crash with minor injuries.

By ABBIE PERRAULT
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MARFA — A freight train struck a vehicle at the railroad crossing west of Marfa city limits on Friday morning, injuring two. The vehicle driver, Marfa resident and city employee Chuck Salgado, now faces a charge for failing to yield right of way at railroad crossing, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

A little before 8 a.m., Salgado was on his way to drop off his nine year old son at Marfa Elementary School when they approached the railroad intersection at West Washington Street, north of the cemeteries. Salgado recounted, "Sun glare did contribute to us crossing. I looked both ways and couldn't see anything through the sun. I also never heard a train horn, not once."

Alfredo Chavez saw it all unfold from his car on the north side of the tracks. Chavez, an assistant manager at Porter's, had been driving on the dirt road railroad easement that runs parallel to the tracks when his wife in the passenger seat warned him to watch out for the oncoming train. He looked in his driver's side mirror, saw the headlights of the train, came to a stop and watched as Salgado began crossing the tracks.

Salgado, driving a 2019 white Chevrolet Silverado marked "City of Marfa Public Works," made it halfway across the tracks before the freight train slammed into the right side of the truck bed, spinning the driver and his son in a full circle and pushing them through a railroad crossing sign before they came to a stop.

"Thank goodness that he passed across the tracks enough that it got him in the tail," Chavez said in the aftermath of the event.

Chavez and his wife called 911 multiple times until their phones connected and exited their vehicle to render aid, but Salgado and his son were already climbing out of the truck.

"We were able to go ahead and let them sit in our vehicle until the cops and everybody else showed up," Chavez explained. "Our vehicle became somewhat of a little safe haven, if you will, because they were both in shock."

Marfa Police Department, Marfa Fire Department, Marfa EMS, Presidio County Sheriff's Office, DPS troopers, city employees and Marfa ISD employees all arrived to the scene, rendering aid, inspecting those involved in the incident, photographing the scene or providing comfort to Salgado and the young boy.

Salgado reported chest pains and his son showed an abrasion under right eyebrow and a bruised shoulder. Both were transferred to Big Bend Regional Medical Center in Alpine and released, but Salgado went to University Medical Center of El Paso later in the afternoon

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Forthcoming power line improvements stir up concerns in Sal Si Puedes neighborhood

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — American Electric Power (AEP) Texas is in the early planning stages of an improvement project to upgrade electric transmission lines that connect Marfa to Fort Davis.

Updates to the system will involve the Alamito Creek substation in the Sal Si Puedes neighborhood, just outside of Marfa, and flow north, ending at a substation in Fort Davis. Pre-existing wooden poles, which are nearly 100 years old, will be replaced by new, more durable galvanized steel poles. The improvements are vital for the future of Fort Davis' power supply.

"That substation in Sal Si Puedes is kind of a hub. That line that goes to Fort Davis is the only source of power for Fort Davis, so that's really why it's important for us to rebuild that line, just for the sake of reliability," said Michael Harris, project specialist with AEP.

The Alamito Creek substation connects not only to Fort Davis, but Presidio, Alpine, and another substation in Marfa, causing poles and lines to extend in all directions within the Sal Si Puedes neighborhood. Located just outside of Marfa city limits east of town, Sal Si Puedes is a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood, and consists of a mixture of traditional homes, mobile homes and trailers.

Many residents have existing easements on their property, which extend 100 feet off center line or 50 feet on either side of the transmission line, a safety consideration which also allows AEP the right of access to maintain and operate the line.

In a town hall hosted online November 9 by AEP, some residents of the Sal Si Puedes neighborhood and other stakeholders expressed their concerns about the improvements and how they would affect the residential area.

According to AEP, replacing the aging poles will reduce the frequency and duration of outages. The effort will help stabilize the area's power grid, which, like the rest of the state, has been of higher public concern since last year's brutal winter storm. Steel poles can also withstand harsher conditions like ice and wind compared to wooden poles.

The project will involve decommissioning the old route and creating a new route for the transmission lines. Current poles run adjacent to Texas State Highway 17. New routes could

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Wondering who can get a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot and when? Here's what Texans need to know.

By ALLYSON WALLER
The Texas Tribune

TEXAS — It's been more than 10 months since the first COVID-19 vaccines became available in the United States. As of late November, more than half of all Texans have been fully vaccinated against the virus and, despite two spikes in cases and hospitalizations this year — the first during the winter months and the second triggered by the highly contagious delta variant during the summer — the vaccination effort has been pivotal in mitigating the pandemic.

However, the protection the vaccine offers goes down with time, and medical experts have recommended a supplemental dose after two to six months, commonly referred to as a booster shot. And as the vaccine's first-year anniversary approaches, questions have started to emerge about who can get another round of protection and when.

So far, more than 2 million Texans have received a booster shot, and although the inoculated may feel some loyalty toward the COVID-19 vaccine they first received — the two-shot Pfizer and Moderna vaccines or the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine — the FDA has allowed for some mixing and matching when it comes to booster shots.

What is a booster shot?

A booster shot is a supplementary dose of a vaccine administered some time after the initial series of shots that enhances protection against an infection, said Saroj Rai, a senior scientific advisor at the Texas Department of State Health Services.

"Whatever the primary series of a vaccine is, with due time the protection from that vaccine wanes off so you give a booster to maximize the protection that one can get from a vaccination," Rai said.

A COVID-19 booster shot can raise antibody levels about five times higher than a person's previous peak, said Benjamin Neuman, chief virologist at Texas A&M University's Global Health Research Complex, who's researched coronaviruses for more than 20 years.

Who can get a COVID-19 booster shot?

On Oct. 20, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration updated eligibility for booster

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AISD will launch Certified Nurse Assistant program thanks to regional hospital district grant

By ABBIE PERRAULT
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ALPINE — Alpine ISD will launch a Certified Nurse Assistant program within Alpine High School, thanks in part to a grant from the Big Bend Regional Hospital District. The district recently announced a handful of grants for their upcoming fiscal year, and both the school and hospital districts expressed excitement at the prospect of adding more healthcare education options to the region.

Beginning August 2022, the high school will add Nursing Science as a new "endorsement" within their Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. Students who pursue that path will have an opportunity to receive an Industry Based Certification, be prepared to take the Texas Nurse Aide exam and then can enter the workforce as a CNA or opt to continue their education in a Bachelor of Science nursing program.

To get the program off the ground, AISD will be using the grant funds to purchase medical equipment and hire a teacher that's fully dedicated to the program. The investment in the school will give students practical experience working with things they'll need to use in the career field.

The hospital district grant is a total of $89,920 over two years, and the school has already established a sustainability plan to keep the program running and the salary funded after the grant funds have been spent.

"The hospital district every year budgets some money towards community grants and Alpine ISD's grant proposal was part of that annual process to award annual moneys to the community," said BBRHD Executive Director JD Newsom. The district submitted an application like other grant-seekers and was approved by the hospital district board.

Newsom was excited about the project, saying, "It's a unique program that I hope will help with some long term solutions to really generate some home grown workforce for medical providers." Finding sufficient medical staffing has been difficult in rural areas in recent years, and the pandemic has only exacerbated the need for qualified employees willing to work in remote areas like the Big Bend region.

"We're very grateful for the support of the BBRHD, and we're excited about how this can help our community at large," said AISD Superintendent Becky McCutchen.

While grants from the hospital district are often used to fund ambulances and medical equipment for healthcare providers in the area, Newsom said this project supports the BBRHD mission in a different way. "The hospital district does focus on indigent healthcare, but we do have a mandate to ensure there's a hospital system and access to medical care for our county residents in general," he said.

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Train collision

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after having trouble breathing, he said. He was released that night, and on Monday said, "We're both recovering well and resting."

Union Pacific senior manager of communications Mike Jaixen confirmed that the train crew was not injured.

Through the rest of the morning and afternoon, the train remained exactly where it had come to a stop after the accident. The locomotive was blocking Mesa Street railroad crossing and caused other trains that routinely pass through the area to be delayed, where they remained parked along the railways east and west of the accident, before finally clearing in the evening.

DPS and Union Pacific are both investigating the accident. It is uncertain whether the city-owned vehicle was totaled in the accident, with city manager Mandy Roane saying, "We're not going to comment on personnel matters. We're not going to comment on the incident at all."

Chavez, a witness to the accident, said that when was driving parallel to the tracks as he approached West Washington Street, he'd heard the rumbling of tracks as the train barrelled forward. But he made it clear that he had not heard a whistle prior to the train entering the West Washington Street intersection, echoing what Salgado had said of the incident.

UP spokesperson Jaixen explained Union Pacific's policy on the matter, saying, "Federal regulation (and thus Union Pacific policy as well) requires locomotive horns be sounded before entering all public grade crossings."

The West Washington intersection, which does not have a crossing gate with arms, has been the site of two accidents between vehicles and trains in the past two years. Last year, a teenager with a learner's permit drove a white Maserati onto the tracks at the intersection and an oncoming train crushed the front of the vehicle, but left the three vehicle occupants unscathed.

The intersection lies just west of Marfa's city limits, leaving its configuration up to the responsibility of Presidio County. "The decision about the type of warning device belongs to the road authority (state, county or city, depending on who is responsible for the road), not Union Pacific," Jaixen said. "Installation and maintenance of the warning device is the responsibility of the railroad."

"All I know is I'm glad that the people that were involved were okay, including the person in the train, considering it could have been worse," said Chavez, the witness. "Thank God that the driver of that vehicle and the child are okay."

After surviving the harrowing event, Salgado said this week, "We are recovering and will be especially thankful this Thanksgiving."

Nurse assistant program

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Superintendent McCutchen said the district has been pursuing a CNA program for a couple years, because it fits with their CTE program, but also because "there's such a big need for students to enter into the medical field, and we're trying to help fill that need." She said, "It's not just in our area, it's a nationwide need for nurses. If we can fill in at the lower level, they can enter into a BSN and LVN or RN program."

Along with the AISD program, BBRHD's board approved grants for a variety of other expenditures. In another effort to help educate and train a local workforce, $21,845 will go to Sul Ross State University's fledgling nursing program so that they can purchase equipment for a new simulation lab.

"The long term goal with that simulation lab is that it will be primarily used to train those nursing students, but Sul Ross hopes and intends to open that simulation lab to EMS providers and other healthcare workers that need that extra training with the simulation equipment they'll be purchasing," Newsom explained.

McCutchen has already reached out to Sul Ross to talk about how their programs can interact with one another. "Our ultimate hope is that our students will graduate high school as a CNA and move into the higher ed realm, even at Sul Ross, which has started their [nursing] program," the superintendent said. "If there's some classes we can share, either our teacher with Sul Ross or their's with us, we're always open to working with Sul Ross." The university already has a dual credit agreement with AISD, making the connection even easier.

In other grants by BBRHD this fiscal year, the city of Marfa will receive $73,000 toward a new ambulance. Terlingua Consolidated School District will have $1,025 to spend on getting a doctor to visit the area to provide physicals for all students wanting to participate in sports. $12,000 will go to Sunshine House so they can purchase wheelchairs, shower stools and other pieces of medical equipment for the elderly individuals they serve. Lastly, $10,000 will go to the Big Bend Citizens Alliance in Terlingua for an emergency medical fund for Terlingua residents that need help getting to the doctor. Newsom added, "I think the coolest one is for Alpine ISD. I think we're very excited to see how that goes."

