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by order of Presidio County

May 24 runoff election voting guide for the tri-county area

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

TRI-COUNTY — Early voting for the May 24 runoff election began May 16 and runs through Friday, May 20, with multiple polling locations open throughout the tri-county area.

In the runoff election, voters across Texas will decide on statewide and local Democratic and Republican candidates who will appear on the ballot in the November general election this fall.

Voters who cast a ballot in either party's primary election on March 1 must vote in the same party's runoff election. Voters who did not cast a ballot in the primary may vote in either party's runoff election. Voters will be required to show a valid form of identification at polling places.

Both the Democratic and Republican ballots for the runoff election will include candidates for state positions of Land Commissioner and Attorney General. Republican voters will decide on a candidate for Railroad Commissioner, while Democratic voters will decide on candidates for Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller and the State Board of Education District 1 seat, a race in which either Democrat Laura Marquez or Melissa Ortega will proceed to the November primary election.

In the tri-county area, only Brewster County voters will see a local race — for County Judge — on the ballot.

Presidio County

Early voting polling locations in Presidio county will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 16-20. In Marfa, early voting will take place at the USO Building, 302 S. Highland Ave. In Presidio, early voting will take place at the Presidio-Annex Building C.

Election Day voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the USO Building, 302 S Highland Ave., Marfa, and the Presidio-Annex Building C in Presidio.

Brewster County

Candidates who will appear on the ballot in the runoff election for the County Judge position, the county's top official, include Republicans Greg Henington and Ryan Skelton and Democrats Oscar Cobos and Mimi Smith.

Early voting polling locations include the Judge Val Clark Beard Office Complex — Old Library, 203 N 7th Street in Alpine, which will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m from May 16-20 and serve all precincts. Early remote voting for precincts 5, 6 and 7 will be available May 18 and 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the

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Staff photo by Sam Karas

Tanya and Sina Q. of Seattle, WA hike in the dry riverbed in Santa Elena Canyon Wednesday morning. Normally, this is the place where Terlingua Creek flows into the Rio Grande — both have gone dry over the past month.

Goodbye to a river: as Rio Grande dries up, tourism industry braces for impact

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK — On April 25, Redford-based river guide and outfitter Charlie Angell posted a video to his company's Instagram page. The video shows a canoe parked in a sandy Terlingua Creek, panning over the dry Rio Grande riverbed in Santa Elena Canyon. "Flow has ceased — sin agua," he says in the background. "Worst drought ever, in my lifetime, at least."

Normally, the flow is low enough this time of year that guests hoping for a tour through Santa Elena paddle upstream a few miles and then turn around, a trip known in the industry as a "boomerang." Angell and his crew had been watching the river gradually dry up all spring — he ran the last such trip a week before he took the video, determined even then it'd be the last such trip until the water came back. "We were dragging more than paddling — [the clients] were exhausted by the end."

Angell has been in front of the camera numerous times, schlepping gear for PBS nature documentarians and hosting a riverside dinner party on Anthony Bourdain's "No Reservations." His video of the dy river, though, was his first in-house production to go viral.

The video first made the rounds on local Instagram, then got picked up by regional media Twitter. It eventually wound up on the Weather Channel. Calls started coming in from friends around the country who recognized his voice. "It's the one channel everybody watches," he said.

Other photographs started circulating — one, by former National Park Service biologist Raymond Skiles, showed a dry-up in Mariscal Canyon, which forms the titular "big bend" of Big Bend National Park. The instagram grid for Santa Elena — much more accessible to the majority of park visitors — started picking up more snaps from visitors to the bone-dry riverbed.

The Rio Grande has always been known as a river of extremes. For every story of the river drying up, there's another story of it spilling over its banks. The Texas Department of Transportation yards in Presidio and Terlingua are full of machines built to scoop mud out of flooded arroyos and repair roadside gauges blasted apart by the water's swell.

When Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca

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Marfa ISD to form community committee, assess possibility of bond for infrastructure upgrades

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Marfa Independent School District is in the early stages of planning a bond proposal for construction to improve the district's facilities, which could appear on the ballot in this November's general election.

A set price and exact scope of the proposal has yet to be determined, but the district will soon form a community committee that will meet over the summer to assess the district's aging facilities and brainstorm priorities for the bond. That committee will be made up of members from cross-sections of the community who will work to garner public support for the bond.

Superintendent Oscar Aguero said that, for now, everything is on the table, and it will ultimately be up to the committee to determine the district's critical infrastructure needs.

"It could be as simple as just a new elementary school or it could be an entirely new kindergarten through 12th grade building. It could be that they decided that we just need to renovate what we have," said Aguero. "The biggest advice I've been given is to listen to the community."

The district's main campus currently consists of eight buildings constructed in various decades with staggered renovations. The school board has heavily discussed the need to upgrade their facilities in recent months, working from an online dashboard provided by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), to review the status of roofs, HVAC systems, plumbing and more. A representative from TASB said at a previous meeting that many of the HVAC and plumbing units were well past their anticipated life and swift action was needed to address the aging systems.

Ongoing concerns over school security as well as ADA accessibility and how to bring Marfa ISD's facilities into a 21st century learning environment have also been a topic of frequent discussion. Board members recently toured the campus, weaving in and out of classrooms in the high school and elementary schools, noting windows that were unable to open, inadequate classroom sizes, and overall areas for improvement.

The school board voted this year to spend

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Marfa Farmstand to reopen for 16th season this weekend

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — The Marfa Saturday Market will reopen for its 16th annual season this Saturday, May 21 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the USO Building outdoor pavilion.

The market will continue every Saturday morning through the fall, likely ending the weekend of Thanksgiving, said organizer Malinda Beeman. The location for the market may, at a later date, be moved to the Marfa Public Library courtyard, pending discussion and approval from Marfa City Council. The idea to move the market to the library courtyard was brought forth by the library staff, who saw it as an opportunity to expand programming for kids and families.

The market will feature new and returning vendors from Marfa and the surrounding area selling a variety of locally-grown produce, baked goods, canned goods, prepared foods as well as arts and crafts and homemade products. Market goers are encouraged to bring cash for market purchases as few vendors accept credit card payments, said Beeman. Marfa National Bank has an ATM just across the street from the USO.

Pets on leashes are welcome as long as they are well-behaved, said Beeman. The market is still accepting new vendors and community groups may also utilize the market as a fundraising space to sell goods or merchandise.

If you have any questions or want to apply to become a market vendor, reach out to marfasatmarket@gmail.com



Photo Courtesy Melinda Beeman

The Marfa Saturday Market will reopen this weekend and will feature a number of vendors with a variety of local goods. The 2022 season marks the market's 16th year.

June trial date set for Hector Flores, Jr., man indicted on child endangerment charge after going missing with daughter in Big Bend National Park

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

FAR WEST TEXAS — A trial date of June 21 has been set for Hector Flores, Jr., a Fort Stockton man who was recently indicted on a child endangerment charge by a grand jury, after going missing for over two weeks in Big Bend National Park with his nine-year-old daughter.

Flores pleaded not guilty to the charge and the case will proceed to a jury trial, which is currently set to take place in person in Pecos at the Texas Western District Court. The date and location of the trial are subject to change. The presiding judge will be United States District Judge David Counts. The court has met regularly since February, most recently on the morning of May 17, for status conferences on the case, held by U.S. Magistrate Judge David Fannin.

Flores and his daughter entered Big Bend National Park on January 28, were officially reported missing on February 5 after park officials discovered their vehicle abandoned a quarter mile off of Old Ore Road, and were found over two weeks later on February 14, having traveled a great distance on foot and crossed the river into Mexico.

Their disappearance resulted in a multi-day search including state and federal agencies as well as Mexican law enforcement. Upon discovery, Flores' daughter, who is being identified in court documents by her initials L.F., was taken into custody by Child Protective Services (CPS). She is now living with her grandparents and Flores is being held in Brewster County Jail.

Judge Fannin ruled Flores would be held without bond, citing his previous actions — pulling his daughter out of school, allowing his phone to be disconnected, abandoning forms of identification in the national park, avoiding detection and crossing illegally into Mexico — as evidence he was a flight risk. A suitable housing option for Flores was also not arranged in time.

Arguing the case is Prosecutor Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Greenbaum. Representing Flores is Attorney Shane O'Neal. The statute Greenbaum is bringing against Flores alleges he "intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence," engaged in conduct that placed his nine-year-old daughter "in imminent danger of death, bodily injury, or physical or mental impairment."

At a preliminary hearing held in late February, FBI agent Alice Downie, who assisted in the search for Flores and his daughter, testified that Flores' actions appeared premeditated, as he checked out survivalists books and told friends he wanted to live off of the grid.

L.F. reported to authorities that her and her father's food supply ran out after three days of camping and hiking. She also reported they ate cactus fruits and utilized water purification tabs to drink found water. Downie also testified

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Goodbye to a river

(Continued from page 1)

visited in 1535, he compared the Rio Grande to the Guadalquivir River — Spain's major river. When famed geologist Robert T. Hill floated the canyons in 1901, he considered Santa Elena's signature rapid too beastly to run, opting instead to carry boats and equipment over a series of footholds in the cliff walls better suited to mountain goats.

