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Healthcare options in Presidio and Terlingua to expand with $5.5 million grant from USDA

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

TRI-COUNTY — The Big Bend Regional Hospital District (BBRHD) recently announced that Terlingua and Presidio were the recipients of a $5.5 million grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to expand healthcare access in the remote reaches of Presidio and Brewster counties. The funding will go to establishing a clinic in Terlingua, expanding the existing Presidio clinic to include after-hours care, and providing funding for both communities' EMS services.

"It's going to be a huge infusion of healthcare dollars that we've never had before," said BBRHD Executive Director J.D. Newsom.

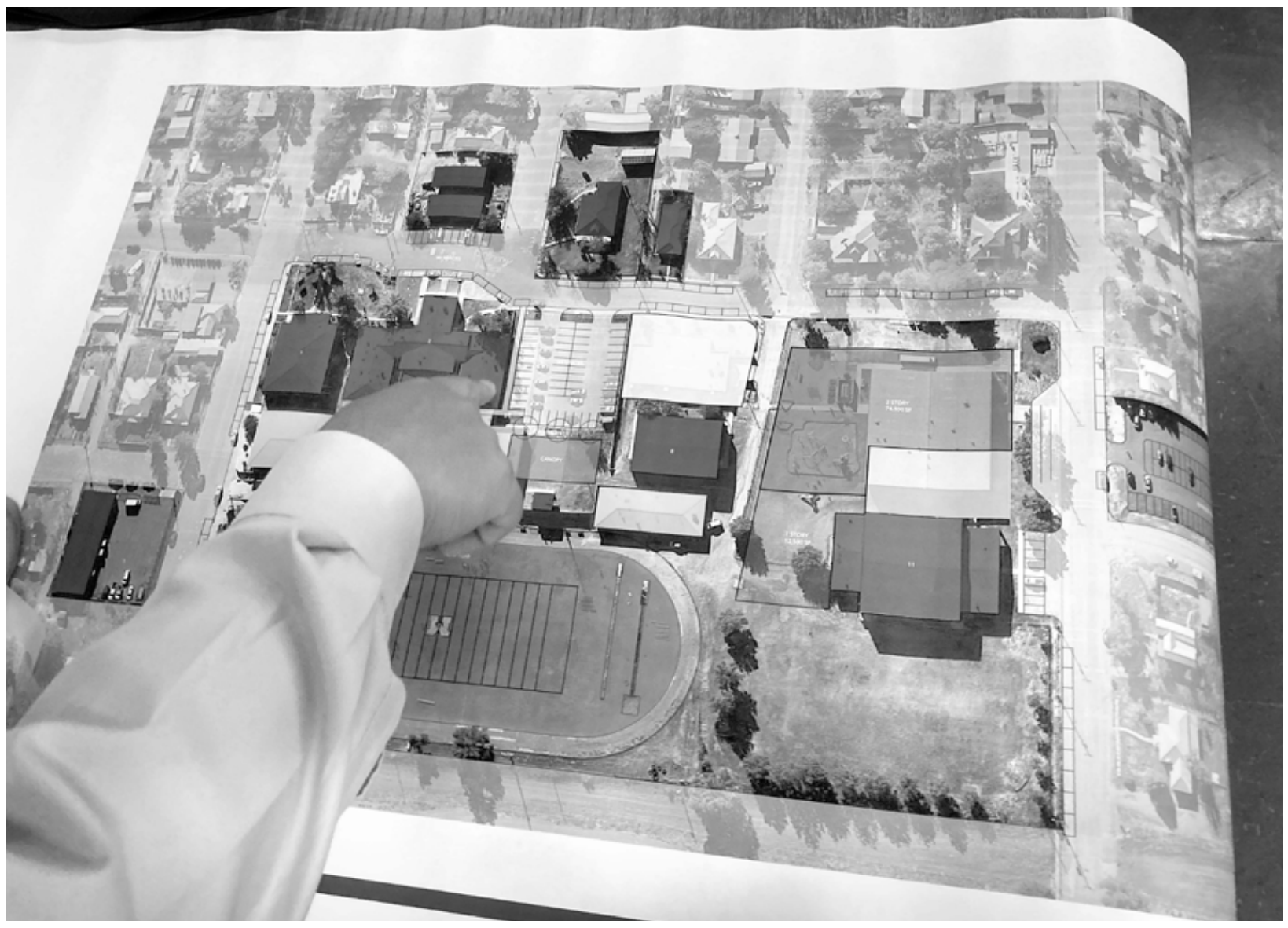
The Big Bend area grant represents one of only 13 such grants awarded nationwide. Newsom pinned the success of the proposal on the strength of the coalition that formed to apply for the grant. "It's all in the strength of our partnerships that we created with all the different entities solving this problem — the City of Presidio, Terlingua Fire and EMS, the Big Bend Regional Hospital District, Preventative Care Health Services and others," he explained. "It's a complicated grant. Not many rural communities have the capacity to put an initiative like this together."

The demographics of the communities along FM 170 — extremely rural, lower income, minority-majority and primarily Spanish-speaking — helped communicate the urgency of the problem to grant screeners in Washington, D.C. "I would say that the demographics of Presidio and Terlingua put us at the top of the pile," Newsom explained.