"One of the biggest issues we have right now is having enough workforce to provide medical care, whether it's a doctor, nurse or certified nursing aide," said Newsom. "This is a piece of the puzzle I think that really works to provide that long term sustainability for provision of healthcare."

CORRECTIONS: An article about the Marfa and Presidio County Museum stated the city budgeted over half a million dollars for the museum building's repwair. In 2021-2022, the city allocated $218,556.51. We regret the error.

Blackwell School

(Continued from page 1)

been preserved and open to the public. In 2013, the National Park Service Advisory Board conducted the American Latino Heritage Theme Study to help smaller organizations like the Blackwell School to determine the national relevance of Latino-related places and collections and apply for federal recognition.

A key part of the study examined Latino and Mexican-American struggles for equal educational access, suggesting that the National Park Service was aware of the significance of these segregated schools, but didn't yet have a corresponding site. "Our folks have always thought of the Blackwell School as an important personal and local story," Enck explained. "National parks are known for these big glorious natural areas, like Big Bend and the Guadalupe Mountains. That's one function of the Park Service. But the Park Service also serves as America's storyteller. No one else is telling this story."

The Blackwell School's bill will be bundled into an omnibus Lands Act before it is officially offered up to the House and Senate for consideration. Omnibus bills include a variety of legislation that are extensively vetted and deliberated over before voting begins, so while it may be awhile before the full bill hits the floor, it's unlikely to be politically contentious. This particular omnibus bill will also include measures to protect a former internment camp for Japanese Americans in Colorado and to expand the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, a critical Native American heritage site in Arizona.

Another hurdle the Blackwell School must clear to become a National Historic Site is transferring ownership of the property to the National Park Service. Currently, the Alliance holds a 99-year lease on the land from the Marfa Independent School District, so it would need to purchase the property from the school district before donating it to the National Parks Service. Thanks to Marfa's real estate boom, the value of the land underneath the schoolhouse has ballooned in recent years. Enck and her fellow board members hope that a sale of the land from the school district to the Alliance down the road will help support current-day Marfa students.

While the board waits for the final federal rubber-stamp, they're launching a fundraising campaign to help protect the structure. Critical updates include an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant entrance and bathroom and a re-plastering of the adobe with lime. They also hope to expand and improve their interpretive offerings. The Blackwell School has artifacts that span class rings and letterman jackets to report cards and photographs, but the collections are currently "minimally interpreted", Enck says. "We really need to involve some professionals on that level, to figure out how best to create a museum experience that is going to honor the authenticity of what we have, and use all of that to create meaningful connections."

The Blackwell School Alliance has already received sizable donations from the Dixon Water Foundation and the City of Marfa through Hotel and Occupancy Tax Revenue, but hopes that smaller-dollar donations from locals will help the community foster a sense of investment in the project. "Our community has proven to be very generous, and everyone should have a chance to put their name on this project," Enck said.

Gains in the fundraising campaign and positive news from Capitol Hill have provided the Alliance with lots of forward momentum. But board members haven't lost sight of their most important mission: preserving and protecting living history in Marfa. "Protecting the Blackwell School and its many stories is vital to ensuring we continue to learn about our nation's complex history from many perspectives, especially those that have historically been obscured," board member and Blackwell School descendant Daniel Hernandez said in a press release. "For many Blackwell alumni living today, and countless others who have passed over the years, making this place a national park site would be a tremendous moment of validation that's been in the making for generations."

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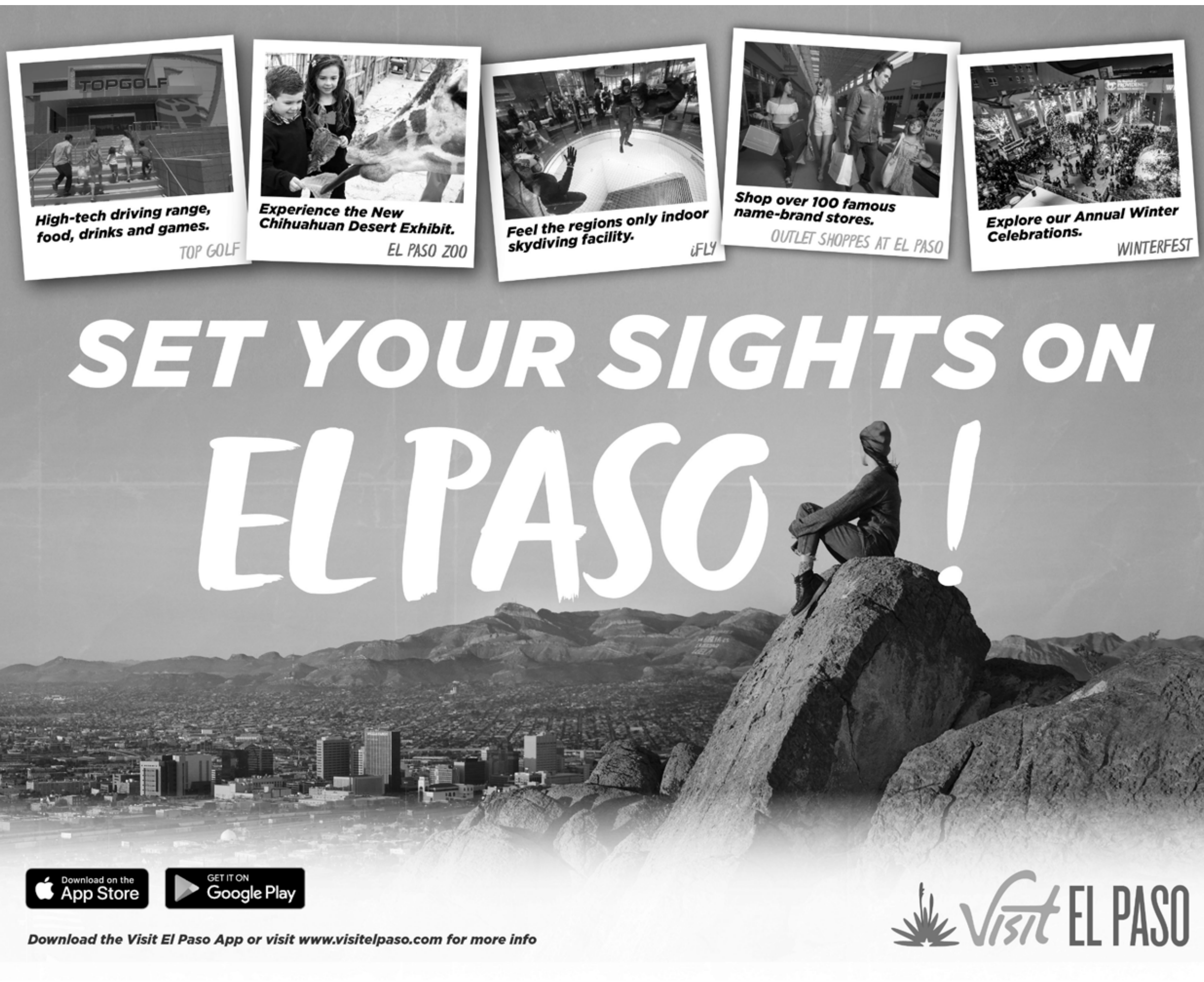
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From the Marfa Food Pantry



Sal Si Puedes

(Continued from page 1)

follow a similar path or divert through areas further east and west of the highway, passing near the Marfa Airport or residential areas like Mano Prieto. The replacement line will be built to 138 kV specifications, but will continue to operate at its current capacity of 69 kV. Should the need arise, the flexibility will make upgrading in the future easier. The preliminary routes and more project information can be found on AEP's website: https://aeptransmission.com/texas/AlamitoCreek-FortDavis/

AEP will present route options to the Public Utility Commission (PUC) who is in charge of greenlighting the project before any work can begin. AEP will send the proposal to the PUC for review and approval in early 2022, and begin construction as early as fall 2024, according to their schedule posted online.

During the town hall meeting earlier this month, participants questioned whether the new lines could be buried underground, whether old easements would be terminated and if upgrades would increase the electrical hum already being emitted from the station.

Periods for public comment are a requirement for a project of this scale and will help AEP get approval from the PUC for the project. AEP is required by law to notify landowners of discussion opportunities if their property lies within 300 feet of any proposed routes. To get the word out about the first meeting, AEP sent notices to landowners using publicly available tax parcel ids.

AEP's project outreach specialist Harris said one of the biggest concerns that came out of the meeting was that AEP was not doing enough to address the Spanish-speaking population in the area.

"That's been a big point of emphasis in the two weeks since we held that town hall, to get a lot of our materials translated into Spanish," said Harris.

Harris apologized for the oversight and explained translated materials are being added to the project website. He said AEP Spanish-speaking staff can also be made available to the public, including members of their right of way crew, who oversee construction work, and members of the regulatory group.

Potential beautification of the Alamito Creek substation was also a topic of discussion at the town hall. The substation itself will not undergo significant improvements but has been updated in the recent past. Harris said AEP will weigh the financial and logistical feasibility of beautification but right now nothing is off the table.

"I think right now, there's just a lot of discussion about, 'Well, what could we do? What would that look like?'" said Harris.

Shelley Bernstein, executive director of Big Bend Conservation Alliance, called in to the meeting and has since reached out to AEP to offer assistance with spreading awareness about the project in Sal Si Puedes.

Several people who attended the meeting surfaced the need for public notices and informational materials in Spanish and that more neighborhood outreach to the Sal Si Puedes neighborhood was needed," said Bernstein. "Big Bend Conservation Alliance has subsequently written to AEP offering to assist with community outreach, so all members of the Marfa community, especially those living in Sal Si Puedes, have a chance to understand the project's impacts and be heard."

Robert Halpern, a Sal Si Puedes resident of 21 years whose property will be affected by the upgrades, participated in the town hall and said the residents present were not representative of Sal Si Puedes' population, with more white, English speaking residents represented than Hispanic or Spanish-speaking populations. Halpern said residents new to the area may not be aware they can push back against such a large, powerful entity as AEP.

"I could see a little reticence on their part to join if Spanish is their primary language and these are their early years in the United States and they don't know you can talk back nicely to a big company," said Halpern.

He said he plans to reach out to his neighbors to spread awareness about the improvement project and hopes others do the same. Halpern expressed a desire to learn more about the pre-existing infrastructure in the area, like the current routes of all the power lines and which ones may change. But the idea of more electric lines and steel poles popping up in an already infrastructure-crowded area is distressing, said Halpern.

"We just have a ton of infrastructure, and we don't want more," said Halpern.

Architect and Sal Si Puedes resident of over 15 years Stephen "Chick" Rabourn said previous updates to the lines in the area were shocking and made the environment feel less inhabitable. The sheer size difference between the homes and power lines, which can be up to 85 feet tall and 8 feet wide, degrades property values, said Rabourn.

"It's the drastic jump in scale in the direct proximity of dwellings that I think is most problematic for AEP at this point," said Rabourn. "Much of the damage is already done but we want to work with AEP to reduce the number and size of any new transmission poles in the neighborhood to the bare minimum."

Vaccine booster

(Continued from page 1)

shots for adults, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention endorsing new recommendations for booster shots the following day.

Based on their recommendations, anyone who's 18 years and older and received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as their primary dose can receive any of the three approved COVID-19 vaccines as their booster shot.