Fluctuations in the river's flow are part of a healthy riparian ecosystem. Floods help the river self-regulate, flushing out invasive species and moving debris, rocks, and silt further downstream. The last major flood was in 2008, which wiped out the highway between Presidio and Terlingua and put the Lajitas Resort golf course under several feet of water.

Despite the Rio Grande's tendency to surprise, those who know the river agree: the river is changing, and it's getting drier. "I don't see the future of the river [as] very optimistic, and I've been optimistic all my life," said Ernesto Hernández, co-founder of Boquillas Adventures, a guiding operation that focuses on trips into the protected areas of Coahuila, Mexico. "When you are involved with rivers, you understand their cycles. I've been watching this river die."

Hernández first visited the Big Bend in the early 1990s, after meeting Mike Davidson, part of the original team at Far Flung Adventures. At the time, the river was high enough for rafting year-round. "That was the beauty of this place," said Darren Wallis, who started guiding in Terlingua in 1992. Unlike rivers in popular rafting destinations like Colorado and Idaho, the lower Rio Grande doesn't freeze over. Winter temperatures can be chilly, but don't get cold enough to impede year-round boating.

The Big Bend earned a reputation as "raft guide vacation," a place boatmen from distant rivers could come between seasons. The runs weren't as technical, but the scenery was beautiful and the work was steady. "There was plenty of water. To make it worthwhile for our guests without there being any whitewater, we would prepare wonderful meals, we would put together specialty trips like our music trips. It was multi-day, high-end camping," Wallis remembered.

Both Hernández and Wallis were working on the Rio Grande during a massive shift in the local industry: the end of year-round rafting. In 1996, drought drained the river, and it never really came back.

"There was so much life to perish," Wallis remembered. "There were big fish dead everywhere, all the mussels, all the insect larva. It stank. It was horrible, it killed off a lot of stuff. We're approaching that again right now."

In 1999 and 2003, the river dried up again. As average river flows dropped, rafts — large inflatable crafts that require deep, swift water to operate — became too unwieldy. "We had to become a canoe company," Wallis explained.

The canoes allowed pairs of clients to traverse the river while a guide, paddling solo, carried their gear. While some clients enjoyed the adventure, it was a prohibitively challenging experience for others. "You trim off a good percentage of your business if people know they're gonna have to participate," Wallis said.

The shift to canoes made it possible for outfitters to once again offer year-round trips, but they fundamentally changed the dynamic of a Big Bend river tour. A number of Wallis' and Hernandez's colleagues quit the industry, citing both safety concerns and a river culture they felt was being stubbed out.

"You used to have four or five people who are an audience and you're there, very close. Now you are alone in your canoe," Hernández explained. "Guides are the most important element in this whole industry, because you're the connection with the public. You're the face of the company, you're the face of the destination."

Angell had the great fortune of starting his business in 2008 — a flood year. "I bought a canoe and was like, 'Holy s—, it's capsizing,'" he remembered. "So then I rafted for a good year and a half while there was still large amounts of water and built up the canoe fleet after that. I didn't know that it would get so low."

Wallis noticed that, over the past couple of years, the low flows have substantially altered the bottom of the river. "My observation is that the river isn't carving the canyon anymore, it's silting it in," he said. With each drought, sediment has built up in the bottom of the river, and there haven't been any floods to wash it away.

There is a spot on the canyon wall where he helped rescue a Park Service team that had pinned a raft against the wall at high water — now, that spot is just a few feet above the bottom of the dry riverbed. "It gives me an idea of how much the bottom of the river has come up. I can remember spaces on the wall and things that are now gone," he said.

Unlike industry guides virtually anywhere else, Big Bend outfitters need a deep understanding of international water policy. Wallis, Angell, and Hernández agreed: world events about a hundred years ago set today's water crisis in motion.

"1915 was a seminal moment," Wallis said. That's the year the Elephant Butte Dam just outside of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, finished construction on the Upper Rio Grande; a year prior, Mexican authorities had completed La Boquilla Dam on the Conchos River, about two hours south of Chihuahua City.

Thanks to the Elephant Butte Dam, the Rio Grande effectively became two rivers — the Upper Rio Grande, which flows from south-central Colorado to El Paso, and the Lower Rio Grande, which flows from Presidio to the Gulf of Mexico. The "forgotten reach" in between has almost permanently gone dry, and overgrowth of thirsty invasive species like salt cedar have ensured that it probably never will flow again.

In the late 19th century, a trio of water gauge stations were installed near La Junta, the place near Presidio and Ojinaga where the Rio Conchos flows into the Rio Grande. The International Water and Boundary Commission has flow data online dating back to New Year's Day, 1900. "That's almost 20 years of unimpeded, natural flowing river stream gauge data," Wallis explained.

In looking through the historical data, Wallis made a surprising observation: even in the years before the dams were completed, the Rio Grande was known to occasionally go dry. "It's pretty telling there were a number of months in that tabulation that the Rio Grande was dry back then, and that 70% of the water that entered into the Rio Grande drainage to flow [through the National Park] came from the Conchos."

Hernández pointed out that the construction of Elephant Butte, La Boquilla, and numerous other dams on the Rios Conchos and Grande occurred during the Mexican Revolution. "In my personal opinion, dams are the most incredible mistake humans made," Hernández said. "We need the electricity and the energy, but we didn't understand all the consequences of damming the river."

The Revolution led to a massive reorganization of land throughout the country — in the Big Bend, cooperatives called ejidos emerged from what had once been subsistence family farms along the river, and a new maze of bureaucracy emerged to administer the water, the dams, the farms, and everything in between.

In February 1944 — a few months before President Roosevelt signed a proclamation establishing Big Bend National Park — the United States and Mexico signed a treaty determining each nation's allocation of the water in the Colorado River and the Rio Grande — two of the West's most critical and endangered water systems.

The treaty stipulates that the United States gets to keep water that flows into the Rio Grande from tributary sources on the American side like Terlingua Creek and the Devil's River. In addition, Mexico must pay a water debt to the United States of 350,000 acre-feet per year, measured in five-year cycles.

An 'acre-foot' is roughly enough to put a football field under one foot of water. The Texas Water Development Board estimates that one acre-foot of water is enough to sustain the household needs of six Texans for one year.

As the river has dried up, the five-year debt cycle has become a political flashpoint in Mexico. Protests broke out in Ojinaga in June 2020 as Mexico started releasing water from the Luis Leon reservoir to pay off a debt racked up in the previous five-year cycle — during the climax of the protests, a government vehicle at the plaza was overturned and set on fire. Local farmers accused Mexican President Andres Manuel López Obrador of putting Mexican farmers at risk to serve the interests of the United States.

Angell explained that the treaty allows Mexico to adapt their payment cycle to the river's fluctuations, but the political climate can make asking for these extensions more complicated. "Trump was in his last year as president and they knew he would say 'f— you', so they just decided they had to dump. In Mexico, farmers were rioting at the reservoirs because they could see how low it was going. I've never seen them dump the reservoirs that low before."

Mexican politics has also seen a pendulum swing between presidential attitudes toward the treaties. "It's important to understand that Mexico has seen a major change in parties since 2000," Hernández explained. "The 90s was one particular line of politics, and then, boom, you have Vincente Fox."

Fox broke a 71-year winning streak for the PRI, a political party formed in Mexico just after the Revolution. He rose to power in the late 90s, in the years after the United States and Mexico signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), eliminating tariffs on products bought and sold between Mexico, Canada, and the United States. NAFTA fundamentally altered the demand for agricultural products grown in Mexico, and incentivized Mexican farmers to produce for an international market.

In the Big Bend, the "giant sucking sound" invoked by presidential candidate Ross Perot to protest NAFTA isn't the sound of jobs going south, but of all the thirsty pecan orchards that have popped up at La Junta in the past thirty years.

"Pecans are about the thirstiest tree there is," said Angell, who often takes clients on road trips through the orchards outside Ojinaga. The trees are hardy enough to withstand the region's extreme heat, but require flood irrigation. Demand for the orchards' products isn't coming from locals. "About 20% of all the pecans are for U.S. consumption, the remaining 80% is allocated to China."

Amid the tangle of international trade interests and water disputes, Wallis feels a neighborly need to defend Mexican interests. "You can't blame Mexico for the agribusiness they've created on the Conchos — NAFTA asked for it," Wallis said. "So now they've got less water to give. And it's not their fault that the Rio Grande is dried up before the confluence of the rivers."

Farmers on the Mexican side of the river in the Big Bend aren't the only people keeping an eye on local reservoir levels. Snowmelt from the Rocky Mountains came early this year for farmers in New Mexico, who fear the Upper Rio Grande will also go dry by the end of summer. The reservoir at Elephant Butte on the Upper Rio Grande is currently 13% full; Luis Leon on the Conchos is 23% full.

"I don't see that changing until the La Niña thing we're in turns around and/or the five-year [water debt] cycle ends again. We're four years away from any real relief, unless we get a bunch of rain," said Angell.

The dismal forecast has pushed folks in the local river tours industry to adapt. While a trip through Santa Elena is considered the bucket list Big Bend float, that may become an experience of the past. Despite all the bad press, Angell still gets requests to book the trip.

"It's very difficult to convince people that it's beyond their scope of athleticism — everyone thinks it's an inner tube float," he said. "I'm like, 'Look, dude, I'd love to take your money, but you can hike into the canyon just as far and a lot quicker and have more fun without dragging a boat behind you.'"

