

## BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

## Region adopts new 911 platform with GPS and video feature

By ALLEGRA HOBBS  
allegra@bigbendsentinel.com

TRI-COUNTY REGION — The Rio Grande Council of Governments, the association of local governments which includes Presidio, Brewster and Jeff Davis counties, as of this week has adopted a new call management platform for handling 911 calls — one that allows responders to more precisely pinpoint the location of callers and to even see them on video.

RIOCOG struck a deal with Carbyne, a tech company that has built a cloud-based emergency services platform positioning itself as the future of emergency response. The technology, which was implemented on Tuesday in Brewster and Presidio counties, is expected to be a “drastic improvement” upon the old system, said Presidio County Emergency Management Coordinator Gary Mitschke, due to its ability to more accurately pinpoint a caller’s location.

“This system pinpoints the location of the phone and does it very quickly, and it is really accurate,” said Mitschke. “If we get a caller who calls in 911 for a fire, it’ll pick that location up, and dispatch can ask them the questions that need to be asked ... I think it’s gonna improve our response times, because the locations are more exact, so we know where we’re going when we head out.”

Traditionally, when a caller dials 911 from a cellular device, that call is dependent on cell towers, explained Lara Kelsey of Carbyne, the triangulation of which can determine a caller’s location within approximately a mile radius but won’t be precise. Carbyne’s cloud-based system, on the other hand, allows dispatchers to pinpoint the location of a caller within 15 meters of the cell phone’s location as soon as the call is received.

But with the caller’s consent, the technology can unlock an even greater degree of location accuracy, said Kelsey. Carbyne sends the caller a text, asking them to allow Carbyne access to the device location — dispatchers will then be able to see the caller’s location within five to 15 feet. The technology also discloses elevation, so that if a caller is on the third floor of a building, responders will be able to ascertain that before arriving at the scene.

“There’s a huge difference when you’re trying to find somebody,” said Kelsey, who noted the service

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Film Still courtesy of Aubrie Aguilar

A film still from Marfa High School 11th grader Aubrie Aguilar’s animated short “Heartbeat,” which recently advanced to the state semifinals in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) 2022 film contest. READ MORE ON PAGE 10.

## Fort Stockton man and daughter found in Mexico after Big Bend disappearance

By ALLEGRA HOBBS  
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BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK — Following an all-hands-on-deck, multi-agency search on both sides of the border, a missing Fort Stockton man and his young daughter have been found “alive and well” in Mexico, weeks after disappearing in Big Bend National Park, according to the National Park Service.

Hector Flores, Jr., 49, and Luna Flores, 9, were discovered on Sunday in the Mexican state of Coahuila, which is adjacent to the park, when residents of the state notified NPS of a man and young girl fitting their description attempting to purchase food in the area. Mexico State Police were able to confirm their identities by Monday afternoon.

Hector Flores, Jr. was being held at Brewster

County Jail as of press time, the Brewster County Sheriff’s office confirmed. He is being charged in federal court, though the Federal Bureau of Investigation was not immediately able to specify what Flores, Jr. is being charged with.

Luna Flores is currently in the custody of the Child Protective Services division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, per DFPS spokesperson Paul Zimmerman, who said the department is “currently working to find an appropriate placement with relatives.” Hector Flores, Sr., father of Hector Flores, Jr. and grandfather of Luna Flores, told The Big Bend Sentinel that he and his wife plan to travel to El Paso on Thursday to retrieve Luna from CPS.

The search had been underway since February 5, when an abandoned truck belonging to Flores, Jr. was discovered by a park ranger on the northern end of the remote Old Ore Road, a

designated primitive backcountry road spanning 26 miles. Their gear had been left behind and many of their personal belongings were in the car. They had first entered the park on January 28, NPS was able to garner from surveillance cameras at the park entrance.

The pair were ultimately found in a remote farming community across from the Rio Grande Village campground, said National Park Service spokesman Tom VandenBerg. “There’s not really a town there,” he said.

The father and daughter seem to have traveled into the region on foot, said VandenBerg, and at this point authorities are still trying to ascertain why they had made such a long and perilous journey. “That’s quite a ways from where their vehicle was found,” said VandenBerg. “That’s 27 miles to the border.”

(Continued on page 2)

## Deadline to apply for city council, school board seats ends Friday

By MARY CANTRELL  
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MARFA — The deadline to submit an application to serve on the Marfa City Council and the Marfa Independent School District Board of Trustees is this Friday, February 18.

### Marfa City Council

The City of Marfa is seeking applications to fill three open city council seats as the two-year terms of council members Yoseff Ben-Yehuda, Eddie Pallarez and Buck Johnston expire. Councilmember Pallarez has filed for reelection. Mark Cash, previous school board member who resigned from the role this past summer, also filed to run. Councilmember Ben-Yehuda has stated he

will not file for reelection, while Councilmember Johnston has not formally announced whether she intends to run for another term.

The city council consists of five Marfa citizens who create local policies, approve the final city budget and assist in strategic planning for the town’s future. The legislative body is also responsible for appointing members to Marfa’s boards and commission and advisory committees. Meetings are held twice a month at City Hall, with additional meetings required during the budget season in the fall and as needed. Council members are paid \$50 per meeting.

Candidates will appear on the May 7 general election ballot and will enter into office after a canvassing and swearing in process, around late May or early June.

Applications are available in English and Spanish at City Hall and on the city’s website: <https://cityofmarfa.com/elections>. The two-page application may be submitted from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at City Hall, 113 South Highland Ave. or mailed to PO Box 787, Marfa, TX 79843. Mailed applications must be received by 5 p.m. on February 18. It is free to apply.

Annual elections are held in the City of Marfa to elect the mayor, who serves a two-year term, and city council members, who serve two-year staggered terms.

In order to be eligible to run for city council, applicants must be a U.S. citizen and must be 18 years of age or older. Applicants must have

(Continued on page 2)

## City council covers Feb. 2021 gas bill, regulation of home food businesses and property boundary issues in latest meeting

By MARY CANTRELL  
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MARFA — City council members started off a varied meeting last week by hearing from the Blackwell School Alliance President Gretel Enck, who reported on the national historic designation of the site — which is currently awaiting approval from the Texas Senate — and the school’s successful fundraising efforts.

Enck said the school is vying for an \$800,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and raised \$70,000 in matching funds to restore the building.

“We’re really happy with all the money we were able to raise,” said Enck.

News as to whether or not Blackwell will be

awarded the grant will arrive in the next few months, said Enck. If received, the first step will be to hire an architect to construct a master plan for the building.

After the citizen comment period, council then moved on to reassessing a \$114,000 gas bill they received in December dating back to last February’s winter storm. City Manager Mandy Roane, City Attorney Teresa Todd and Gas Department Manager Jim Mustard recently met with the city’s outside attorney to assess their options moving forward. Todd said their immediate next steps are to search for the city’s original contract with natural gas provider, West Texas Gas, and request certain documents from the company which have not yet been provided.

Roane reported she was keeping in touch

with the City of Alpine, who received a similar invoice.

“Alpine is sort of thinking the same thing that we are: why can’t you tell us exactly where these charges are from? Why didn’t you warn us that this was coming? Because if you have been negotiating these bills, you should have told us that it was coming so we could budget. And why did you wait so long to bill us? Why did you give us eight days to pay?” said Roane.

West Texas Gas did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

With much still up in the air, council agreed to discuss the matter again at the March 8 meeting, where their outside attorney will write up a response and submit recommendations.

(Continued on page 3)

## City of Marfa reinstates juvenile curfew

By MARY CANTRELL  
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MARFA — Marfa City Council members voted to reinstate a long-expired juvenile curfew at last week’s city council meeting, after Police Chief Estévan Marquez and City Attorney Teresa Todd discovered the ordinance had been expired for over a decade in the wake of a few recent citations.

The refreshed ordinance will apply to juveniles within city limits. In Texas, a juvenile is legally defined as a person 10 to 16 years of age. Curfew hours will extend from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and midnight to 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Exceptions will be made for emergencies, if a child is with their parent or guardian, or if they are attending a civic event, like a school, city-sponsored or church event.

“Before any kind of citation or any kind of action is taken, the burden is on the officer not just to ask how old you are but to also make sure that none of these exceptions apply,” said Todd.

The Marfa Police Department had been enforcing the curfew unaware that the existing ordinance expired in 2010. Chief Marquez said citations issued during the lapse have since been annulled. Citations were few and far between, he said.

“My officers are pretty lenient about it. I mean, most of the time, we have the kids that are coming in from a late game or something like that,” said Chief Marquez.

He said there are occasionally incidents of tagging and graffiti, especially during the summertime, which officers try to intervene in. Plus, the curfew can be a useful tool to incentivize kids to get home safe, he said.

“This curfew comes into play in incidents where we do have the kids that are out late, at like 3 o’clock in the morning, in areas where we might have tagging in the parks and stuff,” said Chief Marquez.

He said the police department has also received complaints about kids messing with lighting settings in public parks in order to stay after hours, and officers have discovered some damaged lights.

When asked if the parents and guardians could be held accountable for their child not making curfew, Chief Marquez said the burden should really be on the kids to obey the curfew and own up to the consequences if they receive a citation.

“I remember growing up in Marfa, getting a citation for curfew, and it was up to me. My mom was like, ‘I’m not paying a citation, you’re gonna do community service,’” said Chief Marquez.

Fines will be determined on a case-by-case basis, but juveniles found in violation of the curfew will have the option to perform community service, said Chief Marquez. City Attorney Teresa Todd said the city council will readdress the ordinance in six months to review how it’s working, see how often it is being utilized and to make any necessary tweaks.



## Man and daughter found

(Continued from page 1)

Hector Flores, Jr. and Luna Flores had returned to the United States by Tuesday afternoon, said VandenBerg, having been met at the border by Customs and Border Patrol, park rangers, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Authorities will continue investigating the matter, he said. “There’s a lot of unanswered questions there that we’re hoping to eventually have, but at this point it’s sort of hard to say or speculate what exactly the motives were, what they were doing,” said VandenBerg.

Hector Flores, Sr. and his wife Maria Flores were baffled as to how their son and grandchild ended up across the border. “We have a million questions — I don’t know if we’ll ever get answers,” said Hector Flores, Sr. “Why did they go over there? Why did they dump the truck without letting anyone know?” Hector Flores, Sr. and Maria Flores had traveled to the park from their home in San Antonio once they were

notified their son and grandchild had gone missing; they returned to San Antonio on Friday evening.

Mostly, they were grateful the pair had turned up alive and in good health. “That’s the main thing — that they’re okay and alive, after all they went through,” said Maria Flores. “There were a lot of people praying for them to be found safe and sound.”

The lengthy search included state and federal agencies, plus Mexican authorities. Searchers with the NPS, the FBI, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Fort Stockton Police Department and Texas Department of Public Safety all assisted in the search, along with Mexican State Police, other Mexican officials and residents of Boquillas.

*This is a developing story. The Big Bend Sentinel will provide updates online as more information becomes available.*



Hector Flores, Jr., 49 and Luna Flores, 9.



Photo courtesy of National Park Service

## Deadline to apply

(Continued from page 1)

resided within the state of Texas for at least 12 months, and have resided within the city of Marfa for at least six months (and continue to hold residence within Marfa city limits). Viable candidates cannot have been declared mentally incapacitated without the right to vote and cannot have been convicted of a felony.

### MISD School Board

Open candidate filing for the Marfa ISD general election will extend through Friday, February 18, with four school board seats up for election. The board of trustees is made up of seven members total. School board members serve three-year terms and meet around once a month at the high school. It is a volunteer position.

Places 5, 6 and 7, held by Ernie Villarreal, Shawn Brugette and Teresa Nuñez, are up for election. Place

2, which was previously held by Katie Price Fowlkes before she resigned from the board this month, will also need to be filled through 2023 until Fowlkes’ term is up.

Nuñez has filed for reelection and Villarreal has given a verbal commitment but had not yet filed as of press time, according to Superintendent Oscar Aguero.

When applying, candidates must state which place they intend to run for. The election will take place May 7.

Interested candidates can pick up application packets at the Marfa ISD Administration Office.