On Nov. 19, the FDA and CDC expanded eligibility for those who initially received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, announcing that anyone who is 18 years and older and has received either one of the mRNA vaccines may receive a booster.

When should I get my booster shot?

Eligible people who have received either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine are allowed to get a booster shot at least six months after completing their initial two-shot vaccination series.

Eligible people who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine can get a booster shot at least two months after they first got vaccinated.

Just to be clear, am I allowed to mix and match vaccines when it comes to getting a booster shot? Is it good or bad? Does it matter?

It's OK to mix and match vaccine booster shots. The FDA recently amended its emergency use authorization for COVID-19 vaccines to allow eligible people to do so.

Following a primary vaccination — whether they received the two-dose Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine — eligible populations can receive a booster shot from any of the three vaccines.

Just remember: when to get a booster shot depends on which vaccine you initially got.

Which vaccine should I choose for my booster shot?

People may choose to consult their health care provider to help make a decision, but the CDC has not made preferential recommendations on any combinations, Rai said. All three vaccines are effective as boosters.

Does the booster shot have any side effects?

Yes. Side effects from a booster shot can be similar to those that people get after receiving their initial vaccination series, according to the CDC.

"Fatigue seems to be a very common [thing] that we saw in dose one, dose two and we're seeing that in the booster dose as well, so nothing that we have not experienced," Rai said.

Pain in the injection site is another common side effect, but the CDC said most side effects were mild to moderate, and severe side effects are rare.

I've already received an additional COVID-19 shot on top of the mRNA two-dose series because I'm immunocompromised. Does that count as a booster?

Technically, no. In August, the CDC recommended that individuals with moderately to severely compromised immune systems who have received their initial vaccine series also receive an additional dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

"The authorization was there so these individuals will have another dose to give them enough antibody production to come to a level [that's similar to] the rest of us with a primary series," Rai said.

After receiving the initial vaccine series and the additional dose, the CDC recommends people with moderately and severely compromised immune systems to receive their booster shot according to the timelines suggested above.

Where can I receive a booster shot?

Vaccines are widely available in the state of Texas and can be received at a variety of places such as local pharmacies, public health clinics and hospitals.

The CDC has also made available a national vaccine finder, where people can locate available COVID-19 vaccines in their area.

Rai suggests that people looking for a booster shot bring proof of their initial vaccination to their appointment. Documentation such as your vaccine card can be helpful to health care providers because it states what COVID-19 vaccine you initially received and the date you got it.

When will more people become eligible to receive their booster shots?

It's unclear. The CDC has not released a timeline for when more people — like those between the ages of 12 and 17 — will become eligible for booster shots.

Will there be enough booster shots for everybody who wants one?

Neuman and Rai said vaccine availability at this moment isn't necessarily something to worry about.

"We're in a weird situation where there's a vaccine surplus, and yet we're under-vaccinated," Neuman said.

Both said the state is in a good place when it comes to the number of vaccines that are available to the general public.

"We are in a different time than we were earlier in the year," Rai said. "There are many easily accessible outlets for any of these three vaccines."

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune *at https://www.texastribune.org/2021/10/29/covid-19-vaccine-booster-shots/.* The Texas Tribune *is a member-supported, nonpartisan newsroom informing and engaging Texans on state politics and policy. Learn more at texastribune.org.*

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Opinions

OP-ED

Texas Environmental News

By RICHARD MARK GLOVER

Critical accounting error

Accounting may be the devil in the details when it comes to calculating who's green and who's not. Last week several European countries boasted of their lead in carbon reductions at the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, but an article in National Geographic suggests burning wood to reduce carbon is not the answer. Over 20 million tons of U.S. wood pellets were exported to Euro-ports last year, including the U.K.'s DRAX industries that burns 5 million tons a year in converted coal plants. At the smokestack, according to National Geographic, burning wood produces more carbon emissions than burning coal. Moreover, trees that once absorbed carbon dioxide are now felled. Princeton University's carbon specialist Tim Searchinger said a "critical accounting error" was made at the Kyoto Conference in 1997. Policy makers not only failed to limit biomass burning but they also incentivized it. Through a loophole, the world accounting system does not require the counting of carbon emissions from wood-fired power plants. Earlier this year, 500 scientists warned world leaders that logging trees for bio-energy undermines the fight against climate change. "It's the opposite of what we should be doing," said Andy Wood, director of the North Carolina-based Coastal Plain Conservation Group. Simultaneously, the wood pellet export business is booming now from East Texas to the Carolinas. Woodville LLC, a Port Arthur exporter of wood pellets, settled an air pollution suit out of court last month after numerous complaints of chemical odors and bad air by neighbors near their Woodville wood pellet processing facility.

Texas billionaire gets a fine and owner financing

Hilcorp Energy, the number one producer of methane in New Mexico and the number 16 producer in Texas, tacked on new violations to its operating record as New Mexico's Oil Conservation Division fined the Texas corporation $1.6 million on six counts of failing to remediate six gas-producing sites. New Mexico OCD Director Adrienne Sandoval said, "Thanks to the good work of our inspectors, the OCD is able to issue our largest civil penalty since our ability to assess penalties was reinstated in 2020, which sends the message that we take our compliance obligations seriously." Hilcorp is a privately held corporation owned by Houston billionaire Jeffrey Hildebrand. In May, the Clean Air Task Force reported the "company's methane emissions are the highest in the U.S. – six times the national average." The Santa Fe New Mexican reported that Hilcorp profits by buying aging and highly-polluting gas wells — including the recent acquisition of all of BP's oil and gas wells in Alaska for $5.2 billion, owner financed, as the major company sought to discard its more unclean assets.

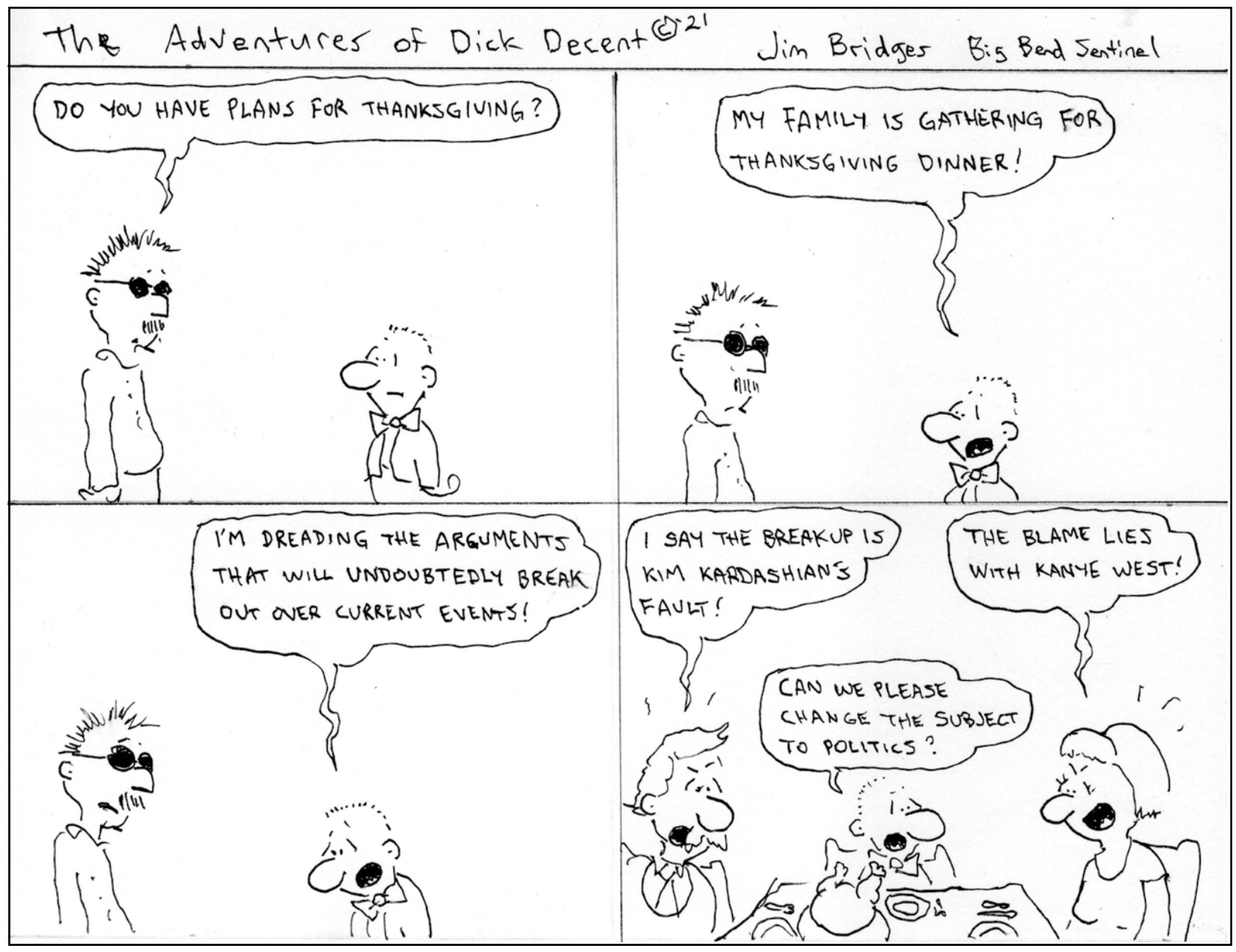
Environmental justice tour

An environmental justice tour was staged this week as EPA Administrator Michael Regan visited Houston's Fifth Ward, a historically Black neighborhood and Manchester, a largely Latino area. These areas along with others nearby shoulder the brunt of Houston's industry where cancer and other forms of disease are above average and have been linked with shoddy protections against the many hazardous materials trafficked in the area. According to the Texas Tribune, the tour's aim is to prioritize and protect human health.

Abbott: "Pound Sand"

Last week, in what may have been a condensed version of everything Governor Gregory Abbott learned in law school, or perhaps his version of Marie Antoinette's alleged "Let them eat cake," Abbott tweeted, "Pound Sand," after U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres suggested Texas show up at the international climate conference COP26 in Glasgow. Abbott, behind his Twitter platform, defended the 43 oil billionaires in Texas, the 8% of state tax revenues generated by oil and gas, and the industry's 1.5% of the total Texas workforce, causing some to wonder: What about the rest of us? What about the majority of Texans that believe arranging special favors for big oil in return for campaign contributions is wrong? Pro-oil Texas House of Representative Dan Crenshaw did attend COP26 in Glasgow last week. Crenshaw's campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry amounted to $631,788 in 2018, according to DeSmog, and his Scottish trip may or may not be official business. DeSmog suggests he'll be reporting to the industry rather than his constituents regarding the latest attempts to displace oil and gas as the world's primary energy fuel, but he did — at least — attend.

Richard Mark Glover lives in the Chama Valley of New Mexico with his wife Lorretta and two children after many years in West Texas. He is an award-winning journalist and author.



OP-ED

Analysis: 2022 primary elections in Texas merit a severe weather alert

By ROSS RAMSEY
The Texas Tribune

The first day of early voting in next year's party primaries is also the anniversary of the polar vortex that froze most of Texas and crashed the state's electric grid.

You remember that week, whether you were in Texas living through it or someplace else reading about it.

Some places didn't have power for four days. Temperatures remained below freezing for six days. At least 210 people died, and that's a conservative estimate. About half of the state's population was ordered to boil tap water to make it safe for drinking and cooking. The power failures cost the economy $80 billion to $130 billion, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

Those details and more are from the latest examination of that event, a 313-page report from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Corp.

