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BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

Fatal car crash on US 67 south of Marfa leaves 1 dead, 2 injured

By ALLEGRA HOBBs and SAM KARAS
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MARFA — A Chihuahua man died in a car crash on U.S. Highway 67 while traveling south between Marfa and Presidio when a north-traveling car veered into the southbound lane, hitting the man's car head-on and causing it to flip. The two occupants of the other vehicle sustained serious injuries but survived, while their car erupted in flames.

Mario Rodríguez, 62, was killed in the collision that took place approximately 18 miles south of Marfa on Sunday evening, around 7:28 p.m., according to the Texas Department of Public Safety. A preliminary report from the department indicates that Rodríguez had been driving south towards Presidio at milepost 952, where the speed limit is 70 miles per hour, when a northbound Dodge 3500 pickup truck veered into his lane, hitting him head-on.

A DPS spokesperson said the collision was still under investigation, and the department could not say why the northbound driver had veered into the southbound lane.

Rodríguez's son, Daniel Rodríguez Contreras, told The Big Bend Sentinel that he and his brother had been driving ahead of their father along the corridor towards Presidio, which was a normal route for them to travel as a family — the Estación Consuelo residents would often drive along the highway to visit family in the United States, he said.

On Sunday, the brothers were driving ahead of their father's Ford Aerostar passenger van when their father could no longer be seen trailing behind them. "He was following us," recalled Contreras in Spanish. "My brother no longer saw him and looked back and that was when he saw the accident."

That Sunday was Mother's Day, and Rodríguez had traveled into the United States to retrieve gifts and visit family, said Contreras. His car had been loaded up with gifts to bring back to Mexico for a Mother's Day celebration. "He was going to throw a party for all his children, his mother and his relatives who are mothers, and he brought in his truck many gifts that he had bought at Walmart and other stores for all the moms," said Contreras. "All of that stayed [in the truck]."

Contreras said his father had been a devoted husband, parent and grandparent. "My father was a

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Photo courtesy of Adele Powers



Photo courtesy of MISD

Left: Alexis Gonzales of the Lady Shorthorns practices pitching. The Lady Shorthorns ended their district season with two major wins and won Marfa their first Bi-District Championship since 2019. Right: Marfa High School senior Cristian Ontiveros, who finished second place in the state golf tournament this Tuesday, with Coach Curtis Pittman. READ MORE ON PAGES 8 & 9.

As Title 42 ends, a coalition of local religious groups prepares to help migrants in need

By SAM KARAS
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TRI-COUNTY — On May 23, the Biden administration plans to end Title 42, a Trump-era policy that allowed Customs and Border Protection to immediately expel undocumented migrants from the United States, including those seeking asylum. With a potential influx of asylum-seekers just a few weeks away, a coalition of religious organizations in the Big Bend has banded together, ready to offer aid to folks in immigration limbo.

This coalition has been meeting in an official capacity for a few weeks, but has its roots in a roadside encounter Rev. Michael Wallens, priest-in-charge of the Big Bend Episcopal Churches and co-chair of the Rio Grande Border Ministries, had shortly after relocating to the Big Bend from Dallas five years ago. Early one morning, Wallens was driving between Alpine and Marfa when he stopped to pick up a Border Patrol agent stranded by the side of the road.

"We just started talking — I'd never met someone with the Border Patrol. I started asking him, 'What that's like, having to do things related to your job that might not feel good in the heart'?" Wallens remembered. "The agent started crying and we had a long talk. And then after that, I asked him, 'What do you want people to know about you?' And he said, 'I want people to know that I'm more than the uniform'."

After that encounter, Wallens made a point to reach out to local Border Patrol agents and the sector chief, offering humanitarian assistance to the migrants and a listening ear to the agents. He earned an unofficial post as someone who could be counted on to help house and transport asylum seekers in limbo. Wallens mostly serves people who have passed their credible fear interviews, a critical part of the asylum process that allows migrants to legally stay in the country, and are awaiting the opportunity to be reconnected with loved ones already in the U.S.

"As an example, there was a 19-year-old father, a 17-year-old mother and a six-month-old baby and they needed to get to Detroit. They passed all their interviews, but Border Patrol would have had to separate them because the father was an adult and the mother wasn't. They didn't want to do that, so they called me."

Wallens helped feed and house the young family while they waited for transport. Now that he's enlisted the help of dozens of other churches and laypeople — representatives from the Episcopal, Methodist, Catholic and Presybterian churches in Marfa and Alpine, members of the Young Life organization, among many others — he's hoping to be able

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As Presidio considers HOT tax ordinance, trouble in Terlingua highlights need for more robust collection

By SAM KARAS
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TRI-COUNTY — At the last regular meeting of the Presidio Visitors and Convention Bureau, in April, Board Director Arian Velázquez-Ornelas informed the board that she intended to present an agenda item at an upcoming Presidio City Council meeting that would pave the way for a local hotel occupancy tax (HOT) to be collected from short-term rentals within city limits. Discussion was tabled at that meeting, but the item's place on the agenda marks a major shift for the tourism industry of the remote border city.

Unlike many neighboring Big Bend communities, Presidio doesn't yet have local regulations or tax collection mechanisms in place for short-term rentals listed on sites like Airbnb and VRBO. "They're popping up like bluebonnets," Velázquez-Ornelas said, speculating that some local families set them up to help make ends meet during the pandemic.

HOT tax collection is a sore subject for Presidio city officials, despite the relatively small number of short-term rentals in town. Unlike Marfa, which has 168 active rentals, Presidio only has 25; where Marfa has five hotels, Presidio only has two. The status of Presidio's non-operational third hotel — the Big Bend Inn — has been questionable since it was revealed that the business owed $100,000 in overdue HOT taxes. The hotel's owner could not be reached for comment.

"I actually looked into it a few years back and even reported the case to the state, but nothing to my knowledge ever came of it," Mayor John Ferguson said. "I can't remember the last time that they were doing their due diligence to pay those taxes."

Velázquez-Ornelas explained that HOT funds in Presidio fund activities through the Visitors and Convention Bureau. Despite its name, the board also organizes holiday events the community can enjoy, like last year's successful Christmas Posada and a Fourth of July celebration at the Presidio International Speedway. "[HOT funds] basically determine our budget," she explained.

The state collects its own HOT funds, the majority of which go to the General Revenue Fund and a smaller portion of which go to state-

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City council meets regarding water infrastructure plans and local farmstand as 2 council members leave office

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — City council met for a regular meeting on Tuesday evening — the very last for council members with expired terms exiting office Buck Johnston and Yoseff Ben-Yehuda — to discuss the city's water infrastructure goals, location for the Marfa farmstand, and more.

All council members were present at Tuesday night's meeting, and a few sported purple polos with white "City of Marfa" logos for the occasion. After a swift approval of a new proposed logo for the Marfa Library, City Manager Mandy Roane brought up Marfa Activity Center pool operations, including price breakdown for admission and age limits.

"We know the pool is not like a huge moneymaker. We're not trying to do that. We're trying to make it really affordable," said Roane.

The pool, which has been closed to the public since May 2020, is set to open for the summer season on May 31 and stay open until August 6.

Roane laid out the proposed price breakdown for admission — $3 for adults, $1 for kids and seniors, $50 for adult passes for the summer, $25 for kids and seniors passes for the summer, and $75 for five-member family passes for the summer — to which council members were amenable.

Pending adequate staffing, the facility will be open to the public five days a week from Tuesday through Saturday and will be available to rent for private parties on Sundays. Sunday rentals will run $150. The city is not yet taking reservations for private pool parties. The city is working on hiring lifeguards and a pool supervisor — applications can be found on the city's website.

Councilmember Johnston insisted lap swim and aerobics timeslots don't overlap on the daily schedule and Roane proposed a tentative daily schedule of lap swim from 10 to 11 a.m., water aerobics from 11 a.m. to noon, closed for lunch from noon to 1p.m., and open swim for the reminder of open hours from 1 to 6 p.m.

Later, in her city manager's report, Roane said the pool bathrooms are currently being cleaned up, and toilets and sinks were being repaired by the public works department.

Council voted to keep the age limit for unaccompanied children at age 8 or older, with council members Johnston and Eddie Pallarez voting nay.

Next up was an agenda item to approve a

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Here are the May 7 elections results for the tri-county

By MARY CANTRELL and SAM KARAS
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TRI-COUNTY — Voters across Texas took part in elections this past weekend and overwhelmingly voted to approve two amendments to the Texas Constitution, both relating to homestead exemptions and property taxes.

Statewide, Proposition 1, which will continue to freeze and lower over time school property tax bills for those who are disabled or over age 65, passed with 87% of voters in favor of the amendment. Proposition 2, which will increase the general homestead exemption for public school taxes from $25,000 to $40,000, passed with 85% of the voters in favor of the amendment.

Unofficial results show that in Presidio County, out of a total of 245 votes, 88.57% of voters were in favor of Proposition 1, with 11.43% of voters against the amendment. Out of a total of 247 votes, 81.78% of voters were in favor of Proposition 2, with 18.22% of voters against the amendment.

In Brewster County, out of a total of 898 votes, 82.41% of voters were in favor of Proposition 1, with 17.59% voting against the amendment. Out of a total of 902 votes, 79.38% of voters were in favor of Proposition 2, with 20.62% voting against the amendment.

Unlike Brewster and Presidio county citizens, Jeff Davis County residents only participated in the county election and did not have any local issues on the ballot. Out of a total of 171 votes, 81.87% of voters were in favor of Proposition 1, with 18.13% voting against the amendment. Regarding Proposition 2, 85.38% of voters were in favor, with 14.62% voting against the amendment.

Similar to the rest of the state, voter turnout was low in the tri-county area. In Brewster County, 12.3% of registered voters turned out for the May 7 election. In Jeff Davis County, a similar 10.9% of voters participated in the election. Presidio's was the lowest in the tri-county area, with only 5.74% of registered voters turning out for the county election.

City of Marfa

The City of Marfa held a special election in order to reauthorize a one-quarter of 1% sales tax for street and roadway maintenance and improvements. The quarter-cent tax must be reauthorized by voters every four years and has been in place since 2002. The reauthorization passed, with 109 voters in favor of extending the tax and 20 voting against the initiative.

Typically, the local May 7 election is a joint election between the city and school board in which voters decide on school board as well as city council candidates. But this year, the local joint election was canceled due to too few candidates.

With three expired seats on city council — that of councilmembers Yoseff Ben-Yehuda, Buck Johnston and Eddie Pallarez — only Pallarez chose to run again, and because he was unopposed, he will be appointed to serve another two-year term. Also unopposed is Mark Cash, who will fill in the other seat, leaving one vacancy on the council. Pallarez and Cash appeared on the ballot as "unopposed candidates declared elected."

Once the new council is sworn in, in late May or early June, they

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HOT tax ordinance

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wide tourism initiatives, per the comptroller's website. Usage of local HOT funds can vary depending on the size and location of the local entity involved — coastal communities, for example, can use HOT funds to maintain beaches.

In general, local HOT funds must be somehow linked to improving the area's tourism. In 2021, the Big Bend's state representative, Eddie Morales, introduced a bill that would expand the definition of what HOT taxes could be used for, arguing that the funds should be able to be used in dark sky protections that enhance area tourism. The bill died in the chamber, but highlighted a desire to reconfigure HOT tax programs to better suit diverse tourist economies.

"The tax code is very prescriptive — there's only a certain number of things that these taxes can go toward," explained Marfa City Attorney Teresa Todd. "It can't go into the general fund — street paving or the police department or anything like that. They have to be used for the promotion of tourism."

Todd has helped steer Marfa through its fair share of HOT tax collection issues. In 2019, a city budget workshop revealed that the Hotel Saint George owed the city more than $100,000 in local HOT funds, prompting the city to reevaluate how they were dealing with tax collection. Todd started summoning some of the smaller players into municipal court. Many newer short-term rental operators weren't even aware that they owed tax.