The Biden administration's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allotted $500 million to the USDA for a one-time infusion of cash into rural emergency healthcare systems. Much of the funding went to COVID mitigation efforts, but the money leftover for "sustainable rural healthcare models" fit the Big Bend coalition's needs and strengths perfectly. "It helped, of course, that the hospital district is bi-county, so we're already thinking about healthcare regionally," Newsom said.

In Terlingua, the large infusion of cash will mean that the remote South Brewster County community can open a clinic for the first time in over 20 years.

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Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

The Marfa Independent School District Board of Trustees met this week to kick off the bond planning process, which involved reviewing the district's numerous buildings and prioritizing projects for construction and renovation.

At Marfa school board's first bond workshop, safety improvements top of mind

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — While school is officially out for summer, things are just ramping up for the Marfa Independent School District Board of Trustees and Superintendent Oscar Aguero, who will work throughout the break over the next few months to make significant progress on pursuing a school bond to pay for campus infrastructure upgrades, including some centered around school security.

The school board is seeking to put a bond on the ballot in the upcoming general election on November 8 and will next invite members of the community to take part in the bond planning process. With numerous large-scale infrastructure projects on the horizon due to aging facilities, the district set its sights on a bond to help pay for the necessary improvements. The district, as dictated by the local I&S debt service tax rates, could request up to $45 million dollars for the bond. At this point, a final budget has not yet been established.

On Monday night, Aguero and board members Ruben Martinez, Lori Flores, Rene Gonzales, Teresa Nuñez, Yolanda Jurado, Ernie Villarreal and Christa Marquez met with Francis Zordilla, principal at Claycomb Associates Architects, the firm assisting them in the school bond planning process, to assess priorities for new construction, renovation and demolition projects on the MISD campus. Over pizza, the group reviewed a master list of suggested district-wide improvements and analyzed the campus's buildings via a blown-up aerial photograph.

Concerns over school safety were woven throughout discussions, with an emphasis on the need for multiple layers of security. The board discussed keyless entry, the possibility of fencing off the campus perimeter and moving administration offices to cut back on the number of visitors to school grounds. All agreed establishing a singular K-12 school — as opposed to the current, scattered footprint — would present fewer security challenges with all students under one roof. Bullet resistant glass windows and walls could be utilized to achieve the board's goal of increased natural light and better views as well as safety, suggested Zordilla.

Nuñez said the goals of the bond project were twofold — to serve the district's educational needs well into the future as well as protect Marfa's students.

"You want to secure the students within the school, but once they're in the school you want them to have open spaces to learn within that

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Preliminary talks to explore a regional EMS solution are underway, says head of hospital district

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
allegra@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — With local EMS providers across the tri-county area in a state of tumult, the question of a consolidated, region-wide solution has been floating around for some time. In recent months, as North Brewster County scrambled to fill the gap in their emergency services after the death of Alpine EMS Director and Fire Chief Michael Scudder, talk of a regional approach became a routine part of discussions — time constraints prohibited any real entertainment of that idea, and private emergency services provider Emergent Air was chosen to take on the role for the Alpine area.

But J.D. Newsom, executive director of the Big Bend Regional Hospital District — which spans Presidio and Brewster counties — is looking to the future. On Tuesday night, at a regular Alpine City Council meeting, Newsom shared that he was initiating conversations with local entities about a prospective regional EMS solution and that everyone seemed to be on board.

"There are six different agencies that provide EMS operations in the tri-counties, and all of them are struggling, and I think part of this exercise is really looking at: what is the vision for EMS ten years down the road?" said Newsom. "Where do you want to be? Do we want to be in another place where we're hanging on by a thread and scrambling to find a solution, or can we have some discussion now to educate ourselves on what some options might be, not only for the benefit of all the residents in the tri-counties but also the benefit of the taxpayer."

A consolidation could ultimately help save money, he explained. And though Alpine had been fortunate enough to lock down the services of Emergent Air, the long-term question of emergency services for tri-county residents loomed across the region. Jeff Davis County Emergency Services Director Vickie Fowler is set to retire this month after 13 years in the role, and Terlingua Fire and EMS Chief Greg Hennington is looking for a replacement. In short, longtime service providers are reaching retirement, and they are not being replaced — as folks reaching retirement age are aging out, Newsom told The Big Bend Sentinel, recruiting personnel has proven difficult.

In the past, local entities had been more reluctant to relinquish local control, said Newsom, but as time has progressed, a regional approach has started to make more sense. "Everyone I've talked to is ready to have these conversations, which is great, because I think we need to be having these conversations so we can plan for our future, make data-driven solutions, and find a path forward that's going to be not only for the benefit of the taxpayer but provide a well-trained, well-equipped, robust emergency medical service," Newsom told The Big Bend Sentinel.

At Tuesday night's meeting, Newsom

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MAC pool schedule set for summer season

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — After experiencing delays due to lifeguard training and equipment delivery, the Marfa Activities Center Pool is fully open with a set weekly schedule as of Wednesday, June 8.

The deep end, which was previously closed, will now be open. The pool was originally scheduled to be open May 31, but due to lifeguard certification delays opened a few days later on June 3. The pool will remain open for the summer swimming season until August 6.

