THE BIG BEND
Sentinel

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

Open candidate filing period to close December 13

By MARY CANTRELL
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TRI-COUNTY — There's still time to apply for the numerous open public office positions in Presidio, Brewster and Jeff Davis counties, with the open candidate filing period closing on Monday, December 13, 2021.

Applicants will first appear on the ballot in the primary elections on March 1, 2022. From there, successful candidates will go on to the general election in November 2022, with elected officials finally taking office in January 2023. Candidates are required to apply through either the Democratic or Republican county chair. Information on how to apply can be found on the secretary of state's website: https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/candidates/index.shtml.

Positions up for election in Presidio County include County Judge, District/County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Commissioner Precinct 2, County Commissioner Precinct 4, Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 and Justice of the Peace Precinct 2.

Republican Chair Dan Dunlap said he has not yet had anyone file for available public office positions under the Republican Party. Under the Democratic Party, José Portillo Jr., who previously served as Presidio city administrator for five years until February 2021, has filed to run for Presidio County Judge.

Raul Lara, who is currently serving on Marfa City Council, has filed for Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, and incumbent Juanita Urias Bishop has filed for Justice of the Peace Precinct 2. David Beebe, who previously served as Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, announced Monday that he will run for County Commissioner Precinct 4. He said a website and campaign events are in the works.

The Big Bend Sentinel did not receive comment from current County Judge Cinderela Guevara or County Commissioner Precinct 2 Eloy Aranda by press time. County Commissioner Precinct 4 Buddy Knight and District/County Clerk Florcita Zubia both said they intend to file for re-election.

As of Monday, December 6, Dina Jo Losoya-Marquez will serve as interim Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 after Beebe, who held the position for seven years, announced that he would be stepping down this past October. Losoya-Marquez will have to file and run against Lara if she wants to continue to serve after Beebe's unexpired term is up on December 31, 2022.

Brewster County's open positions include County Judge — Judge Eleazar R. Cano is leaving office

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Rare earth mining project at Round Top near Sierra Blanca could have significant implications for entire Big Bend region



Photo courtesy of the office of Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

In late October, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar, right, visited with USA Rare Earth's senior geologist, Tim Palmer, left, about plans for the company's Round Top rare earth mining project near Sierra Blanca in Hudspeth County.

By MARY CANTRELL
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FAR WEST TEXAS — Round Top Mountain, located about eight miles northwest of the town of Sierra Blanca in Hudspeth County, could be the site of one of the few rare earth mining operations in the United States as early as 2023.

Rare earth minerals are primarily mined in China and are used to make magnets which power everything from electronics like cell phones and computers to large-scale/rechargeable batteries like the ones used in electric vehicles, wind turbines and military weapons. Battery grade lithium, gallium, zirconium, hafnium and beryllium are among the valuable minerals present at Round Top that will be mined. Of the 17 rare earth minerals, 16 have been found at the Round Top site, as well as other high-value tech minerals.

Contrary to the name, rare-earth elements, or REEs, are metallic elements that exist in abundance in Earth's crust. However, at Round Top Mountain, REEs have been found in higher concentrations, which makes it more economically viable to extract the minerals and why the site was chosen for development of a rare earth mineral mine by company USA Rare Earth.

According to recent mapping projects by the U.S. Geological Survey, parts of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio and Brewster counties contain significant levels of rare earth deposits. The rare earth mining process is known to produce radioactive and toxic waste byproducts, raising health and environmental concerns around what a project of this scale could mean for the Big Bend region. REEs have been found in at least 19 states and a number of other mining projects are underway in Texas and other states.

Proponents of the mine say it will bring increased employment to the area, and royalties collected from the General Land Office (GLO), which is leasing land and mineral rights to USA Rare Earth, would funnel into the public education system, therefore benefitting the entire state.

"The Round Top project is expected to be a boon for the local and state economy, yielding 130 to 195 direct full-time permanent jobs in Texas and adding about $26 million each year to the state's public education system," said a press release from Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar's office.

In the recent past, there has been a significant push from the U.S. government to start the production of American-made magnets to alleviate U.S. dependence on these resources

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Marfa downtown and Judd properties considered for National Register of Historic Places

By ABBIE PERRAULT
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MARFA — A long-running plan to create a historic district in the center of Marfa for the National Register of Historic Places is moving one step closer to being realized. On Thursday, December 16, business owners, Marfa residents and those curious to know more about the process are invited to attend a meeting with the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

The public information meeting, held next Thursday, December 16, at the Presidio County Courthouse at 5:30 p.m., will discuss the nomination process, the boundaries of the Central Marfa Historic District, and how it impacts property owners within the district.

The proposed district centers around Highland Avenue south of the courthouse, but its boundaries are roughly defined by Washington Street to the north, Dallas Street to the south, Dean and Russell to the east, and Austin and Abbot streets to the west.

"It's an irregular boundary," Greg Smith, a federal programs coordinator at THC, explained. "We draw them to include the highest concentration of contributing properties. One of the tricky things here is that we're focusing on the commercial district, and in Marfa, there's not a 100 percent clear distinction between commercial and residential."

"Contributing properties" are usually ones that fall within a 50-year period of significance and have retained a good degree of integrity. "In this case, we're extending that period into the 1990s, with the second period just to account for Donald Judd, his work and his influence," Smith said.

The effort to recognize a historic central district in Marfa began as far back as the mid-2000s when the City of Marfa began looking into being on the register. With discussions underway, Judd Foundation was interested in having many of Judd's properties in town recognized on the register, having a historic research survey carried out that identified resources and priorities for the district.

Since Judd's properties are scattered throughout

(Continued on page 3)

Big Bend National Park experiences uptick in undocumented migrant apprehensions

By MARY CANTRELL
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BIG BEND — Approximately 340 undocumented migrants were apprehended in Big Bend National Park from November 25 to December 6, an unusual trend for an area which typically doesn't see that level of traffic across the U.S.-Mexico border.

"Yes, apprehensions within Big Bend National Park are less frequent than other areas, but with mild weather it is more doable for people being pushed through versus during the hotter months," said Big Bend Sector Public Affairs Officer for Customs and Border Protection Greg Davis in an email.

Over the weekend of November 27, 50 undocument migrants were found within the national park. An additional 70 individuals were apprehended December 1, hailing from Venezuela. Most recently, on December 3, 35 more undocument migrants were apprehended, and on December 6, 40 more individuals — the majority also coming from Venezuela. Big Bend National Park rangers assisted Border Patrol in locating the individuals.

"Big Bend Sector agents work hard every day along with local agencies to protect the American people and safeguard our borders," said Big Bend Sector Chief Patrol Agent Sean McGoffin. "We appreciate our relationship with the National Park Service Rangers and all of our partners in the Big Bend region."

All individuals were transported to the Alpine Border Patrol Station for processing and will be processed under established Big Bend Sector Guidelines. If the Alpine station reaches capacity, individuals are moved to another station for processing. Subjects are generally in Border Patrol custody for just a few hours, said Davis, and if not returned to Mexico, are moved to the custody of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement.

"We at Big Bend National Park have seen considerable growth in asylum seekers crossing our southern border in recent weeks, and are working closely with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol in responding to these crossings through the park," said Bob Krumenaker, the park's superintendent in an email. "Some of the people are in need of medical care, and park rangers are providing care to those individuals as needed. This increased activity on the border should have little effect on the typical park visitor experience."

'Big Bend Big Fix' low-cost spay and neuter clinic returns to Presidio County

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — The Big Bend Big Fix, a low-cost spay and neuter clinic sponsored by the Far West Texas Rescue Coalition, is returning to the region next weekend for Presidio County pet owners seeking veterinary care at reduced rates. Their services include spay and neuter surgeries, vaccines and microchips.

The program began in February and was an instant success. They started small, with a pop-up clinic out of the Marfa Animal Shelter, and expanded to programs in Marathon, Fort Davis and Fort Stockton, serving anywhere from 50 to 100 animals a day. "It was incredible to us," said Jeanine Bishop, executive director of the Alpine Humane Society. "It saves [our shelters] a lot of money and it gets a lot of animals done."

Bishop explained that there are many barriers to pet owners looking to spay or neuter their pets in the Big Bend. Vet care at traditional clinics can be expensive — local practitioners can charge anywhere from $130 to $350 for the procedure. Female dogs are priced on the more expensive end of the spectrum because spaying is a more invasive surgery. For lower-income residents in the Big Bend, these costs can be prohibitive. "We felt there was a need to go into markets where people don't have a lot of money," said Nina Dietzel, a Marfa-based artist and dog lover who has supported these clinics since their inception.

Those barriers can also be cultural. "It's not a real common thing along the border for folks to spay and neuter their pets," Bishop explained. "It's been a big education and outreach project."

For male animals, neutering can prevent behavioral issues like roaming and spraying household belongings. Spayed female animals tend to get fewer infections in their reproductive system. "There's this mistaken belief that a female pet should have a litter before they're spayed," Bishop explained. "That's just not true. Spaying and neutering is really important for all pets. There's so many unwanted animals and so little shelter space, and we all try really hard to be no-kill."

This time around, the Far West Texas Rescue Coalition is partnering with Animal Balance, an organization that got their start serving pets in the Galapagos Islands. According to their website, Animal Balance volunteers are "very used to working in remote settings with few resources, often in another culture."

"I've done dog rescue since I first landed in the States," Dietzel said. "In a small community like Marfa, I think a lot of people find something that they feel fits a need. I just kind of felt like personally I could foster and foster and foster, but the only thing that truly moves the needle out here in West Texas is to spay and neuter, to make those litters of puppies not even appear in the first place."

The next Big Bend Big Fix will be held in Presidio on Saturday, December 11, and in Marfa on Sunday, December 12. The cost is $85 per cat or dog and includes a rabies vaccine. For an additional cost, microchips and vaccines against parvo and distemper are also available. The organization can offer limited financial assistance and transportation options to those who qualify. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (432) 837-2532.

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC

Rare earth

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from China and meet growing demands from the auto and renewable energy industries. In an effort to secure the supply chain and kickstart domestic operations, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 13817 in December 2017 which directed the Department of Commerce to offer strategies on a number of rare earth-related issues including lowering dependence, investing in recycling and improving permitting and mapping processes. The coronavirus economic relief bill, which passed at the end of 2020, also invested $800 million in domestic rare earth mining and processing. The Biden administration has also supported these goals by prioritizing strengthening U.S. supply chains.

"Rare earths provide essential components for everything from electric vehicles to wind turbines to everyday electronics. USA Rare Earth was created to deliver these materials in a way that bolsters Texas' clean energy industry and environment, and that fortifies our national security and West Texas economy," said Thayer Smith, president of USA Rare Earth.

But the town of Sierra Blanca has a history of power struggles with the state, having hosted a New York City sludge dump for years and staving off government-backed attempts to create a radioactive waste dumpsite in the area. Bill Addington, a ranch and farm owner in Sierra Blanca, a cofounder of Sierra Blanca Legal Defense Fund Inc. and an environmental activist who helped stop a radioactive waste dumpsite from being built in the area in the 1990s opposes the Round Top project. Addington worked at a beryllium mine in Sierra Blanca in the 1980s and is concerned how the rare earth mine could affect the health of the community, he said.

"It's something for the region to be concerned about, not just Sierra Blanca. It has the potential to contaminate a wide area through the wind. It sets a precedent for more of this stuff to come into our region," said Addington. "An attack on any part of the Big Bend is an attack on all of the Big Bend."

The preliminary designs of the mine consist of an open pit pine, multiple heap leaching pits and a plant on site. The proximity of the town of Sierra Blanca to the mine is of concern, said Addington. The population of Sierra Blanca is 764, according to the Census Bureau's 2019 estimate. Addington was not aware of any outreach efforts from USA Rare Earth to the community to date.

"Once again Sierra Blanca is an environmental justice case and we'll be claiming environmental racism because we're too poor and there's not enough of us to fight back," said Addington. "No one's come to talk to us, nobody in this town, and we're the closest community."