And you might remember them, too: Those two organizations wrote a long report with recommendations in 2011 after a similar winter storm and electric grid failure in North Texas. A 2018 report from FERC and NERC, written after a winter storm triggered electric outages in Texas and other states, made some of the same points. Had industry and government officials heeded the recommendations in those earlier reports, particularly the parts about readying electric plants and their fuel sources for cold weather, the disaster nine months ago could have been avoided.

The new report's recommendations after what the writers call "The Event" begin, once again, with cold-weather reliability, with identifying electric plants that are susceptible to freezing or failing, planning for precipitation and wind in winter storms — to either prepare plants for storms or show why that's not reasonable — and to train for winter storms and to retrofit electric generation plants to withstand that kind of weather.

"Both the 2011 and 2018 Reports identified certain equipment that more frequently contributed to generating unit outages, including frozen sensing lines, frozen transmitters, frozen valves, frozen water lines, and wind turbine icing. The Event was no different — generation freezing issues were the number one cause of the Event, and the same frequently seen frozen components reappear," they wrote.

That's a pretty nice way to say, "We told you so." And the recommendations aren't likely to produce much change before it gets cold again.

Texans are still exposed to disaster if there is another storm and another blackout. That continuing threat to the population is politically hazardous to the state's incumbent politicians.

The February storm occurred near the beginning of the regular legislative session. After the state thawed out, lawmakers started trying to figure out what happened, and who should be blamed. The candidates included regulators — the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, or ERCOT, the Public Utility Commission and the Texas Railroad Commission (which regulates oil and gas). It included electric generators and the companies that fuel their plants — natural gas, coal, wind and nuclear outfits. And it included the lawmakers who designed the regulatory and operating system that failed the people of the state.

Some of the cold-weather prep is underway. Last month, the PUC adopted a rule that requires companies to make their "best efforts" to keep plants operating in cold weather.

Lawmakers, led by Gov. Greg Abbott, insist they've fixed the problem.

"Everything that needed to be done was done to fix the power grid in Texas," Abbott said when he signed legislation meant to address the problem.

But that law's loopholes could leave Texans exposed to the cold. For instance, natural gas companies won't be required to fortify their facilities against winter weather until late 2022. Regulators were ordered to put rules for that in place by September of next year.

Voters aren't happy with the results. In a University of Texas/Texas Tribune poll conducted in October, 60% of the state's voters said they disapprove of lawmakers' handling of electric grid reliability.

The timing of the primaries could make that voter disapproval significant. Cold weather, with or without new electric outages, could change the subject of the elections to last year's freeze and the legislative response to it.

The first test is upon us, as the cold part of the year begins. It's on the political class, too. Texas voters will be grading incumbents' response to the polar vortex and the blackouts that followed in the March 1 Democratic and Republican primaries — starting with early voting set to begin on the last disaster's first anniversary.

Disclosure: The University of Texas at Austin has been a financial supporter of The Texas Tribune*, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that is funded in part by donations from members, foundations and corporate sponsors. Financial supporters play no role in the Tribune's journalism.*

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Ross Ramsey is executive editor and co-founder of The Texas Tribune*. He writes regular columns on politics, government and public policy. Before joining the Tribune, he was editor and co-owner of Texas Weekly. He did a 28-month stint in government with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Before that, he reported for the* Houston Chronicle*, the* Dallas Times Herald*, as a Dallas-based freelancer for regional and national magazines and newspapers, and for radio stations in Denton and Dallas.*

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JUDD

Judd Foundation is open for guided visits of Donald Judd's home and studios.

Advance reservations are required and are only available online. For the safety of everyone, masks and social distancing are required. Group capacity is limited.

La Mansana de Chinati/The Block
Thursday–Sunday
11:00am–12:45pm
4:30–6:15pm
Guided visits begin at the gated entrance at 400 West El Paso Street.

The Studios
Friday and Saturday
2:00–3:45pm
Guided visits begin at the Architecture Studio, the former Marfa National Bank, at 101 North Highland Avenue.

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

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Open to the public
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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.



OUR WATER MATTERS

Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code

By TREY GERFERS
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Recent issues of "Our Water Matters" have explained that the judiciary and legislative branches have taken two different approaches to groundwater in Texas. In the absence of any legislation directly related to groundwater in the early 20th century, the Texas Supreme Court established the rule of capture, which essentially allows, with some limited exceptions, a landowner to pump as much groundwater as the landowner chooses, without liability to neighbors who claim that the pumping has depleted their wells. The Legislature responded several decades later with the creation of groundwater conservation districts, which are the preferred method of groundwater management in Texas because they provide for local control by those most familiar with the resource and most affected by any regulation.

Groundwater conservation districts are governed by Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, which defines groundwater as "water percolating below the surface of the earth." Chapter 36 grants broad authority to groundwater conservation districts to manage, conserve and protect groundwater through permitting and rulemaking. Under the powers granted by Chapter 36, "A district shall require a permit for the drilling, equipping, operating, or completing of wells or for substantially altering the size of wells or well pumps." Chapter 36 further stipulates that "No person, firm, or corporation may alter the size of a well or well pump such that it would bring that well under the jurisdiction of the district without first obtaining a permit from the district." Once a well is drilled, the owner or driller is also required to submit a drilling log to the groundwater district.

These requirements enable districts to better track the number of wells being drilled in each aquifer and the amount of water being withdrawn from each well to avoid the Ogallala Aquifer phenomenon, better known as "too many straws in too small of a cup." Toward this end, Chapter 36 also grants groundwater conservation districts the power to impose spacing requirements "to minimize as far as practicable the drawdown of the water … [and] to prevent interference between wells."

In addition to drilling permits, some wells may also require operating permits. Typically, a well owner must apply for an operating permit if the water from the well will be used for agricultural or commercial activities. Such wells must be equipped with a meter and the amount of water used must be reported to the district. The operating permit holder must also pay fees for the water that is used, which Chapter 36 sets at "$1 per acre-foot payable annually for water used for agricultural use" and "$10 per acre-foot payable annually for water used for any other purpose." The best way to understand an acre-foot is to envision an area roughly the size of a football field completely covered with one foot of water.

Most wells, however, are exempt from operating permits under Chapter 36, including wells "used solely for domestic use or for providing water for livestock or poultry on a tract of land larger than 10 acres" and provided that such wells are "incapable of producing more than 25,000 gallons of groundwater a day." Other exemptions apply to water wells drilled for oil and gas exploration or for mining activities. But a water well to supply such activities is subject to a variety of restrictions. The water well must be used "solely" to supply water for a rig that is "actively" involved in activities related to an oil or gas well permitted by the Texas Railroad Commission. A water well under this exemption must also be located on the same lease or field associated with the oil or gas drilling rig. In other words, the land where the water well is located must be owned by the same person or entity that owns the land where the oil and gas exploration is occurring. Groundwater districts may also require such wells to meter and report the volumes of water being produced based on their own specific rules. But Chapter 36 prohibits districts from denying a permit for such wells if the application meets all district rules.

Even if a well is exempt, Chapter 36 requires that it must "be registered in accordance with rules promulgated by the district" and "be equipped and maintained so as to conform to the district's rules requiring installation of casing, pipe and fittings to prevent the escape of groundwater from a groundwater reservoir to any reservoir not containing groundwater and to prevent the pollution or harmful alteration of the character of the water in any groundwater reservoir."

Chapter 36 has been crafted and amended over many years in a very conservative and regulation-averse environment. This has resulted in a somewhat patchy approach to groundwater management with plenty of opportunity for conflict. Tune in to future issues of "Our Water Matters," where we will continue to explore the rich history of water, regulation and conflict in Texas.

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.

OP-ED

COVID drove a wedge between parents and schools, and Texas must pull them back together

By MARGARET SPELLINGS

A good education has always required a partnership between parents, teachers and policymakers. That's never been more apparent than in the era of COVID-19, and it should guide Texas as we determine the best way to educate future generations.

When the pandemic shuttered schools, parents rallied alongside teachers. Then, as education pivoted to online teaching, parents with broadband turned homes into classrooms. Despite these adjustments, learning during the pandemic was frustrating and often unproductive, leading to a significant drop in student reading and math skills.

Meanwhile, in many places, the partnership between elected officials, educators and parents grew strained. In Virginia, for instance, parents were shocked to hear a gubernatorial candidate say, "I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach."

In Texas and beyond, school board meetings have turned heated over conflicting concerns about curriculum, books and pandemic-related directions — often overtaking concerns about student achievement, mental health and broadband access.

In August, Texas 2036 polled Texas voters on numerous issues and found they shared an overwhelming concern about the state's future. Such concern was particularly pronounced among parents: 54% of mothers with school-age children thought schools didn't handle the pandemic well, and nearly twice as many parents described online learning as a "disappointment" or "failure" (50%) than a success (26%).

Worst of all, 52% of Texas voters polled said the state is in worse shape than it was this time last year; only 13% said the state is headed in a better direction.

If left unaddressed, growing frustrations will continue to drive headlines, elections and school board meetings. And perhaps more important, these forces threaten to distract us from what should be our single-minded purpose: student achievement. Given that more than 60% of Texas fourth graders cannot read or perform math at grade level, it's time to get back to basics. It's time to empower those who know the students best: parents.

Core to parents' ability to engage in constructive conversations about their children is standardized assessment testing that can objectively show whether a school is meeting its obligations to children and helping them reach their full potential.

Parents need — and want — actionable and timely data on how their child is progressing; that empowers parents to have transparent conversations with educators. We can't break the feedback loop by reducing or eliminating assessments. And when we get that data, we must be prepared to act on it.

Our polling shows that Texans want data about student learning and decisive action to follow when needed. Almost every parent polled (96%) thinks it's essential to have standardized testing data so resources can be targeted to children needing support.

In addition, most parents we polled (84%) support quicker state interventions when a school fails to meet accountability standards. More than half think the state should intervene within two years rather than waiting the current standard, five. Finally, 82% of parents support allowing the parents of a child at a failing school, or a school that fails to adequately meet the child's needs, to choose another school.

In a post-pandemic Texas, parents need a transparent accountability system with an honest depiction of how their child's school is performing. At the same time, they also support systems that quickly force improvements or find more appropriate options to meet their child's needs.

Parents want to help shape their child's education. It's time we listen and empower them to do so.

Margaret Spellings is chief executive of Texas 2036 and former U.S. secretary of education. This op ed first ran in the Dallas Morning News.

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Community

Wong Kit Yi, Chinati's newest artist in residence, drawn to inhospitable environs

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — "I'm very into extreme conditions," artist Wong Kit Yi recently shared with an intimate group of Chinati staff at an introductory meeting slash performance lecture titled Yes-Jet-Lag / 你好時差 (formula 2.0).

"We're happy to oblige," curator Ingrid Shaffner countered, grinning.

Wong comes to Marfa from Hong Kong, China, to take part in the two-month artist residency at The Chinati Foundation. She is drawn to far flung places and previously participated in The Arctic Circle, a program that brings together scientists, architects and artists to research the high-Arctic Svalbard Archipelago and Arctic Ocean. She studied painting as an undergraduate and went on to receive a masters in sculpture from Yale University. She has exhibited her work around the U.S., including New York where she lived for many years, and the world.