The pool will be open for water aerobics from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and for open swim from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. The facility will be available to rent for pool parties on Sundays for a rental fee of $150 and $100 cleaning deposit.

The total number of guests must not exceed 50 and there will be two lifeguards on duty during Sunday pool party rentals. Those wishing to rent out the pool must be 21 or older and need to schedule two weeks in advance, first come first served. Cancellations will be accepted without a penalty fee one week in advance. Interested parties will need to fill out a rental agreement with the city and will need to clean up after their events and take out any trash when they depart.

Regular admission will be $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.

The age limit for unaccompanied children remains at age 8 or older. Parents of children 8 and up swimming without a chaperone will be required to sign waivers for their children upon first swim so the city can have it on file for the summer.

For more information, visit cityofmarfa.com

Travis County judge narrows scope of lawsuit against DA Ori White

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

TRAVIS COUNTY — On Tuesday, Catherine Mauzy of the 53rd District Court in Travis County ruled that the lawsuit filed by former Assistant District Attorney Jerry Phillips against current 83rd District Attorney Ori White should be narrowed in scope. Previously, Phillips' suit was targeted at White both as an individual and as the head of the 83rd District Attorney's office — Mauzy ruled that the suit against Ori White the individual should be dismissed, and continue solely against Ori White as head of the DA's office.

"It is therefore ordered that Plaintiff's claims against Ori White individually are dismissed and that Plaintiff's causes of action for wrongful termination, intentional infliction of emotion [sic] distress, and implied contract are dismissed," Mauzy wrote.

Phillips brought a civil lawsuit against White in August of 2021, claiming he had been wrongfully terminated from the DA's office for whistleblowing after attempting to report improper and possibly illegal activity within the office. The sweeping lawsuit contains accusations of cronyism and improper termination, and alleges that Phillips suffered retaliation for objecting to and refusing to commit improper or illegal acts. White has denied the allegations and has called the lawsuit "false."

Phillips filed suit in August 2021 under the Texas Whistleblower Act, which provides certain protections for individuals who hope to report incidents of corruption. Privileges include an exemption from typical venue constraints — suits do not have to be carried out in court in the location where the alleged events occurred. Phillips had originally set out to sue the counties represented by the 83rd District Attorney, but filed to nonsuit the counties in order to ensure that the lawsuit was carried out in Travis County and received by an impartial court.

Judge Mauzy's latest motion for summary judgment also addressed a concern that had been brought up by White's legal counsel: Phillips filed suit on August 27, 2021, and had been terminated on May 28, 2021. The Texas Whistleblower Act protects individuals who file within 90 days, and White's counsel argued that Phillips had waited 91 days — or more, depending on how the "triggering event" for the lawsuit was interpreted. Mauzy's court found that Phillip's suit was "timely filed."

Jodi Cole, one half of Phillip's legal team, chalked the timeline problem up to the special rules that accompany filing suit as a whistleblower in Texas. "There's this provision that requires entities to post a notification that this lawsuit exists and that it can be filed within 90 days," she explained. "If we had seen that we would have known to file it earlier. This was an unexpected event, and we are grateful that this whistleblower provision is available."

All in all, Phillips' team was encouraged by the judge's latest ruling. "We are pleased with the judge's ruling and look forward to getting our case in front of a jury as soon as possible," said Jaime Escuder, who represents Phillips alongside Cole.

Representatives for Ori White did not respond to requests for comment by press time.

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC

Bond workshop

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secured area," said Jurado of the need to balance a secure, yet accessible, learning environment.

In the wake of the recent mass school shooting in Uvalde, school security would be on the minds of the community, many board members said, and would likely lead to public support for safety strengthening measures. Jurado said the future community committee, which will be made up of eight community members and eight teachers as well as the board, would need to be educated on the particular security challenges MISD faces with their current campus setup.

"I can't imagine that any community member would come in, whether you have kids here or you don't, knowing the hideous situations that are happening in our own state, that would say leave it the way it is," said Jurado.

"We need for everybody to understand that there's no way that we could keep our kids safe like this," added Gonzales, who works full time as a security professional.

MISD's piecemeal campus consists of numerous buildings constructed and renovated across decades, making everything from security to classroom modernization a unique challenge.

"When they started adding on it was never master-planned and you can tell," said Zordilla.

The board is currently considering three different options for the reimagining of MISD, all of which involve building a brand-new kindergarten through 12th grade educational building. Exactly where the new K-12 school building will be located is up for debate, and board members spent a fair amount of time shuffling around various options — it could take the place of the present main campus, or go where the current elementary school stands. Existing buildings will either be renovated or demolished, and the possibility of splitting up the work into phases was floated.

A new K-12 school would allow for state-of-the-art classrooms to be at the heart of the bond project, said Villarreal. Others agreed creating new 21st century learning spaces was a major priority.

"That's what will draw more parents to come back to us, more kids to come back to us," said Villarreal.

Along a similar vein, after a quick detour to view the district's two science labs, board members advocated labs be incorporated into the new school in order to support STEM and academics further, and current labs, which are suffering from water damage, be torn down.

A new media center, complete with a library, which could also double as a band hall, should be a part of the new building as well, some said. Nuñez reminded the board they needed to keep in mind the renovation of Hunter Gym, which will be spearheaded by the newly-established Friends of Hunter Gym nonprofit organization, who is in a 10-year lease agreement with the district.