"These weren't really folks who get notices to come to court that much," she explained. "It really traumatized them — people would come to City Hall crying with their checkbooks. All we were really looking for was compliance."

Just before the pandemic, the city opted to contract with House Compliance, hoping that hiring an outside agency for collections would help. Widespread shutdowns in the spring of 2020 caused problems within the company, and the city ultimately decided the contract money wasn't worth the hassle. "We just didn't feel we were getting the bang for our buck," Todd said.

The City of Marfa returned to DIY collection. State tax law allows for a city or county to charge interest on overdue HOT tax and outlines provisions through which the municipality's legal fees are covered by the tax pool, should the collection process require legal muscle.

Since the pandemic, Todd hasn't noticed as many compliance issues, and the city has opted for a lighter touch — in the case of smaller operators who may not have been aware that local as well as state tax was due, the city often opted to waive late fees, focusing on empowering short-term rental owners to get into and stay in compliance.

"I don't even know that we ever really fined anybody — there have been a few people with pretty egregious cases that maybe paid interest, but that's very, very rare," she explained.

Some of the issues lie in the fact that local HOT taxes in the Big Bend are self-reported and remitted. In neighboring Brewster County, a flat 7% HOT tax is charged for all short-term rentals outside of Alpine. Short-term rental operators are sent a spreadsheet with tax bills for all other short-term rentals in the area and a worksheet to help them verify the amount owed.

This sheet of tax data is publicly accessible, but the fact that it is also automatically sent out to all short-term property owners in the area has stoked controversy in Brewster County Commissioners Court, as rental owners are made acutely aware each tax season who's been keeping up with their bills.

"It's been an ongoing issue since before I came into office," said South County Commissioner Sara Allen Colando, who was sworn in in January 2019. "It started out as people not realizing that they had to pay HOT taxes to Brewster County, and it's kind of devolved into, 'Well, if Joe's not going to pay then I'm not going to pay either.' There are some pretty significant rental operations out here who know they're supposed to pay and are just not paying. It's created a lot of friction."

Non-payment of county HOT taxes has been the subject of public comment at the past three Brewster County Commissioners Court meetings. During their April 26 meeting, Daryl Eby of Big Bend Vacation Rentals asked county officials how they planned to address the discrepancy. "It seems like the county should be obligated to enforce that tax in Terlingua," he said. "If one of our largest competitors is not obligated to pay, that is a significant disadvantage to other lodging operators in the county that are paying."

Eby did not name the entity in question: Basecamp Terlingua, a popular rental spot on Kempf Road widely known amongst the influencer set for its distinctive "bubble house" lodging.

According to records obtained through the Brewster County Treasurer's Office, Basecamp Terlingua has not paid HOT taxes to Brewster County since March 2020. Basecamp doesn't appear on the Brewster County HOT rolls until 2019. In 2019 and 2020, Basecamp paid a total of $28,488 in Brewster County HOT tax — to date, the only money it has ever paid the county, according to public records, despite being one of the most popular and successful short-term rentals in the area.

Basecamp is not the only rental property in Brewster County delinquent on HOT taxes, but it is the largest such company to do so and has delayed payment the longest. According to the worksheet sent to rental owners by the Brewster County Treasurer's Office, the county levies a 10% per annum interest on late taxes. Basecamp's current rental holdings should generate around $300 a night for the county at full occupancy.

Most other rental properties automatically deduct taxes from their bookings through platforms like Airbnb and VRBO. According to an Airbnb spokesperson, the company has an agreement with the state of Texas allowing the site to automatically collect and remit the 6% state HOT tax each time a guest books. In some areas, hosts can opt-in to a system that automatically collects local HOT taxes as well, streamlining the process. "In Texas, Airbnb collected and remitted over $64 million in occupancy taxes in 2019 — an increase of approximately 95% over 2019," they said.

Basecamp was barred from Airbnb in 2020, amidst sexual assault allegations against founder and owner Jeff Leach. Basecamp rentals are currently managed through the company's website, which automatically adds 13% tax to each transaction — 6% of the total to the state, and 7% of the total to the county. Where that money ends up is unclear.

"We have contributed hundreds and thousands of dollars to HOT tax over the years from various entities we manage," Leach wrote in response to a request for comment. "We are in contact with Visit Big Bend and look forward to chatting with them about concerns and questions."

A representative for Visit Big Bend — the entity responsible for instituting and dispersing Brewster County's HOT funds — did not return requests for comment.

Commissioner Colando stressed the need for better education and updated regulations to help the county collect. "People don't understand how HOT taxes can and cannot be used and are frustrated that it's not being used for worthwhile projects that are simply illegal uses of the funds. Then — on top of that — there's this huge amount of money that is not being collected or remitted to the county like it's legally supposed to. There's a lot of people who are understandably upset with how the HOT tax is collected, enforced and expended."

Justin Bragiel, general counsel for the Texas Hotel and Lodging Association, had been briefed on the situation in Terlingua. "This isn't a Brewster County-only problem — this is a problem everywhere. I get lots of calls about short term rentals because there's so many of them and they're hard to locate."

"The law is very much on the county's side," he explained. "The problem is always the amount of resources that the county devotes to going after each individual operator who may not be complying with the law. The county attorney, for example, can go to the district court and ask the court to enjoin that lodging property from operating until they become current on their taxes. The county has the ability to do full audits of any individual who's supposed to be remitting taxes. And then there are paneled penalties that apply for failure to comply. The legal tools are there — it's just a matter of devoting the resources."

As Presidio begins regulating a burgeoning short-term rental industry, Marfa and Terlingua can provide a blueprint for local officials to plan how to grow the local tourism economy responsibly and fairly.

Mayor John Ferguson, for one, is looking forward to the changes. "I'm going to open an Airbnb myself probably within the next year," he said. "I'm happy to pay, I think it's the right thing to do. Hopefully it'll make a positive difference in Presidio."

Election results

(Continued from page 1)

will likely solicit letters of interest from the public in order to appoint the final councilperson. Alternatively, council could opt to hold a special election in November in order to fill the spot. The Marfa Independent School District Board of Trustees filled its positions and is operating with a full team.

City of Presidio

Presidio residents re-elected Mayor Pro Tempore John Razo and interim Councilmember Joe Andy Mendoza with 77 and 113 votes each, respectively. Steven "Nicky" Alvarez was elected to serve a full, two-year term on city council for the first time with 122 votes. Current councilmembers Arian Velázquez-Ornelas and Nancy Arevalo ran unopposed for unexpired one-year terms.

City of Alpine

In Alpine, the school district and city each held elections to determine new leaders. Just under 17% of Alpine's eligible voters turned out for the mayoral election, and Catherine Eaves won with 416 votes over opponent Amit Rangra's 322 votes. Rangra took a slight lead on election day, but Eaves' supporters turned out in force for early voting — 299 voters cast ballots for Eaves in the weeks preceding the election, compared to Rangra's 187 early votes.

Both city council members on the ballot — Chris Rodriguez and Martin Sandate — ran unopposed for their seats. Rodriguez took home 71 votes and Sandate earned 100 votes.

The Alpine Independent School District held an election in order to fill one board member seat for District 7. The only race on the ballot, candidate Mary McCallister ultimately won out, acquiring a total of 98 votes as opposed to opponent Elpidia R. Lujan's 33. Voter turnout for the school board election was 11.6%.

Runoff elections, in which voters across the state will decide on a number of Democratic and Republican candidates for the November 2022 General Election, will take place on May 24. More information on the runoff elections can be found at https://www.texastribune.org/2022/04/22/texas-voting-primary-runoff-2022.

There are no county-level races in the runoff elections for Presidio and Jeff Davis counties. In Brewster County, voters will decide on Democratic and Republican candidates for the County Judge position. Polling times and locations for the Brewster County runoff election can be found here: http://www.brewstercountytx.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Notice-of-General-Primary-Runoff-Election-for-Democratic-and-Republican-Parties-May-24-2022-1.pdf.

The Big Bend Sentinel *will post times and locations for voting in the May 24 runoff as they become available.*

Title 42 ends

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to extend a hand to more migrants in need.

"Our goal and role is to get them on their way to their final destination. What we do is welcome them and figure out what their transportation needs are. In many cases, they already have tickets, so they just need a ride to the airport or the bus station," he explained. "I think the most anybody would spend the night would be for two nights, but it's all tied into transportation available."

Mimi Smith, who helms the Big Bend Gazette and is a member of St. James Episcopal Church in Alpine, has been attending coalition meetings as a volunteer. "The coalition has some of the best organization of logistics I've ever seen," she said. "I signed up for transport, mostly, because I think it suits me — I've driven these routes for 27 years, driving to jails and prisons and courthouses. I hope to make the trips relaxing for my guests, rather than prolonging the trauma of their long journeys."

Smith still keeps in touch with some of the migrants she's transported, including two women who escaped the evacuation of Kabul in August 2021 and tried their luck with the asylum process at the U.S.-Mexico border. "It's a frightening passage, from their countries of origin, into this country, into this Big Bend region of Texas," she said. "But each project has a beginning, middle and a happy ending — getting people to their sponsors, families, destinations."

Like Wallens' early-morning encounter by the side of the road, Smith was touched by the revelation that there were local Border Patrol agents looking to extend a hand to people in transition. "When a big ol' federal agency, a boots-on-the-ground agency, tackles a humanitarian project, and invites us civilian locals to be part of the solution, I'm jumping on board. Everyone who is touched by this will benefit."

As a man of faith, Wallens believes that serving refugees — and Border Patrol agents — is deeply entwined with the religious ideas he preaches to the five congregations he serves in the region. "There's a biblical mandate to welcome the stranger and care for those who are orphans and widows and people in need. If you look at the fact that Jesus was also a refugee — we're called to treat everyone with dignity and respect."

Big Bend Sector Border Patrol did not respond to a request for comment.

Pilot in Presidio plane smuggling crash pleads not guilty

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Tobias Penner Peters, the pilot who crashed a plane outside of Presidio in December, pleaded not guilty to two counts of felony human smuggling on April 25. Peters was not present at the courthouse in Pecos to deliver his plea, having waived a right of personal appearance.

On December 30, 2021, Peters fled the scene of the plane crash that left five undocumented passengers injured — one of the migrants' injuries were so severe that they had to be lifeflighted to the hospital. He remained at large for several months, and was finally arrested by the Presidio County Sheriff's Office at the Presidio Port of Entry on March 25.

Due to the severity of the injuries sustained by the migrants onboard, Peters' initial charge of felony "conspiracy to transport illegal aliens" was enhanced to include a second charge, "transportation of illegal aliens causing serious bodily injury." He was released on $100,000 bond, with conditions of release limiting his travel to within the state of Texas, forbidding travel to Mexico, and setting a curfew at his primary residence in Seminole.

A hearing is set for May 20 in Alpine at 9:30 a.m. before Judge David Fannin. Peters has retained two lawyers: Antonio Rodriguez of Presidio and Monty Kimball of Alpine, both of whom declined to comment. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas, headquartered in San Antonio, did not return a request for comment by press time.

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City council

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request for proposals (RFP) for a water and wastewater rate study, which the city budgeted $20,000 for in the last budget cycle. Roane said rates hadn't changed since 2015 and the study would provide them with a five year plan, which would be helpful to have in hand when going through the next budget cycle.

"It's definitely time for us to update it and I think having the study will make it a little bit easier. We can justify the changes that are being made and we can understand a little bit better what we should be charging," said Roane.

Council voted unanimously to approve the RFP for the water and wastewater rate study. Trey Gerfers, Parks and Recreation Board president as well as board chairman for the Presidio County Water Conservation District, then joined council members to discuss a variety of updates on federal and state funds available for the city's and county's future water infrastructure projects.

Gerfers said with a recent influx of money from the federal government from the bi-partisan infrastructure law, which allocated $50 billion in funds to the Environmental Protection Agency for water and wastewater infrastructure funding, the city was well-poised to receive money for their laundry list of projects. That money will be administered by the state revolving funds run by the Texas Water Development Board, said Gerfers, and because Presidio County is traditionally underserved, it may receive more backing from the federal and state government for the next five year funding cycle.