Wong began Yes-Jet-Lag / 你好時差 (formula 2.0) by passing out faux pharmaceutical jet lag inducing patches. The concept is a commentary on border crossing and time, born out of the isolation of the coronavirus pandemic, where theoretical travelers crave the fatigue resulting from border and time zone hopping. Painfully timely, when returning to Hong Kong from the U.S., Wong will have to quarantine in a hotel room for 21 days. Wong has previously considered the idea of clouds transgressing borders, making Far West Texas particularly well-suited to her research.

The artist put together a mood board of sorts to represent her current thinking on vaccinations, skin, marks and scarification. She incorporated historical references to European witchcraft and flying ointment in her performance.

Wong works in a time-based medium referred to as performance lectures, educational explorations in video, music and language, weaved together in a synchronous manner that both informs and mystifies the viewer. Common themes in her performance lectures are a karaoke style format to the subtitles and presence of her alter ego Ali, Wong's English given name.



Image courtesy of the artist

Wong Kit Yi* (黃潔宜), *Yes-Jet-Lag / 你好時差 (formula 2.0), 2021, karaoke lecture performance.

The artist previously studied traditional Chinese brush painting, which, like video, she also considers a time-based medium. She said her signature performance lecture format allows her to pack many complicated ideas into a singular work of art.

"Time is very magical when you can manipulate it," Wong said. "You can expand time, you can compress time."

"You could never put that in a painting or a sculpture. It really needed to unfold over time," said Shaffner of Wong's performance lecture approach. "It's very concrete, then very abstract, and poetic too."

Reflecting on her private guided tour of the Chinati collection, Wong said she found Judd's work exemplified in the high desert setting of Marfa.

"Walking through the aluminum boxes, it was interesting to see the surface that captures the light or the weather or the sky, but also how the placement of the objects make me dance around the space," Wong said.

The artist ran down a punch list of topics she'd like to dive into while in Far West Texas, and Chinati staff brainstormed on how to get her connected. In addition to an interest in the McDonald Observatory and the history of prisoners of war at Fort D.A. Russell, Wong hopes to learn more about Norteño music (staff suggested she sit in on Dos Horas con Primo on Marfa Public Radio hosted by Primo Carrasco and Tim Johnson) and witness the Marfa Lights. Chinati Foundation Director Jenny Moore promised to fulfill Wong's wishes of going horseback riding while she's in the Big Bend.

Founded in 1989, the Chinati artists in residence program gifts participants with a $1,500 stipend, a stay on Chinati grounds and access to a studio in downtown Marfa. Artists are ultimately not required to produce anything in particular, but some opt to host an open studio.

Shaffner was eager to have Wong join the roster of Chinati artists in residence because of her pull toward remote areas of the earth and interdisciplinary practice.

"I'm interested in how artists who come here, what being here will bring to the narrative of their own work, coming here and moving out. And a perspective from Asia, to be thinking about borders and boundaries, the politics of Hong Kong right now, opening up our world too," said Shaffner.

The next generation of artists in residence for 2022 were recently announced as Jesus Benavente, Mike Crane, Sarah Crowner, Dionne Lee and David Watson. There were a record number of 600 applicants for the 2022 iteration of the program, which Schaffner hypothesized could have been a result of increased exposure due to the Judd exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, which was on view from March 2020 to January 2021.

Boquillas celebrates the return of American tourists as pandemic border closures lift

By SAM KARAS
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BOQUILLAS DEL CARMEN — The blades of Gabriel Ureste Padilla's oars scraped the bottom as he rowed across the Rio Grande. It's going to be a low water winter, and everyone knows it. Still, the mood at Boquillas Crossing was jubilant as the boat landed on the Mexican side. A crowd was gathered to ask the important question: Troca? Burro?

Truck or donkey? Those are visitors' two options for the quarter-mile trek from the river into the little town of Boquillas del Carmen. $5 cash goes a long way here: $5 for the ride across the river, $5 for a ride into town.

The town judge, Chalo Diaz, was waiting just up the hill. His SUV bounced along a dirt road as he talked about life in a border town of about 375 people, a number that fluctuates as there is work and isn't. There hasn't been for 20 months. That's how long the border has been closed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The crossing at Boquillas is a unique place. It's the only way to legally access Mexico from the American side in Big Bend National Park. After 9/11, formal crossings between the two countries were shuttered and informal crossings were policed. This policy was devastating for border towns like Boquillas that depend on tourism as the local mining industry has dwindled — a history that might sound familiar to Big Bend residents on the American side.

In 2013, the National Park Service and Customs and Border Protection tried an experiment. Why not open a small foot crossing at Boquillas? To this day, it's the only border crossing that is not physically staffed by a customs agent. Instead, a park ranger offers directions and travel tips and points tourists toward the river. On the way back, visitors scan their passports at a phone booth that connects them to a customs agent in El Paso.

The US reopened its land borders to nonessential travelers on November 8. Boquillas had to wait until November 17, in order for the Park Service to line up the right staffing. The only change for people crossing from Mexico into the United States is that they're now required to show proof of vaccination — which, Diaz says, isn't a problem because most people in Boquillas have been vaccinated.

As the town judge, it's up to Diaz to resolve disputes within the community and to act as a liaison between the people of Boquillas and the legal entities that pull its strings — the National Park Service and Customs and Border Protection on the American side, the federal government and the Mexican army on the other. (The soldiers trawling through town in a Jeep from a nearby base are the only people he warns against taking pictures of.) He's an expert tour guide, pointing out the house where he was born and a grocery store that used to house the town's sole telephone. It was three pesos to make a call back then. Now most of the houses have internet and people chat over Facebook and Whatsapp.

For the past seven years, Boquillas has gotten its power from a solar plant. There's a small neighborhood of houses in an arroyo that don't have electricity, purely out of fear that a flood will one day wipe them away. That happened to Diaz's family in 2008, when a massive flood swept the canyons of the Big Bend.

The tourists come and go, and the river comes and goes. The little trickle at the crossing is deceiving. A few weeks ago the river swelled over its banks and carried away two of his canoes and a kayak. Local river guide Billy Miller, known in town as Rojo, found what he thought were a couple of Boquillas canoes 200 miles away in Lake Amistad, but they were too damaged to recover.

When the water's low, the cattle and horses that provide a lifeline for many Boquillas families also cross. Rounding them back up can be a legal nightmare. Recently, park rangers gathered 25 cows and 6 horses that had strayed too far on the American side, and took them to Presidio, where there's a facility for international stray cattle. The facility charges American dollars for feed, and the trip to get them back entails a 9 hour one-way drive to the crossing in Ojinaga.

Despite the ups and downs over the past 20 months, everyone is looking forward to the future. It's been a long pandemic for business owners like Amalia, who's been selling handmade tortillas out of her house for four years. "It was very difficult, because we live by what the tourists come and consume here," she said.

Larger scale businesses like Jose Falcon's, a restaurant with a patio view of the river, can't function without those tourists. Jose Falcon's has been open since 1973, and when the border closed after 9/11, the restaurant shuttered for a decade as the family sought work in the United States.

Lilia Falcon, José's daughter, runs the restaurant today; her mother works in the kitchen, still going strong at 78. Still, the length of the COVID shutdown caught them both by surprise. "It was really shocking for us, because we didn't expect it would be for such a long time. I'm 50 years old. I've never seen a pandemic before," she said.

She estimates that the first day the border was back open, 100 tourists from the national park made their way across the river. During peak seasons, as many as 400 can cross in a day, posing problems for the limited local supplies. "If we run out of something, it's not like we can just go to the store and get it. It's 160 miles to go to the store. We make that trip once a week, to be able to have everything fresh."

It's four and a half hours to Múzquiz, where most people in Boquillas do their shopping. Everyone complains about the state of the road. A bus comes to town every two weeks to connect the village with the outside world. Making the right transfers, one could hypothetically take the bus from Boquillas all the way to Mexico City.

When the border crossing is open Wednesday through Sunday, the women of Boquillas wait outside their houses, staffing tables laden with all kinds of hand embroidery and ceramics. Walking sticks and shot glasses are some of the most popular sellers. The ceramics get trucked in from neighboring towns, but the embroidery is local. The style changes from booth to booth, though the subjects — road runners, javelinas, ocotillos — stay the same. There used to be potholders and aprons protesting the border wall and cursing former president Donald Trump, but production slowed as the White House changed hands. The embroidery is an ancient tradition that keeps up with the times.

During the pandemic, many of these local artisans kept to what they'd done for decades — cross the river and lay items for purchase out where the tourists are likely to find them, at popular spots like the Rio Grande Village boat launch and the Hot Springs Historic District. Then they'll wait in the shade across the river and keep a lookout for theft. Off and on, people would sell tacos and tamales to tourists who would wade across the river from the Boquillas Canyon Nature Trail, but the Park Service shut them down.



Photo by Mary Cantrell

Gabriel Ureste Padilla transports tourists from Big Bend National Park across the Rio Grande in a rowboat to Boquillas, Mexico. The border crossing recently reopened after remaining closed for nearly two years.

"I've always heard of it. This is a really popular spot to come to," said Danny Jones, who was visiting Boquillas with his wife and their friends. "Then for a while Mexico seemed like it was a little bit dangerous."

The Jones were seated on the patio at Jose Falcon's next to the Turners and the Jennings, a pair of couples visiting from Houston. Susan Jennings has a reputation in her group of friends as "the adventurer." It was her idea to cross the border the next time she came to Big Bend. "Someone we knew said they were opening back up, so I texted everyone and said, 'Bring your passports!'"

Friday's crossing traffic was moderate —47 checked back in by the time 4 p.m. rolled around — but Boquillas got a chance to warm up for a busy Thanksgiving weekend in the park. In preparation for their arrival, Diaz stressed that visitors to his town would be well taken care of.

"It's a safe place, a place where tourists are welcome," he said. "When a tourist comes, we see him as just one more person from our town."

Visitors to Boquillas must bring passports, and proof of vaccination is required for non-US citizens. Businesses and vendors deal in cash; American dollars are accepted everywhere. The crossing is open Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PRESIDIO COUNTY IS HONORED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE COURTHOUSE CHRISTMAS TREE WILL BE DEDICATED TO ALL VETERANS.

The tree will be decorated in red, white and blue and it will be a great honor to have pictures of veterans living and deceased as ornaments.

Please bring pictures to the county judge's office preferably no later than December 10th.

Pictures will be accepted after that date also and returned after the Christmas holidays.

All are welcome to decorate the tree at 4:00 pm on December 10th.



Venus Marigold Moon Cashiola

Venus Marigold Moon Cashiola was born Friday, November 19, in Alpine, Texas, to parents Joe Cashiola and Ariele Gentiles. Born 6 lb. 7 oz. and measuring 18 ¾ inches long, Venus joins proud big brothers Levi and Eero, who are so excited to have a baby sister!

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Photo by Mary Cantrell

Kathleen Griffith live paints blackfoot daisies on her southwestern wildflowers portion of the collaborative "Postcards from The Big Bend" mural during Alpine's 28th annual Artwalk.

28th annual Alpine Artwalk gives voice to regional creators

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — Downtown Alpine was abuzz this past weekend with art in every direction — murals decorated alleyways, artists populated indoor galleries and outdoor vendor tents and a live music stage entertained crowds of beer-gripping, funnel cake-eating Texans.

The annual Alpine Artwalk, now in its 28th year, was back this year after being canceled in 2020 due to coronavirus. The streets of downtown Alpine were closed off to make room for the crowds and numerous galleries and shops opened their doors to allow for the free flow of customers and cool autumn air.