USA Rare Earth owns an 80 percent equity interest in the Round Top Mountain deposit with Texas Mineral Resources Corporation owning the remaining 20 percent. It has been announced in previous press releases the company could begin mining as early as 2023. The project is expected to yield more than 300,000 tons of rare earth oxides and meet 17 percent of projected U.S. demand for rare earth minerals with $140 million in annual sales, according to USA Rare Earth. The mining operation has been in the works for years, but has reportedly gained traction over the past few months, completing baseline environmental studies and the first phase of its stormwater management plan, among other findings.

"USA Rare Earth is jumpstarting the rare earths industry and providing a vital supply of materials for a range of fast-growing Texas manufacturers, including employers in the electric vehicle, defense and electronic sectors. Their project here will add to our state's business-friendly climate — which includes low taxes, low regulation and low-cost electricity — by ensuring that vital materials can reach Texas manufacturers more efficiently and reliably," said Texas Comptroller for Public Accounts Glen Hegar after a visit to the Round Top site in October.

The GLO has leased a total of 950 acres to Texas Mineral Resource Corporation in two 19-year mining lease agreements. Within those 950 acres, the operation owns all rights to surface and subsurface resources. TMRC also purchased surface rights on an additional 55,000 acres of land around the mining lease from the GLO for other facilities including leach pits and an on-site plant. TMRC has acquired an additional 1,300 acres of land from private landowners in the area. The site benefits from railroad access from previous development when the site was a New York City sludge dump owned by Merco Joint Venture in the 1990s.

"TMRC is in the process of developing a plan to acquire more private landowners' surface rights that may be required for the development of the project, and believes it is a reasonable expectation that it will be able to acquire such surface rights prior to the completion of a feasibility study," the company's Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) document states.

In exchange for leasing the land, the GLO will receive a 6.25 percent royalty on the market value of all minerals. The exact percentage is subject to change. Those royalties make up the $26 million a year toward Texas public education, a number produced by USA Rare Earth.

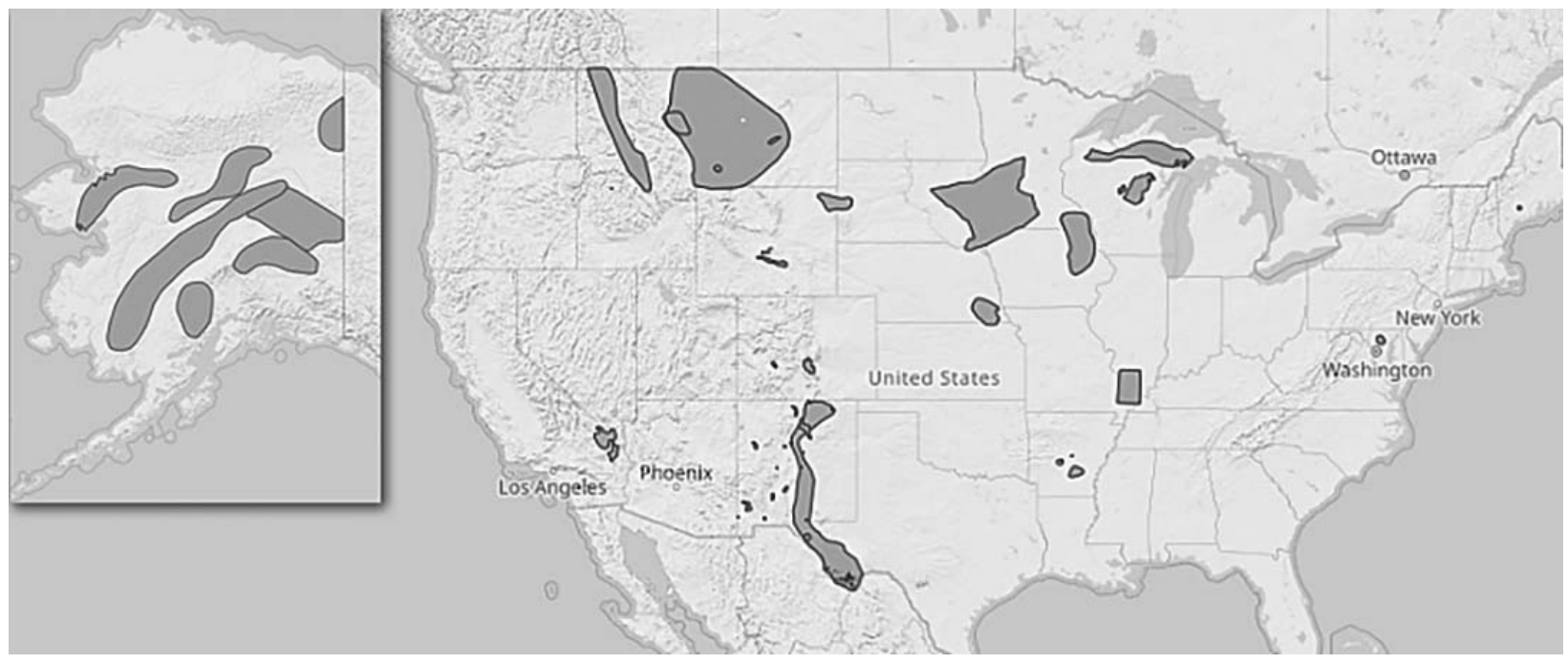


Image by the USGS Earth Mapping Resource Initiative

A map of U.S. rare earth deposits under study by the U.S. Geological Survey's Earth Mapping Resource Initiative project shows parts of Presidio, Brewster, Jeff Davis, Culberson, Hudspeth and El Paso counties contain higher concentrations of rare earth deposits.

While the final design of the mine and accompanying facilities has yet to be publicized, an initial map in the PEA document shows the site for the proposed open pit mine will be on the very tip of Round Top Mountain, essentially excavating into the mountain from the top down and leveling it.

"The initial 20-year pit was designed to keep all the mining to the northwest portion of Round Top Mountain. It was decided to mine this area first due to the highest drilling density in this area and in order to minimize the visual impact of the mining from the Interstate. Additionally, all the crushing and leaching facilities will be located north of Round top so this will minimize haul distances early in the life of the mine," said the PEA report.

In an effort to align with green initiatives, the Round Top operations will be fully powered by an onsite solar plant and more than 80 percent of the site's revenue will be from materials used in clean, green applications, USA Rare Earths said in a statement. The Texas Comptroller's site also alluded to the use of a "proprietary process to reduce the environmental impacts," at Round Top, although it is not clear what that process is at this time. USA Rare Earth also owns a rare earth processing facility in Colorado and a neodymium magnet plant in North Carolina.

"We believe the Round Top project will jumpstart the domestic rare earths industry and support a range of fast-growing Texas manufacturers. We also believe it will strengthen and catalyze Texas' base in clean energy and electric vehicles. We plan to power our operations with minimal greenhouse gas emissions and to extract minerals in a safe, environmentally sensitive way — using a contained closed-loop process with minimal infrastructure requirements," said Smith, president of USA Rare Earth in a statement.

In order for the site to be fully operational, a number of permits from the Texas Center for Environmental Quality will need to be obtained. In a Preliminary Economic Assessment released in 2019 by USA Rare Earth, it states a total of 12 permits will likely need to be acquired. Among the number of air, water, waste and operations permits is a radioactive material license, hazardous waste, explosives, water rights and petroleum storage permits. To date, the only permit the TCEQ has granted the project is a Construction Storm Water General Permit which, in addition to the New Source Review Permit To Construct, must be obtained before beginning construction.

The act of mining and processing rare earths is complex and costly, with significant environmental impacts. In China, which mines over 70 percent of the world's rare earths, rare earth mining has taken a toll on mine workers and the environment. More relaxed laws have led to devastating pollution and dangerous levels of exposure for mine workers, who have suffered from health complications.

In addition to air quality concerns, Addington, as an area landowner, said he would like to know more about the potential effects on surface and groundwater, and whether or not the regional water planning group has discussed the impacts of the developing rare earth mine. Randy Barker, Manager of the Hudspeth County Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, said he was not informed about the rare earth mineral mine at this time.

Having fought similar efforts in the past, Addington raised questions about whether or not he could continue to even live in the area if the mine comes to fruition. "I'm third generation. I've got deep roots here. My grandfather's sweat and blood is in this land. It would be very hard for me, it would be like pulling up a tree from its roots, it would damage me to do that, but I'll leave," said Addington.

Addington scrutinized whether or not the state of Texas will continue to allocate state-owned land for ventures similar to the Round Top rare earth mine with little input from the local citizens.

"Austin doesn't care about us. They consider us somewhere to be used as a dumping ground. West Texas better wake up to that because it's not going to stop here. It's going to Marfa, Fort Davison and Alpine," said Addington. "Hudspeth County has been like a feeding frenzy over here for years, and we're sick of it."

Wen Song, assistant professor in the petroleum and geosystem engineering department at The University of Texas at Austin, focuses her research on the recovery of resources, and recently, rare earth minerals. Song says while the U.S. may have stricter environmental laws than some other countries, because these operations are so new, ensuring the REE mines are not doing more harm than good will be an undertaking.

"A big part of the reason why the U.S. hasn't had rare earth recovery and processing is because it's a very environmentally stressful process," said Song. "That's why over the last 20 to 30 years it's really been dominated by China. One really important challenge is how do we do this in a way that's environmentally benign?"

Song said from an engineering perspective it will be interesting to see how the rare earth minerals will be extracted from the rock they are embedded in. Understanding the specific type of rocks, the ways rare earths are bound to them and what the right chemistry is for removing them are key questions going forward, Song said.

Song points out that the rare earths are hosted in rhyolite at Round Top, which is a porous rock. The qualities of the rock, like hardness level or connectivity of holes, determines extraction methods and difficulty level, said Song. The porous nature of the rhyolite is beneficial for heap leaching, allowing for a higher surface area to volume ratio, she says.

"That allows fluids to potentially flow through, so when we want to extract these minerals, a lot of the time we'll use acids and things like that, so obviously, those are fluids. So that's good in terms of being able to actually access the minerals that host the rare earths," Song said.

Most recently, USA Rare Earth reports leach testing of surface samples confirmed a rare earth recovery of 85 percent or more. USA Rare Earth is now primarily focusing on a Preliminary Feasibility Study and will continue to explore additional financing with its advisors, Goldman Sachs and Bank of Montreal. The Big Bend Sentinel will continue to follow the Round Top rare earth mineral mine project as updates occur.

Alpine ISD and DSHS host pediatric vaccine clinic Friday

ALPINE — Alpine schools are partnering with the Texas Department of State Health Services to host a pediatric vaccine clinic for children ages 5 through 11 on Friday, December 10.

At least 40 doses of Pfizer vaccines will be available from noon to 4 p.m. at the Alpine ISD Administration Building for eligible-aged children.

The consent form and intake form needed for the clinic can be found on AISD's website: https://alpine.esc18.net/news/pfizer-pediatric-vaccination-clinic. Call Gayla Owen, district nurse, at 432-837-7710 or gowen@alpineisd.net with any questions.

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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.

National Register

(Continued from page 1)

town, Smith said the project was reframed to include both the Judd properties and a broader scope of Marfa as a whole. "We already know that this area is eligible for listing — just as Marfa's main street — so my recommendation was, 'Why not include them [the Judd properties] in a larger district?' That way, we could kill two birds with one stone."

The proposed district up for consideration covers Marfa's downtown strip, as well as reaching to incorporate many Judd properties.

The Judd Foundation and Chinati Foundation have supported the project through much of the process, saying in a joint statement that they "are proud to support the Texas Historical Commission's efforts to nominate the Central Marfa Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. Initiated by the City of Marfa in 2006, the nomination of the Central Marfa Historic District ensures the preservation of our city's rich history."

"Our organizations supported the research and development of the nomination as related to Donald Judd and our spaces, building on the current historic designations for Fort D.A. Russell, which includes much of Chinati Foundation, as well as Judd's home and studio, the Block," the statement continued.

In recent years, preliminary information has been sent to a reviewer at the National Parks Service, which maintains the National Register of Historic Places. "He wasn't familiar with Marfa or Donald Judd," Smith said. "What we're doing here is sort of ambitious when it comes to the National Register. Not that we're nominating a district, but that we're nominating it in part for its national significance because of its connection to an artist." If successful, it could open up more opportunities for expanding the scope of the National Register.