"They are really desperate at the national level to have to make quick points and they want to be able to point to a community that's working together — county, all entities. They love that we're rural, remote, underserved, the whole thing. And so just all these stars are aligning."

Fort D.A. Russell and East Heights neighborhood were among the projects on the city's water infrastructure wishlist to be funded with the received funds.

Gerfers said state revolving funds that are administered are often forgivable loans from 75% or more. He has been working with a variety of groups on an ongoing basis, including the Environmental Defense Fund, Water Finance Exchange, as well as other grant writers and consultants, and has submitted funding requests to the Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP).

"If you don't get funded through the state revolving funds, maybe we'll get funded through EDAP. We've just got a lot of balls in the air," said Gerfers.

Next steps were to set up a local steering committee, headed by Gerfers and consisting of six to eight other representatives from around the county. The steering committee will work together to achieve accountability and transparency, said Gerfers, and would set priorities for water infrastructure projects, work through issues, and budget before money is granted.

Their proposals are currently being reviewed by the TWDB. They will likely be invited back in August to further discuss the funding and process and could receive funds as early as November, said Gerfers. He said he would continue to check in with the council in the coming months.

He wrapped up his presentation by suggesting to council that the forthcoming water infrastructure projects and hopeful funding influx could also act as an opportunity to plan for the direction of the city's growth, which is sure to come, he said.

"If the city can guide the growth, you grow your tax base, you grow your rate base, and you avoid those sorts of headaches down the line where you've got all these wells drilled and all this septic failing, so it's something for you guys to think about," said Gerfers.

Council moved on to the next agenda item regarding the Marfa Farmstand location. There was confusion amongst council members and citizens present at the meeting for this specific agenda item as to whether or not council was supposed to be discussing the renewal of a previous agreement which allows the farmstand to utilize the USO pavilion for their Saturday morning markets, or whether council was deciding on the farmstand's new proposed move to the Marfa Public Library courtyard.

Farmstand organizers including Mainda Beeman and Bob Schwab were present for the meeting, as were library representatives. Schwab wanted to be clear that the idea to move the farmstand to the library courtyard came from library staff, not the farmstand. He said library staff thought the event could provide good exposure for the library and there was an opportunity for joint programming.

"It was a library staff who said 'We see some opportunity for some great collaboration here.' It's more visible, it might allow us to enhance some Saturday programming, and a lot of kids come to the market," said Schwab.

Marfa Library's board of advisors, which Schwab also serves on, unanimously approved the concept, he said, after thinking about the move a great deal and assessing logistics like parking. But a current rule prohibiting commercial activity in the space, which can be waived by the current librarian for exceptions, led the farmstand to put the decision in front of the council, said Schwab.

"Given that particular rule, [we thought] it might be best to come before council to have that endorsed by the council or agreed to by the council, as opposed to letting just the library make the decision," said Schwab.

But because the wording of the agenda item was about renewing the USO agreement, council was unable to act on a proposal to move the location to the library, but will include an item to discuss the farmstand's use of the library courtyard on their next agenda for a meeting in late May.

In the meantime, council authorized the continued use of the USO pavilion for the farmstand while the library site agreement gets worked out. The primary issue with the USO space is the fact that it can be rented out on short notice, thus displacing the market. Meeting attendees were only aware of that issue occurring once before. Schwab said they were eager to provide the market to the community and were already behind schedule for this year.

"We've already started about a month ago, typically, and so we delayed this. We were hoping this would be on a prior agenda. It's been delayed to this day. So the market is getting a very late start this year," said Schwab.

After canvassing the local special election in which the reauthorization of the quarter-cent sales tax for street improvement projects passed, Roane and Police Chief Steve Marquez gave their reports. Roane reported to council that city staff was working with EMS Director Bert Leggarde to host Stop The Bleed training and Chief Marquez reported new police fleet vehicles would be in soon. He also said the police department is experiencing increased call volumes and is still seeking one more officer.

Last were council member comments, where those exiting office bestowed their good luck wishes to continuing council members and said their goodbyes.

Ben-Yehuda said he joined the council to learn about the city's innerworkings and will walk away with much more than that. He said he plans to stay involved with the volunteer fire department and the Presidio County Appraisal District Board.

"I really appreciated working with all of you, the [city] staff. It's totally bittersweet," said Ben-Yehuda.

Through teary eyes, Councilmember Johnston thanked city staff members, recalled challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, and promised to stay in the loop, assisting with grants and more.

"It's been really rewarding. I mean, it's been hard. And I've learned so much about the community, and about myself," said Johnston.

Councilmember Pallarez, making a fisherman reel in motion, said he'd continued to work with Ben-Yehuda on the Marfa and Presidio County Museum, and encouraged Johnston to stay on with the MAC pool project. Councilmember Raul Lara said Ben-Yehuda and Johnston helped make up the best city council they've had in years, despite not always agreeing on everything.

"But that's what the whole thing is about — why do you want a council that's going to agree on everything?" said Mayor Pro Tem Irma Salgado, to which all agreed.

"I want to thank Councilmember Johnston and Councilmember Ben-Yehuda for serving the city of Marfa. I know it's a thankless position," said Mayor Manny Baeza "We argue at times, but what I love is that we see the world through each other's differences and viewpoints. It's been an honor to work with both of y'all. And I wish you all luck."

The meeting concluded with farewell handshakes and hugs all around.

Fatal car crash

(Continued from page 1)

humble, simple, hard-working man who never got into trouble with anyone," he said. "He always worked to give the best to his three children and his wife, and his grandchildren."

The surviving driver and passenger of the other car involved were transported to Big Bend Regional Medical Center, said Marfa Fire Chief Gary Mitschke, who had been at the scene. That car's passenger was subsequently airlifted to El Paso for surgery, according to a GoFundMe raising money for his medical expenses. The organizer of the Gofundme did not return a request for comment by press time, and the driver of the car could not be reached by press time.

Mitschke said he spoke to one of the car occupants upon arrival, who was on the ground and indicated he felt pain in his abdomen. The other occupant was farther away and receiving treatment from EMS, who were arriving on the scene. "They were far enough away from the burning vehicle where I felt they were safe," said Mitschke.

The car fire on the highway spread to grass on the roadside, said Mitschke, creating a brush fire. "We actually had two fires to deal with," he said. "I had the rescue truck work on the vehicle and then a brush truck start working on the brush fire that was next to the road there — that was our biggest concern, and also to make sure everybody was safe and well away from there, because a burning vehicle can still blow up."

Contreras stressed that he and his family have no desire to file charges over the accident — they are merely hoping that the expense of transporting his father's body from Alpine back to Mexico can be covered. "We don't want to file charges against the other person because we know it was an accident," he said. "We don't hate him or want revenge against him because he caused death."

Mitschke said U.S. Highway 67 is a "tough highway to travel," noting it can be dangerous due to the high volume of traffic and the speed at which cars often travel on it. "There's a lot of places that you just need to slow down, and I will tell you for a fact that, I think the speed limit is 70, [but] people go 80 or 85, and they will pass in no passing zones," said Mitschke.

With an eye towards safety improvements, the Texas Department of Transportation recently added additional passing lanes to the route after conducting a years-long study of the corridor. Per a department spokesperson, passing lanes were added between mileposts 966 and 968, near Cibolo Creek Ranch Airstrip, as a result of the study.

50-195 (Rev.12-21/22)
[41.41,41.70]

Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures

Property owners have the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- the appraised (market) value of your property;
- the unequal value of your property compared with other properties;
- the inclusion of your property on the appraisal records;
- any exemptions that may apply to you;
- the qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal;
- the taxing units taxing your property;
- the property ownership;
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal;
- failure of the chief appraiser or appraisal review board (ARB) to send a required notice; or
- any action taken by the chief appraiser, county appraisal district (CAD) or ARB that applies to and adversely affects you.

Informal Review
(Insert description of CAD's informal review process, if any, then give name and telephone number of person taxpayer should contact.)

PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
P O BOX 879, 107 E TEXAS ST
MARFA, TEXAS 79843
(432)729-3431

Review by the ARB
If you cannot resolve your problem informally with the CAD, you file a notice of protest requesting to have your case heard by the ARB.

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that hears and determines protests regarding property appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the CAD to make the necessary changes based on evidence heard during the ARB hearing.

If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (notice of protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing and send you written notice of the time, date, place and subject of the hearing. If necessary, you may request a hearing in the evening or on a Saturday. You may use Comptroller Form 50-132, *Property Appraisal - Notice of Protest,* to file your written request for an ARB hearing.

Prior to your hearing, you may request a copy of the evidence the CAD plans to introduce at the hearing to establish any matter at issue. Before a hearing on a protest or immediately after the hearing begins, you or your agent and the CAD are required to provide each other with a copy of any materials (evidence) intended to be offered or submitted to the ARB at the hearing. Evidence may be submitted for any hearing type either in paper or on a small portable electronic device (such as a CD, USB flash drive or thumb drive) which will be kept by the ARB. Do NOT bring evidence on a smart phone. The ARB's hearing procedures regarding all the requirements to properly submit evidence on a small portable electronic device must be reviewed.

To the greatest extent practicable, the hearing will be informal. You or your designated agent may appear in person, by telephone conference or videoconference call or by submission of a written affidavit to present your evidence, facts and argument. You must indicate the type of hearing you request on your written notice of protest filed with the ARB not later than the 10th day before the hearing date and provide your evidence and written affidavit before the ARB hearing begins. You may use Comptroller Form 50-283, *Property Owner's Affidavit of Evidence to the Appraisal Review Board,* to submit evidence for your telephone conference call hearing or for hearing by affidavit.

You and the CAD representative have the opportunity to present evidence about your case. In most cases, the CAD has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance of the evidence presented.

In certain protests, the chief appraiser has the burden of proving the property's value by clear and convincing evidence. You should review ARB hearing procedures to learn more about evidence and related matters.

You should not try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. ARB members are required to sign an affidavit saying that they have not talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

Review by the District Court, an Arbitrator or SOAH
After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you are not satisfied with the ARB's decision, you have the right to appeal to district court. As an alternative to district court, you may appeal through binding arbitration or the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) if you meet the qualifying criteria.

If you choose to go to district court, you must start the process by filing a petition with the district court within 60 days of the date you receive the ARB's order. If you chose to appeal through binding arbitration, you must file a request for binding arbitration with the CAD not later than the 60th day after you receive notice of the ARB order. If you chose to appeal to the SOAH, you must file an appeal with the CAD not later than the 30th day after you receive notice of the ARB's order. Appeals to district court, binding arbitration or SOAH all require payment of certain fees or deposits.

If you believe that the ARB or chief appraiser failed to comply with an ARB procedural requirement, you may file a complaint with the local taxpayer liaison. If it is not resolved by the ARB or chief appraiser, you can request limited binding arbitration to compel the ARB or the chief appraiser to comply.

Tax Payment
You must pay the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute, the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken or the amount of taxes due in the previous year.

More Information
You can get more information by contacting your CAD at *(insert CAD name, address, telephone number).*

PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
P O BOX 879, 107 E TEXAS ST
MARFA, TEXAS 79843 (432)729-3431

You can get Comptroller forms and additional information on how to prepare a protest from the Comptroller's website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.

Deadline for Filing Protests with the ARB*

Usual Deadline
Not later than May 15 (or within 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later).

Late protests are allowed for good cause if you miss the usual deadline. The ARB decides whether you have good cause. Late protests are not allowed after the ARB approves the appraisal records for the year.

Special Deadlines
For change of use (the CAD informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was delivered to you.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change did not result from a protest you filed), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the change was delivered to you.

(You may insert deadline for protests concerning omitted property if doing so would avoid taxpayer confusion.)

If you believe the CAD or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually Feb. 1) or no later than the 125th day after the date you claim you received a tax bill from one or more of the taxing units that tax your property. The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.