Angell has turned the focus of his business downstream: toward Boquillas, average river flows increase as a number of springs feed into the river from the canyon walls. The river picks up even more volume downstream in a section known as the Lower Canyons, considered one of the country's premiere canoe trips.

This spring, he started taking clients down a stretch of river never before commercially run: a 54-mile stretch from Dryden to Langtry. "It's fantastic, it feels like a combo of the Rio Grande in the Big Bend and the Devil's River," he said. The major challenge beyond the remoteness of that section of river is that the beaches are totally unused by anyone but cattle, who don't observe 'leave no trace' regulations. "There's cow patties everywhere, but we've been figuring it out."

Hernández, on behalf of Boquillas Adventures, has been trying to grow tourism on the Mexican side of the river. "I'm Mexican, I'm proud. It's a very good opportunity to present our culture in a different way," he said. "I think the companies in general need to adapt to this new era — people still need guides. [In the 90s] we proved that you don't need a guide in a raft, but you do need a guide."

Hernández hopes that by shifting the focus away from boating and onto observing how locals use and learn from the water, the guiding industry can make a positive impact, whether or not there's water in the river. "I tell people that it's not about canoeing, it's about water conservation. Just like Elon Musk is saying that in our lifetime, we're going to see people on Mars — well, in our lifetime, we're seeing rivers dying."

In the spring, Boquillas Adventures piloted a four-day trip from Boquillas to Cuatrociénagas, Múzquiz, and the Ocampo Protected Area, "a unique trip to several locations few visitors ever see," per their Facebook page. Hernández hopes that pushing tourism into lesser-visited areas in Coahuila will diffuse some of the negative impacts of record-smashing visitation to the parks. "I think that we — Mexico — represent a little relief from all this pressure," he said.

Hernández has been studying up on water treaty negotiations to put a positive spin on U.S.-Mexico relations — while complicated, the two countries must work together to survive. "The consequences will be brutal for both economies if you don't have the river. One is the economy related to tourists, but the other is related to the ecology around people," Hernández explained.

"There may be a solution — it's probably very technical," he continued. "If we have water, and we understand how to manage it, the water will supply life. This river is a laboratory that we need to use to benefit many other rivers."

Angell, for his part, is leaving it all up to the stars. "There's an old expression, 'be prepared for luck'," he said. "That's how I look at it. If you want to be lucky, just be prepared."

This is the first in a series about how people who make their living along the river are faring after the latest dry-up of the Rio Grande.

Disclosure: Sam Karas is a former contractor for Angell Expeditions.

Runoff election

(Continued from page 1)

Red Pattillo Community Center Hwy 118, Study Butte/Terlingua.

On election day, May 24, all polling locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Precinct 1 voters will appear at the Brewster County Sunny Glen Cooperative Building, 2209 W Hwy 90, Alpine. Precinct 2 and Precinct 8 voters will appear at the Judge Val Clark Beard Office Complex — Old Library, 203 N 7th Street, Alpine. Precinct 3 voters will appear at the Marathon Community Center, 2nd and Ave. E, Marathon. Precinct 4 voters will appear at the Alpine Civic Center, 803 W Holland Ave., Alpine. Precinct 5, 6 and 7 will appear at the Red Pattillo Community Center Hwy 118, Study Butte/Terlingua.

Jeff Davis County

Early voting in Jeff Davis County will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 16-20 at the District and County Clerk's office, 111 N. Street, Fort Davis.

Election day voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Precincts 1, 2 and 3 will appear at the First United Methodist Church of Fort Davis, 200 Front Street. Precinct 4 will appear at the Valentine Community Building on North Main and Eighth streets. Precinct 5 will appear at the Davis Mountains Resort Baptist Church, 100 Broken Arrow Trail, Fort Davis.

Hector Flores, Jr.

(Continued from page 1)

that the child's clothing was not adequate for winter nighttime temperatures and Sean McCaffrey, park ranger with Big Bend National Park who participated in the search, testified it appeared as if Flores' daughter had lost weight.

In an interview with the Big Bend Sentinel, O'Neal said he believed the government was going to have a hard time proving imminent bodily injury. Upon discovery L.F. was not taken to a hospital and did not undergo extensive medical evaluation, he said.

"We don't feel like the government is anywhere close to being able to make its case here," said O'Neal.

The child endangerment charge is punishable by six months to two years in jail and a fine of up to $10,000. The case is being brought in federal court because the incident happened on federal land in the national park. But, due to the Assimilated Crimes Act (ACA), the federal charge is based on state law.

"Mr. Flores is very passionate that he doesn't feel like he did anything criminal here," said O'Neal. "He doesn't want any kind of conviction that might affect his relationship with his daughter going forward."

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas declined to comment for this article as the case is pending litigation.

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Infrastructure upgrades

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nearly $1 million on a new high school track, which is set to be completed by the end of May. The money for the track came out of their fund balance account — leftover revenue, either from state funding or property taxes, that a school district keeps in reserves. But with such a significant list of costly projects on the horizon, the district is considering issuing a bond to help pay for the school's reimagined future.

The community committee will be made up of six to eight staff members, six to eight parents and six to eight community members, said Aguero. They will meet weekly from June to July and will present their recommendations to the board in August. The deadline for the district to call the election is August 18.

School bonds must first be approved by voters and involve raising property taxes in order to pay for loans issued to school districts by investors. The school district has passed two bonds in the past, according to data made available by the Texas Bond Review Board: one for $5,000,000 for a new building in 2000 and another for $2,900,000 for two new gymnasiums in 2007.

Aguero said the district has been working on paying off previous loans and lowering interest rates in the process. A new bond, he acknowledged, would cause a tax increase. As of late March, the district has been working with Claycomb Associates, Architects, who will assist the district in the bond process and likely be awarded construction contracts if the bond passes.

In addition to the eight buildings on the primary campus being considered for renovation or replacement with the bond, teacher housing, including the school's existing properties dispersed around the northwest side of town, as well as the concept of purchasing land and constructing new homes, could be included in the bond.

Aguero said the next step for the school board is to set up a workshop, which they hope to do very soon, in order for board members to fully comprehend the bond process and begin assessing possible numbers.

Both Balmorhea and Alpine ISDs are currently pursuing construction projects being funded by school bonds. Balmorhea passed a $75,000,000 bond in 2019 to construct a brand-new kindergarten through 12th grade campus. Alpine narrowly passed, with 1,644 for and 1,602 against, a roughly $20 million bond to upgrade the elementary school HVAC and to erect a new highschool building. The district recently hit a snag as their major subcontractor pulled out of the project, which could cause a delay should they not find a replacement in time.

According to data from the Texas Bond Review Board, in this past November's election only 47% of 110 total proposed school bonds passed, the first time more bond proposals were rejected than accepted since 2011.

Martin Luby, Associate Professor of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, said the bond process from start to finish typically lasts, on average, from three to five years. But with interest rates and cost of materials on the rise, it is advantageous to act sooner rather than later, he said, to keep costs lower for taxpayers. But a price tag for a new — or heavily renovated — facility isn't cheap, he said.

"When you're building new school buildings, especially everything that goes into them and the requirements for construction, these are usually pretty expensive projects," said Luby. "And they do add to the taxpayer burden."

Luby said school bonds are typically paid off for a period of ten to thirty years. He said the positive aspect of utilizing a bond for school construction is that it results in intergenerational equity by spreading the cost of acquiring a new school across multiple generations.

"It forces multiple generations of taxpayers to pay the debt and that's a good thing," said Luby. "Because multiple generations of taxpayers are going to be benefiting from this indebtedness to build a new school."

In Marfa, home appraisal values continue to rise and voters across Texas recently passed two constitutional amendments that seek to provide homeowner relief from school taxation. One will continue to freeze and lower over time school property tax bills for those who are disabled or over age 65, and another will increase the general homestead exemption for public school taxes from $25,000 to $40,000. The general homestead exemption does not apply to secondary homes, only primary residences.

From an investors perspective, said Luby, Marfa's demand for housing is an indicator that the local tax base is expanding.

"The fact that you've got a growing community, at least in terms of demand for housing, even if it's secondary housing, that's a good thing from a credit perspective," said Luby. "Because it speaks to the strength of the repayment source and the repayment pledge of the debt."



Photo by Cody Bjornson

Marfa Independent School District is exploring the possibility of putting a bond initiative on the ballot this coming November in order to pay for the districts' numerous infrastructure projects. The district will soon form a community committee which will help brainstorm ideas for the bond.

Hotel Occupancy Tax grant applications open in Alpine

ALPINE — The City of Alpine will begin accepting Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Grant applications for the 2022-2023 fiscal year on Monday, May 23 with a final deadline of Friday, July 1.

The grants can support events or other projects geared towards bringing visitors to Alpine for overnight stays. There are very explicit limitations to the legal use of the funds. The allowed uses include advertising outside of the area, promotion of the arts, historical restoration/ preservation and sporting events.

All expenses under these grants must take place during the 2022-2023 fiscal year, starting October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023. Complete grant guidelines and application can be found on the City website at www.cityofalpine.com/hotgrants.