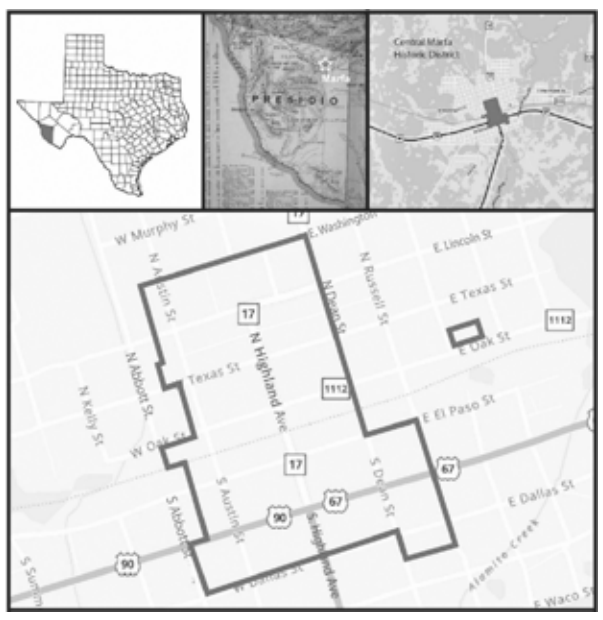
Marfa's Fort D.A. Russell, which is already on the National Register, might also be revisited sometime in the future. When it was added over 15 years ago, Judd's work at the site was too recent to be widely considered as historical.

"Fort D.A. Russell was listed more or less despite Judd, so now, especially once this one goes through, it will be primed to go back and look at D.A. Russell and start evaluating it for its military history but also for its association with Judd," Smith said.

While listing a property in the National Register of Historic Places indicates that a place is a historic property worthy of preservation, it is an honorific title and doesn't mean there are any binding rules put on any of the properties that fall within its boundaries.

"We have these meetings to be clear that everybody understands that, first and foremost, listing in the National Register will have no adverse impact on anyone's private property rights," Smith said.

The idea is to retain the historic appearance of buildings, structures and landscapes, but the National Register does not carry any restrictions, nor does it require property owners to do anything with their properties, Smith said, even noting they could be demolished. "The idea is to have them recognized so at least some consideration can be made to the historic significance of these properties, so hopefully good decisions can be made with consideration to these properties."



Map courtesy of the Texas Historical Commission

A map of the proposed Central Marfa Historic District, which may be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Still, should a majority of the private property owners within the district object to the nomination, the district won't be listed on the register.

Instead of restrictions, a place on the register opens up additional opportunities for properties that are inside the district. "One of the major benefits of being on the National Historic Register is federal and state tax credits for rehabilitation," said Smith. "Anybody who owns a building within the district who wants to use it for a commercial purpose, they can qualify for federal and state tax credits when they rehabilitate the building, as long as it meets the rehabilitation standards. It also applies to nonprofits."

That's an especially important point for the Central Marfa Historic District, which was designed to incorporate properties owned by Judd Foundation, the nonprofit art institution. However, if the district is approved, private property owners will also be able to apply for grant opportunities that have so far been out of reach. Federal and state tax credit details can be found at: www.thc.texas.gov/taxcredits.

The State Board of Review will meet early next year on January 15 to consider a variety of applications, including the one for Marfa's historic district. A full copy of the draft nomination will be available on http://www.thc.texas.gov/sbrmeeting ahead of the meeting.

Candidate filing period

(Continued from page 1)

after serving as county judge since 2015 — District Clerk, County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Commissioner Precincts 2 and 4, Justice of the Peace Precincts 1, 2 and 3, Constable Precinct 1.

There, Democratic County Chair Mary Bell Lockhart said she has had several inquiries and potential candidates are working on paperwork, but only one candidate has yet to file formally — Oscar Cobos, a minister, is running for Brewster County Judge. Republican County Chair Monica McBride reported Greg Henington, fire chief of the Terlingua Fire Department, and Monty Kimball, attorney, have both filed for County Judge.

Incumbent Bob Steele has filed to run for Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 and Paul Rashott has filed for Justice of the Peace Precinct 2. Mark Chiles filed for County Commissioner Precinct 2, and incumbent Sara Allen Colando said she intends to file soon. Incumbent Flavio Rene Ybarra filed for Constable Precinct 1.

In Jeff Davis County, Democratic County Chair Jeanine M. Bishop said so far the only person who has filed under the Democratic Party is Albert Miller for County Commissioner Precinct 4. Miller has been serving Jeff Davis County for many years, first taking office in 2007. Bob Gray, Republican County Chair for Jeff Davis County, could not be reached by press time and no filings had yet been added to the secretary of state's searchable database.

The following positions are available in Jeff Davis County: County Judge, District/County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Commissioner Precinct 2, County Commissioner Precinct 4 and Justice of the Peace.

Statewide, Democratic State Rep. Eddie Morales, Jr. filed for re-election to continue to serve Texas House District 74 which represents Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Kinney, Loving, Maverick, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell and Val Verde counties. Democratic Sen. Cesar Blanco is running for re-election to serve Texas Senate District 29, which represents Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties. Democratic Sen. Roland Gutierrez also officially filed for re-election to serve Texas Senate District 19, which includes Brewster County. As of press time no other candidates formally filed to run against Morales, Blanco or Gutierrez.

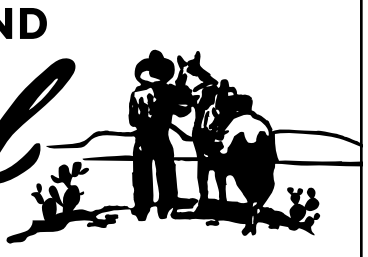


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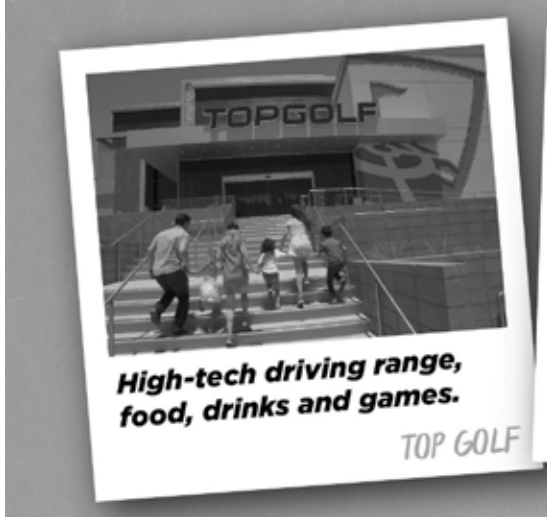


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Opinions

OUR WATER MATTERS

Regional water planning

By TREY GERFERS
trey.pcuwcd@gmail.com

In earlier issues of "Our Water Matters," we looked at how lawmakers have passed legislation over the years to meet the water needs of Texas. In 1997, the Legislature established a water planning process at the regional level. The Texas Water Development Board, which was created in response to the devastating drought of the 1950s to develop water supplies and create plans to meet future water needs in the state, administers this regional planning process in coordination with 16 regional water planning groups.

The Far West Texas Regional Water Planning Group, also known as Region E, includes Brewster, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties, as well as Culberson, Hudspeth, El Paso and Terrell counties. The aquifers managed within Region E include the Bone Spring-Victorio Peak (Hudspeth), Capitan Reef Complex (Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis), Edwards-Trinity-Plateau (Brewster, Culberson, Jeff Davis), Hueco-Mesilla Bolson (El Paso, Hudspeth), Igneous (Brewster, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio), Marathon (Brewster), Pecos Valley (Jeff Davis, Terrell), Rustler (Brewster, Culberson, Jeff Davis), Trinity (Terrell), and West Texas Bolsons (Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio).

Each regional planning group comprises 20 members that represent different interests, such as agriculture, business, counties, environment, groundwater management areas, industry, municipalities, power generation, the public, river authorities, water districts and water utilities. The establishment of each regional planning group involved the passage of bylaws and the designation of a political subdivision to administer the planning process and manage any contracts with consultants to develop the regional water plan. The Rio Grande Council of Governments, a voluntary association of local governments, administers the planning process for the Far West Texas Regional Water Planning Group.

According to Annette Gutierrez, executive director of the Rio Grande Council of Governments, some of the greatest benefits of regional water planning include "trust-building and partnerships." Gutierrez, who has been with the organization since 1999, stated that things have greatly evolved over the years. She described some of the earliest meetings she attended as "really heated" due to the "perceived struggle between urban and rural." But over the years, she said, "Folks have established a greater level of trust." The relationships built within the process have helped to alleviate some of the concern about a power grab by the more powerful interests at the expense of smaller communities. By combining resources, the planning process has built capacity and created partnerships among the many interests in the region.

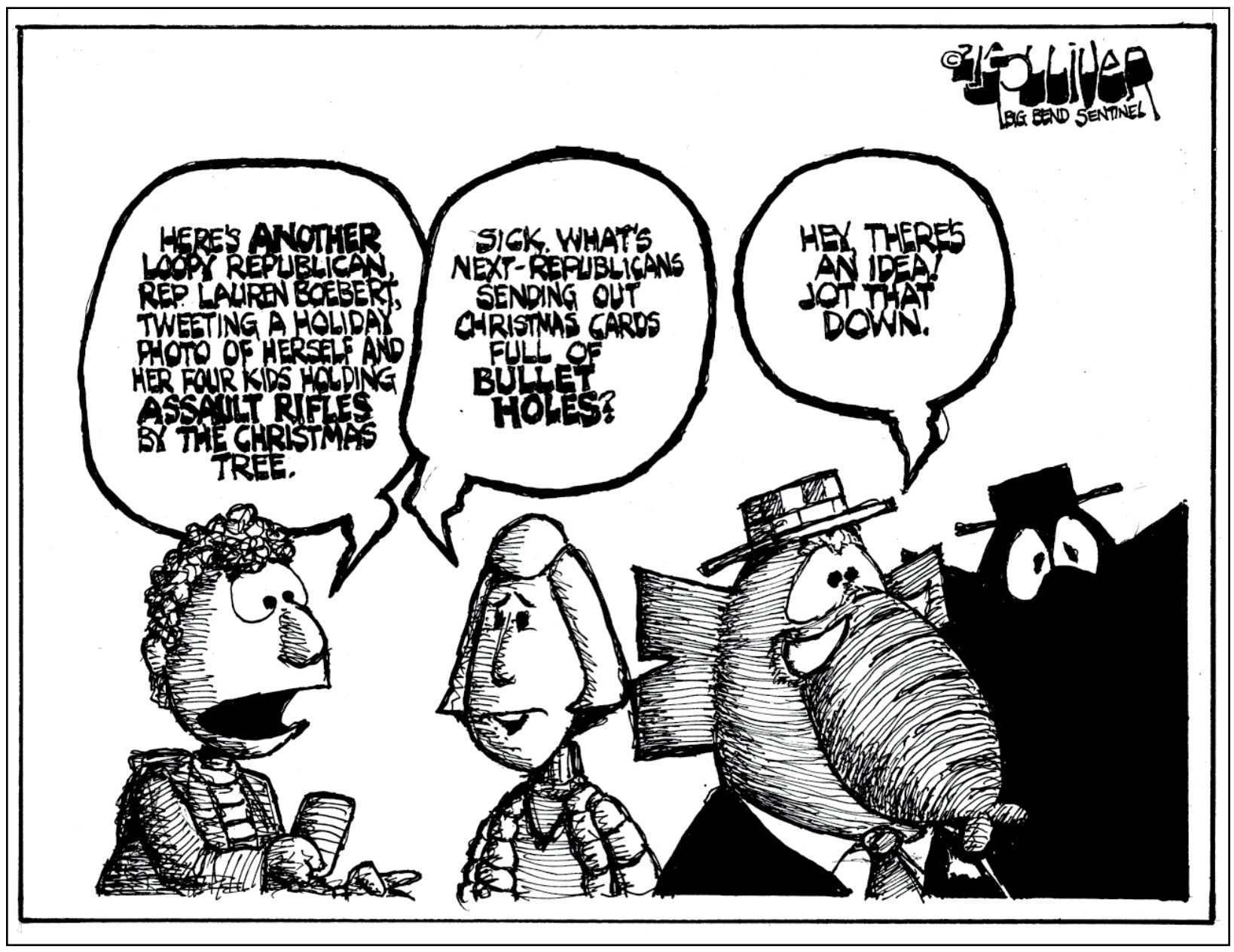
The Far West Texas Regional Water Planning Group quantifies current and projected population and water demand over a 50-year planning horizon. It also evaluates current water supplies, identifies needs, evaluates water management strategies and prepares plans to meet the identified needs. All of this information is incorporated into the regional water plan along with drought response information, measures to protect the state's water, agricultural and natural resources, recommendations for regulatory, administrative and legislative changes, descriptions of how water management strategies and projects will be financed and the implementation status of such projects. The plan also prioritizes the recommended projects within the regional water plan. Each five-year plan is adopted with the required level of public participation and then submitted to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for approval. The TWDB then uses the regional water plans to create the state water plan and assign resources for the various recommended projects. According to Gutierrez, the incorporation of these recommended projects into the state water plan is "indispensable" for obtaining financial assistance through state-level programs, such as the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT), which provides low-interest loans, extended repayment terms, deferral of loan repayments and incremental repurchase terms.