To qualify to serve on the Marfa ISD School Board, candidates must not be a teacher or otherwise an employee of the school district. They must also be a United States citizen, be at least 18 years of age and have lived in Texas for at least 12 months and within the school district for at least six months. They must also be eligible and registered to vote in Marfa.

## Presidio hosts regional flood planning workshop; locals encouraged to submit feedback online

By SAM KARAS

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PRESIDIO — Officials from the City of Presidio, the Texas Water Development Board and the Rio Grande Council of Governments convened in Presidio last Thursday afternoon for a flood planning workshop. The open house style meeting provided an opportunity for Presidio residents to offer feedback to regional experts that will guide a series of longer-term flood mitigation projects.

“The idea is if you plan properly, then both the federal government and the Texas Water Development Board will fund projects,” explained Omar Martinez, who traveled to Presidio to offer his expertise as an employee of the El Paso County Water Permit District 1. “What we’re doing here is collecting information from stakeholders.”

The Presidio workshop was the only stop in the Big Bend on a tour through four communities — the communities of El Paso, Fort Stockton and Pecos also hosted events. Land and business owners from Marfa, Alpine and Presidio were solicited to submit feedback to the workshop via mail and over local social media groups.

In Presidio County, a major focus is improving safety for motorists and homeowners who live in populated areas. Flooding in June 2021 led to a death on Alamito Creek in Marfa where there are no flood gauges or gates. Proposed projects include installation of flood safety equipment in Marfa, drainage culverts for low-water crossings on the northbound stretch of FM 170 between Presidio and Candelaria and a channelization project to improve flood drainage in between Highway 67 and the Rio Grande.

Environmental management projects have also been pitched in more remote areas: on the “forgotten reach” of the Rio Grande upstream of Presidio that often runs dry, there’s talk of a salt cedar eradication project. The invasive plant, also known locally as tamarisk, can consume up to 200 gallons of water a day. Thinning the tamarisk on the stretch of river between Fort Quitman and Presidio could pave the way for healthier riparian ecosystems and better flood drainage for future generations.

The focus on flood planning is especially important in Presidio, where the city has developed an industrial park in an area on the north side of town. The Presidio industrial park is located along the Cibola Creek drainage, which can become dangerous in significant flood events, like the major flood in 2008 that damaged the Presidio levee and required around 500 Presidio

residents to evacuate. The 2008 flood was the last major regional flood event and is the benchmark flood planners have been using to plan for the future.

Portions of the industrial park have been identified as a flood risk. Biad Chili, Cylex Cement, Solitaire Homes and the Presidio drag racing track were all built with flood mitigation in mind. “They’re fine — some drainage work has been done around them,” said Presidio Municipal Development District Executive Director Jeran Stephens. “But there are a couple of spots in our industrial park that we are not selling or leasing for construction because they’re in a flood zone.”

Presidio officials hope to one day incorporate the industrial park into a foreign trade zone (FTZ) tied to the Presidio Port of Entry. According to Customs and Border Protection, goods in FTZs are not subject to export taxes and are generally exempt from local taxes, creating an incentive for international companies to set up shop locally. Flood hazards could potentially hinder those efforts — if Presidio can prove that it is taking steps to mitigate flood risk, it could ease potential stakeholders’ concerns and lower costs across the board.

Experts present at the meeting stressed that the RIOCOG and TWDB efforts were state-level efforts and separate from flood insurance procedures mandated by the federal government. The Federal Emergency Management Agency surveys communities to determine flood risk, which later determines flood insurance premiums. “Insurance companies live and die by FEMA maps,” explained Brad Newton, Presidio’s city administrator. “Our FEMA maps were made in 1976, before we were incorporated as a city — we have talked to FEMA numerous times to try to update our maps.”

In flood-prone communities, insurance requirements can have far-reaching economic impacts: Presidio’s chief financial officer, Malynda Richardson, explained that many banks require flood insurance in order to get mortgage financing. “We’re an impoverished community where people often can’t afford the insurance,” she said.

City officials hope that these state-led flood mitigation projects will prompt the federal government to come to Presidio and reassess the local area for flood risk. “There’s an economic development component to add savings for both people in their homes and businesses,” Martinez explained. “Successful planning leads to money.”

Locals in the tri-county area are encouraged to fill out the flood planning questionnaire online: <https://bit.ly/URGFP-Survey>. Questions about the survey can be directed to [julissac@riocog.org](mailto:julissac@riocog.org).

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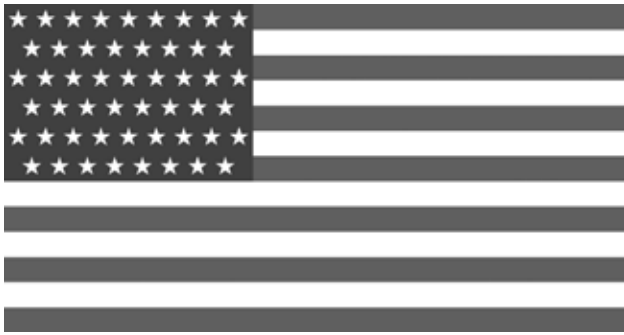


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## City council

(Continued from page 1)

“We need to dig a lot deeper before we pay this bill,” said Todd.

Next up on the agenda was whether or not to release a request for proposals (RFP) for architectural and/or engineering planning services for stabilization of the Marfa Presidio County Museum building.

Roane suggested issuing an RFP for an architect or engineer to assess the building and come up with a list of recommended actions, which the city could then use to put out another RFP for a contractor to perform the work. City administrators and council members have met repeatedly with a contractor who could take the work on after direction from an engineer, they said. Given tight budget constraints, it is likely work will be performed over time, said Roane.

“When we look at the engineers list, we speak with our contractor and we find out what is most important, what's going to keep the building safe, what's going to be the most lasting and the most impactful work and then have everything in phases,” said Roane.

The topic concluded with Roane and Councilmember Yoseff Ben-Yehuda assigned to draft an RFP for council approval at the next meeting.

Discussion then moved to the issue of instating a food establishment rules ordinance in order to better regulate citizens selling food out of their homes. The city will adopt Texas’ food establishment rules, which do not apply to foods allowed by Texas cottage food laws — primarily baked goods and other items. Items that are typically not allowed to be sold out of homes, according to the Department of State Health Services, are temperature controlled foods like meat and dairy.

“So what we're trying to do is make sure that anybody who's selling food

commercially is set up correctly. They're in a commercial kitchen. They're actually a restaurant,” said Roane.

Public Works Supervisor Chuck Salgado was recently working on enforcing the city’s existing grease trap ordinance because significant amounts of grease were being dumped and causing issues in the city’s sewer lines, said Roane. But home kitchens are difficult to regulate, unlike a commercial kitchen where Salgado and his team can access the facilities and check for proper grease trap size and maintenance. A handful of area restaurants are upgrading their systems after recent visits from the public works team, Roane said.

Many of the homegrown culinary operations started up during COVID, said Mayor Pro Tem Irma Salgado, with people selling a variety of foods like menudo and pozole on local Facebook pages and sites. The city is partly seeking out an ordinance in order to treat all these entrepreneurs fairly, said Mayor Manny Baeza. Those coming to the city for permission are being denied, while those who did not seek approval are operating out of their own volition, he said.

The code enforcement department will carry out the new ordinance, which will require kitchens selling food commercially to have a three-basin sink and food thermometers, among other State Health Services regulations, said Roane. If found in violation, individuals will be issued a \$2,000 fine. The ordinance passed with the majority of council members voting yea, with the exception of council members Raul Lara and Buck Johnston who voted nay.

Council wrapped up the meeting by reviewing necessary actions relating to a petition by Marfa resident Conception Campos to purchase an

approximately 234 square foot portion of East Lincoln Street where her front porch and house are encroaching onto the city street. Campos has a contract to sell her property, and discovered the 3.9 foot encroachment after a survey was conducted. Campos must now purchase the area of encroachment from the city in order to sell her home.

The city intends to accept her petition and move forward with the sale, but the process was ultimately thwarted without a necessary signature from a neighbor who abuts the property.

Councilmember Salgado commented this is a common issue in town, with City Manager Roane agreeing the council is likely to see many more of these in the future. The problem is due to homes being passed down and inherited for generations, surveys not regularly being conducted, and inaccurate measurements from long ago, said council members. Realtor Kathleen Walstrom was present at the meeting representing her client Campos.

“All of a sudden we have houses and garages and porches and things that are where they shouldn't be,” said Walstrom.

“The city doesn't have utilities in this area. [Campos] said this house had been this way since before she was born,” said Todd.

Council members and Walstrom agreed the sheer number of encroachments in the area makes it a confusing matter to sort out, with everyone on the block around four feet off of their actual property lines. Todd offered to work with Campos and Walstrom to help explain the matter to neighbors and the issue was tabled for a later date.

“We're going to be doing this for the next ten years, three feet at a time,” said Mayor Baeza.

## New 911 platform

(Continued from page 1)

could be used for locating migrants who are lost in the desert. “If you have a migrant who is able to get cell phone reception but they don't know where they're at, they're in the desert, they're hurt, they need assistance ... this gives them the geo-coordinates so they can go right to where the person is calling from and get them the assistance that they need.”

Carbyne is already in touch with the Mexican government, said Kelsey, and in the future the service will facilitate cross-border communication.

Beyond identifying precise location, if the caller consents to give Carbyne access, responders will be given access to a video stream so the caller can show responders where they are and what emergency situation they are facing.

Mitschke noted that the service could be extremely useful in search-and-rescue missions. “If you’ve got someone out there hiking and they happen to have cell service, they can call in and instead of trying to figure out where

they’re at, it’ll pinpoint them with GPS,” he said.

Annette Gutierrez, executive director of the Rio Grande Council of Governments, touted the new service as a boon for the region, which is often faced by difficulties when it comes to emergency response.

“Many of the communities that the Rio Grande Council of Governments serves face challenges related to population decline, workforce and economic development, and especially emergency communications,” said Gutierrez in a statement. “Our organization has been working diligently over the last several years in providing NEXGEN 911 services. The Carbyne c-Live APEX product, which is a cloud-native call management solution is the best solution to implement. The product will enable the PSAP Dispatcher to capture the audio and data to a single platform and allow for the essential information to get to their first responders.”

According to RIOCOG Region Services Director Marisa Quintanilla, the

total cost of adopting Carbyne for the RIOCOG area was \$490,000. “This amount covered the cost of Carbyne’s Apex Solution integration for all of the five public safety answering (Alpine PD, Brewster County Sheriff’s Office, Presidio County Sheriff’s Office, Culberson County Sheriff’s Office, and Hudspeth County Sheriff’s Office),” she wrote in an email.

Kelsey of Carbyne said that ultimately the service is cheaper for counties because Carbyne handles maintenance of all equipment as part of the service — so counties do not have to refresh their hardware every few years.

County Judge Cinderela Guevara was thrilled with the implementation of the new technology. “This type of technology ensures accurate device base location,” said Guevara in a statement. “It also integrates rapid S.O.S., has video, text, and voice, making Carbyne the excellent choice for public safety and the ability to reach distressed 911 callers in a more timely manner and therefore saving more lives.”



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Said application may be heard and acted on by said Court at 10 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publishing this citation, at the County Courthouse in Marfa, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

All interested persons are further advised that they have the right to employ an attorney and that if they or their attorney fail to file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of ten days after the publishing of this citation, the court may enter orders with binding effects upon said persons.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Marfa, Texas, this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2022

FLORCITA ZUBIA  
Clerk of the County Court,  
Presidio County, Texas  
By: Carolina J. Catan  
Deputy  
Clerk's Address: P.O. Box 789  
Marfa, Texas 79843

## Presidio County Treasurer candidate questionnaires

Candidates for Presidio County Treasurer weigh in ahead of the March 1 primary election

DAVE CHAVEZ (R)

**1. Tell us about yourself. What experience will you bring to this role?**

Up until the final day to register for the position of county treasurer, I was a content retired city/county manager enjoying the life of a financially secure individual with the freedom to travel and engage in any activity that I chose. Then, out of the blue, just before the deadline to register to be on the ballot, I received a phone call from an individual representing other county citizens asking me if I would be interested in running for county treasurer.