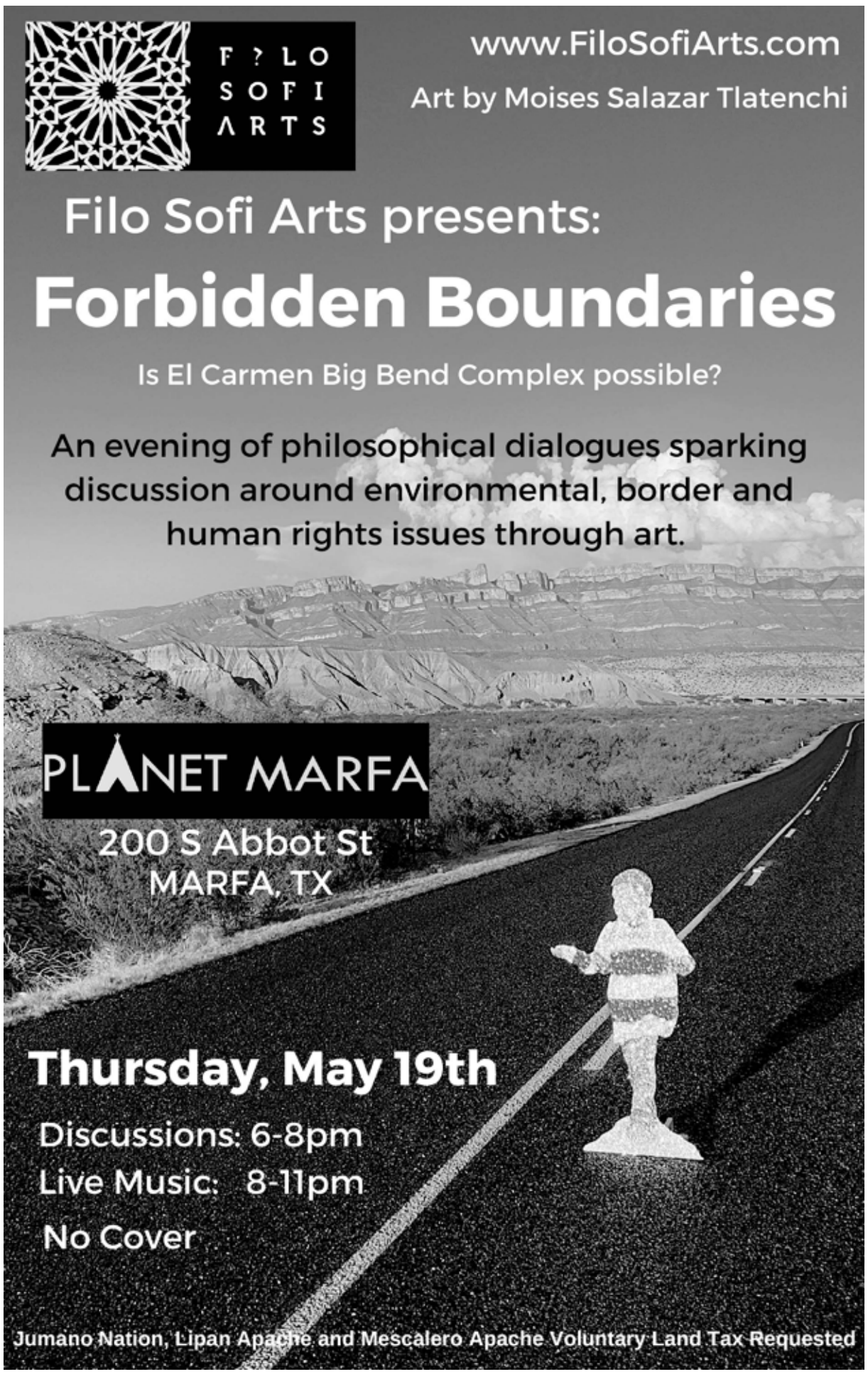
At 5:30pm on Wednesday, May 25 in the Alpine City Council Chambers, City of Alpine Tourism Director Chris Ruggia will hold a workshop with Texas Hotel & Lodging Association (THLA) lead counsel Justin Bragiel about the Hotel Occupancy Tax.

The program will cover the legal uses for funds collected under the state's Hotel Occupancy Tax in detail, as well as general information about the City of Alpine's HOT Grants program.

"THLA are the primary authors of the HOT statute," Ruggia said, "and they have a lot of influence over any changes to it that are brought to the state legislature. I would consider Justin to be the preeminent expert on this law, so it's an honor to have him here in person. I hope that anyone interested in how the hotel tax works will come out and bring him their questions."

For those unable to attend in person, the workshop will be broadcast on Zoom. The session will be recorded and made available afterwards. The Zoom details can be found on the City website at cityofalpine.com/ meetinglink.

Questions about the workshop and Alpine's Hotel Occupancy Tax grant program can be directed to Chris Ruggia at chris@visitalpinetx.com.



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Saturday - MAY 21, 2022 10am – 1pm at the PAC in Presidio.
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These are new jobs in Presidio. No long hours wasted each day commuting to other area cities for work. There will be growth in 2022 and expanded positions and hours are possible.

UNITED FARMS OF OASIS

Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Marfa Live Arts, I'd like to thank everyone who attended the 11th Annual One Act Plays last Wednesday. After a live performance hiatus due to the pandemic, it was wonderful to be back in the Crowley Theater with so many smiling faces.

Congratulations to all the students who wrote plays as part of the Playwriting Program led by Juarez playwright Georgina Escobar at Marfa High School. Over the past 11 years, 925 plays have been penned by Marfa's youth and, with each new year, the caliber of their writing increases along with their skill and confidence in expressing complex ideas and multifaceted characters. Like those before, this year's grand prize winners (who were awarded laptop computers) experienced their imaginations brought to life with live performances of their work. Focusing on our border aesthetic, the plays ranged in theme and genre, but all shared a flavor unique to this area.

The 2022 Playwright Awardees are: Freshmen First Place, "Sightless" by Ashley Certain; Honorable Mention, "Zayne" by Austin Milligan; Sophomores First Place, "You Can What?!" by Tristan Kelly; Honorable Mention, "The Topology & Zeitgeist Bake-Off" by Zaley Porter; Juniors First Place, "The Gone" by Maribel Meraz; Honorable Mention, "The Crow's Daughter" by Victoria Torres; Seniors First Place, "Margaret, I Think I Love You" by Febi Brimhall; Honorable Mention, "Nadando en Las Estrellas" by Hanna Evangelina Ibarra.

Many Marfans played a part in bringing the one acts to fruition including our partners at Marfa Independent School District: Superintendent Oscar Aguero, Principal Allison Scott, Linda Ojeda, Donel Lara, Adele Powers, Cherrie Aguero and Rachel Gomez, thank you for your continued support of this in-school enrichment program. Community partners who contributed their time and support for which we are grateful include Marjorie Scott, Eva Gil, Sul Ross State University, Hotel Paisano, Chinati Foundation, Sandra Hinojosa, Virginia Flores, Angel Silva, Daniel Silva, Porter's Marfa, Emily Williams, Tim Crowley, Crowley Theater, Hotel St. George, PrintCo, Melissa Keane, Jack and Lisa Copeland, KMKB-FM, Colby Martin, Jason Kolker, Neil Chavigny, Marfa Public Radio and The Sentinel.

A fantastic cast and crew brought their creativity to the theater working tirelessly to bring the playwrights' words to life, a huge thank you to Tina Rivera, Jose Prat, Jason Amos, Rob Crowley, Annette Mendoza, Moritz Landgrebe, Sarah Vasquez, Caitlynn Almance, John Aguero (Shorthorn graduate, 2017 and 2021 Playwright Awardee), Abby Boyd, Ashley Certain (2022 Playwright Awardee), Lisa George, Romi Gold, Jessica Lutz, Dillon Orr (Shorthorn graduate, 2016 Playwright Awardee), Max Tolleson and JD Garcia.

And a final thanks to our sponsors who support the mission of Marfa Live Arts in bridging our community together through performance art: Wyatt Ranches Foundation, Texas Women for the Arts, Texas Commission on the Arts and the Marfa Education Foundation.

The enthusiasm our community has for supporting our youth and live performance is an inspiration. Thank you to everyone who is a part of these endeavors.

Sincerely,
Jennie Lyn Hamilton
Marfa Live Arts

• • •

To the Marfa community,

On behalf of Judd Foundation, I want to thank everyone who attended our seventh annual Ranch Day at Casa Perez this past Sunday. It was a beautiful day made possible by a number of people. I would like thank all of the wonderful participants in Ranch Day, including: Dr. Carlos "Lalo" Gonzalez from Borderlands Research Institute and Froylan Hernandez from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for their important and fascinating talk on bighorn sheep; Primo Carrasco and David Beebe for the tunes; Kaki Aufdengarten, Mark Scott, Katy Rose Elsasser, Adam Bork of Convenience West for their delicious food; Jessica Lutz for capturing the event; and Michael Roch and the Chinati Foundation for the extra shade support.

Judd Foundation is grateful for the opportunity to open Casa Perez to Marfa and the tri-county community through the generous support of The Brown Foundation and a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts, and in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Lastly, thanks to Judd Foundation's staff, especially Randy Sanchez, Rico Roman, Jesse Dominguez, Jonathon Lujan and Caitlin Murray, for making this event a success. We're looking forward to next year!

Best,
Rainer Judd
President, Judd Foundation
Marfa, TX

• • •

Dear Friends,

From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank the people of Marfa for organizing and attending the screening of my film BAD ROADS. And for your donations which were sent to me. At this difficult time your attention and support is extremely important for Ukraine, the Ukrainian people and me personally.