For Gutierrez, the biggest challenge ahead is "ensuring that there is enough water for all of our communities." While the process could benefit from "greater public participation without a doubt," she emphasized that folks need to understand that the Far West Texas Regional Water Planning Group "is working on your behalf to ensure safe drinking water now and in the future."

"Our Water Matters" will return in 2022 with more useful information about water in Texas. Until then, may your holiday season be blessed with health, love and lots of precipitation.

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. Gerfers has lived in Marfa since 2013.





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OP-ED

Analysis: The Texas-Mexico frontier still tops the news — and state politics

By ROSS RAMSEY
The Texas Tribune

Undocumented immigrants haven't killed 72,808 Texans during the last two years, like COVID-19 did through December 2. Immigrants haven't brought that kind of danger to the state in the last 20 years, for that matter.

But fear of an insecure border consistently outweighs the pandemic as a matter of concern in Texas. That persistent worry over immigration is strongest among the state's Republicans. It overshadows other issues — winter blackouts and electric grid failures, debates over election fraud and ballot access, handgun regulation, abortion — even when those things top the news.

As we end a year of record-setting numbers of people trying to cross from Mexico into Texas, Republican candidates — some of them officeholders — have a potent political issue that plays their way.

Republican voters have chosen immigration and border security as the top issue facing the country for more than a decade.

This year's crush of people trying to enter the U.S. has focused attention, once again, on immigration issues. A Democrat occupies the White House, giving a Republican state government a built-in political foil. The number of undocumented immigrants in detention in Texas has increased by more than 50% since Joe Biden took office. And a somewhat unexpected budget surplus has allowed the state to throw nearly $3 billion at the problem, in the form of barriers (whether those are walls, cars or shipping containers), state police, and National Guard soldiers and assets.

That focus on the border comes at the opening of the 2022 election cycle. Candidates are filing for office, raising money, focusing in on the issues they will emphasize and putting their campaign materials together.

The timing, from a political point of view, is fortuitous.

As Democrats are looking hard at the electric grid failures during a winter storm that caused nearly statewide blackouts last February, Republicans are looking to the border. Attention is high, their voters care about it, the GOP is making a play for conservative Latino voters in the state's border counties, and the party's candidates are already heaping blame for border and immigration problems on the Democrat in the White House.

The party primaries come quickly — March 1, if they're not pushed by court challenges to the state's new political maps. And it wouldn't be surprising, as we come out of the holiday break in January, to see video of people trying to cross the border in Republican candidates' campaign spots, and video of snow and dark cities in Democrats' commercials.

At least they'd be talking about issues.

By the time the general election season heats up next fall, winter will be behind us, and unless there's a repeat of this year's freeze, the political conversation will have moved on.

The border will still be there, and if recent decades are the map, it will still be on voters' minds. Within the last week, the Biden administration announced it had renegotiated the "remain in Mexico" program the president campaigned against. That Trump-era program keeps migrants seeking asylum in this country in Mexico while their status is being considered. Biden ended it, but lost legal challenges. Now, it's back in place, bringing attention once again to issues of strong importance to conservative voters.

Other issues are important, too, but few are as persistent as border security and immigration. Democrats running for office in 2022 face obvious headwinds like GOP-drawn redistricting maps and the president's souring approval numbers.

Add immigration to those political problems. While Democrats are waiting for bad weather or some other unexpected news to help them upset the Republicans in 2022, the officials in power already have one sure thing to talk about — and it's one that plays to their strengths.

The snow might have melted, but the border will still be there.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune *at https://www.texastribune.org/2021/12/06/texas-immigration-elections-2022-issues/. The Texas Tribune is a member-supported, nonpartisan newsroom informing and engaging Texans on state politics and policy. Learn more at texastribune.org.*

Radio club hosts 'Talk to Santa' event at True Value in Alpine on Wednesday

ALPINE — Kids have a chance to contact Santa Claus at the North Pole by shortwave radio on Wednesday, December 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. in front of True Value in Alpine. The Big Bend Amateur Radio Club will make contact with Old St. Nick for the 14th time this year.

A shortwave radio is like a walkie talkie that can contact people around the world, and The Big Bend Amateur Radio Club van will be staffed with "elves" to help children talk to Santa.

The club advises visitors to dress warmly and come to True Value between 5 and 7p.m. to have a chance to contact the North Pole in person! For more information, call Rob Kinucan at (432) 837-2055.

Marfa Chamber presents holiday bazaar Friday through Sunday

MARFA — The Marfa Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Marfa Holiday Bazaar, taking place in downtown Marfa on December 10 through 12. The Chamber is welcoming locals, tourists, vendors and Santa himself to come together to celebrate the holiday season with festive lights, carolers, Santa photo ops and lots of holiday shopping. All events are free and open to everyone.

On the evening of Friday, December 10, the Chamber is partnering with Presidio County to welcome the public to the lighting of the Presidio County Courthouse at 5:30 p.m. The courthouse will remain open to the public for the lighting of the Christmas tree, which is decorated in honor of local veterans. All are welcome to enjoy hot cocoa, holiday carols by the Marfa ISD Choir, and kick off the season with friends and neighbors on the courthouse lawn. The Chamber will have maps available of participants of the Marfa Lights Holiday Decorating Competition.

Saturday, December 11, will have a host of activities, beginning with the opening of the Marfa Holiday Bazaar at 10 a.m. Local and visiting vendors will set up on Lincoln and Highland Ave around the County Courthouse. At 1 p.m., Presidio's Mariachi Santa Cruz will begin a performance of holiday music in English and Spanish. At 2 p.m. the Santa processional will begin at the USO, heading north on Highland Ave toward the County Courthouse, escorted by the Marfa Volunteer Fire Department and Marfa Police Department. Santa will greet fans and pose for photos with the public at the Marfa Fire Station. A performance by Marfa ISD Ballet Folklorico and other special guests will follow.

Sunday, December 12, will be the final day of the Holiday Bazaar, with vendors set up again around the County Courthouse from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. This is a great place to support local makers and find special gifts for everyone on your nice list.

The Marfa Chamber of Commerce will continue accepting vendor applications as space permits. There is no fee for residents and businesses of Marfa, but applications are required.

More information can be found at marfachamberofcommerce.org.

French astrophysicist Fatoumata Kébé finds inspiration in the skies as Marfa's first Villa Albertine resident

By ABBIE PERRAULT
abbie@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — A new kind of residency has made its way to Marfa from France, by way of Houston. Villa Albertine, created by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, challenges the typical residency program by welcoming artists, historians, architects, video game producers, and, as for their first resident in Marfa, an astrophysicist.

The Villa Albertine residency is expansive in scope, stretching across 15 disciplines and 60 residences in the United States, and welcoming 80 residents for its first round, which launched this fall.

The program hosted its official Marfa launch event on Friday in Antelope Hills. Jeff Matheis and Sabrina Lejeanvre-Matheis, who have hosted various artistic events at their property Maintenant Marfa, introduced the director of Villa Albertine and cultural counselor of the French Embassy, Gaëtan Bruel.

Bruel told the gathering of curious attendees that he had dreamed of opening an academy or villa in the United States. New York was known for its art, Los Angeles for cinema, Chicago its architecture, Atlanta for hip hop and New Orleans for jazz, he rattled off. "The question was, could a villa or academy solely based in New York match the diversity of this country?"

Villa Abertine was born in response to that question, "to go beyond this idea of being based in New York and make sure in every location we'd have a custom-made approach," Bruel said. Residents coming from all kinds of industries and fields would customize their experience, choosing a city that matched with their goals and structuring their visit there to accommodate their work.

French astrophysicist Fatoumata Kébé was part of the first round of residents, devising a schedule to spend three weeks in Marfa and one week in Houston near NASA and the French Consulate.

Kébé, who has a doctorate in astronomy from La Sorbonne, has since studied space pollution, worked on water conservation in agriculture, taught astronomy and organized space-related activities.

"I was asked to pitch on what I will work on during my residency. Since I wrote two books about the moon, I decided to do something related to the moon during my stay in the U.S."

Through the month-long residency, Kébé has been working on a podcast in French about the 842 pounds of moon rocks that were brought back to Earth during the Apollo missions from 1969 to 1972. "I wanted to explore the history behind these moon rocks," she said, and meet with people who knew more about them. Ultimately, she wants to uncover what's happened with the rocks and with some of the 400,000 people who worked on the missions that brought them here.

"NASA has all of this data to train its astronauts in geology, and I think not too many people know about lunar geology, but we want to take some specific rocks on the moon, and on my side I want to explain why we want to have this type of rock and what we can learn from that," she said.

From studying moon rock samples, Kébé said humans can learn how the moon rocks formed and also, maybe, how the Earth was formed.

Since arriving in Marfa nearly three weeks ago, she's visited various spots in the region, traveling to Big Bend, the McDonald Observatory and the Marfa Public Library to learn about astronomy, geology and to marvel at the pristine dark skies the area boasts.

"I don't only work on the Apollo missions, I also work on the dark sky," Kébé said. During a visit to the McDonald Observatory, she was most interested in the outreach to everyday people and the access to science-related information that even non-scientists are given.



Photo courtesy of the Consulate General of France in Houston

Maintenant Marfa's Jeff Matheis and Sabrina Lejeanvre-Matheis, left, hosted Gaëtan Bruel, director of Villa Albertine and cultural counselor of the French Embassy, and French astrophysicist Fatoumata Kébé to celebrate the launch of Villa Albertine on Friday.

As an educator and organizer of space-related activities, she said, "Something I really like in the U.S. astronomy sector is the fact that it's devoted to outreach." Here, she looked at how McDonald Observatory has connected tourists and locals to their work. "Maybe it could help me enhance the work I'm doing in France. What I really appreciate is that you have access to many opportunities to learn about science here. I would say it's not really the case in France. It's much more difficult to get educational materials for free," she said.

A lot of the outreach being done in West Texas currently relates to the dark sky designation that the area has recently earned. After getting connected with the International Dark-Sky Association, Kébé has plans to help translate some of their educational materials into French.

It was the pristine and beautiful dark skies that enchanted Kébé most during her time in Marfa. "I went out by night most of the days I spent here, because even me, as an astronomer, I don't have so many occasions to see a starry sky. I study the sky, but I don't have access to the starry sky. Most of the time I'm on my laptop working, and here I could take the time to see the sky and what I'm completely working on."

Villa Albertine has a permanent presence in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, New Orleans, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., but even when their first Marfa resident leaves town on Friday to head back to Houston and then France, it's not the end of the connection. Another individual from the first round of residencies, artist Dove Allouche, will be on his way to Marfa.

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Terlingua's School of Constructive Arts launches fundraiser to expand programming

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

TERLINGUA RANCH — "How do we provide homes from the earth without destroying our home, the earth?" That's the question that Bob Estrin, executive director of Terlingua's School of Constructive Arts, uses to guide the organization. In a region known for adobe, Estrin is combining local earth-based building methods with a worldwide focus, pulling insight from ancient building traditions across the globe as well as the latest technology in sustainable living.