Similar to the Hunter Gym, another piece of old Marfa the board recognized has historical and sentimental value to the community is the old red brick auditorium, which is currently being renovated with new seats, floors, a sound system, lighting and more. While the district originally explored the idea of expanding the auditorium stage to meet UIL one-act play requirements, it was discovered it was ultimately not feasible to do so. Nuñez resurfaced the idea on Monday, stating it might be good to throw more support behind fine arts and create a community gathering space.

"We could host, invite the community. I mean, that could be some kind of revenue aspect too," said Nuñez.

But after more back and forth discussion, Aguero chimed in, stating such a project would only bloat the budget, which they were trying to trim down.

"We're supposed to be trying to find ways to cut and we're adding, and we're talking into the millions that we are adding there," said Aguero.

The board continued to weigh the pros and cons of spending money versus saving money on various areas of the campus. They were able to agree on a few cuts for proposed improvements. The longevity of the new construction and renovations funded by the bond was a recurring theme of the meeting.

Flores posed the question of whether or not the district would be dealing with similar recurring issues post-construction, such as water damage to the floors. The Shorthorn Gym, which was constructed with funds from a bond passed in 2007, for example, was already experiencing issues, she said. Aguero added that the gym's roof already had to be repaired as well. Zordilla said Claycomb Associates Architects, which will likely be awarded construction bids should the bond pass, addressed the specific issue of water damage to flooring by stating they would install vapor barriers to prevent water from coming up from the ground.

Zordilla went on to explain the board should expect costs per square foot for construction to go up from the current $410 per square foot to $490 by the end of 2022. He said typical construction timelines for a school of Marfa's size would last around 16 months but that would likely be prolonged due to ongoing supply chain issues as a result of the pandemic. When prompted for his professional opinion as to how the board should proceed, Zordilla recommended spending $35 million on new construction and $15 million toward renovation.

Jurado, reassessing the proposed new versus renovated spaces, noted a preliminary decision would result in new athletic facilities for the boys but not girls, and the board needing to carefully comb through everything to ensure equal treatment across student populations. The option to renovate, versus tear down, certain spaces should also be thoughtfully considered, she said.

"We all want all shiny, brand new, but we also need to renovate some stuff to at least bring that up to par," said Jurado.

As the meeting wound down, the board touched on the potential public perception of the bond, which would lead to an increase in local property taxes. Nuñez, as well as Flores and Villarreal, who all serve in somewhat public-facing roles in their day jobs, said they often encounter citizens who don't understand why they have to pay into the school district when they don't personally know of or have any children attending the local school. Nuñez said it is the role of the community at large to step up and provide for future generations, regardless of the status of children in their household.

"It's our responsibility to educate the children. It's your responsibility, my responsibility," said Nuñez.

The school district has until August 22 to call the election and get the bond on the ballot for the November election this coming fall. The board concluded the meeting by discussing which members of the community they would reach out to to serve on the bond community committee. The school board will seek out representatives from the city and county level. Aguero noted the board would want to incorporate "some naysayers" in order to better the process.

"I think we've done really well today," said Flores. "But I think we would do better with a committee to help us."

The next bond workshop will involve the community committee and is set to meet Wednesday, June 22, at 5 p.m. That committee will meet a few more times throughout the summer.

EMS solution

(Continued from page 1)

explained that the initiative was in the early stages, and could take years to come to fruition, though he hopes to be equipped with some "initial recommendations" in the near future. In a conversation with The Big Bend Sentinel, Newsom said he hopes to have an initial roundtable discussion with all entities in late July to get a feel for the challenges facing each city and county.

In the meantime, the hospital district board is working on collecting data to help them forge a path forward. A public health intern will devote 300 hours to research and analysis on the topic, said Newsom. The district will look at entities in the state that have implemented regional models and will conduct a budget analysis to determine how much a regional plan will cost.

There are challenges inherent in such an ambitious plan — mainly, geography and cost, said Newsom. A tri-county EMS solution would serve a geographically sprawling area, including small communities separated by vast space. Then there is the question of how it would be funded, and ensuring funding is equitable across the region.

One prospective model would be the establishment of emergency services districts (ESD) — local government entities funded by sales tax or property taxes. Hypothetically, such districts could probably be established by county and united by an interlocal agreement to provide emergency services. Such a plan would require the approval of local voters, noted Newsom. There are also examples of hospital districts running regional EMS operations, and of such operations being run by nonprofits. "I think that's part of the fact-finding mission, is looking at some of these potential solutions and looking at what might work well for us," said Newsom.

Newsom also said he is in talks with Jeff Davis County grant coordinator Larry Francell to put together a grant proposal to help fund the undertaking.

"My guess is it's going to be a long process," said Newsom of the upcoming discussions and analysis. "But a worthy process that I think will in the long run help us make educated decisions moving forward."

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Grant from USDA

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"The difference between then and now is that our population has exploded and also our population has aged," said Brewster County Commissioner Sara Allen Colando, who represents Terlingua. "There's more demand, and there's more need. Because we don't have access to primary care locally, a lot of times treatable conditions go undetected until it's too late."