The mission of Artwalk is to support local artists and promote tourism in Alpine, with many visitors coming to the event from the Midland-Odessa area. The emerging mural scene is quickly earning Alpine a reputation as a public art destination, with the newly completed mural "A Tribute to Texas Musicians," by Stylle Read on view at the corner of 5th and Murphy and an alley off 6th street between Avenue E and Holland which is exploding with freshly-painted murals.

"We're trying to promote the art alley that's cropping up in Downtown. It's really getting better and better month by month," said John Davis, who has helped organize Artwalk since the inaugural event in the early '90s.

Artist Kathleen Griffith was in the midst of putting the finishing touches on her portion of the collaborative "Postcards From The Big Bend Mural," an ode to the wildflowers of Southwest Texas on Saturday. Liz Sibley and Nancy Whitlock spearheaded the initiatives to funkify the alleyway a few years ago, said Griffith.

Ever the plant lady, Griffith wore overalls with succulent and cacti illustrations on them and was friendly to curious passersby. Creatives including Griffith are also jazzing up wooden light poles in the alley by painting them with various themes.

"I'm going to put plants, and I'm going to make butterflies out of ceramics, then add the butterflies to the pole. I like nature as you can tell," Griffith laughs. "That's my thing, I love anything that teaches people about nature."

An acoustic rendition of "Pancho and Lefty," played by Griffith's husband's band, drifted along the corridor. In addition to the main "Budweiser" stage, troubadours dotted the Artwalk routes.

Kerry Awn was showing some of his Austin poster art from the '70s and '80s at the Alpine Museum of Pop Culture and said mural alley is gaining traction.

"A lot of people don't know about it. They're just discovering it right now, this weekend. So eventually, there'll be a lot more art and murals and the whole town will be painted eventually."

The newly-established Alpine Museum of Pop Culture borders the flourishing mural alley. The museum, which also has locations in Austin and San Antonio specific to the regional culture, is not officially open and has yet to undergo renovations, but will soon host events and serve as a nonprofit for local art and music.

Awn said the space will support local artists like George Zupp or "Chicken George," who was selling artwork outside the building in a red western shirt. He said he appreciates the Alpine art crowd and Artwalk sometimes provides him with inspiration for his paintings.

"It's fun to hang out and meet new characters. I like learning new stories from people that show up. There's great subjects here, it's like, 'Ooh, who's that dude?' I want to make work about some of what he's blabbing about," said Zupp.

Tom Curry, an artist and illustrator who owns Curry Gallery in Alpine and is well-known for his signature Southwestern style, was selling a fair amount of prints inside the museum. Curry's work includes children's books, paintings and editorial illustrations for Texas Monthly. He said while Marfa is the more widely acknowledged "art town" of the region, Alpine has a different flavor to offer.

"We're trying to catch up with Marfa in terms of being an arts destination. People come out here and they hear about Marfa then they come over to Alpine and say, 'This is cool too,'" said Curry.

An art bus parked along the main strip attracted guests with its unconventional gallery format. Utilizing discarded art shipping containers, Batey No. 4, an art collective based in Alpine, turned the old school bus into a gallery that displays ceramics and more. They have been participating in Artwalk since 2016. Many ceramics by Sul Ross professor Gregory Tegarden were on display, but Tegarden himself was down the street, live sculpting a planter out of clay in front of Big Bend Arts Council's Gallery on the Square.

Sarah Sheffield of Batey No. 4, said she prefers the local, laid back arts culture in Alpine as opposed to the more international scene in Marfa and thinks distinctions often made between the two as immature versus professional are misled.

"You have a lot of people here, this is their livelihood, but they're not in a New York gallery nor do a lot of them want to be, that's the thing too. So it's a much more casual vibe," said Sheffield.

The down to earth style allows for a culture of sharing, and for the artists to have more connectivity to their work and those purchasing their work, said Sheffield.

"Artists here are much more connected to their work than if they ship it off to the galleries and it just sits there and eventually gets bought. But here, we're hawking our wares," said Sheffield.

Amanda Calhoun, an artist and member of Batey No. 4, echoed Sheffield's sentiments and said it was refreshing to be back out in the community with the bus, seeing people's reactions.

"All these years doing this, you can feel the excitement and people seem to receive it really well, lots of smiles. It's just a lot of fun, and it's good to have the festivity back," said Calhoun.

At Kishmish Plaza, a handful of Sul Ross art students were set up to sell their artwork for the event. In addition to practicing the more pragmatic skills of tabling like money handling, students were also gaining valuable experience talking to strangers about their creative process.

Tamara Carrasco, who is originally from Ojinaga, is a junior at Sul Ross with a concentration in ceramics. She said she wants to be a ceramics professor when she graduates and was appreciative of the opportunity for exposure.

"It's just bigger than any other year before. I think it's a way to get my name somewhere," Carrasco said.

Also posted up at Kishmish Plaza was Tim Roberts, this year's honored artist — an Artwalk tradition which spotlights one local artist for the duration of the event. Roberts, who is from Fort Davis, works in a variety of mediums including oil paintings, drypoint etchings and linocut prints. Most notably, Roberts is a scratchboard artist, a relatively little-known art form which involves scratching away black ink from a piece of masonite board coated in white clay.

The results have a 3D effect. Roberts' subject matter is partly inspired by the region—his dayjob is regional archeologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife—and features starlit cantinas, railroad scenes and cityscapes.

Roberts offered up a magnifying glass to viewers to encourage them to get up close to the scratchboard works, allowing for further appreciation of the hand skills involved in the niche process. Not for the easily deterred, Roberts said his scratchboard works can take months to complete and once finished are hard to let go of.

"By the time you spend five months working on something like that, especially if it's something you really enjoy, it's hard to turn it loose. So I may be my own biggest collector of my artwork," Roberts laughs.

Alpine-based band the Doodlin' Hogwallops played country music on the Budweiser stage well into the afternoon as a few brave souls graced the dance floor and spectators sat devouring hotdogs and tapping their cowboy boots to familiar songs "Lady Bird" and "Meet Me in Midland."

New historic ghost tour haunts the streets of Alpine

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — Believers and nonbelievers gathered this past Saturday at the historic Reata restaurant under a full moon to witness spine-tingling spectres and learn about the rich history of downtown Alpine.

The 40 plus participants clutched fake candles, sipped on cocktails and hot cocoa donated by Reata and prepared to walk the 1.5 mile route to a handful of the historic, supposedly haunted, landmarks. It was opening weekend for the ghost tour, which is a collaborative effort by the Alpine Historical Association, newly established after a long hiatus, and Sul Ross University's theatre program, with all proceeds going to theatre scholarships.

Jimmy Case, who teaches political science at Sul Ross, first learned about the tour through the local Kiwanis Club and brought his friends who were in town visiting from Fort Worth for Artwalk, Arch and Edy Lou Mayfield. The Mayfields said they are drawn to the novelty of spooky tours, enjoy learning the local lore and have participated in similar events during their travels.

"We're staying at the Holland Hotel. They said there will be something at the Holland, we just hope it's not our room," Edy Lou laughed.

The thrill-seeking crowd was made up of people of all ages who faithfully followed the lead raconteur, Bret Scott, from one storied building to the next. He also teaches at Sul Ross and spent 10 years working at the sketch and improv comedy theater Second City Chicago, lent his booming voice as tour guide for the experience, his pageboy cap and pocket watch reminders of another era.

Live actors playing troubled phantoms lurked in windows and pathways along the route, telling their tales from the grave. Their makeup, costumes and characterizations of those long dead bolstered the color and excitement of the tour. Actors ranged from Sul Ross staff and students to regular community members with a flair for theatrics.

The nighttime walk began at Reata and meandered over to the Alpine Railroad Depot, Hotel Ritchey, Brewster County Courthouse and more, ultimately ending up at the Holland Hotel. There were recounts of murders, brothels, betrayals and hangings from Alpine's history in addition to more regional folklore of La Llorona and the devil.

Marjie Scott, Chair of the fine arts department at Sul Ross, directed and wrote the script for the ghost tour. Research materials include Alpine, Texas, Then and Now, a history of Alpine by previous Sul Ross history department chair Clifford B. Casey, and Tales of the Big Bend a folklore collection by Elton Miles.

Abbey Branch, member of the Alpine Historical Association, wanted to share her experience growing up in Alpine on similar tall tales with the greater public by hosting a spooky stroll. She said the Theatre of The Big Bend exposed her to many popular musicals as a child and she also wanted to give back to Sul Ross' theatre program. Student actors are also receiving a stipend for their participation.

"We thought it was a great idea to work with Sul Ross. They provide the acting and the charisma to lead the tours and in return, we donate 100% of the profits to theatre scholarships," said Branch.

Additional tours will take place this spring and more themes may be added in the future, said Branch, like cemetery or southside tours. The group hopes to attract locals and visitors alike with wicked characters and cultural climaxes.

"We just thought it was a great way to tell the history of our town, share the folklore and get people excited that either visit here or are from here," said Branch.

The next round of ghoulish ghost walks will take place in April 2022. For tickets and updates, visit https://historicalpine.org/ghost-tours/

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Community

Convenience West hosts Marfa Thanksgiving community meal

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — The annual Thanksgiving meal at Saint Paul's Episcopal was up in the air, Allison Scott told her son Mark over the phone earlier this fall. Allison had been helping organize the event for years — where one and all are invited to partake in a free Thanksgiving meal at the church, often provided potluck style and with a side of church service — but continued risks of indoor gathering threatened the usual run of events.

"I didn't really think twice about it," Mark said, at least at first. "Then, I realized a couple days later it meant it just wouldn't happen." While he hadn't been a member of the church since around age 15, he felt like the decades-long tradition warranted saving, and so he sprang to action.

It's fortunate that Allison's son is also a professional barbecue purveyor and one of the founders of Convenience West, a barbecue joint on the west side of town. He talked to the crew, who quickly offered up the restaurant to provide the main courses, and the church eagerly got to work planning to support the event with lots of tasty side dishes.

At the time, Mark hadn't yet realized his grandmother Dorothy Ryan, along with then-preacher Jim Eubanks and his wife Greta, had started the community Thanksgiving meal at the church many decades back. "That was kind of fun to find out and makes it a little more special for myself," the barbecue pitmaster added.

Greta recounted to Allison this year that when she, her husband and Dorothy had first launched the effort, "I was nervous, but both families pitched in." Allison's father, Pat Ryan, was the owner of *The Big Bend Sentinel* at the time, and advertised the event in the paper to let everyone know it was open to all. The church set up telephone spools as tables and waited for people to arrive. "At that time several families lived at the Paisano Hotel," Greta recalled, "and we all knew families that were alone. We prayed that we would have food enough. There was plenty."

St. Paul's Reverend Mike Wallens said that this year and last year felt too unsafe to hold the traditional indoor gathering. Last year they opted to hand out Thanksgiving boxes, "But we didn't do what we normally do because of COVID," Wallens said. This year, they didn't have the capacity to seat everyone outside, so the partnership with Convenience West became a clear path forward.

The restaurant will supply turkeys and brisket, and Marc Declercq volunteered to fry some additional turkeys. Convenience West's Kaki Aufdengarten-Scott and Katy Rose Elsasser will make desserts and sides, and more sides will be donated by people who attend the St. Paul's Episocal Church who have contributed in the past. "It should be a real nice spread," Mark said.