The School of Constructive Arts is a field school based in the former homestead of Don Bryant, a longtime Terlingua Ranch resident known for building distinctive domes out of rebar and ferrocement. "He was beloved by many," Estrin said. "He was a builder, a teacher, a farmer, kind of an eccentric guy."

Dré Williams, a cook at Terlingua Ranch Lodge's Bad Rabbit Café, owns 65 acres just down the road from Bryant's old place. "He used to ride his bike everywhere, or hitchhike the ranch road," Williams remembered. "I was giving him a ride, and that's how I was introduced to him. He told me all about the dome houses." Over the next few years, Williams and Bryant struck up a friendship as neighbors and fellow earth builders. "He taught me a lot about how to do things, working with rocks and all kinds of stuff you can use out here without having to pay a pretty penny at McCoy's."

Estrin, an architect, met Bryant on a trip to the Big Bend in 2017. He was introduced to Bryant by James Jackson, a land surveyor and environmental activist. Jackson and Bryant had long wanted to start a field school together on the ranch, then called the Brighter Day School. Just before his death in 2019, a group of locals from across the region formed to help make that dream a reality. It was an unlikely coalition forged by local builders, business owners and oddballs, including notable south county residents Jon Sufficool and Cynta de Narvaez.

While Bryant was still alive, Estrin served as a consultant for the school's construction. After his death, Estrin's passion for the project intensified, and he stepped up to serve as a leader for an organization that would advance Bryant's vision of an educational center for earth-based building, desert living and ecological study. Rumors started to swirl around the ranch about what would happen to Bryant's place. "We were a little worried when we heard they were going to make a museum, but then we met the guys that were out here, and they were pretty cool. It seemed like they would bring to life everything he started out here," Williams remembered.

With the community's blessing, Estrin went full speed ahead, aided by co-founder James Jackson and Lizette Rohana, a friend of Bryant's from Presidio who has served the organization since day one. "We're about to grow the board — it's a great group forming," Estrin said. "We're a small organization, so we're all wearing many hats."

Last spring, the School of Constructive Arts launched a pilot volunteer program aimed at cleaning up the property and building it out as a campus that could host future students. The cleanup effort was no small feat. Over the years, one of the buildings had become weighed down with over four feet of trash. "We've totally cleared it out, stabilized it, got the roof sound. We rewired it and got a basic woodworking shop going," Estrin said.

In return for all their hard work, the volunteers were treated to a world of eye-opening experiences. On one field trip, the pilot group of six ventured to Ojinaga, where they participated in an adobe workshop led by local adobero Sandro Canovas. Rohana then coordinated a visit to the adobe home of artist Carlos Rohana to study passive cooling techniques. Back at their Terlingua Ranch base camp, they also constructed a solar array, built an earthen pizza oven and hiked to the South Rim.



Photo by Rinne Allen

From left to right: T Palermo, Bob Estrin, Jack Brooks and Francis Rosa participate in a workshop at the School of Constructive Arts.

Estrin wants to expand programming to students of all ages. He's currently working with a classroom at Presidio ISD to hopefully bring younger students out to Terlingua Ranch for "an experience-based curriculum." "Why do seasons happen? What's the carbon cycle? These kinds of questions, but through hands-on programs," he explained.

The live-in programming will ideally be aimed at college-aged students. "The big idea for the future is to host college-aged students who come out, they learn, they live there, they experience the desert, they experience living minimally close to the land, and then they go back to their programs, and it transforms their education and their professional practice," he explained. "That's the long-term goal, trying to integrate with colleges and universities and get an institutional connection that will have a broader reach."

To house the next class of volunteers, Estrin has launched a fundraiser to help build a shower, a composting toilet and a lightweight shade structure for shelter and cooking. The students who arrive in fall 2022 will then begin work on the campus' main building, an earth-based structure that will be used to host workshops and events.

For Estrin — a graduate of Cooper Union and a former firm architect — the project is about more than just making mud bricks in the Terlingua heat. "Traditional knowledge, embodied knowledge that people gain from building by themselves, doesn't make its way into the academic world," he explained. "And then people will graduate from architecture school and spend an entire lifetime designing buildings with very little experience or direct knowledge of construction, of the material realities which they're dictating. So a big aspect of what we're trying to do is bring together those two worlds."

Locals who wish to visit the school or attend future workshops are encouraged to visit the School for Constructive Arts website and sign up for the newsletter's "local" option. "Anyone who wants to come out and work with us for a day or two, or just come by and say 'hi,' we welcome that," Estrin said. The school also hosts an Instagram page @constructivearts for those who wish to keep tabs on the organization's progress. Donations can be made online at constructivearts.org.

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Born out of a pandemic lockdown in Marfa, Ballroom Marfa set to debut 'Kite Symphony' by Roberto Carlos Lange and Kristi Sword in January

MARFA — Roberto Carlos Lange and Kristi Sword were visiting Marfa for a production trip at the invitation of Ballroom Marfa in March of 2020 when the coronavirus went global and locked down the world. The artists, Lange, a musician (often under the name Helado Negro), and Sword, a visual artist, are partners and collaborators that were at the time working on Kite Symphony, a short film with a live score.

Nearly two years later, Ballroom Marfa will present Kite Symphony, a multidisciplinary exhibition, on January 22. The work has changed shape since March 2020, and now features a newly commissioned film, outdoor composition and installation, a series of drawings, sculpture, animation and a special Earth Day performance on April 22.

Sound is the throughline between these diverse elements of this long-term project. Kite Symphony is an extension of the artists' collaborative practice, where they create work at the intersection of music, performance and visual art.

During the early weeks of the pandemic, the artists elected to remain in Marfa and, with Ballroom's support, extended their trip into a six-month residency. Their experience was the catalyst for Ballroom Sessions — The Farther Place, a residency program developed to support cross-disciplinary artists and musicians.

As their time in Marfa extended, Kite Symphony expanded into a full-scale exhibition, including new installation works, a community sound piece, performance and four new experimental compositions released through Ballroom's Bandcamp. Pitchfork called the EP a "free-flowing collage that doubles as a snapshot of the project's sprawl" and named it one of the top 20 ambient albums of 2020. The album features contributions from noted local musicians Jeanann Dara and Rob Mazurek, led by Sword's meditative and meticulous visual scores.



Courtesy of the artists and Ballroom Marfa

Roberto Carlos Lange and Kristi Sword, Tetra Kiss, 2021. Still from Kite Symphony, digital video for stereo sound, 27:32.

The exhibition at Ballroom features an impressionistic film, which explores the imperceptible forces that shape the West Texas landscape. The video documents the artists' observations and experiments with wind and light interacting with kites, handmade mylar instruments, found objects and native plant materials. Lange and Sword turn their gaze upwards in "Star Scores," a piece of visual music that reflects on the region's dark skies through handmade animations of galaxies orbiting, multiplying and expanding through an imaginary celestial space. Adjacent are Sword's ink drawings of rhythmic and repetitive brush marks, revealing a continuous evolution of a landscape in constant motion.

Ballroom's courtyard will be transformed into a listening space where Lange will present a new sonic installation composed of the sounds collected from the community. Taken together, all of these newly commissioned works heighten the audience's sense of space by attuning to expansive new sonic geographies, helping us to listen in diverse ways and reminding us of our presence in a living world.

On Earth Day, April 22, 2022, Ballroom will host a day of performances with Roberto Carlos Lange and several of his musical collaborators. The show will feature live renditions of "Star Scores," a performance of Kite Symphony, Four Variations with a live ensemble, and performances by several friends of the artists, with the full lineup to be announced in early 2022.

Kite Symphony is organized by Ballroom Marfa music curator Sarah Melendez.

The imperfect and entropic on view at Eugene Binder gallery exhibition, opening Friday

MARFA — An exhibition of new paintings by Dallas-based artist John Pomara will open at Eugene Binder this Friday, December 10, at 218 N. Highland Avenue with a reception from 5 until 7 p.m.

Embracing the beauty of seemingly random imperfection, John Pomara approaches the occurrence of spontaneity in this series of paintings titled "Pool Party," by attempting to remain discreetly at a distance. He initially sets up a situation that becomes the catalyst for unlikely combinations of oil paint and other additives to react with one another. Pomara effectively creates a visual record of these elective affinities and their antithesis as the fluid properties of the paint repel or attract other elements that he adds. As these episodic reactions occur, the unpredictable activity is mediated to a great degree by the artist's observation of the entropic aspect of this process. Pomara allows the initial liquidity of this viscous amalgamation to begin solidifying, or to become more fluid, or to be broken down with additives, or to be otherwise "influenced," creating a myriad of other possibilities.

The artist's exploration of these subsequent possibilities propels the painting in amazing and unpredictable directions. The abandonment of formal aspects of composition becomes exceedingly helpful in the continuation of this flowing imagery. Remaining in flux, the chemical properties of the various mediums persist in their attraction or aversion to one another. It is as if Pomara were both sorcerer and apprentice, allowing his "laboratory" to be inundated with wildly out of control colors, surfaces and improbable combinations that lead to a labyrinth of never ending variations. Suddenly the magic wand is waved and the frenzied activity is immediately quieted, giving way to these extraordinarily captivating paintings, imbued with other worldly imagery that expands the viewer's imagination and now remain as immutable evidence of the artist's vision.

As a professor of visual art at the University of Texas at Dallas, John Pomara's teaching and research surround the visual arts with a focus on current theoretical concerns of contemporary art and culture. Pomara's work as both an artist and educator has been widely recognized. His work has been written about critically in major art journals and magazines such as Flash Art, ARTFORUM, Art in America, Art News, Art Papers and the New Art Examiner.

Marfa student art on view at Marfa Studio of Arts open house today

MARFA — The Marfa Studio of Arts invites the community to an open house on Thursday, December 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the MSA gallery, 106 San Antonio in the Marfa Public Radio building. The gallery will be filled with the artwork of Marfa children in the Studio in the Elementary School Art Program (SITES).

SITES Program Coordinator Julie Fischer describes the work in the gallery. "This past semester, we settled into being back at school, rekindled friendships and learned about artists such as Vincent Van Gogh, Wassily Kandinsky and Keith Haring. The new year will bring new artists and materials to explore as well as a renewed sense of knowledge and collaboration," Fischer said.

She added, "In the spirit of the season, the children at Marfa ISD elementary would like to celebrate giving, peace and friendship."

The art was created by grades pre-K to sixth grade with SITES teachers Julie Fischer, Monty Welt and Richard Kurtz.

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by

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Community

Marfa runner Ummi Chanez named 2021 cross-country all-star

MARFA — Marfa High School's Ummi Chanez was announced this week as one of only 24 students statewide to be selected as a 2021 Cross-Country All-Star among the 1, 2, 3 and 4A conferences.

The Texas Girls Coaches Association chooses 48 cross country girls runners, with 24 chosen from 1A through 4A and 24 from 5A to 6A. All girls must be juniors during the current cross-country season and will be recognized at the TGCA summer clinic in Arlington this coming July.

"I feel honored to have been chosen this year, and I am excited to go to Arlington this summer," said Chanez after her selection was announced on Tuesday. "With the help of my coaches, family, and friends I have achieved all my goals this season!"

The TGCA Cross-Country Committee, made up of member coaches from the association, chose at their annual meeting which athletes they would honor this year.

Chanez, coached by Edgar Ramirez, reached her personal record while running at the UIL cross-country state finals last month, coming in fifth place statewide in her 1A division. Heading into 12th grade next school year, Chanez plans to continue running with the Marfa cross-country girls team.

Marfa ISD to host first Student Health Advisory Council meeting of the year

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Marfa Independent School District will host a public meeting at 2 p.m., Thursday, December 9, in the Robinson Cafeteria to review and assess the Local School Wellness Policy for the 2021-2022 school year.

The afternoon meeting will be led by Marfa ISD's Student Health Advisory Council or SHAC. Members of the the committee include District Superintendent Oscar Aguero, Elementary Principal Amy White, District Counselor Luane Porter, District Nurse Beverly Dutchover, Food Service Director Cynthia Hernandez, Athletic Director Linda Ojeda, School Board Vice President and parent Christa Marquez, classroom teachers Curtis Pittman and Bernadette Devine, parent Aurora Dominguez and community member Aaron Garcia. According to the Texas Education Code established in 1995, all Texas public schools are required to have a SHAC.