Following a good deal of soul searching, and contrary to the livid protestations from my wife, I finally decided to run. I decided in the affirmative, both out of a sense of duty and because I believe that my 20 or more years in senior-level public sector positions has provided me with the incisive business acumen and seminal leadership qualities to confidently step into this position with a minimal introduction. I hold a master's degree in public administration from Governors State University, and a bachelor's degree in hydrology from Utah State University. I retired from the United States Marine Corps as a 1st lieutenant and executive officer of Second Bridge Company, 8th Engineer Battalion.

**2. How, in the role of county treasurer, will you optimize systems and work effectively with others?**

It is difficult to answer how I would optimize systems, given that I am not familiar with the system currently in place. I am confident that, if elected, I will be reviewing all operational practices of the treasurer's office to determine if the protocols in place conform to acceptable accounting practices that I have been exposed to through my years as a city manager. My primary thrust will be to evaluate the efficiency and accuracy of the services delivered to both the citizens of the county and the board of commissioners on a daily basis.

Relative to working effectively with others, I intend to approach this position with an enthusiastic management style that welcomes critical input, encourages teamwork, resulting in operational excellence and efficient fiscal accountability.

**3. What do you foresee as the greatest challenges facing the role of the county treasurer in the coming term?**

Assuming that I am elected to the treasurer's position, there will certainly be an introductory period where my greatest challenges will be creating associations with my co-workers and subordinates to ensure a harmonious working environment. Concomitantly, I will need to put my best foot forward to create a smooth transition with county residents regarding the services they have grown used to expect. Perhaps most importantly, I will be required to become intimately familiar with the budget and the other duties of the county treasurer. While I do expect to be a quick study in this arena, I, nevertheless, will need to expend much energy becoming proficient as quickly as possible. Finally, I will be dependent on my subordinate(s) to be helpful in providing me with insights into the intricacies of the job that may facilitate a quicker mastery of my everyday duties.

**4. What are some of your goals for the future of the county treasurer's office? How would you work toward establishing and maintaining those goals?**

If there is anything I have learned in my professional life, it is that one cannot come into a position like a bull in a china closet and immediately begin to initiate change. I like to enter a position and work under the existing rules until I determine that the rule in question requires either modification or change altogether. Moreover, I have always had a penchant for trying to improve the working conditions of the employee in any way that I can. For instance, in one position, I was successful in changing the payroll system to electronic deposits, thus allowing the employee access to their cash a day earlier. Some employees liked the system, others did not. Since the system was voluntary, no one was harmed. In general, however, I can sum up my goals for this position in the following manner: maintain or improve customer service to the county resident; maintain or improve interdepartmental communications and working environments; working closely with the county judge and board of commissioners ensuring accurate and timely accounting information. In general, I would like my presence at the courthouse to be harmonious, productive, and beneficial to all.

FRANCES GARCIA (D)

**1. Tell us about yourself. What experience will you bring to this role?**

I was born and raised here in Marfa. I have been working for Presidio County for 20 years. I started with the Presidio county/district clerk's office as deputy clerk where I worked for six years. I applied and was hired at the county attorney's office where I worked for another six years. I was then convinced to run for county treasurer. In 2014 I ran and won my first term as treasurer.

**2. How, in the role of county treasurer, will you optimize systems and work effectively with others?**

I have always had and will continue to have an open-door policy. Any employee, elected official or constituent is welcome to come by my office anytime or call me during work hours.

**3. What do you foresee as the greatest challenges facing the role of the county treasurer in the coming term?**

The greatest challenges facing not only the treasurer's office but the county as well has been disruption due to COVID. We have had to close some offices due to some employees being exposed. We have, at times, been short-handed but do everything possible to make things work. The laws and regulations in the Legislature continue to change. Federal and state laws constantly require us to put different policies in place. This is a never-ending challenge, not only for Presidio County, but for all counties.

**4. What are some of your goals for the future of the county treasurer's office? How would you work toward establishing and maintaining those goals?**

My goal is to get an "Unqualified Opinion" on our next annual audit and any audits thereafter. Working together with all county departments will make this goal possible. I will continue to do the best I can as treasurer of Presidio County. I appreciate your time and your support. Let experience continue to work for you.

## Presidio County Commissioner Precinct 2 candidate questionnaires

Candidates for Presidio County Commissioner Precinct 2 weigh in ahead of the March 1 primary election

ABEL "BILLY" HERNANDEZ (D)

**1. Tell us about yourself. What experience will you bring to this role?**

My name is Abel "Billy" Jimenez Hernandez. I worked for the county's maintenance department and road & bridge department for 20 years and retired a year and a half ago. I am currently a council member for the City of Presidio. Since I've been on the council we passed a motion to fund the purchase of a new ambulance, passed a motion to let U.S. Border Patrol set up a surveillance tower on city property, passed a motion to resend a May 2020 resolution in support of the Presidio Cultural District Association, approved an application for a new police truck with funding from the Department of Homeland Security Operation Stone Garden. We also approved from the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance program for a new brush truck, passed a motion to deed over the property where my great grandfather is buried back over to the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas. I will be bringing years of experience on how local government works.

**2. What are some of the primary concerns of citizens in your precinct, and how do you plan to address those concerns?**

A. Taxation without representation: our citizens feel like they are paying way too much tax on property without having paved streets in some parts of town. There's no sewer lines or trash dumpsters but they are still being charged.

B. Roads in Presidio are still, for the most part, dirt roads. Eighty-five percent of the people in my precinct live inside city limits, so I would work together with the city and county to use county equipment to both grade and pave our streets — not only county roads but city streets as well.

C. Citizens don't want to pay taxes on a hospital in Brewster County — they want a hospital in Presidio.

D. Citizens want and deserve a lot of things to change, some that are within reason. Everyone wants our local, county, state elected officials to force the construction company to come back and finish the bridge at the International Port of Entry. The railroad and Texas Pacific Railroad and Strobel Energy Group have put in place a project that would move millions of gallons of diesel through our city streets. As a city-elected official, I have learned Presidio will not make a single dollar out of this project, so I will do whatever we can within the laws to stop it in its tracks and let the railroad keep it on the train until it reaches its final destination.

**3. The county has faced a number of natural disasters over the past few years — a pandemic, winter storms, wildfires and flooding — how can the county be better prepared for future emergency events?**

A. The pandemic: I would encourage our citizens to get vaccinated, boosted, tested, to continue social and physical distancing and to wear masks. I also would support the PISD Police Department and its officers in the efforts to keep our community safe from COVID-19.

B. Winter storms: I would reach out to our state-elected dignitaries for them to hold the officials who control the Texas electrical grid accountable, to make sure that the electrical grid had been improved with upgrades and weatherization to where that never happens again. Presidio came within one circuit breaker of leaving every single home in Presidio without electricity. That must not ever happen again.

C. Wildfires: It seems like wildfires, because of global warming, happen year round now. I'd like to see Presidio have the best volunteer fire department in the region and one day have firefighters getting paid just like first responders.

D. Flooding: When it rains in North County or in the state of Chihuahua it causes flooding in Presidio. It could be raining in Valentine, Alpine, Marfa or Shafter and Presidio is under flash flood watch or warning. My answer is to hire a local engineering firm who knows what parts of town are at greater risk and have drainage lines installed to better keep the flood water pointed towards the river and build up our levees with the help of the International Water and Boundary Commission, The United State Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The county can be better prepared by sitting down with our emergency management coordinator and all our local county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and our fire department and updating our emergency management plan — the current one was last updated almost four years ago. We need to address flash flooding, tornados, wildfires, winter storms, dam and levee failure, hazmat oil and fuel spills. We would also invite the Salvation Army, The American Red Cross, Presidio ISD transportation director, public utilities director, fire department chief, police chief, county sheriff's department, port director, USBP chief, all county commissioners and the mayors from Marfa and Presidio to sit together and come up with a strategic plan in case we have an emergency.

**4. What will you prioritize in terms of the county budget? How can the county's tax dollars be best utilized?**

I would make sure our tax dollars are used wisely and efficiently to better help our constituents. I would also make sure each department has what they need to better serve the public. I would make sure tax dollars are being utilized to make the county better for our constituents.

MARGARITO HERNANDEZ (D)

**1. Tell us about yourself. What experience will you bring to this role?**

I was born and raised in Redford, Texas, which is in Presidio County. I went to elementary school and junior high in Redford. I attended my last four years at Presidio High School. I have worked on farming, ranching and in the oil field industry. I have 23 years of experience as a Texas peace officer. I started as a certified jailer for Presidio County in 1997. In 1998 I came to Presidio as a deputy sheriff, and from 2003 I have worked as a police officer. In February 2021 I was appointed as chief of police for the City of Presidio until present time.

**2. What are some of the primary concerns of citizens in your precinct, and how do you plan to address those concerns?**

Some of the primary concerns of the citizens are the water from the creeks running through their properties or by their residences. The county roads are not well maintained and especially the ones close to the residences. The water levee that separates the river and the farmland is broken, and when the river rises, the water goes into the farmland, endangering the residents.

**3. The county has faced a number of natural disasters over the past few years — a pandemic, winter storms, wildfires and flooding — how can the county be better prepared for future emergency events?**

I have personal experience during disasters in Presidio County. As a peace officer, I have been around different types of disasters and have the knowledge on how to respond. I have always believed that the key is communication to be able to get things done. I consider that getting along with other agencies can help in a faster response to an emergency situation.

**4. What will you prioritize in terms of the county budget? How can the county's tax dollars be best utilized?**

In reference to the county budget, I consider that by managing it well month by month we would stay in the right lead. Doing a job right the first time prevents from having to spend money on any sort of repairs or adjustments. I can assure you that with my personal experience and as a longtime resident of Presidio County, I have the knowledge of making the right decisions.

I have always liked to serve my community, and will always keep doing it. I ask for your support for county commissioner.

## Presidio County and District Clerk candidate questionnaire

Presidio County and District Clerk Florcita Zubia, an incumbent who is running unopposed, weighs in ahead of the March 1 primary election

FLORCITA ZUBIA (D)

**1. Tell us about yourself. What experience will you bring to this role?**

I was raised in Marfa. I attended school here in Marfa, I graduated Class of 2000. I have been with Presidio County for about 15 years. I started working for the Presidio County Clerk's Office in January of 2007 when Virginia Pallarez took office. I worked full time from 2007 through 2011. When my third child was born, my husband and I decided that it was best that I be at home with the kids. From 2011 through June 2020 I continued to work with the clerk's office in the Elections Department but as a part time or seasonal worker, as I call it. In June of 2020 I came back to the county as a full-time worker. Beginning in May 2021, my boss at the time, Virginia

Pallarez, let us know that she would be retiring on June 2, 2021, and the commissioners court would be taking applications to appoint someone for the position as it is an unexpired term. And I went for it. I was appointed by the court June 3, 2021. I hope to continue to serve Presidio County for many more years to come.

**2. What was one of the biggest challenges you faced during your first term as county clerk and how did you overcome that challenge?**

I think that the most challenging part of taking office has definitely been all the changes in the software and programs that we use on a daily basis. They all decided to change at the same time. It's been a task to learn, especially everything evolving because of COVID.

**4. The county clerk has the power to produce death certificates, but the Presidio County office has previously declined to adopt the technology**



## Presidio County Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 candidate questionnaires

Candidates for Presidio County Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 weigh in ahead of the March 1 primary election

### DINA JO MARQUEZ (D)

**1. Tell us about yourself. What experience will you bring to this role?**

I am Dina Jo Losoya Marquez and I am seeking election for Justice of the Peace Pct. 1. I was born and raised in Alpine, Texas, but Marfa is where my roots started as my mother was born in Marfa and attended the Blackwell School. I am married to Glenn Marquez, a native of Marfa. I graduated from Sul Ross State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. I majored in criminal justice and minored in psychology. In 2001, I took a position as an adult and juvenile probation officer and within a few months transferred to full-time juvenile probation officer for the tri-county. I served 16 dedicated years of working with the youth from Marfa, Presidio, Redford and Candelaria. I was appointed by the Presidio County Commissioners Court on November 17, 2021, as justice of the peace, and sworn in December 7, 2021. I have attended the Texas justice court training in San Marcos and completed the new judge stage I and II trainings. I will use my experience to ensure justice and fairness. I am excited, looking forward to continuing and furthering my career in law enforcement working as Justice of the Peace Pct. 1.