The 80-plus mile trip to Alpine for a primary care appointment can be prohibitive for many Terlingua residents, especially working parents. "If a kid gets sick, parents basically have to take an entire day off of work, schedule the appointment and drive to Alpine to go to the doctor," Newsom explained. Parents of multiple children often have to pull everyone out of school for the day in order to avoid missing pick-up after the final bell.

"There's been numerous efforts throughout the years to provide healthcare in Terlingua, but I think what's different with this effort is that we've got some funding behind it," Newsom said. "The problem with clinics in small communities is just getting them established and having volume to sustain them. With all the growth that Terlingua has had over the past couple of years, I'm hoping that this time around, we'll create a sustainable operation."

In Presidio, the grant money will go to creating an after-hours clinic that can offer care to Presidio residents after typical working hours and over the weekend. "We're hoping that the after-hours clinic is going to reduce the burden on EMS and will be really transformative for the city," Newsom told Presidio City Council in May.

He's hoping that the new facility will be completed relatively quickly, but Presidians won't have to wait for the new clinic to open to receive care. "Preventative Health Care Services is the partner that's going to be doing the clinic," Newsom explained. "So initially, the after-hours [clinic] is going to be run out of their existing building."

Both Terlingua and Presidio will receive funding toward creating a community paramedicine program — essentially an additional layer of training for local EMS personnel that will help divert routine health concerns from Big Bend Regional Medical Center. The long ambulance ride from either community is expensive, time-consuming and can prevent people with life-threatening emergencies from receiving care, should they call while an ambulance is out on a run.

For many South County residents, emergency medical care is the only kind of medical care they can hope to receive, so precious ambulance services get dispatched to treat conditions that would be handily treated at a walk-in clinic anywhere else in the country. "There's no hospital in Presidio, there's no healthcare in Terlingua," Newsom explained. "So the EMS personnel provide medicine that an EMT would never provide in a city."

Some of Colando's constituents have experienced this first-hand. "One thing I hear from the Terlingua Fire and EMS people is that they get calls for people who have high blood pressure," she said. "It's not really an emergency situation, so they don't want to take their ambulance out of service to get this person to a doctor."

Community paramedicine programs give EMTs the tools to treat and educate local people about their chronic conditions without having to transport them to a hospital. "Community paramedics are trained to do home visits, to go and help patients directly with managing chronic medical conditions, instead of just seeing that person when there's an emergency or going to the emergency room," Newsom explained. "The focus is a little bit more on education and outreach. It's not emergency medicine, per se — it's a lot more preventative maintenance."

Because community paramedicine is its own specialty within paramedic certification — a few steps beyond what entry-level EMTs are trained to provide — their training can be expensive and isn't typically required of urban practitioners. The USDA grant will fill in the gaps, and also provide funding to expand a collaboration with the Texas Tech University Health Science Center out of El Paso for further support.

"Their Emergency Medicine Department is going to be partnering with us to create an EMS institute to further train our EMS personnel," Newsom said. "They'll help us with the medical protocols for our community paramedicine program and help us with medical direction as needed. I really think that this program is going to have measurable impacts on people's health."

Newsom anticipates that the biggest challenge will be recruiting — and retaining — new healthcare professionals to staff the new clinics in the region. "We know that it's already a challenge to recruit medical personnel, even here in Alpine," he said. "It's going to be even harder in Presidio. We did budget some pretty heavy recruitment dollars, because I think that we're going to need that."

Another huge gap in the region's healthcare services is social workers, but the Big Bend consortium planned ahead. "There's going to be a full time social worker that's going to help coordinate and provide medical case management for folks," Newsom said. "There are virtually no social workers in the tri-county area that are able to focus on that. But we did budget for that, and I think it's going to be really important for this grant."

All in all, news of the funding is a cause for celebration for many in the region, who have long accepted that neglecting one's health is a fact of life in the lower reaches of the Big Bend. "It'll be a huge benefit to the residents out here," Colando said. "It's a new, cutting-edge thing for us. We're excited."

El Paso state delegation holds 'listening tour' on gun violence epidemic

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

EL PASO — On Monday night, the El Paso state delegation hosted a town hall meeting aimed at connecting members of the public with local representatives, emergency personnel, and educators in hopes of brainstorming solutions to the rash of mass shootings that have dominated headlines in recent weeks. After 21 lives were lost at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde on May 24, people around the country have demanded answers from their government representatives.

The topic is especially important to people in the El Paso area, who suffered a mass shooting in 2019 at a Wal-Mart, where 23 lives were lost to a gunman targeting Mexican Americans. More recent events have spurred the community to action: on June 4, five teenagers in Socorro were sent to the hospital after a shooting broke out at a local graduation party.

"We are broken every time we see another community dealing with mass violence, as we in El Paso understand how that has devastated our community," said Sen. César Blanco, the Big Bend region's representative in the state legislature. "I don't know what it's going to take for politicians to muster the courage to do what's right. We have hardened our schools, we have done millions of dollars in police training. The only thing we haven't done is [address] the easy access to assault weapons and the age of the people who can purchase them."

Blanco explained to the crowd that the state's Democratic Caucus had sent a letter to Governor Abbott requesting an emergency session to kick start conversation in the Legislature about gun violence. In response, Abbott requested that committees be formed to investigate aspects of the gun violence epidemic like access to mental healthcare and school security. Blanco did not believe that the governor's response was adequate. "The bottom line is that politicians are choosing guns over lives, and we're better than that," the senator said.