The council invites all stakeholders, including parents, students, staff, administrators and community members to participate in the meeting, where they can give feedback and learn about ongoing wellness policies and plans.

"A School Health Advisory Council is defined as a group of individuals representative of segments of the community, generally appointed by the school district to serve at the district level," said Marfa High School Principal Allison Scott. "They provide advice on coordinated school health programming and its impact on student health and learning."

Topics to be discussed include nutrition and physical education, fitness programs, food and beverage offerings, public outreach, and general health and wellness of Marfa ISD students. The plan will later be revised based on feedback given at the meeting.

The council is required by law to meet four times a year. This will serve as their first meeting of the 2021-2022 school year. Consecutive meetings will likely be set for the months of February, March and June. Scott said COVID may be discussed, but it is not the primary purpose of the meeting.

Marfa Junior High ties the home team for first place at Fort Davis UIL Academic competition

FORT DAVIS — Marfa Junior High academic competitors showed up to the University Interscholastic League's Academic competition in Fort Davis on Wednesday, December 1, ready to battle it out with calculator skills, oratory chops and their artistry and more. At the end of the event, Marfa walked away with a top score of 630.5 points, tying for first with Fort Davis.

Other competitors at the event included Balmorhea, Van Horn, Valentine and Sierra Blanca, and against their regional competition, Marfa was able to claim top finishes in a variety of subjects.

The junior high students competed by grade, with sixth graders placing first as a team in Art, Dictionary Skills, Maps, Graphs & Charts, Mathematics, Music Memory and Ready Writing. Seventh graders nabbed the lead in Dictionary Skills, Maps, Graphs & Charts, Modern Oratory, Ready Writing, Science and Spelling. For the eighth graders of Marfa, first place finishes were won in Listening, Maps, Graphs & Charts, Modern Oratory and Oral Reading.

First place individual finishes were well earned by seventh grader Christopher Garcia in Art; sixth grader Lily Aguero in Dictionary Skills and Music Memory; seventh grader Mateo Meza in Dictionary Skills, Science and Ready Writing; seventh grader Joshua Kelly in Maps, Graphs & Charts, Social Studies and Modern Oratory; sixth grader Terrence Resendiz in Mathematics; eighth grader Sara Salgado in Music Memory; eighth grader Amaya Gomez in Oral Reading; sixth grader Zoe Tolliver in Ready Writing; and seventh grader Avalon Schroeder in Spelling.

"We are so proud of our students and coaches," said Marfa Junior and Senior High Principal Allison Scott. "They all worked so hard to prepare for the meet. This is the best our school has performed in several years."







Marfa Junior High students flexed their academic might at a UIL competition against area schools, ultimately pulling out a tie for first place. The teams, pictured above left to right:
6th Grade: Front row, left to right: Gavin Vana, Miguel Gonzales, Alyssa Harden, Lily Aguero, Alberto Salgado and Terrence Resendiz. Back row, left to right: John Anthony Van Etten, Adonise Lujan, Zoe Tolliver, Lynna Hinojos, Diego Sanchez Bravo and Austin McGary.
7th Grade:Front row, left to right: Giselle Torres, Ayden Alverez, CJ Garcia and Joshua Kelly. Back row, left to right: Zoey Salgado, Madison Cash, Vanessa Diaz, Belen Soto, Mateo Meza, Avalon Schroeder and Daniela Fernandez.
8th Grade:Front row, left to right: Sara Salgado, Ava Flores and Messiah Licon. Back row, left to right: Amaya Gomez, Raven Martienz, Kayla Vasquez, Taryn Klockman, Isaiah Ramos and Dylan Ibarra.

☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

OCT	Thu, Dec 9	Fri, Dec 10	Mon, Dec 13	Tue, Dec 14	Wed, Dec 15
BREAKFAST	MINI PANCAKE, YOGURT	MUFFIN, YOGURT	BREAKFAST PIZZA	PANCAKE WRAP, CHEESE CUBES	FRENCH TOAST, YOGURT
LUNCH Menu courtesy of PORTER'S SINCE 1945 Celebrating 70+ years of serving our customers. 432-729-4375 www.myporters.net	CHICKEN-n-WAFFLES FRESH VEGGIE CUP, HASHBROWNS, STRAWBERRIES AND BANANAS	X-TREME BURRITO, CUCUMBERS, CORN, ROSY APPLESAUCE, COOKIE	MINI CORN DOG BAKED FRIES, TOMATO CUP, MIXED FRUIT	QUESADILLA, SALSA, BEANS, CUCUMBER SLICES, APRICOTS, ICE CREAM CUP	CHEESE PIZZA, FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS, CORN, MANDARIN ORANGES

Mobile mortician business opens in Fort Davis next week

FORT DAVIS — Fort Davis will have a new mortician on the move next week. James Hall, the owner of Mobile Mortician of Texas, will offer traditional funeral services at a funeral hall or out on site wherever requested. Whenever they are needed, "We come to you," the new company's slogan says.

The Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce is welcoming the business to town with a ribbon cutting to celebrate the grand opening on Thursday, December 16, at 5 p.m. The Chamber Board of Directors invites the public to attend the ribbon cutting at the business location of 43430 Hwy 17 South across from the Jeff Davis County Park.

"We're excited to welcome James Hall to Fort Davis," said Board President Adele Coffey. "Mobile Mortician of Texas offers a unique business to our community and the surrounding region."

"My business is mobile in that we are willing to locate and meet a family wherever they want the services done," said Hall. "We can offer services at our funeral hall in Fort Davis or at a family's home." Their website advertises their willingness to travel to homes, ranches, churches or elsewhere, offering their services not only to Fort Davis residents, but those in Alpine, Marfa, Valentine, Marathon, Balmorhea, Terlingua and Presidio.

Hall is a licensed funeral director and embalmer as well as an ordained minister, and the new business is planning to offer a variety of services, including funerals, online memorials, tribute videos, flower ordering and an email service geared to help family and friends through loss and the grieving process. His wife Susann will join Hall in the business as funeral assistant, a role she's worked in since 2012.

Mobile Mortician of Texas will offer traditional funeral services at their location, the Davis Mountain Funeral Hall, which can accommodate about 50 people. Hall opened the funeral hall in November 2021, after previously serving as a funeral director in Fort Stockton for nine years and as an ordained minister at several churches before that.

To learn more about Mobile Mortician of Texas, visit the website www.MMofTexas.com. The business can also be found via social media on Facebook at "Davis Mountain Funeral

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.

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

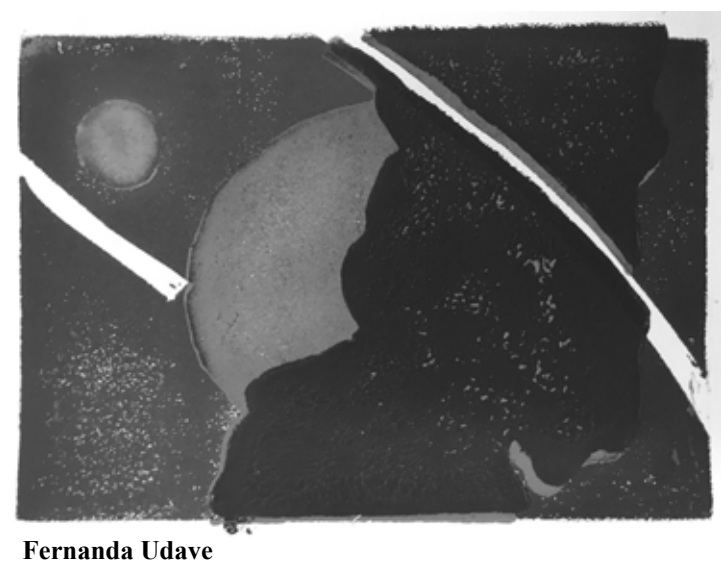
SOLUTION:

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

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DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Fernanda Udave
Reduction Print
12th grade

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg November 22, 2021

ACROSS
1 ___-Cola
5 Cousin of a bassoon
9 Sudden inspiration?
13 Human rights lawyer Clooney
14 Horse that a child might ride
15 Like the Lao language
16 Home that aptly contains a family room (In this clue's answer, notice letters 5-7)
18 "Easy on Me" singer
19 Two-time Super Bowl MVP Manning
20 Chilean range
21 Played charades, say
22 Ladies, in La Paz
24 Egg, in El Salvador
26 Pilfered or pirated
27 Movie ticket site
30 Annex
31 Peculiar
32 Unagi, at a sushi bar
33 Like a lawn at dawn
36 Spending frenzy
38 Lake Superior's ___ Royale
39 Pop star Grande's nickname
40 It goes over your head
41 Bloodshot
43 Full shows
46 Rubber overshoe
50 "Purgatorio" poet
51 Hall of fame
52 Sometimes-inflatable boats
54 "Bad, bad" Brown of song
56 911 respondent: Abbr.
57 Privileged group
58 Airport that aptly contains a TSA agent (... letters 3-7)
60 Military cap
61 Bard's river
62 Wrinkly fruit
63 Woodcutters' tools
64 Button to hit after writing a text
65 "Cold one"

DOWN
1 Gentle touch
2 What you may fold before breakfast
3 Slots' spot
4 Great heavyweight Muhammad
5 Straightforward, as a case
6 Close connections
7 A single time
8 Sun visor
9 Big name in chocolate
10 Sea creatures that aptly contain a clownfish (... letters 2-5)
11 Two-for-one deal, for one
12 Argued in court
15 Made less wild
17 Had the nerve
23 Big name in skin care
25 Like Harriet Tubman's railroad
27 Military posts
28 Come together
29 Spanish shout of support
33 "___ Boot" (German war film)
34 Earlier than, in poetry
35 Natural disaster that aptly contains a tree (... letters 5-7)
37 Kneecaps
38 Doing nothing
42 Course that's hard to fail
44 Eggnog or pumpkin spice drinks
45 Start of something
47 Antsy
48 "Happy as a clam" or "mad as a wet hen"
49 Malarkey
51 Atmospheric noble gas
52 Country singer McEntire
53 "Roots" author Haley
55 Gutter's location
59 Polish with a cloth

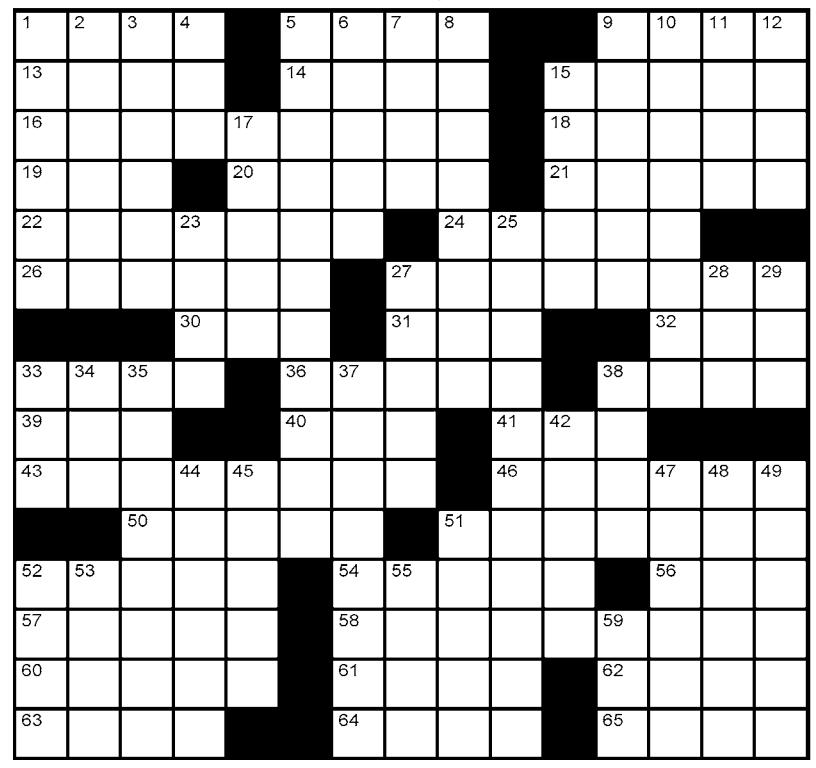
PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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11/22

Where Am I? *by Paul Coulter*



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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

THU, DEC 9: HS Girls & Boys Basketball Tournament in Van Horn, times TBD
MON, DEC 13: JH Basketball at Fort Davis, Girls at 5:00 pm, Boys at 6:00 pm
TUES, DEC 14: HS Basketball at McCamey. Girls at 6:00pm, Boys at 7:30 pm

OBITUARIES



Adams

Sara Baldwin Adams of Fort Davis passed away on November 28, 2021, in a San Antonio hospital following a brief illness. Sara was born in Alpine, Texas, on January 2, 1978, to Lynne and Larry Baldwin, and attended Fort Davis High School where she graduated in the Class of 1996. Sara went on to attend Sul Ross State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in geology. She was an escrow officer and partner in Big Bend Title Company, where she was frequently the first person to welcome new arrivals to this area.