**2. What would your three primary objectives be going into the role as justice of the peace?**

**3. What will be your approach to serving the community? Will you offer hearings in both English and Spanish? What other measures will you take to ensure accessibility and transparency?**

**4. A former justice of the peace for this precinct, David Beebe, tended to set bail at what an arrestee could afford, in instances where the arrestee was not a danger to themselves or others, and has stated that “bond used as punishment is unconstitutional.” As justice of the peace, would you follow this precedent? How would you approach the responsibility**

**of setting bail?**

*Editor’s note: Rather than answering each question individually, the candidate provided one response.*

My 3 objectives as a Justice of Peace:

- Being effective and exemplary at performing my duties, and adhering to my responsibilities pertaining to the office of the justice of the peace. Regarding accessibility, during business hours the door and phone lines to the office will be open to the people with pending citations, magistrate, death inquest, and (my favorite) performing marriage ceremonies. They will be assisted by a live person and not a computer-generated recording.
- Being bilingual, if and when needed I will speak in Spanish. During a hearing with persons that can only communicate in Spanish, a professional certified translator will be made available to them to assist and to make sure everything is clarified properly and efficiently.
- My approach to keep things straightforward, transparent and fair across the board is to comply comprehensively with the standards and guidelines that are set forth by the state of Texas and keeping with the Eighth Amendment avoiding imposing excessive bail, excessive fines, but setting bail, fines and bonds according to the merits of the individual and the case.

### RAUL LARA (D)

**1. Tell us about yourself. What experience will you bring to this role?**

I am Raul Lara, son of Irma Lara and the late Juan Lara Sr. of Marfa, Texas. My mom grew up in Alpine and attended Centennial School and my dad attended the Blackwell School in Marfa.

To my Presidio County constituents: If I am so humbled and blessed to serve as your next Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, I will take the oath that I will, to the best of my abilities, preserve, protect and defend the constitution and the laws of the United States and of this state, so help me God. That is an oath that I took as an MISD school board member and Marfa City

Council member and took to heart.

I bring over 31 years serving the public — I have served in the Marfa ISD Board of Trustees, as former city council member and current city council member — and serving in retail services in our community of Marfa.

**2. What would your three primary objectives be going into the role as justice of the peace?**

**3. What will be your approach to serving the community? Will you offer hearings in both English and Spanish? What other measures will you take to ensure accessibility and transparency?**

**4. A former Justice of the Peace for this precinct, David Beebe, tended to set bail at what an arrestee could afford, in instances where the arrestee was not a danger to themselves or others, and has stated that “bond used as punishment is unconstitutional.” As Justice of the Peace, would you follow this precedent? How would you approach the responsibility of setting bail?**

*Editor’s note: Rather than answering each question individually, the candidate provided one response.*

Objectives: I will bring to the role of justice of the peace humility, compassion, balance, fairness and be firm and have an open door policy. My office will hold hearings in English and Spanish to be transparent.

What other measures will I take to ensure accessibility and transparency? By working together and adopting these common sense principles, we can make sure everyone has access to their government while also ensuring our public bodies are transparent and accountable to the people. These principles of open and honest government are the values of common cause.

How would I approach the responsibility of setting bail? The bail and conditions of bail shall be sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the undertaking will be complied with. The power to require bail is not to be used to make bail an instrument of oppression.

I will uphold the Texas Constitution as it is written.

## Presidio County Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 candidate questionnaire

Candidate for Presidio County Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 incumbent Juanita Urias Bishop weighs in ahead of the March 1 primary election. Her opponent Brenda Pando-Covos did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

### JUANITA URIAS BISHOP (D)

**1. Tell us about yourself. What experience will you bring to this role?**

I, Juanita Urias Bishop, have been serving for the past 12 1/2 years as Presidio County Justice of the Peace Pct. 2. I have over 300 Hours of judicial education from the State of Texas Justice Court Training Center in San Marcos, Texas. I obtained my bachelor's degree from Sul Ross State University in December 2007 in studies in criminal justice and political science.

What I bring to this job is education, experience, professional office management, ethics, confidentiality and a humble personality being able to operate "The People's Court" as an impartial entity.

I have public relations and office management experience for more than 35 years: working with the United States Postal Service for three years, custom brokers secretarial for 10 years, Presidio ISD schools as secretary, teacher and security officer from 1997-2010, volunteer sponsor for the high school mariachi, cheerleading squad, teens in prevention and steering committee

for the Presidio Youth Club. I served as city councilwoman from 2002-2004 involving projects to improve the community in the city of Presidio, the Presidio activity center, fire station and the wastewater projects.

**2. What would your three primary objectives be going into the role as justice of the peace?**

My three objectives would be to continue running the court as a "People Court" processing the citations and justice court cases in a prompt and effective way, to be able to have transparency in all things pertaining to the court and be there for my constituents to help them out in what they need. Most importantly, do my judicial branch duties to be effective, efficient and professional.

**3. What will be your approach to serving the community? Will you offer hearings in both English and Spanish? What other measures will you take to ensure accessibility and transparency?**

Serving the community is a high priority for me because I was born in Presidio and raised here so I understand the needs of this community, especially communication barriers with language where the majority of the people speak and write Spanish or Spanglish, like we call it here. In conducting my justice court and not guilty cases, I ask both parties if one

doesn't speak English if it's okay to conduct the hearing in Spanish or to have an interpreter in case the judge presiding doesn't speak their language. As stated previously, my office has always been transparent, providing access for open records requests or other court documents needed. My court has always been accessible to conduct business from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., opening during lunch hours in case anyone needs to contact our court to conduct their business promptly.

**4. As justice of the peace, how would you approach the responsibility of setting bail for arrestees?**

The district office of Judge Roy Ferguson will send out an updated recommended bail schedule amount that we can use as a guide. We as judges have the discretion in what we want to set bail upon reading the offense(s). Other options are PR bonds or cash bonds. Defendant under arrest is also available at the judge's discretion depending on each individual offense. Sometimes a warrant issued by another judge will have a set bond or no bond, so when we magistrate we have to go by the judge's suggestion. On a few occasions, we have out-of-state warrants where they want the defendant transported to their state for them to prosecute — at that point we just read them their rights. For misdemeanor offenses, we need to magistrate within 24 hours and for felony offenses within 48 hours.

## Presidio County Judge candidate questionnaire

Candidate for Presidio County Judge Jose Portillo Jr. weighs in ahead of the March 1 primary election. His opponent incumbent Judge Cinderela Guevara (R) did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

### JOSE PORTILLO JR. (D)

**1. Tell us about yourself. What experience will you bring to this role?**

I’m a 1984 graduate of Presidio High School, and upon graduation I went to serve my country in the United States Army. It afforded me a great opportunity to see the world and appreciate the country we live in. I eventually went to the Department of Public Safety Academy — trooper, investigator, lieutenant and eventually retired honorably as a captain. I attended the University of Texas at El Paso and eventually graduated from Angelo State University with a bachelor’s in criminal justice and minor in psychology. I am also a graduate of Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. I am married to my high school sweetheart and will be celebrating our 31st wedding anniversary in April. We have two children. Our daughter is a nurse at Midland Memorial and our son is on active duty with the United States Army in Ft. Carson, Colorado. Most recently after returning to Presidio, I was privileged to service my community as city administrator for the City of Presidio for a little over four years.

My two biggest strengths are first: the ability to read and interpret the law. My law enforcement background has afforded me experience in justice of the peace court, county court, district court and the federal court system. My second asset is the ability to effectively listen, understand and communicate with the public.

**2. What is the biggest issue affecting Presidio County residents today, and what is your plan to address it?**

Our county government is responsible for the health, safety and welfare of its residents. Currently, the county depends upon the cities of Presidio and Marfa to provide two of its most important responsibilities which are the fire department and emergency services. Although the county does provide stipends to these communities, the time has come for the county to provide a bigger and more proactive role. It is time for our county to have the ability to provide urgent care and emergency services for its residents and consider the creation of an emergency services district which will allow our county as a whole to seek state and federal funding to accomplish.

**3. How do you plan to lead the commissioners court and balance the needs of each district?**

Currently the county operates their budget with the county in mind as a

whole. There is no mechanism for commissioners from individual precincts to address the needs of their precincts. I believe that each commissioner should have monies dedicated within the budget for them to address the needs of their precinct. Although the individual commissioners from those districts would have to justify the expenditures, the dedicated monies for that precinct would allow them to go to their constituents to determine their needs and possibly seek state and federal grants to support their individual precincts’ goals.

**4. The county has faced a number of natural disasters over the past few years — a pandemic, winter storms, wildfires and flooding. How can the county be better prepared for future emergency events?**

If there is one thing that the military and my time with the Department of Public Safety has taught me, it is that “if you do not have a plan, then you have planned to fail.” Most disasters, while not alike, have many things in common, and if you train for one, it will allow you to address many situations that may arise. It all starts with training. With the limited resources at our disposal, it is imperative that we work with all the entities that make up our community and train for and expect anything that may come our way.



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# Opinions

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

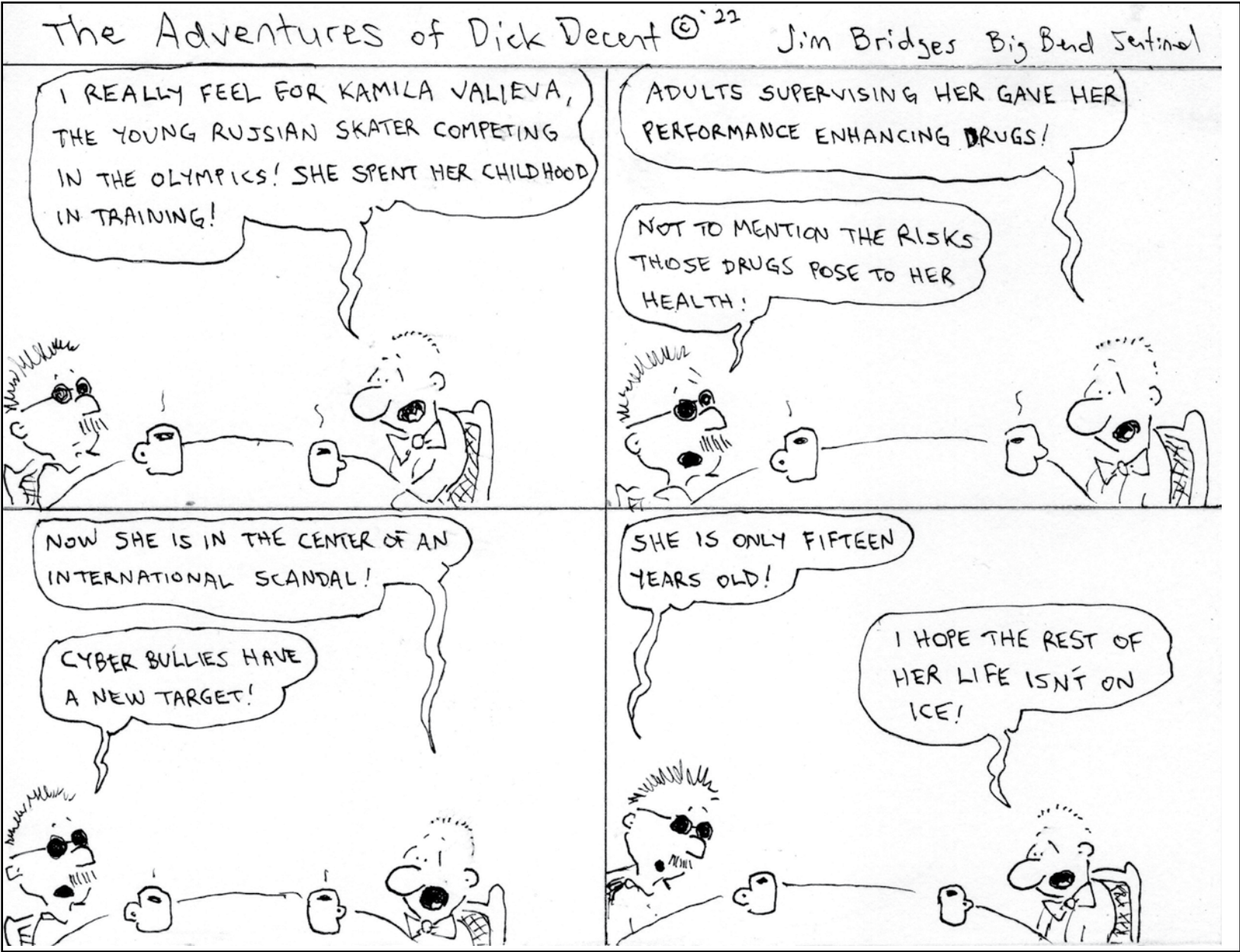
Last week, your newspaper published a letter that mentioned a local radio program featuring GOP candidates for Brewster County judge and their responses to the final question about the legitimacy of Joe Biden’s presidency. I had a different experience listening to the candidates’ responses. I was shocked and disappointed in both Greg Henington and Monty Kimball’s complete non-responses. But Ryan Skelton’s assured, confident and honest response shocked me too. He passionately urged listeners to believe in the legitimacy of the election and to stand behind it, united, from this point forward. His experience, thoughtfulness and commitment to truth are characteristics I expect in a candidate for judge of our great county.