They also worked with local nutrition center director Edward Cobos to get an updated list of Meals on Wheels recipients, so they can deliver hot Thanksgiving meals that day. Helping out will be some of the regular drivers who have volunteered to help get meals delivered, along with many more helping hands. The food pantry is also donating some veggies from their garden, and the restaurant will have a donation jar out so all of the proceeds can go to the food pantry.

Locals and visitors alike are welcome to join the 10 a.m. Eucharist at Saint Paul's and partake in the meal, beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday and wrapping up around 3 p.m. at Convenience West. Diners can eat at the restaurant's outdoor patio or take the food to go, though Mark advised bundling up if planning to dine at the patio, since the forecast is chilly on Thursday.

"It's just such a big part of this holiday for a lot of local people, but also a lot of tourists when they come into town and they're looking for a warm meal and friendly faces," Mark said. "I think it provides so much for locals and tourists alike, and this has been peoples' Thanksgiving for years." He worried that if it didn't return to a more usual form this year that "maybe it'll just kind of fade away, and I'd hate for that to happen," he said. "If we can keep it alive, maybe next year they'll be ready to fire the church back up."

"If it wasn't for COVID, we'd be doing it," Wallens reassured. "But we're hoping next year it'll be safe to eat inside. We're looking forward to going back to the way we've done it before — we're just glad that we can have a community gathering as safely as possible."

Busy Thanksgiving expected in Big Bend: Visitors should be prepared for limited parking, full campgrounds and lodging

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK — Large numbers of visitors historically travel to Big Bend National Park during the last weeks of November. As travelers seek out Big Bend for a Thanksgiving escape, the park will see significant increases in visitation. Big Bend is already experiencing record visitation, and visitors who plan on a November visit should be prepared for full campgrounds and limited parking.

"If the last year is any indication, our expectations are for an extremely busy Thanksgiving this year," said Chief of Interpretation Tom VandenBerg. "Many people are making the long journey to this remote park, only to find that many other people have also planned to do the same thing and that all camping sites are already full," says VandenBerg.

Reservations are required for all Big Bend National Park campgrounds. Campers can make reservations up to six months in advance, with a limited number of campsites reservable up to 14 days in advance. Reservations are made through the online reservation portal at www.recreation.gov. Most sites are already reserved. If you plan on visiting Big Bend this time of year, it is best to come prepared with some alternative plans for lodging or camping outside of the park if all sites are full.

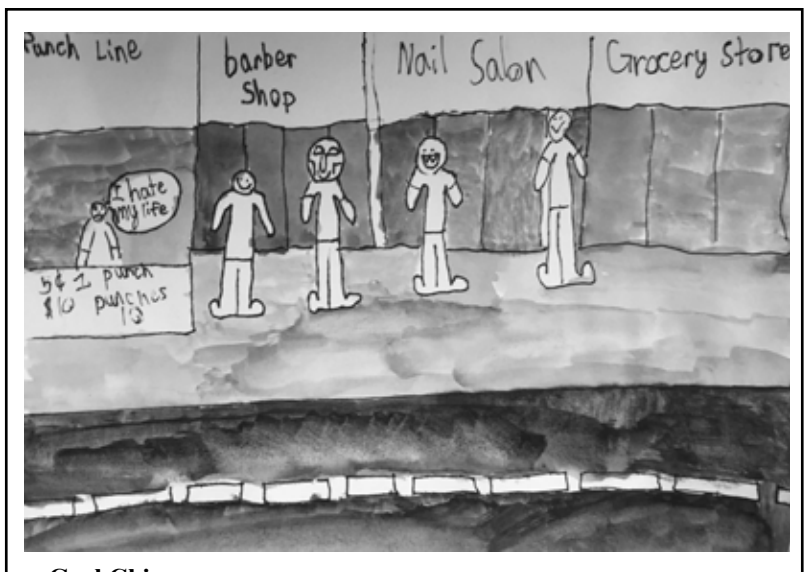
Backcountry permits are required for backpacking and primitive campsites. Permits may be obtained in person up to 24 hours in advance at the Panther Junction Visitor Center from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Chisos Basin Visitor Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The most popular backcountry sites are reservable up to six months in advance via www.recreation.gov. Many sites have already been reserved. Visitors planning to visit Big Bend National Park should have alternate plans in case they cannot find a campsite within the park.

Visitors seeking lodging inside the park without reservations may have difficulty finding a room. The Chisos Mountains Lodge, the only lodging facility in the park, reports that few reservations are available. A fortunate few may be able to take advantage of last-minute cancellations. Potential visitors should call the lodge at (432) 477-2291 for more information. Additional camping facilities, RV parks, and lodging are located in communities outside the park. Current listings are available at www.visitbigbend.com.

Thanksgiving visitors will also find limited parking at many of the park's most popular areas and trailheads. Visitors to the Lost Mine Trail, Chisos Basin, Hot Springs, Boquillas Port of Entry, Boquillas Canyon and Santa Elena Canyon Trail may experience delays. When all parking is full, rangers will establish "one-in, one-out" traffic control measures in these areas. Visitors should have alternate itineraries planned. The park website is a great resource for trip planning.

"The next few months are a fantastic time to visit Big Bend, but are also the busiest times of the year in the park, and many visitors are disappointed when their favorite campsites are not available," continued VandenBerg. "We wish to encourage people to plan ahead and consider visiting during other times of the year to maximize enjoyment of Big Bend, and the remote sense of peacefulness that it is known for."

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Gael Chivras
Comic
7th grade

☺MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU☺

OCT	Thu, Nov 25	Fri, Nov 26	Mon, Nov 29	Tue, Nov 30	Wed, Dec 1
BREAKFAST	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	BREAKFAST BREAD, YOGURT	BREAKFAST BURRITO	SAUSAGE KOLACHE, CHEESE CUBES
LUNCH Menu courtesy of PORTER'S SINCE 1945 Celebrating 70+ years of serving our customers. 432-729-4375 www.myporters.net	HOLIDAY 	HOLIDAY	BREADED DRUMSTICK, GARDEN SALAD, SWEET POTATOE FRIES, APPLE SLICES	WALKING TACO, BEANS, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, CHILLED PINEAPPLE, COOKIE	PEPPERONI PIZZA, FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS, MARINARA SAUCE, CINNAMON APPLESAUCE

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

TUE, NOV 30: Boys & Girls High School Basketball at Comstock, 6:00 pm

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BBT

Sudoku & Crossword puzzles:

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg November 8, 2021

ACROSS
1 Scales a rock wall
7 Commercials
10 Score such as 20-20
13 Like yoga done in a hammock
14 Give an unfriendly wave?
15 Gasteyer of "Mean Girls"
16 Spelling clarification for comedian Groucho?
18 "MIC Drop" K-pop band
19 ___ Beta Kappa
20 "U r 2 funny!"
21 Derma-tologist's opening
22 Nickname that drops "tav"
24 Where comedian Samantha learned her routines?
28 Reaction to a back rub
29 Egg on
30 Certain choir voices
32 Evaporate
34 Mattress cover
37 Someone completely different from comedian Amy?
40 Kind of talk
41 "That's impossible for me"
42 Writer Sontag
43 Soon, in a sonnet
44 "___ be an honor!"
45 What comedian Redd wore on his hand?
50 H, in Greece
51 Part of a big plot?
52 "Victory was mine!"
54 Pro at filing taxes
57 "The Crying Game" star Stephen
58 Adoration of comedian Eric?
62 Part of LGBTQ+
63 Had down cold
64 Respectful
65 Positions for switches
66 Enjoy turkey, perhaps
67 Elitist people

DOWN
1 Where to pitch a tent
2 Jacob's first wife
3 Watered
4 A little of this, a little of that
5 Sobs
6 Unlikely, as chances
7 "Bingo!"
8 Slip into
9 Chicago White ___
10 Shouting in a library, e.g.
11 Opening remarks, briefly
12 Artist's stand
14 High heel or high-top
17 Bar bill
21 Degree above an M.S.
23 "Here comes trouble!"
25 Pharaoh's land, once
26 Early course at a restaurant
27 Mafia leaders
28 Plant whose name has three vowels
30 Appropriate
31 Arm rest?
32 Clog-busting brand
33 Howard who directed "Solo"
34 Green ice cream flavor
35 Hardly at all
36 Where the lion sleeps tonight
38 Biol. branch
39 Business attire
43 Tool for splitting wood: Var.
45 North Dakota's largest city
46 Place to see a lantern fish
47 Dental pictures
48 Perspective
49 "Ick!"
50 Energy company that went bankrupt in 2001
53 "My bad!"
55 Sch. in the Steelers' city
56 Copies
58 Eisenhower's nickname
59 Molecule with two strands
60 Rent out
61 ___-mo

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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11/8

Comic Relief *by Paul Coulter*



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Stay on top of holiday hours for food and drinks this Thanksgiving in Marfa

MARFA — The holiday season has arrived and with it comes the adjusted schedules for all types of food and drink establishments across Marfa. Courtesy of the Marfa Visitor Center, a schedule of those local businesses' holiday hours has been compiled to keep locals and visitors alike informed on when and where they can partake in the city's offerings through Thanksgiving Day and the holiday weekend.