Sara married the love of her life, Jody Adams, on September 20, 2008, in Lajitas, Texas. Sara and Jody enjoyed fishing in the Laguna Madre, traveling, and raising spoiled animals together. Sara never met a stranger, and was well known for her outgoing nature. A staunch supporter of our area fire departments, Sara was the primary organizer of the Smoke in the Mountains barbecue cookoff, which raised almost $100,000 for area fire departments over the life of the event.

Sara was one of those people who didn't want to say, "I wish I'd gone and done that." Her favorite thing to say was, "I did go and do that." She loved to go to new places and see new things. She had been to every state in the union, except for Alaska and Hawaii, and those were on her to-do list.

Born into a ranching family, Sara learned to ride a horse before she learned to walk. In her younger days, Sara participated in rodeos throughout the country, gaining her WPRA card at only 16. Going from rodeo to rodeo, she often traveled by herself. It was not unusual for her to pull the pickup and trailer over on the way to or from a rodeo, whenever she found a good place to fish. Sara enjoyed life to the fullest — all the time.

One of Sara's favorite hobbies was cooking. She was always trying new and exotic recipes. She loved to share these dishes with friends and family, all the while entertaining everyone with her encyclopedic knowledge of useless trivia. This, combined with her love of music, made Sara's parties a legend in the community.

Sara is survived by her husband, Jody Adams; her parents, Lynne and Larry Baldwin; and her mother- and father-in-law, Janet and Scott Adams, all of Fort Davis; along with many, many, family members and friends. Sara was preceded in death by her grandmother, Ruby Coor of Fort Davis.

Services will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 12, 2021, at Hillcrest Cemetery. Her uncle, Clark Baldwin, will be conducting the service, along with John Davis. The family requests, in lieu of flowers, that memorials be made to the Fort Davis Volunteer Fire Department or Fort Davis EMS, or to a charity of your choice.

• • •



Holguin

On November 26, 2021, Alpine lost the greatest man, son, father, husband, grandfather, brother anyone could ask for. **Hector M. Holguin**, 65, of Alpine, Texas, was a tough Marine who fought and gave his all. He went peacefully while surrounded by his loving family.

Hector was born on January 20, 1956. He is the son of Victoria Molinar Holguin of Alpine, Texas. Hector helped his mother raise his four siblings. He then enlisted into the United States Marine Corps on March 20, 1974, to serve his country. Hector was a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps when he first met his future wife and love of his life. He was the best man wearing his dress blues in his brother's wedding, and she was the bridesmaid in the summer of '77. He would later marry and court the love of his life for 42 years, Eva Maria Saenz Holguin. The family, along with many friends, have lost an amazing man. The mold was broken with Hector. His passions were his family first and foremost, outdoor activities, hard work, teaching his kids and grandkids life lessons, and being a big volunteer and supporter of scouting with his sons and grandsons. Hector loved cooking for family and lived to make others happy, be it by helping his family with projects or through his community service. He was always dependable and a hardworking man. He was one of the most selfless individuals and did so much for his family, friends and strangers who were in need.

Hector started his 37-year career with West Texas Utilities, now known as American Electric Power, and was always helping to keep the power on for Alpine, Marathon and the surrounding areas. He would always make sure the banners seen around town for upcoming events in his beloved hometown of Alpine were up. He always kept his boots on just in case he was called out. He was looking forward to retiring soon to spend more time with his family, especially the younger grandkids, who were his pride and joy.

His sense of humor, love of life and smile will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Eva; daughter Adela; son Hector Jr. and wife Lizet; sons Daniel and Vicente Holguin; grandsons Arnel Isandre Holguin, Roman Diego Holguin and Daniel Hector Holguin; and granddaughters Isabela Holguin and Catalaya Holguin.

He is also survived by his mother, Victoria Molinar Holguin; sisters Teresa Holguin, Cecilia McGuire and Maria "Kiki" Holguin; many nieces and nephews; and an endless number of friends. Hector knew no strangers.

He is preceded in death by his brother, Jesus R. Holguin, and father, Ramon Holguin.

Visitation services to celebrate Hector's life will be held at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home in Alpine, with Father Miguel "Mike" Alcuino officiating. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, December 10, 2021, with Rosary to follow at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace. The funeral service will be Saturday, December 11, 2021, at 10 a.m., at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church. Burial will be at Holy Angels Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Hector Jr., Daniel, Vicente Holguin, Jonas Holguin, Jesus Holguin and Javier Carrasco. Services provided by Alpine Memorial Funeral Home, 209 West Sul Ross Avenue, Alpine, Texas 79830. Please view the online obituary, send condolences and share memories at www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com.

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Hughes

Thomas Eric Hughes passed away peacefully on September 17, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was 36 years old. He was a beloved son, father, Marine and friend.

Born in San Angelo, Texas, Eric was the son of Thomas and Mary Alice Hughes. He graduated from Marfa High School in 2004. After attending Sul Ross State University, Eric decided to follow in his father's footsteps and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He graduated from Marine Corps boot camp in San Diego, California, in 2007. He served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and received a Combat Action Ribbon in Afghanistan. Eric was honorably discharged in 2011.

After his discharge from the Marines, Eric moved to Houston, Texas, where he met his wife, Amber Hughes. His greatest love in life was being a father to their daughter, Chevi. He will be remembered as a loving family man and a fierce friend. Eric enjoyed rooting for the Texas Longhorns, spending time with his Corps brothers and drinking Coors Light.

In addition to his wife and daughter, Eric is survived by his parents, Thomas and Mary Alice Hughes, and siblings and their families: Javier and Samantha Castro and their daughter Emily; Chris and Heather Migura and children Thomas, Courtney Lee and Madison; and Tucker and Lissa Gandy. He was succeeded in death by Benjamin Castro.

A celebration of a good life was held on Saturday, October 9, in San Angelo, Texas.

• • •

Abelardo C. Márquez, 77, of Marfa, Texas, passed away on November 16, 2021, following a brief illness.

Abelardo was born on December 10, 1943, to Maria Santos Cordero and Francisco Márquez in San Carlos, Manuel Benavides, Chihuahua, Mexico. He and his family immigrated to Marfa in 1953. He became a U.S. citizen on February 21, 1975.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1962 and achieved the rank of sergeant before being honorably discharged in 1965. Before entering the Army, he was employed by Webb Motor Company. After his return to Marfa he worked for Casner Motor Company for 15 years and then West Texas Utilities, which would later become American Electric Power, for 21 years until he retired in 2004.

Abelardo married Laura Villanueva in 1967 and they had three children. He was predeceased by his parents, step-father Luis B. Vasquez, and his son Neil. He is survived by his wife, Laura; two children, Christine and Abelardo Jr. (wife Angelica); four grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; seven step-great -grandchildren; five brothers, Francisco Márquez, Manuel Márquez, Robert Márquez, Joe Vasquez and Johnny Vasquez; and three sisters, Maria Elena Esparza, Araceli Vasquez and Rose Mary Vasquez.

Urn bearers will be Zaine N. Márquez, Jared Cole Shackelford, Tony Gonzalez and Shawna Gonzalez. Honorary urn bearers will be Amaya J. Márquez and Abelardo A. Márquez. Services will be held on Saturday, December 11, 2021, at Saint Mary's Catholic Church with the Rosary beginning at 9:30 a.m., followed by the Mass and inurnment. There will be a luncheon for friends and family at Saint Mary's Parish Hall immediately following.

• • •



Scudder

EMS Director and Fire Chief **Michael Lane Scudder** was called to heaven on the evening of December 5, 2021.

Funeral services for Mike will be held on Monday, December 13, 2021, at 3 p.m. at the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department Station located at 102 South Second Street, Alpine, Texas 79830. Mike will be laid to rest in Elm Grove Cemetery next to his beloved wife Traci.

Mike was born on August 30, 1960, to Betty Simpson and Lane Eric Scudder. He shared life's ups and downs with his twin brother and best friend, Mark Edward Scudder. Mike and Mark lost their father at the young age of seven in Dallas, Texas. After the traumatic passing of their father, their mother moved them to El Paso, Texas, and finally to Alpine during the summer of 1973.

The Scudder brothers began Alpine Junior High as eighth graders. The Scudder brothers joined the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department as junior firefighters at the age of 14. One year later, Mike and Mark completed an emergency care attendant course and became certified in the state of Texas through the Texas Department of Health at Sul Ross State University. At the time, they were on an extremely short list of the youngest in the nation; this record still stands today.

In December of 1976, the Scudder brothers continued their studies and became certified as emergency medical technicians through El Paso Community College while working with the ambulance service in Alpine. The Scudder brothers graduated Alpine High School in May of 1978 and studied criminal justice and business at Sul Ross State University. Mark and Mike went on to complete a paramedic course at Odessa College, graduating in May of 1981 as certified paramedics. In 1985, Michael purchased and established West Texas Ambulance Service-Alpine EMS in Alpine.

Throughout the years, Michael continued his work as EMS director and paramedic with the West Texas Ambulance Service and Alpine Volunteer Fire Department. Mike served as a captain, assistant chief and then became fire chief after his brother's passing in 2019. Mike served the community of Alpine and Brewster County from 1974 until 2021, over 45 years of saving lives, mentoring future leaders and building lifelong relationships.

Mike is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Traci L. Felsot Scudder; parents Lane Eric Scudder and Betty (Simpson) Scudder; and his brother Mark Edward Scudder.

Those left to honor the greatest of memories of Mike is his daughter, Jessica Scudder Patterson, who since the age of 18 worked side by side with Mike as a firefighter, fire captain, field medic as well as operations supervisor, and her husband Jeremy Patterson; his beloved grandson, Michael "Mikey" Patterson, who was named in honor of his beloved "Pappy"; and his two nephews, Corey Scudder and Colby Scudder; as well as so many beloved co-workers and friends that Mike has met over the many years of service and dedication to the community that he so selflessly served.

Mike will be remembered for not only his dedication to the community but as a loving father, husband, brother and an amazing Pappy.

The Scudder family has entrusted Alpine Memorial Funeral Home with arrangements.

Online condolences may be left at: www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com.

READ ONLINE AT BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM

LEGAL NOTICE

The Central Marfa Historic District, Marfa, Presidio County, Texas will be considered by the State Board of Review for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its meeting on January 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Due to Covid-19, all in-person meetings will be suspended upon further notice. A copy of the draft nomination and virtual meeting information is posted on the THC website: http://www.thc.texas.gov/sbrmeeting

In addition, we invite you to attend a Public Information Meeting to discuss the process of nomination and the results of listing properties in the National Register of Historic Places. The meeting will take place on December 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Presidio County Courthouse, 301 North Highland Street, Marfa, Texas.

Verbal Boundary Description of the Central Marfa Historic District:

> Roughly bounded by Washington Street on the north, Dallas Street on the south, Dean/Russell Streets on the east, and Austin/Abbott Streets on the west.

Listing in the National Register, the Federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation, results in the following for historic properties:

1. Consideration in planning for Federal, Federally licensed, and Federally-assisted projects. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation must be given an opportunity to comment on all federally related projects affecting listed properties. For further information, please refer to 36 CFR 800.