Katie Nixon  
Alpine

### We want to hear from YOU!

- Letters should be sent to [editor@bigbendsentinel.com](mailto:editor@bigbendsentinel.com), and must provide the writer’s full name, city of residence and an email or phone number, so that we may follow up and verify information as needed.
- Your letters may be edited for clarity and brevity. While opinions of all kinds are welcome, when it comes to claims of fact, we strive to only publish what is verifiable.
- We have limited staff capacity to fact check unsubstantiated claims, so letters that include those may be held or remain unpublished if information is not easily verifiable.
- We may reach out to ask questions and verify the identity of the sender. We do not run letters anonymously unless the sender is privately identified and has a reasonable claim to anonymity.
- We reserve the right to hold or refrain from publishing a letter for any reason and we thank you for always sharing your letters with us.

- The Big Bend Sentinel Editorial Staff



## HIGH DESERT SKETCHES

### Will the American empire go the way of the Roman Empire?

By GEORGE A. COVINGTON  
[gcovington@mac.com](mailto:gcovington@mac.com)

When I first arrived in the high Chihuahuan Desert 25 years ago, I used an expression for every weather phenomenon that occurred in the region. The year before I arrived, the Big Bend had received abnormal amounts of rain. Everyone was remarking that they had so much moisture that they were seeing plants blooming they had never seen before. I said, “It can’t be climate change because Exxon wouldn’t lie to us.” A few years later there was a tornado spotted in the Davis Mountains. People kept saying we don’t have tornadoes in the mountains. I said, “It can’t be climate change. Exxon wouldn’t lie to us.” I was shocked to find out that a large number of people out here didn’t understand I was speaking ironically. I’ve been able to use that ironic expression every season in those ensuing 25 years. Several years back, it was revealed in the national media that a group of Exxon scientists more than 30 years ago approached the top executives at Exxon and explained that if we kept burning fossil fuels the way we were going it would have an effect on the climate.

How did the millionaire top executives at Exxon react? They fired every one of the scientists and abolished their office. In the ensuing 30 years, they spent tens of millions of dollars to support every scientist and every conspiracy that denied climate change. They can’t deny it anymore and now they claim to be in total support of renewable energy. Their present credibility can honestly be called into question. They’re still drilling and pumping.

For almost 100 years, the petroleum industry has owned the state Legislature of Texas. Their so-called “regulatory agency” is hidden within the so-called “Railroad Commission.” They have fought relentlessly to keep the name so that the average Texan doesn’t realize where they have concentrated their money and political power.

I have often said that Texas’ regulatory agencies do little in the way of regulation and the Railroad Commission has done next to nothing. Their fines are minimum and their oversight is almost nonexistent.

Recently, I read an article that added new dimensions to the “rise and fall of the Roman Empire.” Economic historians now believe that the rapid decline of the Romans was caused by two factors. The first factor was that they overextended their borders and their influences into the Middle East to the point where they could no longer defend them. The second reason for the fall was the incredible disparity between Rome’s rich and poor. Throughout their history, the rich got richer and the poor got poorer. Economic historians are beginning to compare the incredible difference between our very rich and our very poor today.

During the rampage of COVID, many of our rich doubled their wealth. The richest of our people were earning 15 thousand dollars a second during the height of the pandemic.

Today, the petroleum industry has gotten us into Iraq and Syria. Most people have forgotten that then-Vice President Dick Cheney fought all the way to the Supreme Court and won so he didn’t have to give a record of



names of people who visited him in the White House. It was conjectured that these were petroleum industry leaders and they did not want to be called to Congress to explain what the conversations concerned. It appears that while Romans were after gold and jewels, the American corporations were interested in black gold. We have no way of proving that now.

In ancient times all of the great prophets were blind. As I’m blind, I’ve decided to prophesize the future. Imagine a conversation a thousand years in the future:

“Can you imagine what those people in the old United States did to bring down their empire?” said one learned scholar to another.

His friend replies “Can you believe that they actually fed their children on a thing they called fast food burgers and french fries?”

“Not only that, but they let them swell down drinks that were 32 ounces of mostly sugar?” the scholar replied.

“Yeah, and the French are denying they had anything to do with those fried potatoes to this day.”

“And their major corporations changed the climate to such an extent we’re still trying to repair it today. It would have been better if they had just drunk the oil and spared the rest of the world their greedy avarice.”

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

Crowcrumbs is a Houston-based illustrator. Follow her on Instagram @crowcrumbs.

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Texas Environmental News

By RICHARD MARK GLOVER

**Energy Transfer charged for polluting**  
A branch of Dallas-based Energy Transfer was criminally charged last week for violating Pennsylvania’s Clean Streams Law on nine different counts, including unlawful conduct and discharging industrial pollutants into the environment. ETC Northeast Pipeline LLC allegedly ignored environmental protocols which led to an explosion, according to the prosecution. Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro said, “The grand jurors heard testimony and examined records that showed that explosion happened because of Energy Transfer’s negligence as they built the Revolution pipeline.” Pennsylvania stopped work on other Energy Transfer pipelines in the past and has fined the company millions of dollars. If ETC Northeast is found guilty of the current criminal charges, it is not likely that a human will be jailed, although the Articles of Incorporation may spend time in a state file cabinet. Although the Supreme Court has ruled that corporations have the same rights as humans, none of the decision-makers will be held criminally liable, including billionaire ET Chairman Kelsey Warren, one of Governor Gregory Abbott’s top campaign donors. Former Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower said of the Supreme Court decision, “I’ll believe that a corporation is a person when Texas executes one.”

**Low-income housing put in toxic environment**  
The Corpus Christi Housing Authority is under pressure for allowing new homes for low-income families to be built on refinery row. The subdivision known as Dona Park is boxed in by petrochemical facilities and the Corpus Christi Ship Channel. The Corpus Christi Caller-Times wrote, “Compatibility between its residential uses and the industrial operations surrounding it — including the ship channel and refineries — has long been questioned.” Attorney David Wheaton, representing the Texas Low Income Housing Information Service, said, “There’s plenty of other areas in the city of Corpus Christi for them to build housing, for them to build single-family homes and not have to relegate Black and brown people to ... higher-poverty areas and more environment toxic areas.” Gary Allsup, executive director of the Corpus Christi Housing Authority, told the Caller-Times, “Our hope is that these neighborhoods begin to shine, and that’s something we’ve seen happen. When we go in and put a house up, it’s amazing how other houses in the neighborhood follow suit.” Tammy Foster, a longtime Dona Park resident said, “You can’t revitalize a neighborhood that’s been decimated by industry forming around it. Industry is not going away and they’re not stopping construction.”

**Abbott joins petition to vacate waste dump permit**  
Texas Governor Gregory Abbott has lent his name to a big-oil led petition asking the Fifth Circuit of Appeals Court in New Orleans to vacate a federal nuclear waste dump permit granted last year for a West Texas facility. Interim Storage Partners, partially owned by the estate of the late Dallas billionaire Harold Simmons, received the license. Some speculate that should radiation leak from the underground storage containers, it will be harder to find workers for the oil fields of the Permian Basin.

**Permian oil companies ramp up production**  
Carbon budget logic doesn’t seem to be affecting Permian Basin fossil fuel producers. With most countries, including the U.S., now committed to preventing a 1.5 degrees Celsius rise in average global temperatures by 2040, Texas seems oblivious. According to the International Energy Agency, oil and gas production must decline this decade, and investment in new production must end this year. But in the Permian, according to Oil Change International, oil companies are planning more production than ever before. Production is projected to grow 50 percent from 2021 to 2030. With infrastructure constructed during the Trump administration, oil and gas export terminals and pipelines in Texas conveniently ensure oil and gas viability for decades to come.

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

OUR WATER MATTERS

Stream restoration in the Big Bend region

By TREY GERFERS  
tgerfers@pcuwcd.org

In the last issue of “Our Water Matters,” we looked at the revival of ancient water canals in Peru to sembrar el agua (plant the water), a technique that directs mountain streams underground during the rainy season to enhance the water supply during the dry season.

Our own desert environment here in the Big Bend is also subject to wet and dry seasons, with most of our rain falling within the span of a few months or even weeks during the North American monsoon. This water percolates down through stream bottoms and rock to ultimately replenish or “recharge” the aquifers beneath us. We can then pump this water out of our wells or utilize spring flows and subirrigated pastures (verdant meadows with a high groundwater table that provides natural irrigation), enabling us to live comfortably in the arid Chihuahuan Desert.

As our dry seasons get longer, hotter, and drier, we will need to maximize this recharge by making the most of the water when it falls. Many natural systems, including streams, creeks, and draws, have traditionally acted as sponges to hold this rainwater, allowing it to slowly infiltrate into the ground and in some places, the aquifer. But, according to Jeff Bennett, a local restoration hydrologist, many of these systems have been degraded over time and no longer function as they once did. “Folks think this is normal,” says Bennett. But “it’s not how it used to be.”

Under Bennett’s direction, Rio Grande Joint Venture (a public-private partnership working to conserve birds and their habitats in the U.S. and Mexico) is currently restoring some of the region’s Rio Grande tributary streams using “low-tech ideas based on ancient technologies that you can find on every continent.” One approach involves driving posts into a streambed and filling them in with brush to create so-called “brush weirs.” Another involves piling rocks across incised waterways to form

loose structures that also act as filter dams. Both types of structures slow water and naturally trap seed and sediment as water passes through them during rain events. According to Bennett, this preserves “resources that are otherwise washed away” and promotes revegetation and restoration of “riparian” areas (the land along rivers and creeks). The goal is to “build a bigger and better riparian sponge” that can absorb and store water that will increase resilience to drought by lengthening the time during which the creeks actually run.

With the help of these filter dams, degraded streambeds fill in with sediment and vegetation, spreading the flow of water over the land during rain events and allowing more of it to soak into the floodplain and recharge the underlying aquifer. Bennett urges people to “envision a local aquifer under a stream like a water glass.” Once the glass is filled, normal stream flows can move on downstream and eventually reach the Rio Grande, albeit over a longer period. In addition to a longer wet season, water quality is improved as the water soaks into the flood plain and is more slowly released. Healthy streams also improve forage for cattle and wildlife, promote more woody vegetation that shades the streams and decreases evaporation, and provides better bird and wildlife habitat.