Senator Blanco called the town hall the first in a "listening tour," a play on the traditional "speaking tour," in order to encourage constituents to share their concerns with their officials. "We're here to listen to you," he said. "We need to make our voices louder, stronger and not take no for an answer."

A number of community members stepped up to the microphone to share their concerns, including Vietnam veterans, emergency room doctors and public school teachers. "We don't need more laws, we need to enforce the ones we have," said moderator Joe Moody, a fellow state representative whose district covers northern El Paso County.



Photo courtesy of Blanco for Texas

State Sen. César Blanco addresses constituents during the first leg of a "listening tour" addressing constituent concerns about mass shootings.

In particular, Moody would like to see laws around domestic violence better enforced. "There is an extremely powerful connection between domestic violence and mass shootings," he said. "These are the situations that we need to intervene in earlier, before violence ripples out of the home and into our schools and our streets."

Veronica Carbajal, an attorney at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, offered a more stringent set of suggestions. "I am asking for a statewide ban on assault weapons, I'm asking for a statewide voluntary buyback gun program," she said. "If the state won't do it, I'm asking for city and county officials who are here to do a localized gun buyback program that's voluntary. We need to start taking back the narrative and the messaging that Texans love their guns. They're repulsive at this moment."

"When we look at this issue, we know that this is a Republican versus Democrat issue," she continued. "I appreciate all of your courage at the Capitol. The fact is that most of your proposals die in the abyss that is the Republican majority at the Capitol. And so I'm asking that you have a heart to heart with your donors to really take back this narrative and if they are willing to walk the walk to do it."

Sen. Blanco responded directly to Carbajal's comments. "I want to thank you for bringing up that important point," he said. "I support the Second Amendment, but we've got to make sacrifices and adjustments to save lives."



Opinions

GEO NOTES

The Permian Reef Geology Trail: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

By DENIS FOLEY
Geologist

One of my favorite hikes in West Texas is into McKittrick Canyon on the eastern side of Guadalupe Mountains National Park. There are three parts: the canyon, including Wallace Pratt's hunting cabin; the McKittrick Ridge Trail, which climbs the escarpment westward out of the canyon; and the Permian Reef Geology Trail (PRGT), which climbs 2000 feet vertical across the different geologic parts of this ancient basin. These trails are currently only available for day use due to high fire danger in the backcountry.

The McKittrick Canyon Road turns off U.S. Highway 62/180 (from Carlsbad NM to El Paso, TX), 6 to 8 miles east of the park's Main Visitor Center at Pine Canyon. It's a 4 to 5 mile northwest drive up into the parking area at the mouth of McKittrick Canyon where you will begin your hike. The PRGT trailhead is near the McKittrick Canyon Trail trailhead and the visitor center where you will park your vehicle. The road is gated and is locked from 4:30 p.m. Mountain Time (5:30 p.m. Central) until 8 a.m. Mountain Time (9 a.m. Central) every day, so check on the times and mind your watch or cell phone to get out in plenty of time. It's confusing because Guadalupe Mountain National Park sits astride the boundary between Central and Mountain time. Sometimes your phone clock may be seeing a tower in Central Time. The park operates on Mountain Time. Don't get locked out in the morning or in the evening.

The PRGT begins in the recent gravels being transported by McKittrick Creek down the canyon towards the Pecos River and eventually into the Gulf of Mexico via the Rio Grande. They are being eroded off the Guadalupe Mountains when it occasionally rains. You are regionally in the Delaware Basin and begin your experience of the Permian-age rocks on the sands and limes of the Bell Canyon formation which were deposited in deep water below the Guadalupe Reef. There are numbered signs keyed to the national park's trail guide to help you with the various formations and fossils as you climb. There is also an excellent publication from the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology which is worth its weight to carry up the escarpment. You then pass through the Capitan Reef and upwards into the muds, clays and sands of the back reef (Tansill Formation). Fossils you will see along the way include algae, sponges and corals. You will have climbed 2000 feet vertical from the desert and into pine forest to cross the suite of depositional environments. These environments resembled today's Bahamas and Florida carbonate platforms and the deep water troughs by which they are surrounded. At the top, you will stand on the 32nd Parallel North, which is used as the Texas/New Mexico border in this area. Once you cross that imaginary line, you are in a state where recreational marijuana use has been legal and taxable since April 2022, and you have entered the Lincoln National Forest.

On one of our hikes into McKittrick Canyon, we encountered a group of women examining plants off the side of the trail near the trailhead. They were Bureau of Land Management (BLM) scientists from Carlsbad taking a census of plants growing in that desert place. GMNP has not been grazed by stock since the park was formed on September 30, 1972. Let's all plan to attend the GMNP 50th anniversary this September. The BLM scientists use the park as a biologic comparator to nearby grazing lands managed by BLM in New Mexico. The park's grasses, cacti and trees serve as a statistical baseline to compare to plant censuses on BLM and forest service grazing leases. It made me smile that one of the scientists was the granddaughter of Coach Lynn, my excellent high school government teacher.