* The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or legal, state or national holiday.

Ranch Day

Judd Foundation invites everyone to Ranch Day at Casa Perez, one of Donald Judd's three ranch houses. This event is free and open to the public.

Sunday, May 15
10:00am-1:00pm
Casa Perez

10:30am talk by Dr. Carlos "Lalo" Gonzalez (Nau Endowed Professor of Habitat Management and Research & Assistant Professor in Range Management at the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University) and Froylan Hernandez (Desert Bighorn Sheep Program Leader with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department).

11:00am-12:00pm free food from Convenience West (first come, first served).

Music by Primo y Beebe.

Judd Foundation invita a todos a día de rancho a Casa Perez, una de las tres ranchos del artista Donald Judd. Libre y abierto al público.

Domingo, 15 Mayo
10:00am-1:00pm
Casa Perez

10:30am platica por Dr. Carlos "Lalo" Gonzalez (Nau Profesor de Habitat Management y Research & Assistant Professor de Gestión de gama at the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University) y Froylan Hernandez (Líder del Programa del Borrego Cimarrón del Desierto con Texas Parks and Wildlife Department).

11:00am-12:00pm comida gratis de Convenience West (hasta que se acabe).

Música por Primo y Beebe.

Directions to Casa Perez

Travel south on Pinto Canyon Road / Ranch Road 2810. Casa Perez is located 12 miles past the end of the paved road. High clearance vehicles required.

For more information, please contact:
marfa@juddfoundation.org

Cómo llegar a Casa Perez

Viaje al sur en Pinto Canyon Road / Ranch Road 2810. Casa Perez se encuentra a 12 millas más allá del final de la carretera asfaltada. Vehículos de alta remoción requiere.

Para obtener más información, póngase en contacto:
marfa@juddfoundation.org

This program has been made possible through the generous support of the Brown Foundation, Inc. and a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts. This project has been supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Este programa ha sido posible gracias al apoyo de la Fundación Brown, Inc. y una subvención de la Comisión de Texas sobre las artes. Este proyecto ha sido apoyado en parte por un premio del National Endowment para las artes.

JUDD · Texas Commission on the Arts · NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS arts.gov

Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

On behalf of all of us at the Chinati Foundation, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported and participated in the John Chamberlain Building restoration and the reopening celebration on April 30.

We would like to thank Troy Schaum, Roslayne Shieh and Andrea Brennan at Schaum/Shieh; Curtis Stoddard, Eric Delanoy and Zach Warren at JC Stoddard Construction; Peter Stanley; and the many individuals on the construction crew for their dedicated work in restoring the building. Joey Benton and Faith Gay at SILLA; Elizabeth Farrell and Zeke Raney at MUDLAB; Fatima Anaza, Caroline Crawley, Elizabeth Davis, Tina Rivera and Jackie Zazueta for participating in the adobe apprenticeship program; Luis Madrid, Arturo Sanchez, Rene Sanchez, Rosalio Sanchez and Jesus Vasquez for their work on the adobe wall; Jim Martinez, Gabriela Bustillos, John Bustillos, Patrick Chivera Jr. and Eddie Lara for their work on the sotol garden. Shelley Smith, Tobin Becker, Shelby Rogers, Andrea Elizabeth Torres, 360 Art Services LLC, Miguel Leyva, Raymond Jacquez, Larry Bamburg, Mac White and Jeff Jamieson for their dedication to Chamberlain's art.

We thank the many individuals and foundations who generously donated to the Chamberlain restoration project including the Chinati Foundation Trustees; Jack Dorsey, #startsmall and Matthew Goudeau; The Lenore S. and Bernard A. Greenberg fund in honor of Christopher Wool; John Wesley, Brooke Alexander, Hester van Royen, Rosina Yue and Nina and Michael Zilkha. Special thanks to Lee and Mike Cohn and Anthony and Celeste Meier for sponsoring free admission to the Chamberlain Building for the remainder of 2022. We are grateful for all of our members who support Chinati throughout the year and the many Marfans, West Texas locals, and visitors who spend time at Chinati.

We would like to express our gratitude to the following individuals and businesses who made the reopening celebration such a success: Don Boles, Luis Raul Sigala Buneo, Suntek Chung, Rob Crowley, Tim Crowley and the Crowley Theater, Albert Dominguez, Janet Enriquez, Virginia Flores, David Frances, Johnnie Gomez, Jorge Luis Tellez Guillen, Griselda Hinojos, Levi Hinojos, Buck Johnston, Rainer Judd and Judd Foundation, Marfa City Council, Marfa Police Department, Gory Smelley and Marfa Recording Company, Josh Sheppard, Kate Nye and Marfa Spirit Co., Margaret's, Alex Marks, Eliseo Martinez, Penny Maxwell, Print Co., Chick Raybourn, Angela Reece and her team at Walter Burke Catering, Sarabia's Sanitation, The Swifts, True Value, TxDOT, and Maria Ureste.

My sincere thank you to the extraordinary staff at Chinati who made the whole celebration possible: Sandra Hinojos and Jon Karst, Molly Bondy, Julie Carey, Hannah Marshall, Kathy Ridgeway, Michael Roch, Virginia Fierro Roque, Emma Ryan, Karina Salcido, Ingrid Schaffner, Edsel Vana, and our docents Shea Carley, Kathie Compton, John Ehrke, Glen Hanson, Kathryn Hinojos, Alex Kamelhair, Jessica Lutz, Kat McKenna, Ben Shurley, Matt Scobey, Nick Terry, and Rory Parks.

Jenny Moore, Director
The Chinati Foundation
Marfa

• • •

Dear Editor,

From The Rotary Club of Marfa: Thanks to everyone in our community who helped support our golf tournament last Saturday. Your support makes it possible for us to provide college scholarships and leadership camp scholarships to our high school students and to serve our community in every way that we can. In particular we want to thank our sponsors: Marfa National Bank, Livingston Insurance Agency, Big Bend Coffee Roasters, Marfa Realty, The Sentinel Marfa, Skiles Properties LLC, Aster Marfa, Surber Ade, The Hotel Paisano, Livingston Ranch Supply, Marfa Country Clinic, Cactus Liquors, Mayor Manny Baeza, Fowlkes Cattle Co., Action Heating & Cooling, Lilliana Fields Architect, El Muerto Springs Ranch, 6 Whiskey, Marfa Burrito, Eddie Pallarez, Marfa Chamber of Commerce, Verena Zbinden, Triangle Quarter Horses, Frances and Eugenia Wright, The Austinite Guest House, Carmen's Boutique Hotel, Ofelia McDonald, Ebikemarfa, Trey Gefers, Marfa Yards, Barbara Love, Ben Deluca, Oscar and Cheri Aguero, and Moonlight Gemstones. Thank you also to the folks who donated prizes for our raffle: Livingston Insurance, Celebration Liquor, International Woman's Foundation, Lajitas Golf Course, Joe Williams for the Cloudcroft Lodge golf package, Dan and Virginia Platt, Big Bend Coffee Roasters, Marjo Skiles, Genevieve Bassham, The Sentinel Marfa, The Get Go, Eddie and Virgie Pallarez, Mary Lou Saxon, Martha Bumpas, Mark Morrison & Patrick Daley. And a big thank you to the Marfa Young Life organization for cooking and serving some great hamburgers. Last but certainly not least, thanks to all the golfers who entered the tournament, purchased lots of raffle tickets and came out to play a little golf and have a lot of fun. All of these sponsors and individuals contributed to a better future for the young people of Marfa, and to a better Marfa for all of us.

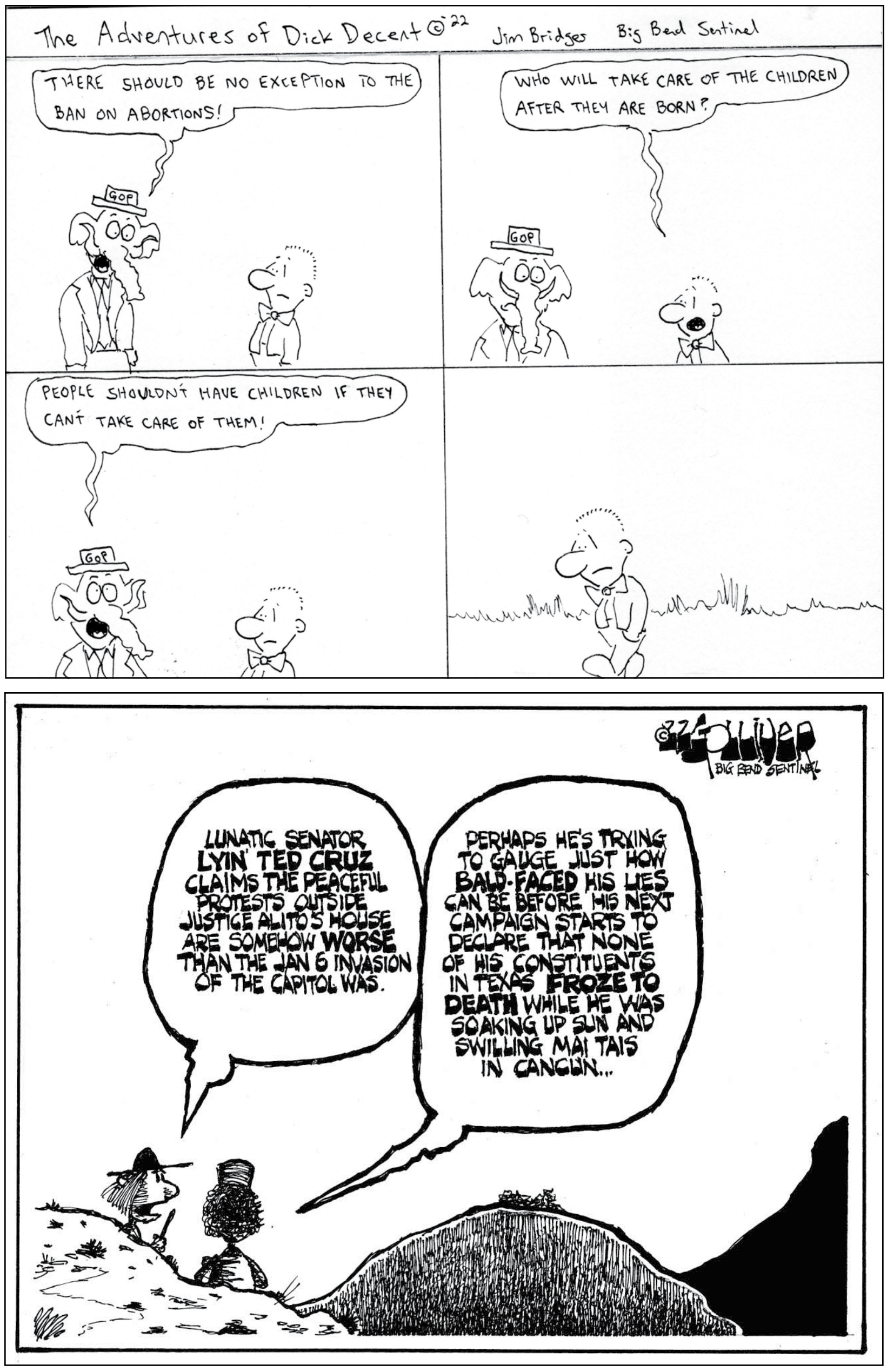
Larry Skiles, President
The Rotary Club of Marfa

We want to hear from YOU!

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

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

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OUR WATER MATTERS

Terlingua Ranch – In pursuit of a showcase desert water system

By TREY GERFERS
tgerfers@pcuwcd.org

Located in the Christmas Mountains in southern Brewster County, Terlingua Ranch is home to about 5,000 property owners. The Property Owners Association of Terlingua Ranch, Inc. (POATRI) operates a potable water supply system certified by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the 425-acre Terlingua Ranch Lodge Resort, which offers 32 rooms, 20 RV sites and 10 campsites. The same system provides a free daily allotment of 25 gallons of potable water to each landowner.