Bennett works for the Rio Grande Joint Venture, a public-private partnership among Migratory Bird Joint Ventures (MBJVs), which were established in response to declining waterfowl populations in the 1980s. MJBVs proved successful in contributing to a rebound in waterfowl populations. The Rio Grande Joint Venture is one of eight joint ventures focused on grasslands and grassland birds, which are experiencing steep declines in much of their ranges. He and his colleagues found that “what’s good for the bird is good for the herd.” Wide open grasslands interlaced with healthy streams are the preferred habitat not only of some birds, but also pronghorn and cattle. Restoring our streams and riparian areas could go a long way to increasing the quality and quantity of the water that reaches our aquifers and improving the value of the land. Bennett is constantly working to expand these efforts and is always looking for “willing landowners” to participate.

For more information visit the Rio Grande Joint Venture website at rgjv.org or call Jeff Bennett directly at 432.837.7335.

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

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

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# Community

## Locals and visitors gather for music and dance at annual Valentine event



Photo by Hannah Gentiles for The Big Bend Sentinel  
*Marfa resident Belle Pena dances with a partner during Los Pecadores’ set at the Valentine’s in Valentine event last Saturday.*

By ALLEGRA HOBBS  
[allegra@bigbendsentinel.com](mailto:allegra@bigbendsentinel.com)

VALENTINE — Locals to the remote town of Valentine, Texas, and visitors alike gathered Saturday for a day of fun and dance at the Old Mercantile building for the 10th annual Valentine’s in Valentine event.

Despite the frigid temperatures, revelers enjoyed drinks and eats and dancing to live music. One Valentine local said she looks forward to the event as a time when people from all walks of life come together to have a good time.

“I had so much fun — it was really, really nice to see so many different people out and about,” said Laurel Coniglio, who has lived in Valentine for three years. “That’s really the thing that I love about Valentine’s in Valentine. Everybody from all walks of life shows up and just want to be there — whether they’re local or not, whether they’re tourists coming to the show or real deep locals and ranchers, people show up and I loved that.”

The event shines a spotlight on Valentine, which otherwise is generally known for its designer-labeled tourist attraction, said Coniglio. “It’s the one time a year people go there, instead of just going to Prada,”

said Coniglio.

Coniglio noted that the annual event wasn’t able to take place last year due to a confluence of disasters — the COVID-19 pandemic collided with the February winter storm that left parts of the county without power for days — so the event this year was a welcome return to form.

Marfa local Pat Keesey provided entertainment at the event with his band the Grand Tourists, and said the event felt something like a return to normal after a strange, trying year.

“It was really nice,” he said. “I find it very refreshing. It’s like everything is sort of speeding up and picking up in Marfa, and it just feels kind of like old times — people come off the ranches. So many cowboys and ranchers you don’t usually see show up.”

Grand Tourists were one of several musical guests. Junior Brown, Los Pecadores, and Chad Richard also performed. The audience present in the earlier portion of the event were “mellow” but nevertheless gave Grand Tourists a warm welcome, said Keesey.

“They were very receptive,” he said of the crowd. “We were the first band and it was nicer and warmer than expected....It was pretty mellow. We only had a few people dancing.”

## Let Your Body Talk: Artists Joey Fauerso and Gyan Shrosbree mount a collaborative exhibition that plays with color and form

By MARY CANTRELL  
[mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com](mailto:mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com)

MARFA — Neon pink and yellow plants, shoes and figures fuse with textural black and white woodcuts, shapes and canvases in Let Me Hear Your Body Talk, a new exhibition by lifelong friends and artistic collaborators Joey Fauerso and Gyan Shrosbree.

The dual-location exhibition will be on view until mid-May by appointment at Do Right Hall and during regular hours at the Wrong Store. Do Right Hall, which previously served as the Wrong Store before it moved onto Highland Street, is now an artist residency and exhibition space operated by owners Buck Johnston and Camp Bosworth.

Fauerso and Shrosbree grew up together in their hometown of Fairfield, Iowa, where Shrosbree now works as an art professor at Maharishi International University. Fauerso, too, works as an art professor at Texas State University in San Marcos. The two have maintained a relationship over the years, continually connecting over their lives as artists and themes they explore in their work, they said.

While the pair differ in how they approach the act of painting, they overlap in terms of the content they explore in their work, said Fauerso.

“We both have an interest in thinking about the history of figurative painting through a feminist lens and through our own experiences as women artists,” said Fauerso.

In addition to reflecting on their roles as women artists, both inject a sense of humor into their work and share themes of the body, interior spaces and home life. They also present collections of objects or figures which become shuffled and reshuffled to take on new meaning, said Fauerso.

Shrosbree said both she and Fauerso tend to pull inspiration from their personal lives and have learned to keep creating work no matter the circumstances.

“Both of us are traditional and nontraditional at the same time. We both are studio artists and we want to be in our studios all the time, but we also understand that we can’t always do that. I think making a studio wherever is something we’re both pretty familiar with,” said Shrosbree.

Shrosbree’s application of intense color creates an interesting contrast with Fauerso’s primarily black and white works in Let Me Hear Your Body Talk. Do Right Hall, an old adobe church, plays host to large-scale colorful paintings by Shrosbree, which are often paired with groupings of smaller canvases propped against the wall on the floor, leading the viewer’s eye into unexpected places. Series of four or more bright, leafy house plants repeat but evolve.

Shrosbree said she thinks about the colors in her paintings as simultaneously drawing in and pushing away the viewer.

“I want it to have a punch and create an intense space and also remain like a shield,” said Shrosbree. “Like it’s guarding the inside of the painting.”

Blocky, female figures akin to dress up dolls are surrounded by cats and closet remnants in Shrosbree’s paintings. Her incorporation of articles of clothing and choice of color are often generated by memories of her grandmother’s closet and feelings of nostalgia, she said.

“There’s a real connection for me with the women in my life growing up,” said Shrosbree. “There’s something that I really draw from clothing items, things that were in their homes or a pair of shoes that were shared between me and three of my friends.”

The show features Fauerso’s first color painting in over six years, and all new works by her. She practices what she refers to as “subtractive painting,” creating images by scraping paint off with various tools like clay, squeegees and rubber spatulas. Her primarily black and white paintings are rich with textures, one of which becomes superimposed from the pattern of her studio floor where she works.

Fauerso, like Shrosbree, often draws from traditional forms and updates them based on her contemporary experience. She said she likes to explore the idea of extending the language of painting into 3D mediums and spaces, allowing 2D paintings to become sculptural.

The concept is evident in the exhibition, where Fauerso’s work takes on various forms, from paintings hung on the wall to wood cuts of body parts leaping off the canvas and onto the floor, to steel-frame geometric shapes and images of crawling women and dogs installed on the building’s cathedral windows.

“It made sense as we were laying out the exhibition, it activated the painting or pointed to the fact that maybe elements within the painting had escaped the painting and manifested on their own,” said Fauerso.

Fauerso seeks to not only disrupt the histories of painting in form but also in content. While nudes in Western art traditionally depict men in active poses, like in battle, and women in repose, objects to be beheld, Fauerso shifts gender roles by activating her female nudes and deactivating male nudes. She also often incorporates female figures crawling, as if trying to escape something, or crouched, as if being weighed down.

“I think one of the interests that I really have is taking traditional genres of painting that have been explored and kind of repeated in Western art for hundreds and hundreds of years and thinking about how to adjust them to meet my experience at this time,” said Fauerso.



Photos courtesy of Joey Fauerso  
*Exhibition view of Let Me Hear Your Body Talk, a new collaborative exhibition by artists Joey Fauerso and Gyan Shrosbree now on view at Marfa’s Wrong Store and Do Right Hall.*



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Photo courtesy of Marfa Live Arts

Marfa Live Arts’ Sixth Annual Playwriting Prep Program awarded ten Marfa Junior High students prizes and performed their winning monologues. Winners are (from left) Joshua Kelly, Mateo Meza, Ayven Pippen, Dylan Ibarra, Ricardo Ramos, Amaya Gomez, Ava Flores, Zoey Salgado, Flavio Udave and Natalie Ortiz.

## Marfa Live Arts awards and performs winning student monologues at Planet Marfa

MARFA — Last week, Marfa Junior High students participated in the sixth annual Marfa Live Arts Playwriting Preparatory Program. Ten of these winning monologues were presented and brought to life Wednesday night by actors Victor Hugo, Lawrence Johnson, Sabine Blaese, Tilly Hawk, Natalie Melendez, Lily Aguero and Yoseff Ben-Yehuda at the Winter Theater Showcase hosted at Planet Marfa.

The ten students who received prizes and had their pieces performed were: seventh graders Joshua Kelly (The Armadillo’s Metaphor), Mateo Meza (Wolf), Natalia Ortiz (Hola Soy Tu Yo Del Pasado), Zoey Salgado (A Typical Day as a Cat), Flavio Udave (The Stream); and eighth graders Ava Flores (Oh Frey!), Amaya Gomez (Dear Future Self), Dylan Ibarra (Just a Sport, Right?), Ayven Pippen (Little Snake’s Adventure), and Ricardo Ramos (Together Again).

During the week-long workshop, Marfa Live Arts Director Jennie Lyn Hamilton coached students through a series of sensory and observation exercises to help students find their writer’s voice. The program seeks to build self-confidence, provide problem-solving methods and show students how to use writing as an

effective outlet for self-expression.

One student described what he liked best about the workshop: “To be honest, there was a lot that really let me express myself in these pieces of writing. It let me talk about different things that I enjoy and things that I cherish with great pleasure. And finally, the awareness and positivity that I gained is immeasurable.”

Hamilton shared, “The goal is for students to come away with a new skill set for expressing themselves. Nurturing creativity benefits everyone and the creative process exercises and expands all aspects of thought development. Hopefully these students learned some techniques that will serve them in whatever direction they grow, regardless of the discipline of their study.”

The Playwriting Prep Program, supported by Wyatt Ranches Foundation, Texas Women for the Arts and Marfa Education Foundation, teaches students how to write key components of a play in preparation for the high school playwriting program taught each spring. In its 11th year, the annual Marfa Live Arts high school program, which will host guest playwright Georgina Escobar on March 7-11, has resulted in over 850 one-act plays written by Marfa students.

## Marfa High School student advances to semifinals in UIL film competition

By MARY CANTRELL  
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Aubrie Aguilar, 11th grader at Marfa High School, recently advanced to the state semifinals in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) 2022 film contest for her animated short, “Heartbeat.”

Aguilar will attend the UIL State Young Filmmakers Festival on February 23 in Austin where she will see “Heartbeat” on the big screen in front of a live audience. Winners will be announced that night.

“I’ve never been to Austin, so I’m excited for it,” said Aguilar.

Aguilar is one of 12 semifinalists, many of which are from larger school districts. Marfa High School was looking into this year, said Principal Allison Scott, which prompted Aguilar to submit to the film competition. Aguilar said regardless of whether she advances to the finals, she will likely enter again next year as a senior.

A testament to her attention to detail as an artist, and in the spirit of the expression “we are our own worst critics,” Aguilar said she has spotted things she would change since submitting — but despite that, it has been a pleasant surprise to see her work advance in the competition.

“I’m actually really happy,” said Aguilar. I’m proud of how far it’s gone because I didn’t know it would.”

The two-minute love story features a classroom meet cute set to soft, upbeat piano music — “Ylang Ylang” by FKJ. It’s a classic tale of a school crush, as told by Aguilar. The protagonist, a boy often sketching at his desk, is all blushing cheeks and timid smiles when encountering his crush, a girl in his class with bright red hair. The anime-style illustration is thoughtfully paired with simple dialogue, colorful backgrounds and smooth transitions.

Aguilar first dreamt up the two characters for a TikTok video she produced earlier this year. The idea to continue their storyline and place it in a relatable environment appealed to Aguilar when brainstorming ideas for the animated short, she said.

“Since I’m a student, I thought a student setting would be interesting too,” said Aguilar.

Aguilar completed the entire film in around three weeks, utilizing her time off during winter break and her iPad equipped with digital art applications. Aguilar said she enjoyed coloring books as a child but got more heavily into drawing around the third grade and hasn’t slowed



Photo courtesy of Marfa ISD

Aubrie Aguilar, 11th grader at Marfa High School, recently advanced to the state semifinals in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) 2022 film contest for her animated short, “Heartbeat.”

down since. In addition to digital art and animation, Aguilar also practices traditional painting.