Once again, I thank you very much.

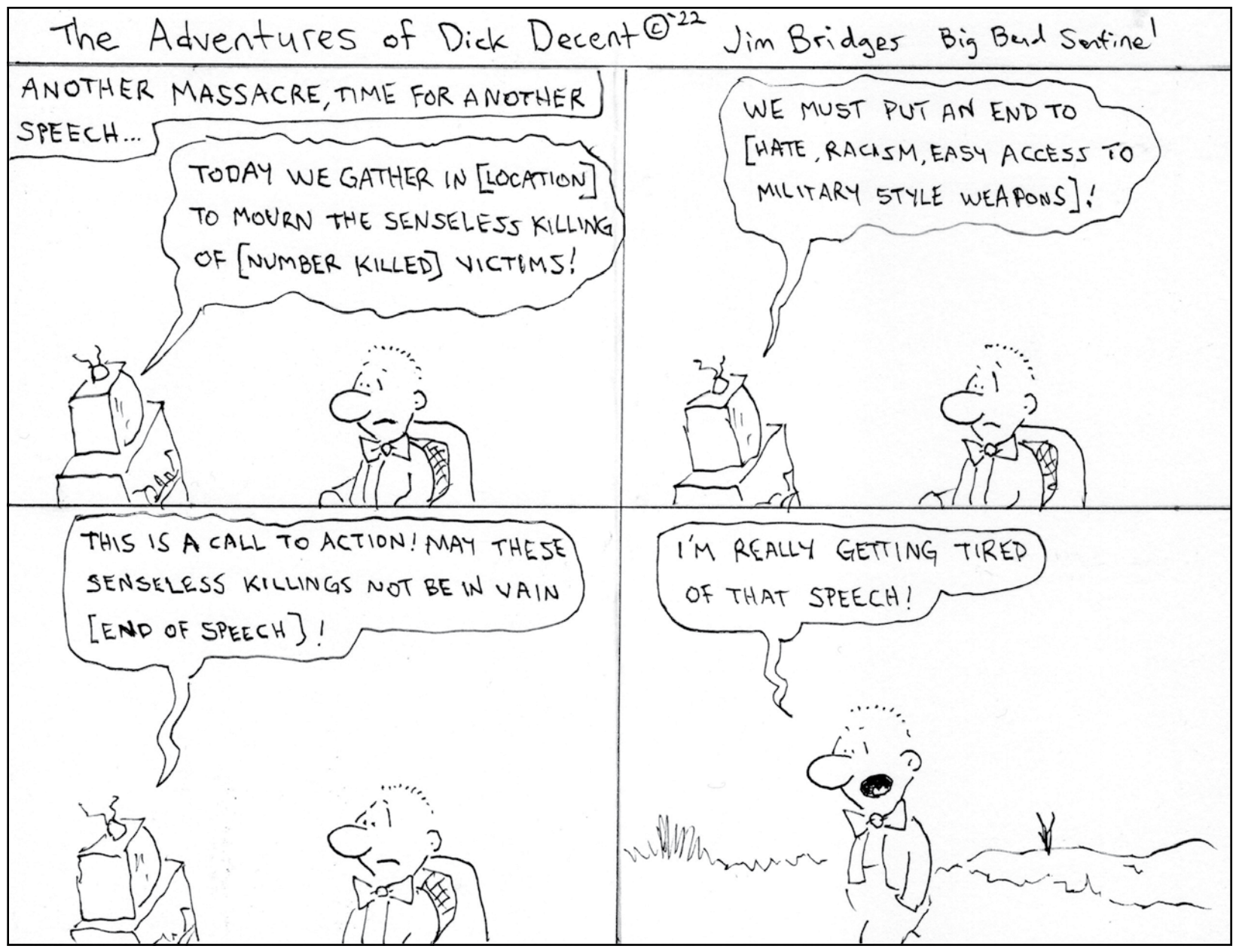
Natalya Vorozhbit
Director
Lviv, Ukraine

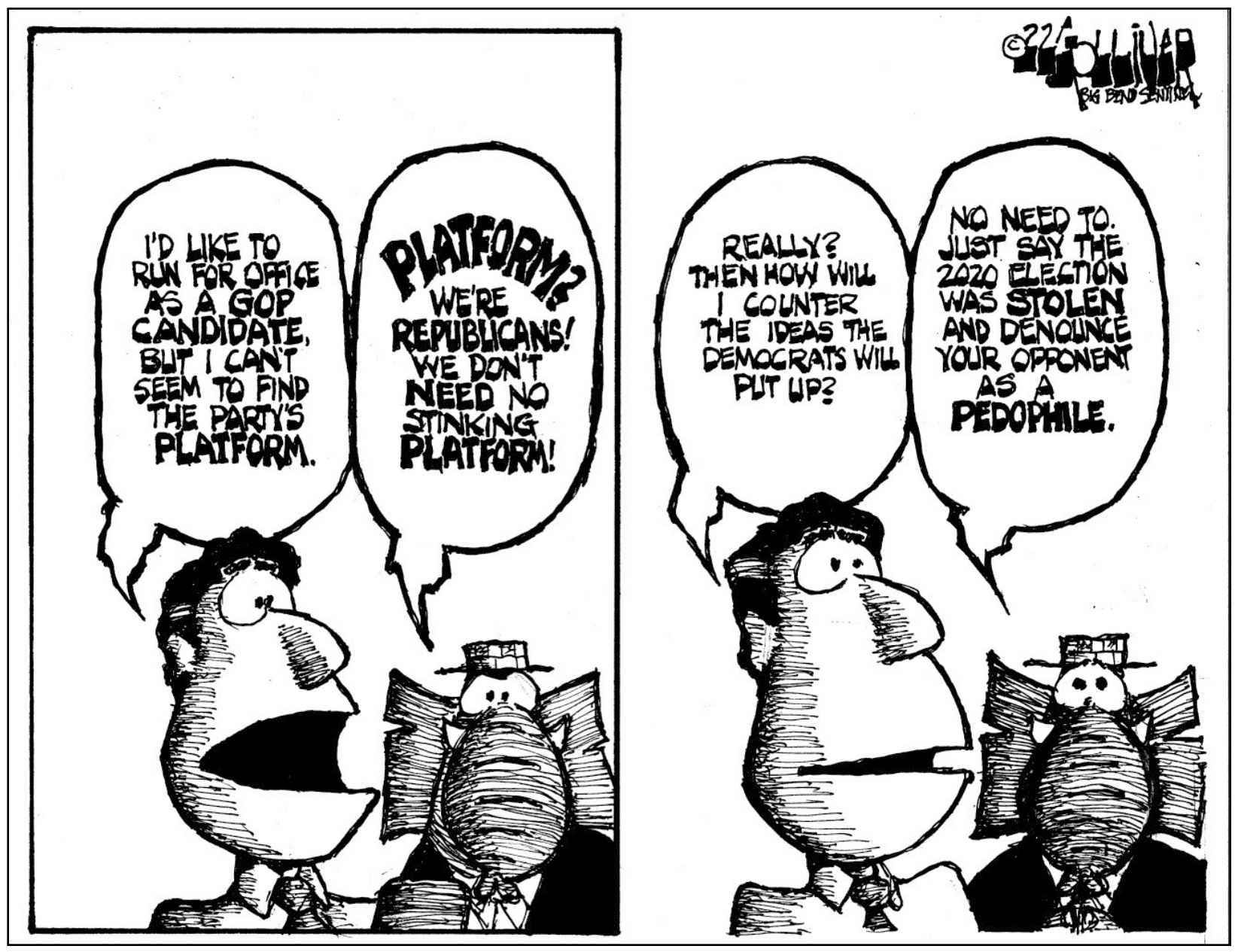
BAD ROADS *was screened at the Crowley Theater on March 16, 2022, as part of the "in front of us" film series which supports women film directors. Donations from Marfans were forwarded to the people of Ukraine.*

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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Tickets are timed.

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

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

HIGH DESERT SKETCHES

Murder is still murder when it's done at a long distance

By GEORGE A. COVINGTON
gcovington@mac.com

"It is forbidden to kill; therefore all murderers are punished unless they kill in large numbers and to the sound of trumpets." This quote is from my favorite satirical writer, the Frenchman Voltaire (1694-1778). Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been trumpeted by the media around the world. Murder is still murder when it's done at a long distance with cruise missiles, which can have a range of 400-1800 miles depending on the type. The distance between the two capitals is less than 500 miles.

To understand the mind of Vladimir Putin, president of Russia, you must understand his background. He was trained as a member of the Soviet Union's notorious KGB (Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti), the most murderous collection of spies that actually rivaled the Nazi's Gestapo and SS (Schutzstaffel). KGB agents did not hesitate to kill unarmed men, women or children if those objects stood between them and their mission. It is ironic that the invading Russian army used the same tactics against unarmed civilians in the Ukraine. The irony of ironies is that Putin has claimed that he is attacking eastern Ukraine to root out a nest of Nazis by using the same tactics used by the Gestapo and the SS. President Putin finds it incredibly easy to push the buttons that will send the bombs to destroy their targets a thousand miles away.

Unfortunately, the trumpets are being supplied to him by Tucker Carlson on his nightly rants on the Fox News channel. Putin found Carlson's comments so flattering toward his cause that he decided to promote them within Russia's media spheres.