According to the TCEQ, any potable water system that has "at least 15 service connections" or serves "at least 25 individuals for at least 60 days out of the year" is classified as a "public water system." Such systems are subject to certain monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure that potable water quality meets defined safety standards.

In response to these requirements and the area's notoriously brackish groundwater, POATRI decided to get serious about its water future and began investing a percentage of lodge revenues in a water fund a little over a year ago. The fund has already accumulated about $45,000, some of which has been tapped for a new chlorinator and mixing tank. New filtration and treatment tanks are also being installed to remove most of the harmful minerals from the well water and reduce mineral buildup to prolong the life of the water lines.

At present, the association operates one potable water well that pumps 15 gallons/minute and a couple of non-potable wells. The option of bringing another potable water well into operation is being considered. A second well would enable the system to switch between the two wells to allow time for each well to recharge, ensuring a better and more reliable water supply. According to Larry Sunderland, who serves on the POATRI Board of Directors, "The question the association is constantly facing is what's the available water supply."

The question is not an idle one. South Brewster County, including the nearby Terlingua Ghost Town, has seen a boom in short-term rentals and long-term residents in recent years, while neighboring Big Bend National Park and Big Bend Ranch State Park remain a huge draw to outside visitors. A better understanding of the region's groundwater will become increasingly important if current trends continue.

Toward this end, the association has invested nearly $9,000 in monitoring equipment for its potable and non-potable wells. Sunderland also believes that the aim should be to reduce reliance on the association's non-potable system by making better use of graywater and rainwater. "We should aim to be a safety net, not the only source of water. In times of drought even the most independent and responsible owner needs assistance." But the focus should be: "How do we help build resilience? How do we make water available nearer to where it is needed? It won't involve more wells. But it could be getting more water tanks on folks' land and creating innovative cost-effective capture."

When asked about the reception the association's efforts are receiving from the local groundwater conservation district and other agencies, Sunderland stated, "Everybody is glad we're paying attention to ourselves and our needs. It ends up costing a lot more if these things are neglected." As similar housing communities continue to emerge throughout the Big Bend, perhaps Terlingua Ranch can serve as a laboratory for sustainable development. The key to success may ultimately involve questioning the wisdom of our current assumptions, which are largely based on living patterns in wetter climates.

According to Sunderland, "The most fortunate circumstance for us is the proximity of the Texas State University System's Christmas Mountain Research Center. They too are focused on desert living systems and how best to meet the challenges of living appropriately in a region with limited resources. They bring much to the table and we are a willing and eager collaborator. With them, the agencies, and ourselves we can become a model of how to serve a community, serve our guests, and respect this magnificent desert."

After a two-year hiatus, the association and TSU will be hosting the annual Christmas Mountains Research Symposium, May 23-25 at the Terlingua Ranch Headquarters. Anyone interested in attending can learn more at www.bio.txstate.edu/Department-Events/Research-Symposium

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.

Community

Judd Foundation to host Ranch Day this Sunday, May 15

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PINTO CANYON — This Saturday, the Judd Foundation's Marfa team will host Ranch Day at the organization's remote Casa Perez property. The annual event has been on pause since the COVID-19 pandemic, but for the first time in two years, the gates will open to the public once again for food, fun, and a chance to dip your toes in the stock tank.

Ranch Day is a rare opportunity for locals and art lovers to see another side of Judd's life and practice. Shortly after Judd's arrival in Marfa in the 1970s, he started collecting property in Pinto Canyon, preferring the stark solitude of the landscape to the hustle and bustle of town. Because the properties are so remote — Las Casas, Judd's final resting place, is an almost three-hour drive from Marfa — they aren't open to the public.

Casa Perez, the most accessible of the three ranch properties, is the exception. For each annual Ranch Day celebration, guests are given the opportunity to explore the house, a rustic adobe structure the Perez family operated as a goat ranch in the early 1900s. Permanently installed inside the house are two later-stage Judd aluminum works and an etching from prominent Spanish painter and printmaker Francisco Goya.

Ranch day also provides an opportunity for Judd Foundation staff to share their interest in the local landscape. At 10:30 a.m., Dr. Carlos "Lalo" Gonzalez of the Borderlands Research Institute and Froylan Hernandez of Texas Parks and Wildlife will give a talk on their efforts to protect desert bighorn sheep.

From noon to 1:30 p.m. Convenience West will serve lunch "first come, first served." Primo y Beebe will provide a festive soundtrack for the afternoon. Though refreshments will be provided, guests are encouraged to prepare for a day outside: sun protection and extra water are a must.

Casa Perez is located approximately 12 miles past the end of the pavement on Pinto Canyon Road (FM 2810). High clearance vehicles are required for the trek. Cell service is spotty to nonexistent in most areas. Attendees are asked to respect private property — though there are many unfenced stretches past the pavement, these areas are part of the Pinto Canyon Ranch and are not open to the public.

For more information, please contact marfa@juddfoundation.org.

Buy-sell-trade 'Spring Fling' event in the Davis Mountains Resort is back May 14

DAVIS MOUNTAINS RESORT — After an absence for two years due to COVID-19, and previous highly successful "buy-sell-trade" and artist-vendor Spring Fling events in 2018 and 2019 which raised proceeds for the DMR Volunteer Fire Department, another Spring Fling event will be held at the Davis Mountains Community Church in the DMR on Saturday, May 14, 2022, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The address is 500 Tomahawk Trail in the Davis Mountains Resort.

Those navigating their way to the resort should head west from Fort Davis, or east from Marfa along Hwy 17, or north from Alpine along Hwy 118; then along Hwy 17 turn onto Hwy 166 heading north about 10 miles. At the large rock sign labeled DMR, drivers can turn right onto the dirt road for about seven miles on the mail road. The church is on the right. This year, all proceeds will go to the Davis Mountains Resort Road Maintenance Crew for necessary items to work the dirt roads.

The large parking area in front of the church will have plenty of room for artists and vendors to set up their tables to "buy-sell-trade-barter" artworks, books, household items, tools, plants, music, jewelry, electronics, kitchen items, furniture, whatever (but no alcohol allowed). Not a "vendor"? Bring your stuff anyway! It's time to clean out those garages, storage rooms and barns! Free set up, no fee required.

Also to be sold, with proceeds for the DMR road crew, will be a "bake sale" of cakes, brownies, cookies, pies, desserts and breads. And speaking of food, excellent BBQ brisket as well as free hot dogs and fixings and lemonade will be provided, with all donations going to the road crew. All donations are appreciated.

Other activities including raffles, music, kids activities and games will be provided.

In case of bad weather, the event will be rescheduled for May 21, 2022.

For more information, contact Tracii Logan (409.682.3881) or Deborah Lagarde (432.426.3739).



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Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Saint George Hall in downtown Marfa hosted the 2022 Marfa Invitational Art Fair this past weekend, where a small number of galleries sold works by singular artists.



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Locals Fran Christina and Julie Speed discuss artist Fernanda Mello's paintings with The Valley gallery manager Celeste Miles at the 2022 Marfa Invitational Art Fair.



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Artist Renluka Maharaj gives a talk at RULE Gallery in Marfa. RULE was one of several local galleries to host exhibitions in tandem with the Marfa Invitational, which took place last weekend.

Local arts spaces contribute to a dynamic Marfa Invitational Art Fair

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — The third annual Marfa Invitational Art Fair took place this past weekend, bringing galleries in from around the world to showcase artist's work. While visitors holding $700 VIP passes flocked to town for the weekend's desert-set cocktail soirées and cultural performances, local arts organizations stepped up to provide accessible spaces for art viewing and appreciation for event VIPs and locals alike.

Christopher Blay, chief curator of the Houston Museum of African American Culture, who was attending the Marfa Invitational for the first time this year, said the highlights for him were ultimately the local art shows coinciding with the Marfa Invitational. Exhibitions at RULE Gallery, Jeff Marfa, Marfa Open and a neon sign installation on Blue Mountain in Fort Davis by Alicia Eggert were among the most notable. He said Marfa Open's group exhibition, Forbidden Boundaries, which dealt with regional issues along the border was particularly well done.

"Adjacent shows were worth seeing and worth going back to," said Blay.

The Presidio County Community Fund also held a charitable print sale of Douglas Friedman photographs featuring the defunct Bad Hombres restaurant.

Those local spaces coexisted with a wealth of out-of-town attractions for Marfa Invitational attendees. Saint George Hall, the hub of the Marfa Invitational, hosted a total of 11 booths featuring gallerists and artists from around the world. Event attendees sported canvas totes with "Marfa Invitational" printed in a sans serif font.

The Valley, a gallery based out of Taos, New Mexico, was exhibiting for the first time at the Marfa Invitational. Established in 2020, The Valley focuses on craft practices, mysticism, connection to place, natural materials and self-taught artists. They were exhibiting all-new work, a total of 32 paintings, by one of two artists they represent, Fernanda Mello.

Mello, a self-taught artist who is originally from the Amazon region of Brazil, is now living and working in New York. The Valley's booth held two series of works by Mello, one series of 27 paintings titled Image Skin, and five additional works titled Earth Constellations. Mello's work often deals with folklore, personal memories and ancestral narratives through painting, sculpture and more.

Image Skin, a series of acrylic paintings on linen, were inspired by shamanistic healing practices by which spirits of the natural world are invoked through song and dance. The artist personifies the spirits by creating various patterns of black and white beads, along with two red beads that appear as eyes. Through playing with shape and pattern, the artist allows for many unique iterations of the spirits. The works are part of a continuous series of which the artist has done over 200 sketches.

The other works on view, titled Earth Constellations, related to shamanism, the Yanomami people of the Brazilian Amazon, and a prophecy which states that when the last shaman dies the sky will fall. Mello's paintings involve a series of connected beads that are meant to act as a net, holding up the sky and symbolizing the continuation of indigenous practices and land stewardship.

Celeste Miles, gallery manager for The Valley, said Marfa Invitational offered a smaller, intimate art fair compared to the Dallas Art Fair, where they exhibited weeks prior. The focus on singular artists at each gallerist's booth was also refreshing, she said.

The Valley is looking to bring different voices into the world of contemporary art, said Miles, and their booth set up signifies, in a sense, what they are trying to achieve with their gallery.

"We focus a lot on curation and creating a space where people feel comfortable. That's why we have a candle, flowers and our desk from home," said Miles. "We want to bring a little bit of Taos to other places we go."

Baldwin Gallery, based in Aspen, was showcasing the all-new work of artist Austin Eddy. Along with a number of paintings by Eddy — all of which sold before the fair opened, as the gallery has seen a recent increase in demand for his work, according to a gallery representative — were six cast bronze, bird-like abstract sculptures. A 40-page catalog on the sculptures sat atop a pedestal for fair-goers perusal.

Baldwin Gallery primarily represents established, contemporary, mid-career artists and does not typically attend art fairs. Eddy was asked by Marfa Invitational founder Michael Phelan to join the fair at a previous visit to the artist's Brooklyn studio, so Eddy worked with his gallery to make it happen.

"It seemed like a great opportunity to show the work in a really unique place," said Eddy.

The bronze sculptures will next travel to the Le Consortium Museum in Dijon, France. Eddy, who years ago attended a wedding in Marfa, said it was nice to be back in Far West Texas, and he especially enjoyed the newly-reopened Chinati Foundation John Chamberlain Building and wandering around the area.

"Beyond just the art, the landscape is so beautiful. It's such a nice experience because you can [participate in invitational-led events] but you can also escape that by going out into the desert and seeing something else," said Eddy.

Dedie Taylor, a Fort Davis resident, wife of the late Lonn Taylor and Marfa Invitational attendee, purchased a drawing by artist Stefan Rinck, whose sculptures and a handful of sketches were being shown by Nino Mier Gallery. Alongside epic, yet lighthearted, sculptures constructed out of marble and sandstone, Rinck's small, simple, cartoonish figures stood out to Taylor for their humor, she said.