She said her goal is to become a mixed media artist and she hopes to go to college to study art. Two of her favorite animated films are Disney’s The Princess and the Frog and Luca, both of which drew her in with their color palettes and characters, she said. Aguilar works at the Marfa Public Library on the weekends helping with a variety of tasks, including sign making and other art projects as needed.

Growing up in Marfa, Aguilar said she has appreciated field trips she’s taken to arts destinations like the Chinati Foundation and learning new skills in art classes.

“I’ve always been in art class, that was always my thing. I just love all the projects that we do,” said Aguilar. “Just being a part of our class is fun, because I get to connect with people who also like to do art or enjoy looking at it.”

RECYCLE THIS PAPER

DRAWING OF THE WEEK

Amaya Gomaz  
Acrylic  
8th grade

Sudoku & Crossword puzzles:

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Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

### MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

| FEB                                                                                                                          | Thu, Feb 17                                            | Fri, Feb 18                                                  | Mon, Feb 21                                                                     | Tue, Feb 22                                           | Wed, Feb 23                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BREAKFAST</b>                                                                                                             | CEREAL BAR, YOGURT                                     | WAFFLES, CHEESE STICKS                                       | STUFFED BAGEL                                                                   | BREAKFAST BURRITO                                     | SAUSAGE KOLACHE, CHEESE CUBES                                                |
| <b>LUNCH</b><br>Menu courtesy of<br><br>Celebrating 70+ years of serving our customers.<br>432-729-4375<br>www.myporters.net | SIAN BOWL, EGG ROLL, BABY CARROTS, GREEN BEANS, GRAPES | X-TREME BURRITO, CORN, CUCUMBER CUP, ROSY APPLESAUCE, COOKIE | BREADED DRUMSTICK, BISCUIT, GARDEN SALAD, SWEET POTATOES FRIES, MIXED FRUIT CUP | FRITO PIE, BEANS, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, PINEAPPLE, COOKIE | PEPPERONI PIZZA, FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS, MARINARA SAUCE, CINNAMON APPLESAUCE |

|                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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**MARFA SHORTHORNS  
SPORTS CALENDAR**  
  
THU, FEB 17: Girls Powerlifting at Wink, 5:00 pm  
THU, FEB 17: Boys Basketball at Dell City, 6:00 pm  
FRI, FEB 18: HS Boys Basketball vs Sierra Blanca at MSG, 6:00 pm  
SAT, FEB 19: Little Dribblers at MSG, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 31, 2022

**ACROSS**  
1 Perform an aria  
5 Fine spray  
9 Self-promoting claim  
14 Cookie that may have lemon creme  
15 Not working  
16 Show host  
17 Endure  
18 Valued  
19 Like some kitchens  
20 \*1954 Marlon Brando film set at Hoboken's shore  
23 Is for you?  
24 Starter for "weed" or "World"  
25 Hi-\_\_\_ audio  
26 \*Victor Hugo classic with the character Jean Valjean  
32 Birthday number  
33 James of jazz  
34 Fine and dandy  
35 Trendy form for food  
37 Crunches work them  
39 "Beowulf," for one  
43 "The Good Doctor" network  
46 Scads  
49 Oral health org.  
50 \*2019 NBA champion  
53 Mrs., in Montevideo  
55 Anger  
56 Con's offset

**DOWN**  
1 Without assistance  
2 Isfahan's country  
3 Google's smart home brand  
4 Where Batman fights crime  
5 Kansas City's region  
6 Thought  
7 Crib piece  
8 Bravolebrity  
9 Domestic cattle/bison hybrid  
10 Persian poet  
11 They play their parts  
12 River fronting the Quai Saint-Michel

**ACROSS**  
13 Campsite sights  
21 County in New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio  
22 Country singer  
26 Frankenstein's workplace  
27 Self-importance  
28 Put in stitches  
29 Landing guess at JFK  
30 Capital of Morocco  
31 \_\_\_out a living  
36 Language related to Thai  
38 \_\_\_mo replay  
40 Butter portion  
41 Knot-tying vow  
42 Beetle with one antenna, e.g.

**DOWN**  
44 French bread that's slightly sweet  
45 Cereal ingredient, often  
47 Eurydice's lover  
48 Edible  
50 Hawaiian root  
51 Kind of sauce for fried fish  
52 Approached  
53 Materializes suddenly  
54 Lay eggs like salmon  
55 Backward: Prefix  
56 Warm's the bench  
59 Mislay  
60 Stretch across  
61 Vatican leader  
62 Son of Aphrodite  
63 Lease

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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1/31 Front-End Alignment by Winston Emmons

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |    | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |    | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |    |
| 14 |    |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 20 |    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 23 |    |    |    |    |    | 24 |    |    | 25 |    |    |    |
| 26 | 27 | 28 |    |    |    | 29 | 30 |    |    |    | 31 |    |    |    |    |
| 32 |    |    |    | 33 |    |    |    |    | 34 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 35 |    |    | 36 |    |    | 37 |    | 38 |    |    | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 |    |
|    |    |    |    | 43 | 44 | 45 |    | 46 |    | 47 | 48 |    | 49 |    |    |
|    |    |    | 50 |    |    |    |    | 51 |    |    |    | 52 |    |    |    |
| 53 | 54 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 57 |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |    |    | 59 | 60 |    |    | 61 | 62 | 63 |
| 64 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 65 |    |    |    | 66 |    |    |    |
| 67 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |
| 70 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 71 |    |    |    |    | 72 |    |    |

# Terlingua launches fundraiser for new community veterinarian

By MARY CANTRELL  
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

TERLINGUA — South Brewster County residents are looking to reestablish veterinary services after longtime care provider Samuel Bottenfield, or “Doc Sam,” announced his retirement this past summer.

Doc Sam’s business, Rio Vet Services, was Terlingua’s sole veterinary care provider and had actively operated in the area since 2008. With the closest vet now over an hour away in Alpine, some residents have launched a Go Fund Me to help raise funds for a new operation in South Brewster County.

Given Terlingua’s remote location and lack of affordable housing, Rique Rivera set up the fundraiser to assist a veterinarian, Letty Risley, in her relocation from Illinois to Far West Texas. The Go Fund Me states Risley has met with Doc Sam and would be joining her husband Jon Risley who has already been living in the area.

As of press time, the effort raised \$1,570 of its \$7,500 goal. The Go Fund Me includes critical set-up costs such as a license to practice veterinary medicine in the state — which costs around \$500 — and other start-up costs for equipment and supplies. It also aims to assist Risley with moving costs.

Rivera confirmed the Alpine Humane Society agreed to donate a mobile veterinary clinic Risley can operate out of. A property has also been secured just off of 118, said Rivera, that will operate as a home office eventually. Risley will be arriving in a couple of weeks, said Rivera, and pending the recertification process hopes to be up and operating in three to four months, around the middle of summer.



Photo courtesy of Marfa Public Library

Marfa Public Library’s children’s room has been transformed into an interactive space-themed installation with mission control and spaceship as part of their program Make Believe Marfa, now until March 18, 2022.

# Spirits of the West, Wine and Beef Fest announced

ALPINE — Alpine’s Artwalk is excited to announce the first annual Spirits of the West, Wine and Beef Fest May 27-29. Staying true to Artwalk’s mission, this new event will showcase signature beef bites from local beef companies to honor the area’s longtime tradition of cattle ranching. In addition, Texas wineries and distilleries will provide a homegrown pairing to highlight the West Texas fairs. Several local artists will be participating in the celebration of the region’s unique heritage. The event will take place in Alpine on 6th street between Holland and Avenue E. On Friday, May 27, a VIP preview will kick off the event. General admission is on Saturday and Sunday. In addition to the evening festivities, Artwalk will host a Saturday morning 5k fun run.

Wristbands can be purchased through Eventbrite. For more information visit <http://www.spiritsofthewestfest.com>.

Marfa history lives at the Blackwell School

Museum open every Saturday  
12:00 to 4:00 pm

preserving a nationally significant historically segregated Mexican American schoolhouse

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# OBITUARIES

## Fisher

**Jesse Bob Fisher**, 76, passed away in Odessa, Texas, on January 31, 2022. He was born on June 17, 1945, in Pecos, Texas, to Jesse Davis Fisher and Florine Roby Bell Fisher. He was always known as Bob to his family and friends. He grew up in Sanderson, Texas, then went to El Paso to work. He worked for Mountain Bell/Southwestern Bell Telephone for many years and was living in Odessa at the time of his death.

Services will be held at a later date.

Jesse Bob Fisher was preceded in



## Lewis

**James William “Cordell” Lewis**, 25, of Marfa went home to be with the Lord and passed away on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, in Houston, Texas.

Visitation will be held on Friday, February 18, 2022, at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home Memorial Chapel from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Praying of the Most Holy Rosary will be held on Friday, February 18, 2022, at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church at 7 p.m. in Alpine, Texas.

Mass of Christian burial will be held on Saturday, February 19, 2022, at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Marfa at 10 a.m. with Father Victorino Loresca, with interment to follow at Merced Cemetery in Marfa, Texas.

Cordell was born on September 26, 1996, in Alpine to April Ann Ybarra and James Lewis. He was a graduate from Marfa High School. He was attending Sul Ross State University, looking forward to graduating. He was studying gaming and designing. He liked a game character named “Kirby” and a song that he liked listening to a lot is “What I’ve Done” by Linkin Park.

He was a member of the Methodist Church. He had a great future ahead of him, full of hopes and dreams.



## Ortega

**Joanne Lara Ortega**, age 64, surrounded by family, gained her wings on February 13, 2022. Joanne was born February 7, 1958, to Brigido Lara Jr. and Mary B. Lara. She was raised in Fort Davis and attended all school years at Fort Davis schools. Due to health reasons, she moved to San Angelo where she lived with her son. Joanne was former justice of the peace for Precinct 1 in Fort Davis, former physical plant employee at McDonald Observatory, and secretary/bookkeeper at Jeff Davis County Courthouse. She studied at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. She married the love of her life, Robert (Crockett) Ortega and from that marriage her son, Robert Ortega Jr. was born. She loved the most important job of her life: taking care of her son. She loved to cook and spend time praying for her many friends and for people she had never met before. She was a woman of God and would always have a powerful prayer that would help people when they were going through hard times. She enjoyed playing poker with her poker friends, and we all know she loved her Dallas Cowboys. She would always say “Dallas Cowboy fan for life.”

We will miss seeing her

death by his parents, Jesse Davis Fisher and Florine Roby Bell Fisher; his sister Bonnie Darlene Shahan, and his brother George Roy Fisher.

He is survived by his nephew Cody Bob Fisher from Midland, Texas, and niece Connie Voss from Waco, Texas.

Bob came to Fort Davis often to visit his cousins, Ginger McGough and Lee and Bill Fisher; and uncle Edgar and aunt Fern Fisher.

Online condolences may be left at: [www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com).

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home in Alpine, Texas.



## Wells

**James William “Jim Bill” Wells**, perished from this world On December 8, 2021, after succumbing to illness.

He was born in Marfa, Texas, on March 4, 1952, to Oscar Thomas “Tommy” Wells Jr. of Marfa and Bernice Wade Wells of Brownwood, Texas. Being the son of a rancher, Jim Bill spent much of his childhood and adolescence on the Brite Ranch. He and his siblings helped his father with his duties on the ranch. As a result, Jim Bill had a great love and admiration of the ranch life and nature in general. He always spoke of his youth at the ranch with great remembrance and admiration.

As a young man, Jim Bill attended Sul Ross State University and would often frequent dances and parties in Ojinaga, Mexico. It was during this time that he met the love of his life, the woman that would become his wife and his cherished partner in life, Minerva Villa. The two were married on December 13, 1975, in Ojinaga, Mexico. They lived in Marfa where Jim Bill worked for his father’s grocery store (Nuway Grocery) in the early 1970-1980s and raised their growing family. Years later, Jim Bill worked for the Welsh Family as manager of their local grocery stores. The family relocated to Presidio in the early 1990s after he accepted the position from the Welsh family to open and manage a new grocery store.