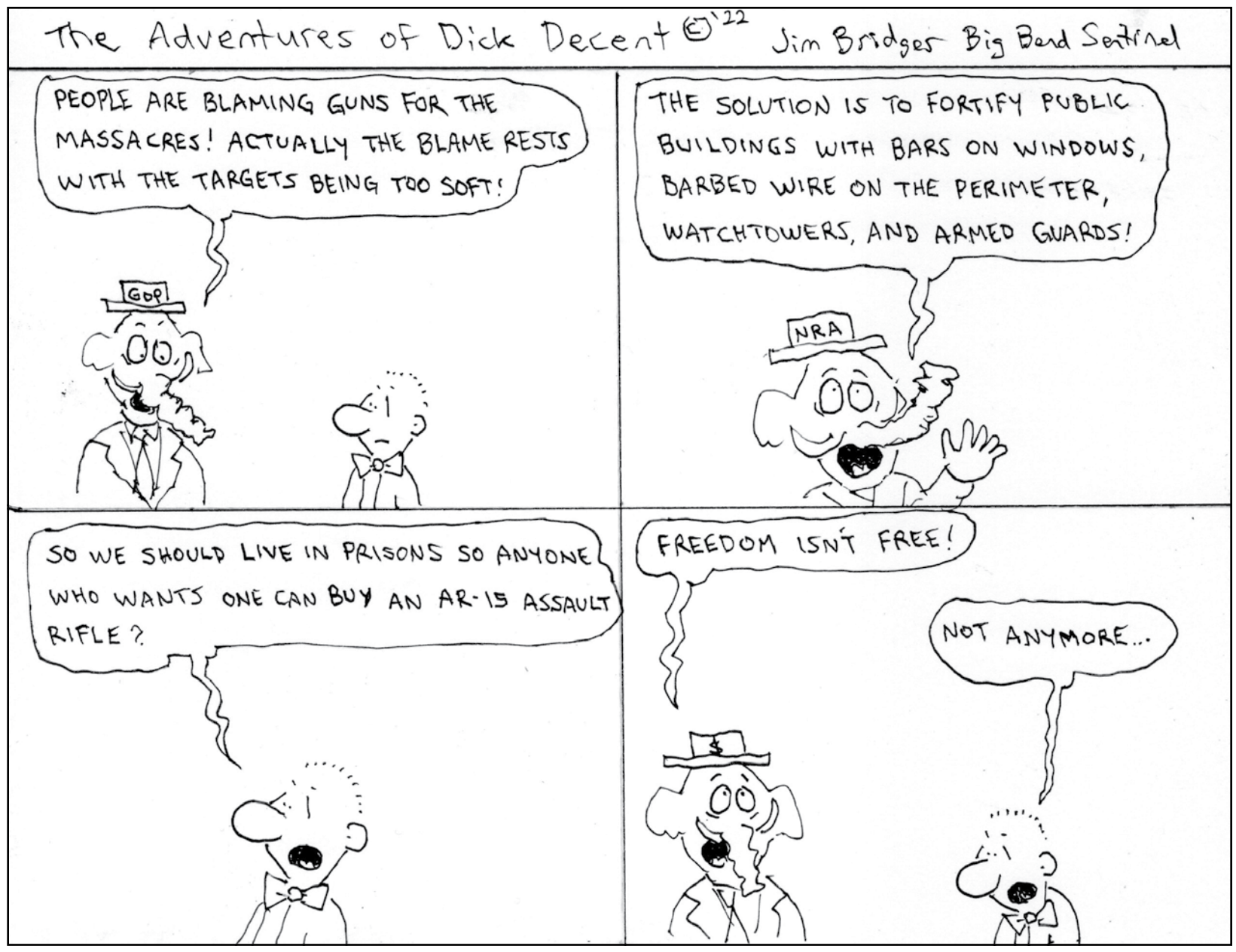
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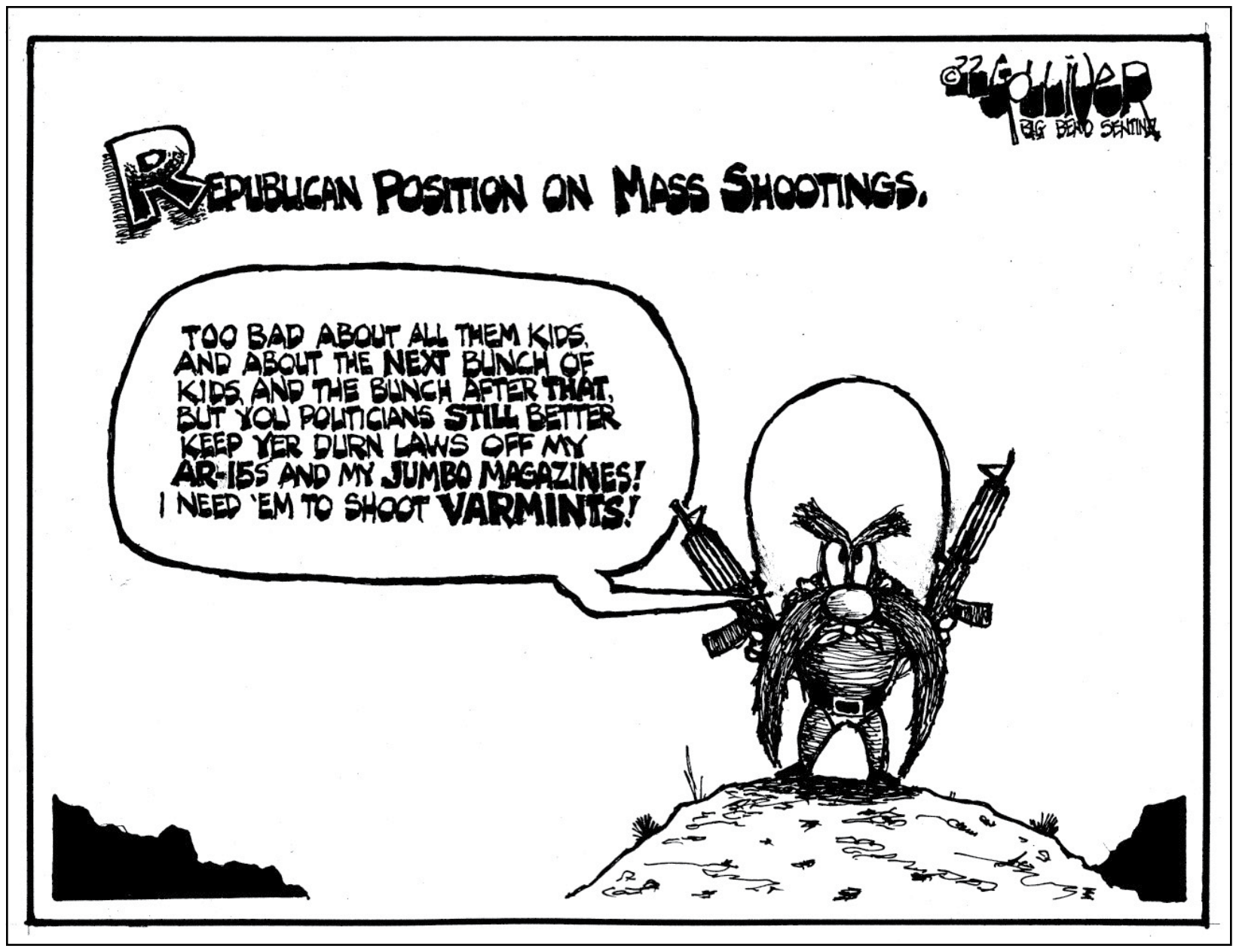
Guide to the Permian Reef Geology Trail, McKittrick Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, W Texas: 1993, D.G. Bebout and Charles Kerans, Editors., Bureau of Economic Geology Guidebook 26.