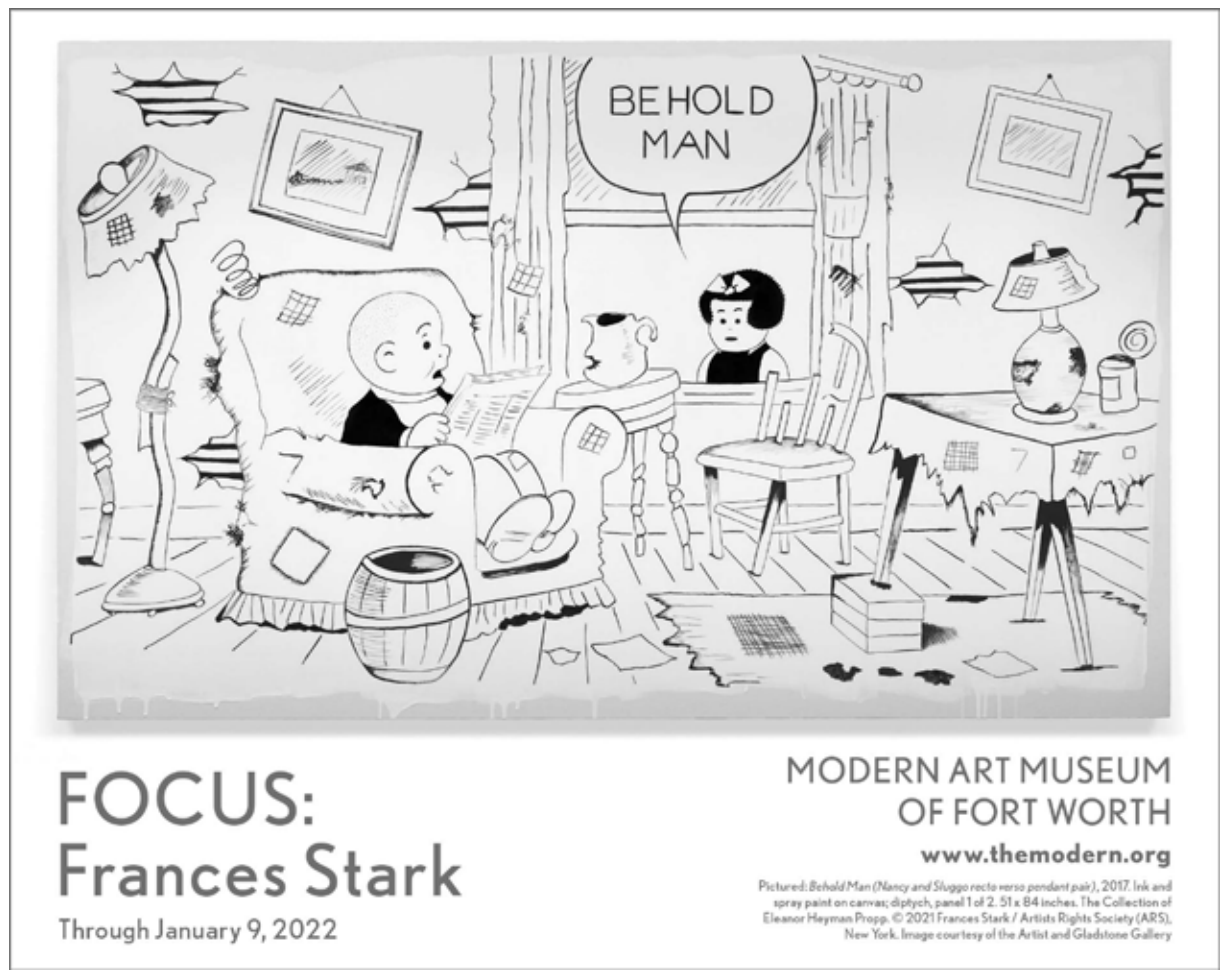


Bars & Liquor Stores	Thanksgiving Day	Notes/ Comments
Cactus Liquors 405 S Highland Ave	Closed on Thanksgiving Day	Open regular hours the rest of the week.
Marfa Wine Company 303 E El Paso Street marfawineco.com	Open 10am - 2pm	1pm - 7pm on 11/24 and 11/26

Coffee & Coffee Supplies	Thanksgiving Day	Notes/ Comments
Do Your Thing 201 E Dallas St	Closed on Thanksgiving Day	
Frama 120 N Austin St.	Closed on Thanksgiving Day	Open regular hours the rest of the week.
The Sentinel 209 W. El Paso St	Closed on Thanksgiving Day	Open every other day from 7:30am - 3:00pm.

Grocers & Provisions	Thanksgiving Day	Notes/ Comments
The Get Go 208 S Dean	Closed on Thanksgiving Day	Normal hours day before and after
Porter's 717 W San Antonio	Open from 8am - 2pm	Normal hours rest of the week.

Restaurant	Thanksgiving Day	Notes/ Comments
Aster Marfa 215 N Highland Ave 432-729-4500	Closed from 11/24 - 11/26	Open Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving.
Bee's 300 W San Antonio	Closed on Thanksgiving Day.	
Buns 'N Roses 1613 W San Antonio 432-729-4282	Closed on Thanksgiving Day	Open Friday - Sunday, regular hours
Cochineal 107 W San Antonio www.cochinealmarfa.com	Closed the week of Thanksgiving	
Convenience West 1411 W San Antonio www.conveniencewest.com Preorder only, takeout only	Pre-order online Pickup on 11/24	Brisket, turkey breast, desserts, and more
Dairy Queen 704 W San Antonio 432-729-4471	Closed on Thanksgiving Day	Open normal hours the rest of the week.
Food Shark 909 W San Antonio	Closed	
Jett's Grill (Hotel Paisano) 207 N Highland 432-729-3838	12:00pm - 3:00pm **reservations required**	
La Venture @ HSG 105 S Highland 432-729-3701 Reservations suggested	12:00pm - 3:00pm **reservations required**	Standard dinner services resume at 6:00pm.
Line Thai @ Truckland Marfa 220 W San Antonio 432-295-0282	Closed on Thanksgiving Day	
Lost Horse Saloon 306 E San Antonio 432-729-4499	Closed on Thanksgiving Day	
Marfa Burrito 515 S Highland 325-514-8675	Closed on Thanksgiving Day	
Margaret's 103 N Highland 432-729-2030	Closed on Thanksgiving Day	Open regular hours the rest of the week.
Para Llevar/Siempre 113 S Dean www.marfaparallever.com	Closed on Thanksgiving Day	Open regular hours the rest of the week.
The Water Stop 1300 W San Antonio	Closed on Thanksgiving Day	Open regular hours the rest of the week.
Wienertown 400 E. Dallas wienertown.company.site Order & pay online only	Closed on Thanksgiving Day	Open regular hours on the weekend.







Public Awareness Information on Natural Gas
From the City of Marfa Gas Department

Natural Gas Safety Tips

- Service natural gas appliances periodically
- Don't use a gas range to heat a room
- Keep liter and flammables away from gas hot water heaters
- Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning by proper appliance installation, maintenance and use
- Teach your family to recognize the smell of natural gas

Natural Gas Facts

- Natural gas is a clean, economical and efficient fuel
- Natural gas is very safe when used and handled properly
- Natural gas is non-toxic and non poisonous
- Natural gas has an excellent safety record

If you suspect a gas leak:

- Call the gas department for help on a phone away from the leak
- Eliminate ignition sources and secure leak area
- Do not operate motor vehicles near leak area and provide traffic control as needed

REPORT GAS LEAKS BY CALLING (432)729-1998 or 911

REMEMBER: STOP BEFORE YOU DIG!!

Call 811 if any excavation deeper than 16 inches is to occur on your property so gas and other lines can be located in advance

The City of Marfa Gas Department is committed to the safety of our community as well as the safety of the environment

For additional information call or write to:
City of Marfa Gas Department 113 S. Highland
P.O. Box787
Marfa, TX 79843
432-729-1998

Información de sensibilización pública sobre Gas Natural
Desde la ciudad de Marfa Departamento de gas

Consejos de seguridad Gas natural

- Aparatos de gas natural deben ser revisados periódicamente
- No utilizar una gama de gas para calentar una habitación
- Mantener litros y productos inflamablcs lejos de calentadores de agua caliente de gas
- Prevenir el monóxido de carbono, intoxicación por instalación de equipo adecuado, mantenimiento y uso
- Ense a su familia a reconocer el olor de gas natural

Gas natural hechos

- El gas natural es un combustible limpio, economico y eficiente
- El gas natural es muy seguro cuando utiliza y maneja correctamente
- El gas natural no es toxico y no venenosas
- Gas natural tiene un historial de seguridad excelente

Si sospecha que una fuga de gas:

- Llame al departamento de gas para obtener ayuda sobre un telefono lejos de la fuga
- Eliminar fuentes de ignici6n y segura zona de fugas
- No operar vehiculos cerca de la zona de fuga y proporcionan control de trafico segun sea necesano

FUGAS DE GAS INFORME LLAMANDO AL (432) 729-1998 o 911

RECUERDE DEJARANTES DE EXCAVAR!!

Llamar 811 si cualquier excavacion mas profunda que 16 pulgadas es que se produzca en su propiedad para gas y otras lineas puede ser localizado de antelacion

El departamento de Gas ciudad de Marfa esta comprometido con la seguridad de nuestra comunidad, asi como la seguridad del medio ambiente

Para obtener mas informacion llame o escriba a:
Departamento de la ciudad de Marfa Gas 113 S. Highland
P.O. Box 787
Marfa, TX 79843
432-729-1998

Classifieds & public notices

RECORD SWAP & SALE
Black Friday (Nov.26th) 2021
10 AM – 2 PM

To be held in the Community Hall of the 1st Methodist Church
Corner of Austin and Washinton Sts.
Marfa, Texas

Bring canned goods for Marfa Food Pantry!
Accepting your T-Day surplus

Email for info at: superscratchy1953@gmail.com

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BY GIVING YOUR HOME A TOTAL CLEANING FACELIFT

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MARATHON OFFICE:
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ph:432-386-4422

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JOBS

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

The Rio Grande Council of Governments

The Area Agency on Aging, a division of the Rio Grande Council of Governments, announces the following position:

Program Specialist – Service Coordination

Full-time position
Located in the agency's Satellite Office in Marfa, TX

Application and job description available at
www.riocog.org

Closing date: Until filled

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.

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.
- 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 positions:
- Servers, will train
- Bartenders, experience preferred
- Prep Cooks, experience preferred
- Line Cooks, experience preferred

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

THE CITY OF MARFA IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A FULL-TIME PUBLIC UTILITY OPERATOR.

This position works with the Public Utility crew on a variety of tasks involving operations, installation and repair of water and sewer lines. This position interacts with the public and works outside under adverse conditions. Must be available to work overtime on short notice. Must be able to acquire a Class D Wastewater license, Class D Water license, and CDL within one year. Starting pay is $15.00.

Employment applications and job descriptions are available at City Hall, 113 South Highland Street, Marfa, Texas.

The City of Marfa is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

For additional information contact City Hall at 432-729-4315 or email at csalgado@cityofmarfa.com.

THE SENTINEL
NEWSPAPER • COFFEE • COCKTAILS

THE SENTINEL IS HIRING IMMEDIATELY FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

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

BARTENDER, BARISTA, PREP COOK -- We are seeking individuals with a great attitude and customer service skills for full-time and part-time time positions. Experience is a plus, happy to train the right candidate. The Sentinel offers competitive pay and employee discounts.

Please email your resume to max@thesentinelmarfa.com or come by and fill out an application.

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Broker/Sales
917.495.8823

marfavistarealty.com

LIZ SERLENGA
Sales
508.272.5699

JOBS

JOB OPENING - MARFA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Marfa Public Library is accepting applications for a part-time library assistant (10 hours per week, Saturday hours required).

The position performs a variety of computer, clerical, and library duties. Specific tasks include, but are not limited to: circulation, customer service, computer help, shelving books, and light cleaning.

Applicants should be energetic, possess a love of books and reading, and a willingness to assist with library programs, especially for children.

Spanish bilingual preferred; familiarity with Apple computers a plus.

Application may be obtained at City Hall, Marfa, Texas.
Submit resumes and applications to librarydirector@cityofmarfa.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

The City of Marfa Board of Adjustment has scheduled a Special Meeting for **Monday, December 13, 2021, at 6:00 p. m.** in the Casner Room, City Hall, 113 S. Highland Ave, Marfa, Texas. The Board members will discuss and render a decision regarding:

•A Special Use Permit, No. 21-04, requested by Yadira and Cesar Torres, to place a mobile home, which will be used as a residence, at 1105 W. Paris Street, also known as Block 1, Lot 6, West Heights Addition.

•A Variance Request No. 21-05, requested by David Ericsson, from the requirements of Marfa's Zoning Ordinance, regarding front yard double frontage setback, front yard setback, side yard setback and off-street parking at 412 W. Galveston Street, also known as Block 56, Lot 11, Original Town of Marfa.

•A Variance Request No. 21-06, requested by Eric Martinez, from the requirements of Marfa's Zoning Ordinance, regarding front yard setback and front yard double frontage setback, at 1407 W. Sacramento Street, also known as Block 20, Lot 8, West Heights Addition.

Additional information concerning the above Special Use Permit or Variance Requests is available by calling Ann Dunlap, Board of Adjustment Secretary at (432) 729-4400.

The Public is invited to attend.

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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
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(432) 295-0048
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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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