"One of the things about being a widow is I don't spend that much money because I don't buy that much food," Taylor laughs, explaining why she decided to add the affordable piece to her art collection.

Taylor said her interests in art and architecture drive her to see what's current and she likes being introduced to new ideas via Marfa Invitational, she said.

"I love seeing strangers. I'm gregarious, and I have great conversations with total strangers," said Taylor.

While people-watching at the event, Taylor said she also likes to pick up on fashion trends, noting there were more dresses, prints and florals amongst the ladies and sensible footwear at this year's event.

"The first year they did this nobody was wearing the right shoes. Women were walking around in heels," Taylor laughs.

For Blay, the standout artists at the fair were Vera Girivi, Carter Flachbarth and Evgen Čopi Gorišek. He said he had some good conversations with some of the art dealers and described the four-day event as an "over-the-top art party." Blay noted that the schedule of events was, at times, unclear as to which events were exclusive to VIP pass holders and which were open to the public.

Marfa Invitational associated exhibitions within local spaces included a showing of Will Cotton paintings at the Brite Mansion, and an exhibition of NFTs at Art Blocks by Leo Villareal.

Along with a handful of others, local gallery RULE hosted open hours coinciding with Marfa Invitational weekend for a new exhibition titled Lambi Kahani (Long Story) by artist Renluka Maharaj, who was in town to visit with gallery goers and host an informal artist talk. Maharaj is based in Colorado and Lambi Kahani is her second solo exhibition with RULE.

Maharaj is of Indo-Caribbean heritage and often explores impacts of Western colonialism and consumerism on those populations. In Lambi Kahani, Maharaj presents posed portraits of indentured Indian women in Trinidad and Tobago made in the 1800s by a French photographer which were used as advertising materials to draw tourism to the West Indies. Exoticized and objectified, the names of the women were not recorded, said Maharaj, which led her to give them each names and title the works after them.

The large, unstretched canvas works are backed with chintz, a historically politicized fabric of Indian origin, and hang from a neon acrylic rod — Maharaj's contemporary touch. Maharaj has also introduced color to the black and white portraits, utilizing hues associated with various Hindu deities.

"I decided I was going to resurrect the images, make them my own and reimagine what these women were like and who they were. To give them a sense of identity," said Maharaj during an artist's talk at RULE on Saturday afternoon. "I don't need to give them a voice, I just need to give them a platform."

After a brief Q&A, the artist's talk concluded and Maharaj introduced the gathered audience to her "mascot," her dog Stella. Warmed from standing close together in one of the gallery's small front rooms, talk attendees retreated to the kitchen bar to top off their Aperol spritzes.

Valerie Santerli, owner and director of RULE Gallery, which has locations in both Marfa and Denver, said she was pleased with the turnout and to see more people connecting with Maharaj's work. One of the gallery's goals is to facilitate longer conversations and engage people with artist's practices, said Santerli.

"We're not necessarily showing artwork that's trendy. For us, we want to have sole conversations with people," said Santerli.

Sales this past weekend were fair, said Santerli, but are not the gallery's primary focus in their day-to-day operations.

"In terms of the long-term success of our artists, their trajectory, you want to make sure that someone is buying something that they're going to love, it's going to be meaningful to them," said Santerli. "Not that they're going to buy it and then all of a sudden you see it at auction a week later."

At Marfa Studio of Arts (MSA), a closing reception took place Saturday night for Restland, an exhibition featuring work by local artists Jacquelin Zazueta and Zak Ziebell.

The installation was organized by Brenden Cicoria, a freelance art handler and MSA board member, among other roles. Cicoria was motivated to organize a show of the artists' work after a studio visit revealed a multitude of solo and collaborative projects just waiting to be seen.

"It just felt really cool to have the opportunity to have access to a space and give it to local people," said Cicoria. "People who are living in the community and making really incredible artwork."

Partial proceeds of any artwork sold in the show are being allocated to support MSA's programs providing arts programming for local children and young adults. Cicoria said it was nice to see Marfa Invitational galleries invest further into the community, like Nino Mier Gallery operating a more permanent space. Plus, the event being in its third year has given locals time to plan programming and pop ups around the influx of visitors.

"Seeing the town and smaller galleries and locals adapt has actually made me like this time a lot," said Cicoria. "[The Marfa Invitational] being the thing that's bringing people here is leading to all these other beautiful mushrooms of other cool things happening."

Restland was a multimedia exhibition complete with paintings, ceramic tablets, and 3D printed ceramics and gypsum sculptures. It was Zazueta and Ziebell's first real exhibition out of art school — they both attended Rhode Island School of Design — and most of the pieces were made in the past year since they moved to Marfa.

The artists said the fact that the show was taking place in a space which often showcases the artwork of children, who are free from the scrutiny of the adult and art world, seemed fitting.

"I feel like secretly every artist wishes to have like the looseness that kids [have]," said Zazueta. "When we first were setting up there was children's art all over, which we were actually really excited about."

The works on view were well balanced between the artists, who work closely together, often blending themes and techniques. The 3D printed ceramic vessels, for example, are an even showcase of their skills — Zazueta coming from a ceramics background and Ziebell more familiar with the technologies of 3D printing.

Paintings by Ziebell in the exhibition heavily feature adult and baby goats, which he chose for their unusual eyes, inquisitive personalities and symbolism. The theme of life is intentionally met with opposing themes of decay. Both artists are influenced by their catholic upbringings, they said.

Zazueta said she was surprised by the warm reception they received from the community for Restland, and now that they are more enmeshed in the local scene, is eager to see if, and how, that may influence their art practices.

"I don't think we were expecting that to happen, especially in a town with a super minimalist artwork background. Because our work is—" began Zazueta, only for her partner to finish the sentence.

"A reaction against minimalism," Ziebell laughs.



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

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Come learn parenting tricks and tips from moms and dads around the world! Author and NPR correspondent Michaeleen Doucleff, PhD, will talk about her *New York Times* Bestseller,

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121 E Holland Ave, Alpine -- 432-837-3360

Gretel Enck recovers at home after successful kidney donation

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Local resident Gretel Enck is back at home in recovery after undergoing successful kidney donation surgery, in which she gifted the organ to a stranger she has yet to meet.

Before traveling to the University of Texas San Antonio Transplant Center for the procedure, Enck, who had long prepared to be a kidney donor, said the news of an official surgery date was initially a bit of a shock.

"After my nurse contacted me in March with a date, I had a day of 'Oh crap, what am I doing? Who thought this was a good idea? Ahh!' And it went away," said Enck.

Enck had never had surgery, but was surprised at how easy the whole process was, she said. She was inspired to donate a kidney by her friend Allison Scott, who had also undergone the procedure, and through reconnecting with someone from her past — an old boyfriend who had donated a kidney to his sister, prolonging her life by three years.

"Before surgery, I thought, 'I want this person to get 30 years out of my kidney. But if all they get is three years, that's better than nothing.' Honestly, really, what I want for them is to know that they are loved enough in this world that somebody did this for them," said Enck.

Kidney disease affects around 37 million people in the U.S., or 1 in 7 adults, and is a leading cause of death in the country, according to the National Kidney Foundation. People suffering from kidney disease who receive donations from living, versus deceased, donors have better long-term results, according to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

After speaking with her family and meeting with doctors who ran a number of tests, she discovered she was a viable candidate for kidney transplantation. Enck is classified as an "altruistic donor," and was eventually paired with a recipient that was a good match. Through meetings with a psychiatrist, social workers, surgeons, nurses and nutritionists, Enck felt well-prepared for the surgical procedure and had a lot of time to consider her motivations, she said.

"When you go to do all the medical testing, everybody you see asks you 'Are you sure you want to do this?' So you have lots of time to think about, like, why am I doing this? Why do I want to do this?" said Enck.

Part of her motivation for the donation was to help create the world she wants to occupy, she said.

"I want to live in a world where people get a second chance. I want to live in a world where people share resources," said Enck.

The politics of the time, with the threat of Roe v. Wade being reversed, was weighing on Enck's mind as well.

"[Women's] bodies are capable of amazing things," said Enck. "I happen to have this healthy kidney that I didn't need, and my body could pass that on. It's just kind of remarkable."



Photo courtesy of Gretel Enck

Gretel Enck holds a decree of appreciation for donating a kidney.

Enck said she is excited to meet the recipient of her kidney in a few months. Because Enck is a federal employee, working as an administrator for the Fort Davis National Historic Site, she received 30 days paid leave for the organ donation. Her travel expenses were paid as were all the costs of surgery.

From her sister and brother-in-law flying in from Virginia to act as her caretakers, to people covering her hours at the Blackwell School — where she is the president of the Blackwell School Alliance and volunteers time to keep the museum open — Enck said she has felt the support of the community. Library books, her cats, and plates of food from community members are aiding in her recovery, too, she said.

"It takes a village to donate a kidney," said Enck. "I could not have done it without lots of people's support."

'Familial Landscapes' exhibition to open at the Greasewood Gallery

MARFA — Greasewood Gallery at the Hotel Paisano will host a new exhibition, Familial Landscapes, featuring work by Chris Cashiola, Ross Cashiola and Van Hanos.

An opening reception will be hosted on Friday, May 13, 7 to 9 p.m. The public is invited to attend and meet the artists.

Chris Cashiola was born in Houston, Texas. He now lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. After completing law school, he received a commission as an officer in the U.S. Army. His career in the Judge Advocate General's Corps spanned 23 years. Upon retiring from military service, he practiced law as a criminal appellate attorney. After retiring from a legal career he has devoted his time to oil painting.

The Impressionists of the late nineteenth century and the Post Impressionist painters guide his work. He has studied the works and writings of Cezanne, Renoir, Pissarro, van Gogh, Manet, Monet and others. He is most influenced by Paul Cezanne, Fedor Zakhorov and the Russian Impressionist painters. Although not formally trained as an artist, he considers himself an autodidact in the art of painting.

Chris prefers to paint outdoors. Cezanne said that "all the painting done indoors … will never be as good as things done outdoors." He tries to follow that advice. A painting is form, line and color on a flat surface. He believes that color is the most important. Honore' de Balzac wrote in The Unfinished Masterpiece that "there are no lines in nature." Cezanne repeated this quote often. Chris believes that oil painting on canvas enables him to express his feelings for the beauty of the natural world. His paintings reflect the concepts of mindfulness, interbeing and impermanence as taught by Thich Nhat Hanh.

Ross Cashiola is a multimedia artist living in Marfa. He is married to Nicki Ittner and is a cool uncle to his nephews, Levi and Eero, and tiny little niece Venus Cashiola.

Ross began making art as a young child and continues to make paintings, drawings, sculptures, songs and film projects as they emerge from the passage of time and the processing speed of his thoughts and actions.

Van Hanos' approach to painting is best defined by its stylistic freedom and forsaking of particular modes or methods. Ranging from landscape to portraiture, beyond categorization as either figuration or abstraction, his work navigates perceptual shifts and thematic rupture.

Hanos explores the tremendous range of possibilities within the human mind and experience, and his paintings can be created as meticulous oil renderings of images taken from photographs, with technical precision and photographic tendencies, or as sublime, abstracted amalgamations of past observations and ruminations, replete with internal references to other paintings or past subjects, and layered with meaning. Hanos' work always beckons the viewer to look closer — as what one first experiences is undoubtedly bound to shift upon continued investigation.