On March 3, as Russian military forces pounded Ukrainian cities as part of Vladimir Putin's illegal invasion of his neighbor, the Kremlin sent out talking points to state-friendly media outlets with a request: "Use more Tucker Carlson."

"It is essential to use as much as possible fragments of broadcasts of the popular Fox News host Tucker Carlson, who sharply criticizes the actions of the United States [and] NATO, their negative role in unleashing the conflict in Ukraine, [and] the defiantly provocative behavior from the leadership of the Western countries and NATO towards the Russian Federation and towards President Putin, personally," advises the 12-page document written in Russian. It sums up Carlson's position: "Russia is only protecting its interests and security." The memo includes this quote from Carlson: "And how would the US behave if such a situation developed in neighboring Mexico or Canada?"

History will probably record Russia's invasion of Ukraine as the first war by cruise missiles and smartphones. It will probably go down as the first war that was almost totally recorded by civilians. It has led repeatedly to accusations of war crimes and the criminals are being identified by their names, thanks to facial recognition software.

Ukrainian Prosecutor-General Iryna Venediktova has released the



names of 10 Russian soldiers suspected of torturing civilians in the town of Bucha, near Kyiv, during weeks of occupation.

Venediktova said on April 28 that the soldiers of the 64th Guards Motor Rifle Brigade of the Russian armed forces are suspected of "cruelty toward civilians and other war crimes."

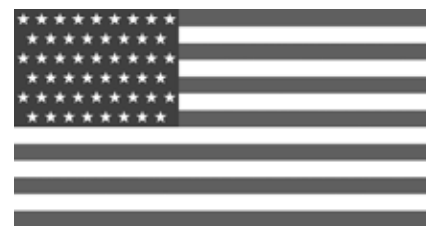
"In a short period of time, investigations revealed that during the occupation of Bucha these very persons took unarmed civilians hostage, tortured them … kept them on their knees with their hands tied and their eyes taped, humiliated, and beat them," Venediktova said.

The war that started our colonial secession was a notorious loss at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Too often Americans forget that in the earliest days of our colonies our rag-tag group of misfits challenged the might of Britain. Their early battles were not successful but mad King George sent the most powerful army and navy on earth against these misfits who didn't have a chance to succeed. But those rag-tag colonists who became our Founding Fathers won against overwhelming numbers. At the end of America's Revolutionary War, Benjamin Franklin told America, "We have given you a republic if you can keep it." Can we keep it?

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

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

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE



When: Monday May 30th at 10:00 am
Where: The pavilion behind the Visitors Center

Light refreshments served afterwards.

We ask that all join to honor our present and fallen heroes.



To: Council Member (former) Yoseff Ben-Yehuda

On behalf of the Disc Golf Course here in Marfa we would like to thank you for your support along with Council Members Eddie Pallarez and Buck Johnston who voted for the community disc golf course to continue operations in Marfa for the kids, adults and visitors to enjoy.

I would like to personally thank you for your dedicated hard work as a Council Member during your time serving our community to better the future of our town. I know first hand your participation on the council was not unnoticed. I can only wish you the best of health, happiness and success in your long future ahead.

Finally now I can treat you to a nice meal as a gesture of kindness (not a bribe) for all you have done for the community, the disc golf course and little me.

All the best,
Stephen Salgado Boelter
Marfa Disc Golf, LLC

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Community

Judd Foundation welcomes visitors back to Casa Perez for first Ranch Day in two years

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO COUNTY — Pinto Canyon Road was well-traveled Sunday morning, as tri-county residents and visitors ventured past roaming horses and scenic mountain views 40 miles south of Marfa to Judd Foundation's Casa Perez property for an annual "Ranch Day," which was back after a two-year interruption due to the pandemic.

Around 140 people turned out for the event, which included an educational talk on efforts to reintroduce populations of native bighorn sheep in West Texas bookended by self-guided tours of the Casa Perez ranch home, catering by Convenience West and live music by Primo y Beebe.

Casa Perez is the most accessible of the three properties on Judd's Ayala de Chinati ranch, which also includes two other homesteads, Casa Morales and Las Casas. During his lifetime, Judd continually acquired land in southern Presidio County in order to preserve it and prevent future development. At the time of his death, he maintained a total of 40,000 undeveloped acres.

So named for the Perez family, which operated a goat farm on the land as early as the 1940s, Casa Perez is a four-room adobe structure originally built in 1910. Purchased by Judd in 1983, today the home features a kitchen with Mexican dishware and furniture, two works by Judd in aluminum and acrylic, a Francisco Goya etching, Judd-designed pine bed frames and more.

Backing the main home are additional, small storage and bathhouse structures Judd constructed as well as a water tank with sunning platforms at the base of a windmill.

Judd-designed benches and tables sit beneath two long pergolas, also of the artist's making, which Ranch Day attendees gathered beneath for shade as event organizers introduced the morning's speakers on the home's front porch.

Rainer Judd, president of the Judd Foundation and daughter of Donald Judd, sat cross legged holding a microphone and welcomed attendees to the seventh annual event. Lizards scurried in the dirt and red dragon flies and wasps hummed.

"We are so happy to be back at Ranch Day," said Judd. Acknowledging the gathering point, Judd emphasized the biological diversity of the Chinati Mountains and the need for greater ecological studies in the Chihuahuan Desert.

"We've all got something to do to contribute to keeping this beautiful land healthy and happy," said Judd as she passed off the microphone to Froylan Hernandez, Desert Bighorn Sheep Program Leader at Texas Parks and Wildlife, who was first up to speak.

Hernandez began by discussing the history and demise of the Trans Pecos bighorn sheep — which were extinct in their native mountain ranges by the 1960s due to disease spread from domestic livestock, increased resource competition from domestic livestock and aoudad and unregulated hunting. He reported on the status of TPWD's restoration and translocation efforts, stating bighorn sheep population levels were now similar to that of the 1800s. TPWD estimates 1,500 bighorn sheep were populating the region as of 2018, according to their website.

Of their most recent developments, Hernandez said TPWD had recently observed a herd of 18 to 20 bighorns which had migrated from Nine Point Mesa Ranch to the Christmas Mountains, a promising sign, and TPWD is working to secure funding in order to further assist Mexico with increasing their bighorn sheep populations.

After a brief audience Q&A, Carlos "Lalo" Gonzalez, Professor of Habitat Research and Management at the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University, took the floor to go over current and future research projects, including efforts to collar sheep and study resource competition between aoudad and bighorn. He said aoudad can breed up to 10 times faster than native bighorn and while it is not feasible to fully eradicate them, efforts to control the population are key in aiding the bighorn sheep's survival.

Hernandez took back the mic to conclude the informal talk, impressing upon listeners how aoudad grazing also leads to devastating effects on the environment. Acknowledging that TPWD introduced the aoudad to the area in the first place, he said their ongoing efforts to curtail the spread of aoudad through aerial shootings "weren't pretty," but were necessary.

"We are in charge of protecting our habitat and our native species, in that order," said Hernandez.

When the talk wound down, Caitlin Murray, Director of Archives and Programs at Judd Foundation, thanked the speakers and encouraged everyone to line up for free barbecue, red enchiladas and kale salad as Primo y Beebe geared up for their musical set. Guests followed suit, grabbing ice cold water bottles from a stock tank-turned-cooler.



Photo by Jessica Lutz, Courtesy Judd Foundation

Visitors gathered at Judd Foundation's Casa Perez ranch south of Marfa this past weekend to celebrate the 7th annual Ranch Day.

In an interview with the Big Bend Sentinel, Murray said a version of Ranch Day has been a tradition since the 1990s and a number of years back was expanded to offer an educational talk in addition to the staples of music and food. Since then, Ranch Day has hosted a variety of historians, biologists and geologists from the region.

"We have such an incredible wealth of amazing people in our region who have a deep knowledge of the Chinati Mountains and of West Texas, in general," said Murray.

Ranch Day also offers the public a further glimpse into Donald Judd's extensive interests and dedication to fields other than art and architecture, said Murray.

"We know at Judd Foundation that this land, the understanding of this land and previous cultures was so important for Donald Judd, was something he read about, something he was engaged in and that's a tradition that we maintain," said Murray.

As Judd Foundation pursues its mission to manage the ranch homes and land, talks have tended to be more ecologically-focused as of late, said Murray, who hopes the event also informs newcomers with less institutional knowledge of the area.

"We take it as an opportunity for us to learn more about the great work that's going on in our region and some of the longer history of this area well before Donald Judd that people who are maybe newer to town might not have access to that information as readily," said Murray.

The next Ranch Day is set for Fall 2023. A hike, which in the past has been led by Facilities Manager Randy Sanchez, was not offered this year due to high temperatures, but will likely be a feature of the forthcoming Ranch Day. Murray said at its core the day allows for people to spend time on a private ranch, an experience not everyone has regular access to.

"I think, for a large group of people to be able to come out, eat, and spend time together in Pinto Canyon," said Murray. "That is a little bit more rare."

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I will help you,
I will uphold you with my
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DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Aubrie Aguilar
"All Eyes On Me"
11th 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.