2. Eligibility for Federal tax provisions. The Federal Internal Revenue Code encourages the preservation of depreciable historic structures by allowing favorable tax treatments for rehabilitation and also provides for charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures. For further information, see 36 CFR 67.

3. Consideration of historic values in the decision by the State Board or Federal government to issue a surface coal mining permit where coal is located. For further information, please refer to 30 CFR 700 et seq.

4. Eligibility for Federal grants-in-aid, whenever funds are appropriated by Congress. For further information, contact Mark Wolfe, Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas, 78711.

Owners of private properties nominated to the National Register may concur or object to the nomination in accord with 36 CFR 60. Any owner or partial owner who objects to listing should submit a notarized statement (certifying ownership and objection to listing) to Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas, 78711, by January 14, 2022. Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote, regardless of how many whole or partial properties in the district are owned by that party. If a majority of private property owners object to the nomination, the district will not be listed; however, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall submit the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register for a determination of eligibility for inclusion in the National Register. If the district is then determined eligible for listing but not formally listed, the Advisory Council must still be given an opportunity to comment on Federal projects which may affect the district.

A copy of the nomination, the criteria used for evaluation, and more information on the results of listing are available from the State Historic Preservation Office, at the above address or telephone inquiries can be made at 512/463-5853. Comments on the nomination should be received by the State Historic Preservation Office before the State Board of Review meeting on January 15, 2022.

AVISO LEGAL

El Distrito Histórico Central de Marfa, Condado de Presidio, Texas, será considerado por la Junta de Revisión del Estado para su nominación al Registro Nacional de Lugares Históricos en una reunión del 15 de enero de 2022 a las 9:00 a.m. Debido a Covid-19, todas las reuniones en persona se suspenderán con nuevo aviso. Una copia del borrador de la nominación y la información de la reunión virtual se publica en el sitio web del THC: http://www.thc.texas.gov/sbrmeeting

En consecuencia, lo invitamos a asistir a una REUNIÓN DE INFORMACIÓN PÚBLICA para discutir el proceso de nominación y los resultados de la inclusión de propiedades en el Registro Nacional de Lugares Históricos. La reunión tendrá lugar el 16 de diciembre de 2021 a las 17:30 horas. en el Palacio de Justicia del Condado de Presidio, 301 North Highland Street, Marfa, Texas.

Descripción verbal de los límites del distrito histórico central de Marfa:

> Aproximadamente delimitado por Washington Street al norte, Dallas Street al sur, Dean / Russell Streets al este y Austin / Abbott Streets al oeste.

La inclusión en el Registro Nacional, la lista oficial del gobierno federal de propiedades históricas dignas de preservación, da como resultado lo siguiente para las propiedades históricas:

1. Consideración en la planificación de proyectos federales, con licencia federal y con asistencia federal. El Consejo Asesor sobre Preservación Histórica debe tener la oportunidad de comentar sobre todos los proyectos relacionados a nivel federal que afecten a las propiedades incluidas en la lista. Para obtener más información, consulte 36 CFR 800.

2. Elegibilidad para las disposiciones fiscales federales. El Código Federal de Rentas Internas fomenta la preservación de estructuras históricas depreciables al permitir tratamientos fiscales favorables para la rehabilitación y también prevé contribuciones caritativas para fines de conservación de intereses parciales en áreas o estructuras de tierras históricamente importantes. Para obtener más información, consulte 36 CFR 67.

3. Consideración de valores históricos en la decisión de la Junta Estatal o del gobierno federal de emitir un permiso de extracción de carbón de superficie donde se encuentra el carbón. Para obtener más información, consulte 30 CFR 700 et seq.

4. Elegibilidad para subvenciones federales, siempre que el Congreso se apropie de los fondos. Para más información, comuníquese con Mark Wolfe, Director Ejecutivo, Comisión Histórica de Texas, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas, 78711.

Los propietarios de propiedades privadas nominados al Registro Nacional pueden estar de acuerdo o objetar la nominación de acuerdo con 36 CFR 60. Cualquier propietario o propietario parcial que se oponga a la inclusión en la lista debe presentar una declaración notariada (que certifique la propiedad y la objeción a la inclusión en la lista) a Mark Wolfe, Estado Oficial de Preservación Histórica, Comisión Histórica de Texas, PO Box 12276, Austin, Texas, 78711, antes del 14 de enero de 2022. Cada propietario o propietario parcial de propiedad privada tiene un voto, independientemente de cuántas propiedades totales o parciales en el distrito sean propiedad de esa parte. Si la mayoría de los propietarios privados se oponen a la nominación, el distrito no aparecerá en la lista; sin embargo, el Oficial de Preservación Histórica del Estado presentará la nominación al Guardián del Registro Nacional para una determinación de elegibilidad para su inclusión en el Registro Nacional. Si luego se determina que el distrito es elegible para ser incluido en la lista, pero no formalmente, el Consejo Asesor aún debe tener la oportunidad de comentar sobre los proyectos federales que puedan afectar al distrito.

Una copia de la nominación, los criterios utilizados para la evaluación y más información sobre los resultados de la lista están disponibles en la Oficina Estatal de Preservación Histórica, en la dirección anterior o se pueden hacer consultas telefónicas al 512 / 463-5853. Los comentarios sobre la nominación deben ser recibidos por la Oficina de Preservación Histórica del Estado antes de la reunión de la Junta de Revisión del Estado el 15 de enero de 2022.

Classifieds & public notices

HISTORIC CARLY ESTATE IS GOING UP FOR SALE TO THE PUBLIC
Sat Dec 11th and Sun Dec 12th!!!
8:00am - 4:00pm • 500 N Russell St. Marfa 79843

Contents include extensive pottery colllecttion, Roseville (150+ pieces and early experimental pieces and rare and popular patterns), Hager, McCoy, Italian, Lalique Collection, Silver Tableware and Serving Pieces, Furniture, new and antique, full Antique Dining Set and Chairs, authentic Mid Century Modern Furniture and Decor, Beds, Dressers, Nightstands , Rocking Chairs, Sofas, Lawyers Bookcases , Barcarts, multiple full China sets, Paul Revere Copper Cookware sets, Vintage clothing, authentic Border Patrol clothing and implements, Gun Case, Tall Dressers, antique chests, Lighting, Lamps, extensive cut crystal collection (over 100+), Art Glass, Hutches, China Cabinets, Linens, Full Library contains 1st edition Texans, Historical MARFA books, vintage Marfa Magazines, Antique Presidio County books, Historical Texas books, also books on texas plants, trans Pecos - Big Bend, Border Patrol, Rugs (handmade) Art, Cowboy Hats (new and antique) Bookshelves, Homewares, kitchenwares, Electronics, Everyday Housewares, Kitchenware, Free MagazInes, Mid Century Modern, Modern and Antique Accessories & Art and much much more!

Our biggest sale EVER, in Marfa
Call 512-351-1429 for More Details or Presales

FORT DAVIS HEIGHTS RANCH ESTATE SALE

Texas Furniture - two king Beds & iron queen bed, antique shaving stand, secretary, oak bookcase, coat rack, Traeger pellet grill, two outdoor propane heaters, Cajun propane fish fryer, tons of outdoor furniture, tools, miscellaneous kitchenware, tall dresser, two freezers, six iron barstools, telescope, lamps, and lots more funiture!

Saturday, December 11 & Sunday, December 12
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Follow signs on Compromise, 3 miles on unpaved ranch road

93.5 FM Marfa TM PUBLIC RADIO
93.5 Marfa/Ft. Davis 91.7 Alpine 91.5 Marathon 91.3 Odessa/Midland

FRONTIER SERVICES
HEATING & COOLING
New install, mini splits. We service all brands!
Free estimate, Call 432-386-7422 TACLB17870E

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RPLS
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RPLS
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WEST TEXAS PEST MANAGEMENT
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JOBS

LOOKING FOR A DENTIST, MEDICAL DOCTOR, FNP, DENTAL HYGIENIST, CALL CENTER OPERATOR, NURSE SUPERVISOR, FULL TIME BILLER/CODER, FULL TIME BOOKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT, AND FULL TIME FRONT DESK 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

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.

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.

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

BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

Are you interested in a career in healthcare?
Do you have an interest and passion for helping others?

Big Bend Regional Hospital District and the University of North Texas Health Science Center are looking for local candidates to become certified Community Health Workers.

FREE certification training and a PAID internship will be provided!

Requirements:
•High School Diploma/GED
•Must be able to commit to 10 hours of instruction per week for 16 weeks
•Excellent communication skills
•Desire to help people
•Bilingual in English/Spanish is a plus

In addition to the FREE certification training, a PAID internship will be provided during the 16 week instruction period.
The internship will be 5 hours per week at $20.00 per hour.
Classes are anticipated to begin in January.

Interested candidates should call BBRHD at 432-837-7051 or email jd@bbrhd.com.

JOB OPENING

SEEKING EXPERIENCED BAR/RESTAURANT MANAGER FOR NEW CONCEPT WINE BAR IN ALPINE, TX

Downtown location with high traffic, seating for approximately 80.
Opportunity to help start something new from the ground up, your way.
You will be working with experienced, successful business owners who are in Alpine.

Pay range $40k to $50k base plus success incentives to well over $60k.

Call Tom at 512-585-5002

PRESIDIO COUNTY, COUNTY & DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE IS HIRING FOR FULL TIME DEPUTY CLERK.

• Looking for a dependable, hardworking, organized person.
• Office experience a plus but not necessary.
• Bilingual preferred but not required

Job Description – Assist customers, filing records, filing cases, all and any duties pertaining to the County Office and District Office.

Pay rate depending on experience. Benefits given.
Please come by the Office and pick up an application.
Email to flor.zubia@co.presidio.tx.us
Application deadline is December 17, 2021.
For any question please call 432-729-3857

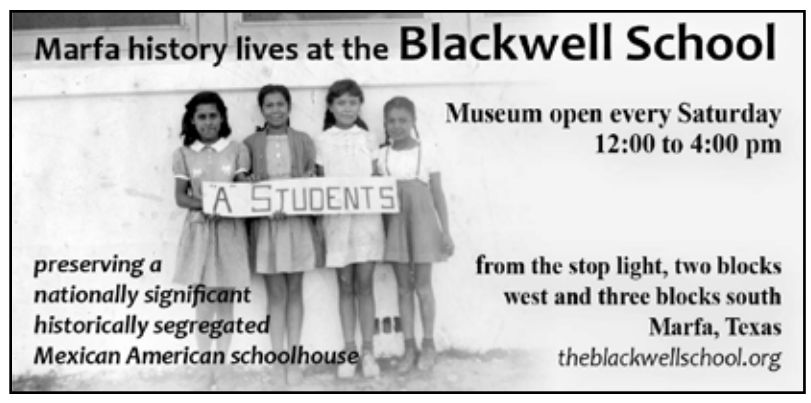
JOB OPENING - MARFA NATIONAL BANK

The Marfa National Bank is looking for a candidate to fill a teller/bookkeeping position.
Good benefits and salary with plenty of advancement opportunity.

Call 432-729-4344 or come by 301 S. Highland to pick up an application.

NOW HIRING

THE BIG BEND SENTINEL/PRESIDIO INTERNATIONAL IS HIRING A MANAGING EDITOR. VISIT OUR WEDPAGE TO LEARN MORE AND APPLY: HTTPS://BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM/REPOSTER-APPLICATION/



The Marfa National Bank
Open House
December 16th • 11:00 AM till 2:00 PM

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

WILL BE CLOSED

DECEMBER 13 - 16
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY

FOR STAFF TRAINING IN SAN MARCOS

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE PLEASE CONTACT OUR ANNEX OFFICE IN PRESIDIO AT (432) 229-3963
OR EMAIL PCAD7223@BIGBEND.NET

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.

US Government Property for Sale
SEALED BID SALE

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

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

96 WHISKEY CO.
Men's & women's apparel, home & gift
Open Wednesday – Sunday
12 pm – 6 pm
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Marfa, Texas

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FindARanchOutWest.com

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

PRESIDIO COUNTY
Judge Cinderela Guevara:
(432) 729-4452

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

Presidio Mayor John Ferguson:
City Hall: (432) 229-3517
Email: jferguson@presidiotx.us

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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