Van Hanos currently lives and works in Marfa. He has a BA from Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, Maryland (2001), and an MFA from the School of the Arts at Columbia University, New York, New York (2010). Recent solo exhibitions include Conditional Bloom, Lisson Gallery, New York, New York (2021), Interiors at Château Shatto, Los Angeles, California (2020); Mommy's Boy at Cleopatra's, New York, New York (2017); Late American Paintings at Château Shatto, Los Angeles (2017); Awake At The Funeral at Tanya Leighton, Berlin, Germany (2017); Van Hanos at Parapet Real Humans, St. Louis, Missouri (2017); Intercalaris at Rowhouse Project, Baltimore, Maryland (2016); and Van Hanos at West Street Gallery, New York, New York (2011). Selected group exhibitions include A Cloth Over a Birdcage at Château Shatto, Los Angeles (2019); The Land That I Live In at Matthew Brown, Los Angeles, California (2019); Pine Barrens at Tanya Bonakdar, New York, New York (2018); An Uncanny Likeness at Simon Lee Gallery, New York, New York (2017); The Lazy Sunbathers at Sies + Höke, Düsseldorf, Germany (2015); The Ninth Season of The Artist's Institute with Carolee Schneemann at The Artist's Institute, New York, New York (2015); and Call and Response at Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York, New York (2015). Paintings by Hanos were featured in the group exhibition, The Rest, at Lisson Gallery New York from January to February 2019. His work is included in the permanent collection of the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami.

Greasewood Gallery is located on the corner of Highland and Texas Streets in the historic Hotel Paisano. For more information, contact Gallery Director Vicki Barge, at 432-729-4134.



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Njideka Akunyili Crosby, *Dwell: Me, We*, 2017. Acrylic, transfers, colored pencil, charcoal, and collage on paper. 96 × 124 inches. Collection of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Gift of the Director's Council and Museum purchase, The Benjamin J. Tillar Memorial Trust, 2019. © Njideka Akunyili Crosby. Photo: Kevin Todora

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Familial Landscapes
Christopher Cashiola, Ross Cashiola, Van Hanos
Greasewood Gallery at the Hotel Paisano, 207 N Highland, Marfa - Opening Reception, 5/13/22, 7-9 p.m.

Community

Marfa High School students travel to Atlanta to compete in international science fair

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Donaldson

Marfa High School juniors Juan Avila, Alexis Gonzales and Aubrie Aguilar competed this week in the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Atlanta.

ATLANTA — Marfa High School juniors Juan Avila, Alexis Gonzales and Aubrie Aguilar are competing this week in the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Atlanta with their microbiology project titled, "Germs and You."

Results on the team's placement have yet to be determined, but a virtual tour of their project booth can be seen on ISEF's website. The students traveled to present their project to ISEF judges with science teacher Elizabeth Donaldson.

"We are all so proud of Aubrie, Juan and Alexis as well as their science teacher, Lizzy Donaldson. What started as a fun experiment for a local science fair, has taken them all the way to an international competition," said Junior and High School Principal Allison Scott.

The team qualified for the International Science and Engineering Fair earlier in February at a regional science fair competition held at the University of Texas Permian Basin (UTPB) where the team was awarded overall best in show. Only one project at the UTPB science fair is selected to bypass state and attend nationals. At that competition they also placed first in the senior division.

Competing at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta are 1,410 other projects from 63 countries, regions and territories, according to ISEF's website.

"They have had a tremendous opportunity to travel and meet students from around the state and the country. It's also special because they represent a small, frontier school with limited resources, yet they are competing on a national level," said Scott.

The student's project involves studying the spread of germs, an issue top of mind for many in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, by analyzing handwashing and mask wearing behaviors. Students were curious to learn whether elementary school students or secondary students were more likely to be at risk from the spread of germs. The team utilized glow power, a UV light and went into elementary and high school classrooms to test their hypothesis.

The students reported, via email, that they were having fun in Atlanta and making new memories.

"The science fair was where I made friends with a few people from Florida and had conversations with kids from all over the world. My legs are definitely going to need some rest with all the walking we've done so far to places like the Georgia Aquarium and Coca Cola Factory! Maybe next year will be another opportunity for even more memories. Thank you to everyone for supporting us," said Aguilar.

"I wasn't expecting to make it this far and be able to compete against earth's greatest young minds. The trip is fun and very eventful. Especially leaving the airplane and getting to Atlanta for the first time," said Avila.

"This was an amazing experience and I learned so much from coming to ISEF. It is so crazy to see the diversity of people here and it was something I will never forget!" said Gonzales.



Photo courtesy of MISD

Marfa High School senior Cristian Ontiveros, who finished second place in the state golf tournament this Tuesday, surrounded by family.

Marfa High School Senior Cristian Ontiveros places 2nd overall in state golf tournament

By BIG BEND SENTINEL

KYLE — Marfa High School Senior Cristian Ontiveros placed second overall in the UIL State Golf tournament hosted this week in Central Texas.

Ontiveros has played golf for four years at Marfa High School. On the first day of the competition, he finished with a score of 78. On the second day he finished with a score of 77 for a combined score of 155, which earned him second place and earned him a silver medal.

"This was a great finish to Cristian's high school golf career," said Golf Coach Curtis Pittman. "It has been a pleasure working with Cristian the last two years and watching all of his hard work come to this success."

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Mateo Meza
Comic
7th grade

Sudoku & Crossword puzzles:

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg May 9, 2022

ACROSS
1 No-win situations?
5 Respectful address
9 Bar bill
12 Address the U.N. assembly, say
13 Color of honey or mirin
15 Magenta or mustard
16 Red ingredient in meatloaf (In this answer, note the first letter + the last 4)
18 Green card and others
19 "OK, ___ bite"
20 Feels unwell
21 Opposite of sketchy
23 Insomniac's frustration (first letter + last 4)
27 Dull color
28 Its shell is edible
29 Take an oath
31 Teri of "Mr. Mom"
33 Cries uncontrollably
37 F-, e.g., in chemistry class
38 Excessive (first 2 letters + last 3)
41 Zodiac lion
42 Musician Rundgren
44 Pound or foot
45 Drew to a close
47 "Assuming that's true ..."
49 Not yet eliminated
50 Very sad (first 4 letters + last 3)
56 Jiggly dessert
57 Per person
58 "Me?!"
59 "___ you sure?"
60 He played a shape-shifter in "True Blood" (first letter + last 4)
64 Seven Dwarfs' leader
65 Rosebush hazard
66 Major artery
67 M.D. treating laryngitis
68 "Cornflake Girl" singer Tori
69 Rudolph's is red

DOWN
1 Reddit provocateur
2 2007 thriller about the last human in New York City
3 Flight tracker stat
4 Differentiate
5 Syrup source
6 Accumulate
7 Crunches work them
8 Got acquainted with
9 Piece of chicken
10 Tax cheat's dread
11 Top-of-the-line
12 Elevator brand
14 The Shroud of Turin, e.g.
17 Like trout or tuna
22 Big stars have big ones
24 Period of history
25 Walk on the runway
26 Weed-seizing cop
29 Rest on a meditation cushion
30 Pursue romantically
31 "Leave this instant!"
32 "Why ___ not surprised?"
34 Many loyal employees
35 Busy worker in the garden?
36 Lawn roll
39 Remove from office
40 Guy who assists a villain
43 Clock face
46 Medical research org.
48 Fall pumpkin coating
49 Machu Picchu builder
50 Bird with an S-shaped neck
51 Choose by voting
52 Like a throwback style
53 Deserves
54 Nick of "Warrior"
55 ___ monster (venomous lizard)
56 Facial roller gemstone, often
61 "I solved it!"
62 May 8, 2022, VIP
63 Sound from a steer

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

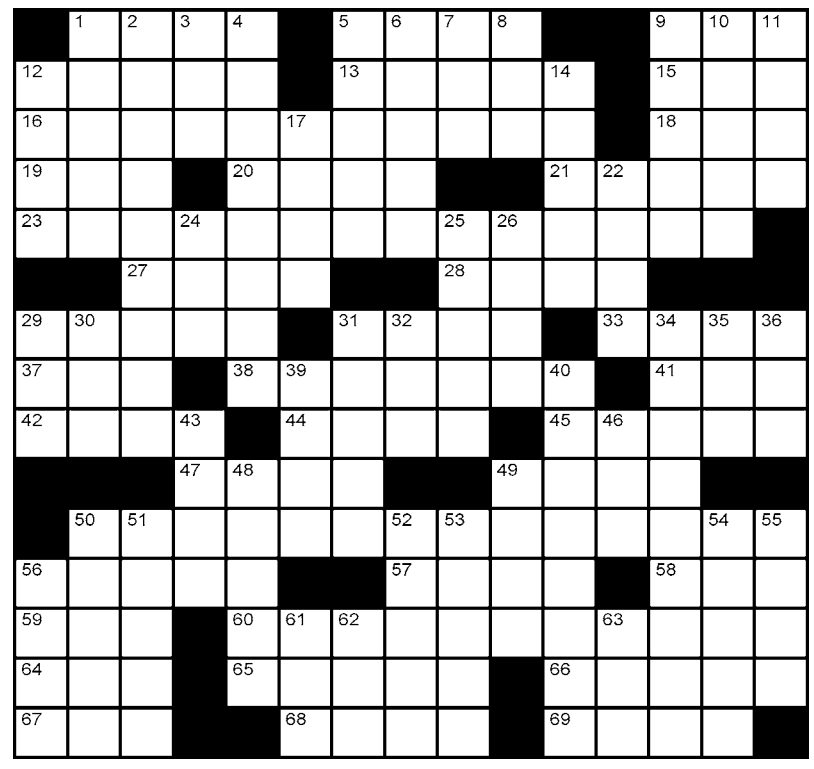
P	E	R	M			D	R	A	B		Y	E	A	H
A	T	E	A	T		R	O	B	E		O	S	L	O
S	T	A	I	R		O	P	E	N		U	S	E	S
S	A	L	L	Y	F	I	E	L	D		W	E	V	E
			M	O	L	D	S			L	I	N	E	S
A	L	B	A	N	Y		I	M	L	O	S	T		
J	O	I	N			A	N	I	T	A	H	I	L	L
A	R	T		M	O	C		L	E	D		A	S	A
R	I	C	K	I	L	A	K	E			B	L	A	B
		O	U	T	D	I	D		W	A	I	S	T	S
S	E	I	N	E			R	I	O	T	S			
H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

5/8

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In a Sense by Zhouqin Burnikel

5/9



☺MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU☺

MAY	Thu, May 12	Fri, May 13	Mon, May 16	Tue, May 17	Wed, May 18
BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST BURRITO	BREAKFAST ROUND	CINNAMON ROLL, YOGURT	BREAKFAST POCKET	CEREAL, GRAHAM CRACKER
LUNCH Menu courtesy of PORTER'S SINCE ★ 1945 Celebrating 70+ years of serving our customers. 432-729-4375 www.myporters.net	POPCORN CHICKEN, ROLL, CORN, FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS, FRESH APPLE SLICES, COOKIE	HOT DOG, BAKED FRIES, TINY TOMATO CUP, MANDARIN ORANGES	DELI SANDWICH, CHIPS, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, CELERY STICKS, ORANGE SMILES	WALKING TACO, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS, FRESH APPLE SLICES	TURKEY HAM WRAP, TOMATO CUP, BABY CARROTS, GRAPES, COOKIE

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432-729-4682 • Alpine

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

FRI, MAY 13: JH Softball vs Van Horn in Marfa, 4:15 p.m.
SAT, MAY 14: JH Softball Tournament in Presidio, time TBD
SAT, MAY 14: Highschool Girls & Boys State Track Meet in Austin
MON/TUE, MAY 16/17: Girls State Golf Tournament in Austin at Plum Creek

Lady Shorthorns score victories over Van Horn and Menard

Recap provided by Linda Ojeda, MISD athletic director and softball coach

MARFA — The Lady Shorthorns softball team ended the district season with two major wins heading into the playoff season and captured a share of the district title and also brought Marfa their first Bi-District Championship since 2019.

During a doubleheader April 21 against Fort Hancock, Marfa picked up one win and tied after the second game was called due to no field lights being available at Fort Hancock, Marfa used that momentum to come home for their season district finale against Van Horn and senior night at Coffield Park and put on a hitting exhibition in front of the Shorthorn home crowd. While Aundrea Garcia kept the visitors' bats quiet on the pitching plate, Emily Hernandez (3-4), Alexis Gonzales (3-4), Charlize Martinez (3-4), Ummi Chanez (3-3), put forth triples, doubles, and one home run by Chanez in order to help Marfa bounce back from an eight run deficit.