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

5/4 © 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg May 16, 2022

ACROSS
1 It may be open-and-shut
5 Approximately
10 ___-A-Whirl
14 Tel ___, Israel
15 Bruin's rival from Buffalo
16 Noted rib donor?
17 Chicago's Magnificent ___
18 "If only!"
19 Fuzzy brown fruit
20 One who gets to the root of something?
23 Cybersecurity org.
24 2022 Super Bowl winners, informally
25 One who gets bodies in better shape?
30 Hwy. 1, for one
31 Desperate request
32 Mamas' bandmates in a '60s group
36 Sugar or starch, for short
38 Light fencing blades
41 Hay bundle
42 Bit of glass
44 Wrench or hammer
46 Eggs on a California roll
47 One who likes crude stuff?
51 "Parks and Recreation" town
53 Touch lightly, when read forward or backward
54 "This isn't new to me," or what 20-, 25- or 47-Across might say?
59 Slick with words
60 William and Harry's mum
61 Go yachting, say
63 Tiniest bit
64 Trial and ___
65 Drink hidden in "juice extractor"
66 Dateless at prom
67 Actress Witherspoon
68 Tree house?

DOWN
1 Word after "spy" or "nanny"
2 Keen
3 Early period in Hollywood
4 "Nonetheless ..."
5 9-Down's continent
6 Ugly-cry, perhaps
7 Japanese sashes
8 Ariel's tormentor
9 Capital with Persian speakers
10 Travel from the airport to downtown, say
11 "Cold feet" or "two left feet," e.g.
12 Green expanses in suburbs
13 "Ew, stop talking!"
21 Pack (down)
22 Tennis racket hold
25 Curved trajectories
26 Provo's state
27 Christmas classic starring Will Ferrell
28 Corporate VIP
29 Dominican Republic neighbor
33 Second-priciest Monopoly property
34 Soothing gel source
35 Fortuneteller
37 Homemade lunch holder
39 Captain's record
40 Female pig
43 Jurassic beast, informally
45 Hobbits' series, for short
48 More obscene
49 Quit working
50 Trail mix fruit
51 Title of most TV series' openers
52 Japanese dog breed
55 Cocky racer in a fable
56 16-Across's grandson (anagram of ONES)
57 Double-dog ___
58 Pieces of disinformation
59 Soldiers at USO shows
62 "___ me know"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

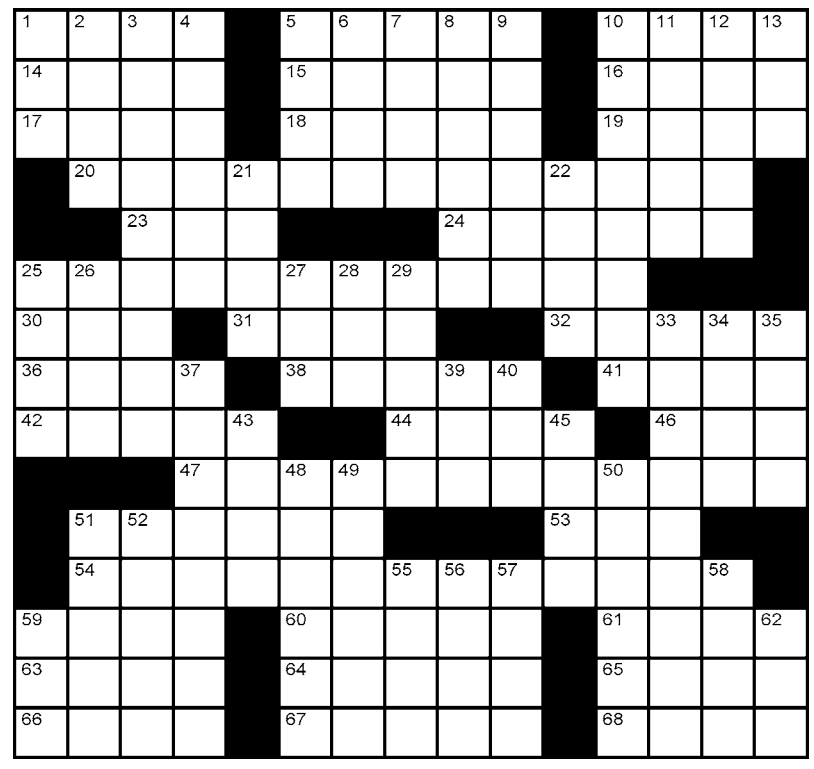
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Seasoned Professionals *by Michele Govier*



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FRI, MAY 20: JH Softball Van Horn Tournament in Van Horn, time TBD
SAT, MAY 21: JH Softball Van Horn Tournament in Van Horn, time TBD

Marfa High School's Alexis Gonzales competes in state golf tournament

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

KYLE — Marfa High School Junior Alexis Gonzales competed this week at a UIL State Golf Tournament in Kyle, Texas.

She scored 119 the first day and 106 on the second day, for a total score of 225. While she did not place for the 1A category, Coach Pittman said she performed well and will be better prepared to come back to the competition as a senior next year.

"I believe she learned a lot with this trip to state and it will help her next year make another run at state golf," said Coach Curtis Pittman.



Photo courtesy of Coach Pittman

Marfa High School junior Alexis Gonzales competed this week in a state golf tournament.

Marfa High School students reflect on trip to international science fair in Atlanta

By BIG BEND SENTINEL

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

While their microbiology project, "Germs and You," which studied the spread of germs in elementary and secondary classrooms utilizing glow powder, UV lights and more, did not advance in the competition, the exposure to other student's projects and the event as a whole was positive, said science teacher Elizabeth Donaldson.

"It was a great learning experience for all of us. We are looking forward to competing again next year," said Donaldson.

Young scientists Avila, Gonzales and Aguilar each expressed their gratitude for participating in ISEF and discussed what it was like mingling with fellow high school students from around the U.S. and the world. The competition included 1,750 young scientists representing 49 states and 63 countries, regions and territories across the world, according to ISEF's website.

"It was so much fun and it was something I didn't expect. When we saw how many people there were I was just in shock. There were so many people from around the world and their projects were so crazy," said Gonzales.

"Competing in ISEF was so surreal to me! It was super fun meeting other teenagers from different parts of the world. Hearing the different languages and seeing how, come present time, there is no language barrier when it comes to big events like this, was so cool. I'm proud of our team and project and look forward to possibly expanding on it in the future," said Aguilar.

"We didn't place but it was a huge accomplishment making it as far as we did. I never thought I'd go across states for a school trip let alone fly, compete, and represent Marfa High School," said Avila.



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Donaldson

From left: Marfa High School juniors Juan Avila, Alexis Gonzales and Aubrie Aguilar attending the International Science and Engineering Fair this past week in Atlanta. While the team's project didn't place in the competition, the students said it was a valuable learning experience.



Photo by Sarah Vasquez, courtesy of Marfa Live Arts

Marfa Live Arts 2022 Playwright Awardees (from left) Zaley Porter, Ashley Certain, Tristan Kelly, Maribel Meraz and Febi Brimhall take a curtain-call bow during the 11th Annual One Act Plays at the Crowley Theater last Wednesday.

OBITUARIES



Chavarria

Delfina Chavarria, 90, of Marfa, Texas, passed away May 9, 2022, at home surrounded by family. She was born December 17, 1931, in Shafter, Texas, and on July 8, 1950, married Luis Chavarria who passed at age 98 on July 20, 2020. She always enjoyed helping others and making her family happy, enjoying all the moments she had with her daughters, nephews/nieces and especially her great-grandchildren. She also, as her late husband did, helped the West family in every way that she could. In her spare time, she loved to take care of her plants and sit outside enjoying the fresh air with no worries. She is survived by her daughters, Eva Muniz and Alice Nieto; grandchildren Lisa Lathrop, Catherine Rodriguez, David Nieto and Xavier Nieto; and great-grandchildren Olivia Lathrop, Jackson Lathrop, Omar Rodriguez, Isaac Rodriguez, Adrian Nieto and Anthony Nieto. Burial services were held on May 17, 2022. We who loved her will never forget her and she will always be in our hearts. We miss you dearly "Memo." We will always love you now and forever. Husband and wife, united once again watching over us.

• • •



Dungan

Suzanne B. Dungan of Marfa, Texas died peacefully, Monday, May 16, 2022, at Del Sol Medical Center in El Paso, Texas after a brief illness. By her side was her son Alan R. Niederlitz of Houston, Texas, and daughters Krista Niederlitz of Houston, Texas, and Suzanne Niederlitz Wynn of Cranston, Rhode Island.

Suzanne was born in Columbus, Ohio, November 1, 1943, to parents Elizabeth Dodd and James J. Butler. She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Dungan, to whom she was married for 44 years. Tom was her soulmate, best friend and birding sherpa on adventures they shared in India, Africa, Central and South America, and Mexico.

In addition to her three children, Suzanne is survived by four grandchildren: Christopher Thompson of Jacksonville, Florida, Sean Flanagan of Austin, Texas, Kira Flanagan of Warwick, Rhode Island, and Audrey Niederlitz of Houston, Texas. Her great grandchild, August Orion Thompson, was born in Okinawa, Japan, on February 2, 2021. They were able to meet at Christmas 2021.

Suzanne's professional career included a wide range of interests, from owning her own travel agency in her 20s and organizing concierge travel tours for Walter Mischer and his company in Houston, Texas, where she coordinated the grand opening of the Lajitas resort (during a rare snowstorm). It was that experience that stoked her lifelong love of West Texas. She went on to a career as an art consultant in Houston, making many friends and colleagues in the modern art world. During her later Houston years, she owned a stained concrete flooring business and pioneered a unique technique of staining concrete that brought her critical recognition.