Jim Bill was a gentle soul who graced all our lives with his presence. He was quick witted and found the joy and humor in everyday life. Jim Bill maintained his joyous and positive attitude even through the most difficult times in his life. Although his later life was afflicted with illness and strife, Jim Bill headed it with great fortitude and resolve, always determined to get better. In the end, even the strongest, most hard-headed



## Ybarra

**Usbaldo “Baldo” Ybarra**, 84, of San Angelo, Texas, passed away on February 13, 2022, in Fort Stockton, Texas.

Services for Baldo will be held on Friday, February 18, 2022. Viewing will be from noon to 2 p.m., with praying of the Most Holy Rosary beginning at 2 p.m. with Mass to follow at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine, Texas, with Father Alfonso Coronado Sanchez serving as celebrant.

Baldo was born in Manuel Benavides, Chihuahua, Mexico,

eventually vanquish. And oh boy he was hard-headed.

Jim Bill is survived by his wife, Minerva and beloved Yorkie, Paco; their three children: eldest son James Francisco Wells and wife Silvia Lopez Wells, grandsons Kevin Brandon and Keiden Sai Wells of Corpus Christi, Texas; daughter Bernice Wells King and husband Dean Alan King, grandson Nikolas Anthony Dominguez of Albuquerque, New Mexico; youngest son Jonathan Scott Wells and wife Leasha Nicole Wells, grandchildren Evalynn Athena Marie Wells, Phoenix Elizabeth Freeman, Patrick Jay Freeman and Colyn Winford Pratt of Bandera, Texas.

Jim Bill is also survived by his sister Cindy Gardner and family of Mountain Home, Arkansas; Oscar Thomas Wells III and family of Williamsburg, Virginia; Burton Eaton Wells and family of Fort Davis, Texas; Andrew Lee Wells and family of Iraan, Texas; numerous brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, cousins, nieces, nephews, along with beloved additional “grandchildren” that he loved as his own.

Mr. James William Wells will be honored at a memorial service at the Christian Church in Marfa on February 19, 2022 at 11 a.m. Jim Bill wished for an ash scattering ceremony at Corpus Christi Bay among friends and family for any and all who would like to attend his celebration of life.

It is just the order of life. Husband, Father, Brother, Friend ... be free of your earthly restraints.

“For in that sleep of death what dreams may come  
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,  
Must give us pause: there's the respect that makes calamity of so long life.”  
-Shakespeare

Online condolences may be left at: [www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com)

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home in Alpine, Texas.

*This obituary previously appeared in the December 16, 2021 issue of The Big Bend Sentinel. It has now been updated with information regarding an upcoming memorial service.*

to Jorge and Luz Maria Ybarra on August 30, 1937. Baldo worked for Reliance Medical Equipment.

Baldo is preceded in death by his parents George Ybarra Sr. and Luz Ybarra of Alpine; three brothers, Hector Ybarra of El Paso, Flavio Ybarra of Alpine, and George Ybarra Jr. of Alpine; four sisters, Petra Guevara of Midland, Basilisa Najera of San Antonio, and Virtudes Valencia of San Angelo, Texas.

Survivors include: his brother Manuel Ybarra and wife Flora Ybarra, brother-in-law Manuel Natera of Alpine, and sister-in-law Amelia Ybarra of Midland. He has numerous nieces and nephews.

Those serving as pallbearers are Joel Ybarra, Israel Ybarra, Juan Carlos Valencia, Rene Ybarra, Tony Ybarra and Ernesto Natera, with Michael Ybarra serving as honorary pallbearer.

Online condolences may be left at: [www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com)

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home in Alpine, Texas.

# Alpine Memorial FUNERAL HOME

CREMATIONS - PRENEED PLANS

Obituaries presented in partnership with  
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[alpinememorialfuneralhome.com](http://alpinememorialfuneralhome.com) | 432-837-2222

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# Classifieds & public notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

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



### DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS

In accordance with applicable state and federal regulations, the 588 Educational Cooperative does hereby notify you of its intent to destroy student special education records. All special education records, prior to July 1, 2015, will be destroyed. The 588 Educational Cooperative will destroy special education records for the following school districts:

- Alpine Independent School District
- Balmorhea Independent School District
- Culberson County-Allamore Independent School District
- Fort Davis Independent School District
- Marathon Independent School District
- Marfa Independent School District
- Presidio Independent School District
- Terlingua Common School District
- Terrell County Independent School District
- San Vicente Independent School District
- Sierra Blanca Independent School District
- Valentine Independent School District

If you would like to be provided with a copy of the records to be destroyed, please contact the 588 Educational Cooperative by telephone at 432-837-3315, by fax at 432-837-3573, or via mail at 704 W. Sul Ross Ave, Alpine, Texas, 79830.

**Records will be destroyed within 90 days of the date of this notice.**

### Now Accepting HOT Grant Applications

The City of Marfa is accepting HOT grant applications for events occurring April 1 - September 30, 2022.

**Applications are due by 5 pm on March 14, 2022.**

Visit [www.cityofmarfa.org/hot-tax](http://www.cityofmarfa.org/hot-tax) for more information and to download an application.

**Questions can be sent to [hotgrants@cityofmarfa.com](mailto:hotgrants@cityofmarfa.com).**

## FOR SALE



### PAISANO PASS RANCH

This pretty little mountain ranch contains 106± acres and is located about 14 miles east of Marfa and 10 miles west of Alpine on Hwy 90. All mountains and canyons with elevation to 5180'. Scenic rock outcroppings with mountain oak and juniper. Improvements include a solar-powered two story barndominium, equipment shed, and horse stalls. Game include elk, mule deer, and aoudad sheep.

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FOR FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES OF ALPINE  
Applications may be picked up at 1605 N. FT. Davis Hwy  
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Please call first before arrival.

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### JOB OPENINGS

Marfa Hardware Co • 313 E San Antonio St.  
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#### ASSISTANT MANAGER / TRAINEE (FULL TIME)

Duties:

- Greet and assist customers with purchases
- General customer service and problem resolution
- Assist Manager in overseeing all store activities

Will Train:

Pay commensurate with experience

#### CASHIER (FULL OR PART TIME)

Duties:

- Greet and assist customers with purchases
- General customer service and problem resolution
- Operate cash register / Check out Customers

Will Train:

Hours Flexible - Part Time or Full Time

Pay commensurate with experience

## ALPINE WINE IS HIRING!

Alpine Wine is an exciting new wine bar and restaurant in downtown Alpine, and we'll be opening our doors in just a few weeks. We'll offer wine tastings and wine by the glass and bottle, charcuterie and cheese boards, and more.



Alpine Wine

•Wine knowledge isn't as necessary as a willingness to learn, a great attitude, and a friendly disposition.

•Fulltime benefits include PTO, 401K, vision and dental, TABC and Food Handler Certification reimbursement, and more.

•Excellent pay for all positions. Need Wine Stewards, Servers, Dishwashers, Bussers, Hosts, Runners. Starting soon.

**Call us to schedule an interview – (432) 837-7028 – or send us your information through our website at [alpinewine.com/jobs](http://alpinewine.com/jobs).**

### ALPINE WINE IS HIRING PANTRY CHEFS AND COOKS

We're serving more than wine – we're serving food too! We're looking for creative and passionate Pantry Chefs and Cooks to run our kitchen. Our food offerings will consist of Charcuterie and Cheese Boards as well as other specialty items made from scratch with recipes created in-house.

Degrees and certifications are not required. What we do require are:

- Background developing menu ideas and sourcing farm-to-table and fresh food items
- Desire and experience working independently within a cold-food kitchen
- Experience with ordering, stocking, and receiving product, organizing storage areas, maintaining costs, etc.
- Flexible schedule

We have both parttime and fulltime positions available, and all our fulltime employees are eligible for PTO, insurance, 401K, and more. We also offer very competitive pay for all positions.

**Call us to schedule an interview – (432) 837-7028 – or send us your information through our website at [alpinewine.com/jobs](http://alpinewine.com/jobs).**

### JOB OPENING

**Action Heating and Cooling is looking for full time employee.**

Experience in HVAC a Plus. Candidate will have ability to become fully Licensed as HVAC contractor. Action does HVAC and in house construction projects. Person must be able to float between the two. Construction experience helpful.

**Pay based upon experience. Call 432-386-0275.**

### CAREGIVER NEEDED

Caregiver needed to assist sweet, elderly gentleman, Friday mornings through Sunday evenings, in South Double Diamond, Alpine.

Must be compassionate, dependable, Covid-safe, and have a reliable vehicle.

**Email [snookhelen@gmail.com](mailto:snookhelen@gmail.com) or call 432-364-2324 (landline).**

### THE CHINATI FOUNDATION

Seeks applicants for paid adobe apprenticeships.  
March 21–April 29, 2022

Earn \$15 per hour while making and learning about all things adobe.

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TO APPLY:  
Contact Sandra Hinojos at 432-606-1918, [workshop@chinati.org](mailto:workshop@chinati.org), or visit us at [www.chinati.org/apprenticeships](http://www.chinati.org/apprenticeships)**

### LA FUNDACIÓN CHINATI

Busca candidatas para el aprendizaje remunerado de adobe.  
21 marzo – 29 abril, 2022

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**PARA MÁS INFORMACION Y PARA PRESENTARSE:**

**Póngase en contacto con Sandra Hinojos al 432-606-1918  
[workshop@chinati.org](mailto:workshop@chinati.org) o visítenos en  
[www.chinati.org/apprenticeships](http://www.chinati.org/apprenticeships)**



### AEP-TEXAS JOB OPENINGS

AEP-Texas is actively seeking a **STATION SERVICER** position to be located in Alpine, Texas. Applicants must possess the following minimum requirements:

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Thorough working knowledge and understanding of the principles of electricity, and the construction, maintenance, operation and function of station equipment and related standards. Perform all types of work involved in the installation, maintenance, operation, inspection, repair and removal of station-related equipment. Respond to emergency call-outs on station trouble and coordinate prompt restoration of service to customers as required.

#### EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Associate degree in electrical/mechanical/industrial maintenance technology or equivalent education and/or experience. Equivalent education and experience is limited to military training and work experience of technical/technician nature (such as aviation and nuclear instrumentation technician); or recent experience (within last 6 months) as a Station Electrician or equivalent job title with another utility or contractor. Experience: No previous work experience required for an entry level position.

AEP-Texas is actively seeking a **P&C (PROTECTION & CONTROL) TECHNICIAN** to be located in Alpine, McCombe or San Angelo Texas. Applicants must possess the following minimum requirements:

- Technical Associate Degree in Electrical/Electronics technology.
- Previous work experience in the installation and maintenance of electronic equipment and controls preferred.
- Computer training and/or experience.
- Must be able to complete P&C Technician and Station Electrician in-house certification training.
- Frequent travel with overnight trips and some 24-hour On-Call duties.
- Must live within 45 minutes of the job location.

AEP-Texas is actively seeking a **TECHNICIAN** position to be located in Alpine, Texas.

#### ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTION

Responsible for performing intermediate level technical work and related activities associated with the planning, engineering, design, analysis, research, development, testing, construction, maintenance, and operation of Company equipment and facilities.

#### EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Associate Degree in Electrical/Electronic/Civil/ Mechanical Engineering Technology or related fields plus 2 years of related utility industry work experience; or a high school diploma or equivalent and 4 years of related utility industry work experience.

Qualified applicants must apply at [www.aep.com/careers](http://www.aep.com/careers)

**AEP-TEXAS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER.**

### ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED FOR MARCH 1, 2022 ELECTIONS

**PAY = \$12/HOUR**

Email [presidiodemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:presidiodemocrats@gmail.com) for more information

### HELP WANTED

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

### GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

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

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

**CITY OF MARFA**  
Manny Baeza, City of Marfa Mayor  
[mayer@cityofmarfa.com](mailto:mayer@cityofmarfa.com)  
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Irma Salgado, Mayor Pro Tem  
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**BREWSTER COUNTY**  
Judge Eleazar Cano:  
(432) 837-6200 x 124

**Alpine Mayor Andy Ramos:**  
City Hall: (432) 837-3301  
Email: [mayer.amos@ci.alpine.tx.us](mailto:mayer.amos@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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