Odalys Chacon celebrated her final home game by going 3-4 as well, with three runs scored, and Annalise Marquez (2-4), Lesly Torres (2-4) Loretta Rivera (2-4), Aundrea Garcia (2-4) all got on base to help the Marfa cause. Ashely Certain, Mia Dominguez and Fernanda Rivera all chipped in defensively with stops and plays of their own.

The district win over Van Horn catapulted Marfa's confidence going into the playoff Bi-District game against Menard. The Lady Horns took care of Menard via mercy rule (15-5) and poised themselves to take on Eula Pirates. In the Regional Quarterfinals matchup, the Shorthorn bats fell quiet under Eula's dominating pitching and hitting performance. Although Marfa went down via mercy rule to their opponent, the experience was a great starting point for next year's goals. The team vowed to return to the same spot next year, but this time, get the Regional Quarterfinals Championship.

Marfa's roster will not look too different next year, with eight returning starters (six will be seniors: Emily, Charlize, Ummi, Aundrea, Alexis, Lesly; and two will be juniors: Annalise, Fernanda) and an outstanding young group coming in behind our current freshmen (Ashley Certain, Loretta Rivera, Mia Dominguez, Janaya Villa), we plan to have several additions coming from our junior high ranks as well. The loss of Odalys Chacon's leadership and defensive contributions will be difficult, but the standard she's set for our younger players will continue.

Look for the Lady Shorthorns to make a run deep into the month of May next year!



Photo courtesy of Adele Powers

Freshmen Loretta Rivera and Maryfer Martinez.



Photo courtesy of Adele Powers

From left, Fernanda Rivera (10th grade), Alexis Gonzales (11th), Luis Solis (10th, manager), Ummi Chanez (11th), Loretta Rivera (9th).



Photo courtesy of Linda Ojeda

The Lady Shorthorns softball team ended the district season with two major wins heading into the playoff season and captured a share of the district title and also brought Marfa their first Bi-District Championship since 2019.

OBITUARIES



Cook

A celebration of life and memorial for **Chance Daniel Cook** will be held this Saturday, May 14, at Vizcaino Park from 7 p.m. to dark. Chance's mother, Rebecca, and sister, Sarah, will be in attendance from the Austin area. All are welcome.

• • •



Finley

Odie Bud Finley passed away on December 2, 2021, with family by his side, at his son's home in Lexington, Texas. He was 91 years old.

Odie Bud was born in Pecos, Texas, on August 8, 1930, the second of three children to Edwin and Lillian Finley. He is preceded in death by his parents, his brother Edwin, his sister Marilea and his wife of 68 years, Dorothy White Finley.

Odie Bud grew up in a ranching family and loved to talk about life on the ranch. His father, Edwin, was killed in an accident on the family farm in 1939 when Odie Bud was very young. Odie Bud idolized his dad and many of his stories were about his dad's masterful goat roping, road building using a Fresno pulled by a team of Missouri mules, and his ability to speak and write perfect Spanish.

After his father passed, Odie Bud spent his summers with his Uncle Earl and Aunt Nellie Mae McElroy helping them on their ranch, the Green Valley, in south Brewster County. Like his dad, Odie Bud loved and admired Uncle Earl and would have done anything for him. Under Earl's tutelage, Odie Bud became a pretty good cowboy and jockey. From a young age, Odie Bud loved to ride bulls and to match race horses. Because of his ability to "ride anything with hair," his nickname was Horsefly. Hearing him reminisce about his dad and uncle made you appreciate just how important family was to Odie Bud.

After graduating from Pecos High School and a brief stint in college, Odie Bud joined the Navy and served honorably during the Korean War. While in the Navy, Odie Bud met the love of his life, Dorothy "Dot" June White. They met on a blind date in Memphis, Tennessee, and married six months later. They were married for 68 years but Dot often jokingly said it would never have lasted if she had known how to drive when they first married. They have three children, Sherrie Finley, Susan Kay Ellis and John Finley; four grandkids, Charlie Finley, Nikki Finley, Garrett Ellis and Brett Ellis; and two great-grandkids, Madelyn Finley and Beth Finley. Odie Bud had a special place in his heart for each of his kids and grandkids, and they all had a uniquely special connection with him.

Married, mature and out of the Navy, the Finleys returned to West Texas so that Odie Bud and Dot could finish college at Sul Ross State University in Alpine. Odie Bud graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in range animal husbandry (animal science) and a Master's Degree in educational administration. To say that he was ambitious was an understatement. While at Sul Ross, Odie Bud went to school full time, raised a family, worked multiple jobs and served as the president of his senior class.

Odie Bud was a natural leader, educator and people person. He enjoyed interacting with folks and loved coaching six-man football in Sierra Blanca. He said that was the most fun he had ever had! His passion for coaching carried over into the classroom where "Mr. Finley" was beloved by most of his students and eventually led to a successful career in sales. He rose to national sales manager for several large textbook publishers and, at the peak of his career, Odie Bud was elected to serve as president of the National Bookmans Association, a high honor for a ranch kid from Pecos, Texas.

Odie Bud loved the Lord and his faith was grounded in a lifetime of attending Bloys Campmeeting in the Davis Mountains. As a fourth generation Finley at Bloys, Odie Bud took great pride in his family heritage in the association and served faithfully as a trustee and director on the executive committee and as a leader in the Jones Espy Finley camp for over 40 years. Campmeeting will not be the same without him.

Father, husband, brother, son, Odie Bud Finley was a wonderful example of how a person should live their life, loving people and loving the Lord. We mourn his passing and miss him terribly, but we rejoice in the knowledge that he is home, back with his wife, in the presence of our Heavenly Father.

A memorial service will be held for Odie Bud and Dorothy Finley at the Fort Davis First Presbyterian Church in Fort Davis, Texas on Saturday, June 11, at 11 a.m.

Internment for Odie and Dorothy Finley will be held on June 13, 9 a.m. at the Fairview Cemetery in Pecos, Texas.

Memorial Donations may be made to the Memorial Fund of the Jones Espy Finley Camp or to the Bloys Campmeeting Association c/o www.bloyscampmeeting.org.

• • •



McGehee

Bettye Lynn McGehee, 71, gave her final solo performance on May 4, 2022, quietly in her home after a short illness. She joined Heaven's orchestra after 66 years of performances that started with a gifted violin at 5 years of age. Her mother's gift, along with several decades of lessons, created a musical path for Bettye that included Houston's Junior Symphony (tours of Great Britain, Mexico and Europe), All State Symphony, a bachelor's degree in violin performance from Southwestern University in Georgetown, many years with the Houston Symphony and Houston Opera Company, and recording studio time with many artists including André Previn and Shaft. Brava Bettye!

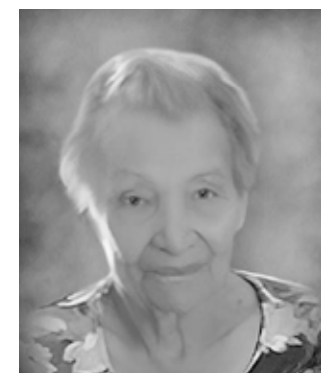
When the AIDS epidemic ravaged the Montrose area of Houston, Bettye raised tremendous funds for the care of AIDS patients along with her brother Thom, a choreographer, in remarkable duo performances in Houston. Bettye also felt drawn to serve by obtaining a degree in mortuary science at the Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Services. During her tenure at Forestpark Lawndale Funeral Home and Cemetery, Bettye served several thousand families with kind and empathetic professionalism. Her standard response for those who questioned her leaving the symphony for the funeral career, Bettye would quip "because I had the wardrobe."

It was at her position at the cemetery that she met her partner, Connie Cornett. Bettye joined Connie to move to Alpine in 2001. Together they co-owned Sixth Street Bakery in Alpine. Hospitality and sales jobs were the focus of Bettye's employment for her remaining years in Alpine and Fort Davis. Bettye enjoyed playing in the orchestra pit in the SR Summer Theatre program. She also played with many local musicians at dances, weddings, funerals and parties. Bettye was fascinated by the rocks and the birds of the Big Bend and spent much time researching.

Bettye was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on February 18, 1951. Bettye was preceded in death by her parents, Garvis Lynn McGehee and Bettye Lucille McGehee, and a brother, Thom McGehee. She is survived by her partner of 21 years, Connie Cornett, of Fort Davis; her brother, Grant McGehee of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi; stepson Chris Brinker; stepdaughter Amy Brinker; mother-in-law, Janette Bowers; brothers-in-law Clay Cornett (Deb), Cole Cornett (Cathy), Casey Cornett (Susan), George Bowers (Donna), Shane Cornett (Suzanne); sisters-in law, Kelly Stewart (Greg), Fara Ashcraft (John). Loving cousins Susan Wong (Tom) and LeeAnn Thomas (Terry).

Alpine Memorial Funeral Home will oversee arrangements. A private memorial service will be held later. Donations can be made to Grand Companions in Fort Davis.

• • •



Ochoa

On Monday, May 2, 2022, **Luz Z. Ochoa** of Marfa closed her eyes to her earthly home and was so gloriously welcomed to her heavenly home. She was 86.

Luz was born on March 1, 1936, in Hidalgo del Parral, Chihuahua, Mexico, to Guillermo Zubia and Concepcion (Galindo) Zubia. Luz married the love of her life, Esteban Ochoa, and together they built a loving and caring home.

Luz was laid to rest on Friday, May 6, 2022, at the Ochoa Family Cemetery in Presidio County.

Those preceding Luz in death were her parents, her husband Esteban Ochoa and her brothers and sisters.

Those left to honor and to cherish the memory of Luz are: her children, Ida Dominguez and husband Danny of Marfa; Rene Zubia and wife Cecilia of El Paso; Ernesto Ochoa and wife Janet of Odessa; Alejandro Ochoa and wife Lydia of El Paso; and Concha Jimenez of El Paso; her grandchildren, Alex Downs, Alexis Ochoa, Rocio Landin, Conrad Dominguez, Abraham Zubia, Esteban Ochoa, Nicole Gonzales, Natalie Ochoa, Maribelle Jiménez, Patty Jimenez, Javier Jiménez and Alberto Jiménez; as well as many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Luz's special friends Melissa Covarrubias and Socorro Rodriguez for the love and support. A very special thank you for her beloved servant's heart to Rocio Landin for her unwavering love, care and support that she gave to her beloved grandmother Luz.

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

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





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First United Methodist Church

Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid,
for I am your God;
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I will help you,
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victorious right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

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Classifieds & public notices

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The City of Marfa is Hiring for the following part-time, temporary positions:

- Parks Maintenance Worker
- Streets Maintenance Worker
- Utility Worker
- Pool Supervisor
- Lifeguards

Positions are from June 1-August 12

Lifeguards and Pool Supervisor must have current lifeguard certification OR be available May 23 & 24 for training

Applications are due May 16th and are available at City hall or online at https://bit.ly/COMapp

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•DENTAL FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR•

•CQI COORDINATOR•
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Presidio Mayor John Ferguson:
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Email: jferguson@presidiotx.us

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

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

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

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.

CITY OF MARFA INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Marfa is soliciting sealed bids for Project 1 and Project 2 of the Marfa Volunteer Fire Department Addition and Renovation Project until 3:00 p.m. CDT on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at Marfa City Hall, 113 S Highland Ave, P.O. Box 787, Marfa, TX 79843. Emailed bids may be sent to mroane@cityofmarfa.com. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 4:00 p.m. CDT on the same day in the Casner Room, located in Marfa City Hall.

The Invitation for Bids and Project Specifications are available at https://cityofmarfa.com/administration/page/invitation-bids

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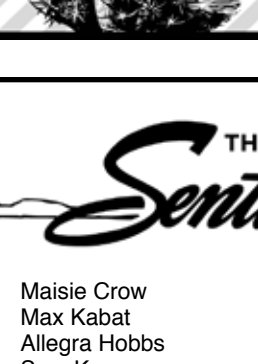
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