She and her husband Tom were devoted followers and collectors of modern Texas artists, and they were active in the art communities of Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston and Marfa. After they built their home and moved to Marfa, they continued their support of the Chinati Foundation, and Suzanne assisted in fundraising efforts that enabled the completion of the Robert Irwin installation. She also curated a historic show at Ballroom Marfa presenting the works of famed midcentury architect Victor Lundy and his wife, artist Anstis Lundy. The show displayed for the first time ever Victor's celebrated architectural drawings, works of art in themselves, and Anstis's beautiful watercolor paintings. The show was a huge success despite many challenges and it demonstrated Suzanne's ability to do anything she set her mind to.

She supported the Dersu Collective art sale community fundraiser, volunteered in Marfa schools, and was active in a variety of environmental and social causes. Just before the pandemic, Suzanne initiated a community discussion about establishing a much needed hospice care facility in the Alpine, Marfa and Fort Davis communities.

As Coco Chanel said, "elegance is refusal." Suzanne, who named her beloved little dog Coco and her cat, Chanel, was a truly elegant lady, a striking beauty with reserved grace, sharp and careful judgment to the last. She had a strong desire to support each person's inner dignity, best intentions and projects. She was a curious, sincere listener and a fiercely loyal friend. A true lover of Marfa, she chose to live the rest of her life here spotting and listening for birds.

A private family memorial will be held at a later date. The family suggests that donations in her name be made to the Audubon society. Her love of art and birds was a theme that ran throughout her life.

• • •



Madrid

Josie Nunez Madrid, affectionately called "Mimi" by her daughters and grandchildren, 78, from San Angelo, Texas, was called to her home in Heaven by our Lord on Monday, May 16, 2022, as she felt the loving comfort of her family by her side. She was born on June 5, 1943 in Marfa, Texas, where she lived most of her life.

Josie is survived by her two daughters, Petronila Madrid and Melissa Madrid (Eric Sanchez); five grandchildren, Maricela Garcia, Donny Garcia, Jr., Rosalinda Garcia Flores (Marcos Flores), Tori Garcia and Robert Joseph Garcia (Kamryn Reynolds); three great grandchildren, Nicoah Davidson, Norah Davidson and Emiliano Flores, and a special furry family pet dachshund and her "partner in crime," Sadie; her sister, Helen Calderon (Tony Calderon), brothers, Frank Nunez and Mike Nunez; nieces, Sarah Villa and her son, Josh Villa, Sandra Serrano and sons, Henry Serrano, Jr., Justin Serrano and Kennedy Serrano; niece, Erica Carrillo and family; niece, Calina Anderson and her children, Alana Flores (Carlos Flores and their children, Tristen and Tayah), Kari Nunez (Mario Valenzuela) and their children, Marci Nunez and her children, Jayne Nunez and her child; nephew, Douglas Anderson (Debbie Anderson); niece, Felicia Anderson; nephews Robbie Nunez and family, Frank Nunez, Jr. and family, Jacob Nunez and family, Larry Nunez and family, Charlie Nunez and family, Michael Lee Nunez and family; nieces JoAnn Nunez and family and Lisa Marie Nunez and family; sisters-in-law, Gugu Nunez and Linda Nunez. And many other family and friends whom she loved dearly.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Juan and Genoveva Nunez, brothers, Juan Nunez, Jr. and Robert Lee Nunez, and the father of her daughters, George V. Madrid, Jr.

Josie married George V. Madrid, Jr. on June 14, 1964 and moved to Pasadena, California where their daughters, Petronila and Melissa were born. Josie enjoyed dancing and especially loved gardening, crocheting and sewing special clothes for her family. She also loved serving her family and friends with her cooking and everyone loved all her special and holiday meals, which were delicious banquets for her family and friends. As a beautician, Josie was proud of her career which began in California at Magic Mirror salon, where it was not uncommon for her to work on well-known celebrities. She later worked in Marfa at her sister's salon, Helena's, where she and her sister Helen shared their talents, loved working together and created many cherished memories while serving others. This was later followed by her time at Genevieve's hair salon. Josie's beautician career and caring nature quickly honed her own brand of hometown counseling therapy skills for customers who not only came out with a great "hair-do" or haircut, but also with a much improved outlook and feeling "ten feet tall and bullet-proof!" One of her most cherished treasures was a photo of her and actor Sam Elliot taken at Marfa's Centennial Celebration in 1983.

In her youth, Josie excelled at and loved the game of soccer and boasted to her daughters that she was never afraid of the ball and was better than the boys! For many youthful years, Josie closely resembled first-lady Jacqueline Kennedy and won several Jacqueline Kennedy "look-alike" contests. Josie also expanded her work experience with her colorful and adventurous spirit by working as a jailer at the Presidio County Jail and the Marfa feather factory where they made products for Las Vegas show-girl dancers and accessories for Playboy bunny outfits. Josie also loved her job at the Marfa Senior Nutrition Center where she worked as a cook and server. She once gave retirement a shot and moved to San Angelo from 2009 to 2011, but after missing her salon clients returned to Marfa where she worked another seven years until she made her second and final attempt at retirement by moving back to San Angelo in 2018 to be closer to her daughters and grandchildren. Alas, no one retires in Heaven, so get ready all you angels and saints because y'all are gonna get some of her hometown counseling and some holy Josie haircuts!

Josie was a devoted, caring and loving mother and grandmother and was her children's and grandchildren's Super Hero, often coming to their rescue and always ready and willing to offer her fierce defense for them. She often extended her passion of ensuring justice and unquestionable defense for her family and friends. Josie formed a special bond with Mary Sanchez, Eric's mom, as she selflessly cared for Mary during her own battle with cancer. Josie was a faithful Catholic who loved attending church especially with her family and committed herself to praying the rosary daily and surrendering herself to the sacred heart of Jesus Christ.

Josie's family and friends will celebrate her beautiful life with a viewing and visitation at Harper's Funeral Home, San Angelo, Texas, on Saturday, May 21, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Rosary will be on Saturday, June 4, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Mass and funeral service will follow at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 211 W. San Antonio Street, Marfa, Texas and burial at Cemetario de la Merced.

The family would like to give special thanks to Dr. Marc Wimpee, the staff and nurses of Baptist Memorial's Sagecrest Care Center - Allison House, Hospice of San Angelo, especially Vicki Keck, R.N., all our wonderful and caring work family at ADACCV and our caring ADACCV Board of Directors, West Texas Rehab Center for their love and support, Gary and Leny Davis for their love and support and bringing the holy Eucharist to Josie every Sunday; Camille Martinez, Trevor Sanchez, Henry Sanchez, Nathan and Lexi Sanchez, Will Ott and Hilary Sanchez for their loving care and compassionate support and thoroughly enjoying Josie's homemade pimiento and cheese spread; Natalia Villarreal and Larysa Belman for taking the time to visit Josie and the special Mother's Day gift for Melissa which she will always cherish; her granddaughter Maricela Garcia for her selfless, untiring, devoted and constant compassionate care. Special thanks to granddaughter Rosalinda Garcia Flores and family for their surprise Mother's Day visit which was lovingly cherished by her grandmother; her grandchildren Tori, Donny and Robert Joseph Garcia and Kamryn Reynolds for their unending love and support; Lizette Cervantes, for her lifelong friendship, love and support; her dear friends Linda Webb and family, Dola Rodriguez and Mary Wingo for their constant visits and caring companionship; Rosemary Baeza Jiminez and family for their love and offering masses for Josie. Special thanks to her sister Helen, her brother Mike and nieces and nephews Sarah, Sandra, Henry Serrano, Sr., Calina, Felicia and Alana and her family and Josie's neighbor, Odelia, cousins Leo Franco, Raymond and Vicki Sotelo and sister-in-law, Gugu Nunez, all for their loving and caring visits. We also want to thank all of our family and friends who brought our mom so much joy and happiness and at the time when she was most in need, lovingly kept her and our family in their hearts and prayers. We offer a very special thank you to our Father in Heaven for the many incredible and beautiful years we had with the wonderful mother, sister, grandmother, aunt and friend we all had in Josie Madrid.

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Questions or to get involved, contact John at: J.C.Havens@IEEE.org

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of JUANA MONTOYA PEREZ, Deceased, were issued on May 9, 2022, in Cause No. 1991, pending in the County Court of Presidio County, Texas, to: DAISY PEREZ.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: **DAISY PEREZ**
2105 W. 9th Street
Odessa, Texas 79763

DATED the 11th day of May, 2022.

Glen G. Halsell
Attorney for DAISY PEREZ
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Irma Salgado, Mayor Pro Tem
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Buck Johnston
councilmemberjohnston@cityofmarfa.com
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Eddie Pallarez
councilmemberpallarez@cityofmarfa.com
Yoseff Ben-Yehuda
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Presidio Mayor John Ferguson:
City Hall: (432) 229-3517
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Max Kabat	Publisher
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Office: 209 1/2 W. El Paso St., Marfa, Texas
Mail: Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843
Telephone: 432.729.4342
Contact: editor@bigbendsentinel.com
Advertising Inquiries: ads@bigbendsentinel.com
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