McKittrick Canyon, A Beautiful History: 2015, D.B. Birchell, The History Press.

Texas Through Time, Lone Star Geology, Landscapes, and Resources: 2016, T.E. Ewing and H.Christensen, Bureau of Economic Geology Udden Series 6.

geoinfo.nmt.edu / Geologic Tour of NM / Permian Reef Complex Virtual Field Trip





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The Chinati Foundation is a contemporary art museum created by the artist Donald Judd.
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Outdoor Self-guided Walking Tours
Reservations are required and space is limited.
Tickets are timed.
Experience the connection between art, architecture, and the land unique to Chinati. The hour-long guided tour covers Judd's art and architecture, including the Artillery Sheds. The walking tour path follows along Judd's 15 untitled works in concrete, covers 1.6 miles, takes approximately 1½ hours to complete, and is best enjoyed wearing sturdy shoes.
Chinati follows COVID-19 precautions.
Masks and social distancing are required.
Visit chinati.org for more information and to book reservations.

Community

A guide to family-friendly activities in the tri-county area this month

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

TRI-COUNTY — School's out for the summer and temperatures have soared over 100 degrees in every corner of the Big Bend. With the heat unlikely to break anytime soon, seeking fun indoors is a priority. Here's a roundup of activities for kids and families to keep tri-county residents off the couch this summer.

MARATHON

The patio at Brick Vault this summer will look a little different than usual: head brewer Amy Oxenham has constructed a model Pinewood Derby track that anyone in the community can use. She will be hosting the race in July, but is hoping to get "kids of all ages" to start working on their cars this month with a workshop on June 16 from 6 to 8 p.m..

The Pinewood Derby is an event traditionally hosted by the Boy Scouts, where participants build model cars out of wood and race them on a regulation track. "My brother was a scout and did the derby every year and I just loved it," she said. "I wanted everyone to have a more hands-on opportunity to participate than just boys with scout affiliations. There's no age limits, I just want everybody to get really into it."

Folks hoping to participate in Marathon's version of the Pinewood Derby are encouraged to stop by Brick Vault on the evening of June 16 to get more information and to workshop ideas for their cars. Kits for the cars cost $15, but a few generous locals have offered to pitch in and cover the costs for anyone in need. "Everybody gets a chance to express their personality through the way they decorate and design their car," Oxenham said.

The official race day will be set for July 16, and all are invited to cheer on their friends and neighbors on the patio, even if they didn't build a car.

ALPINE

The Alpine Public Library will be a hotspot this summer as staff hosts a different activity for local families practically every day of the week. Toddler Time will be hosted in the Community Room each Thursday at 10 a.m., giving Alpine's youngest to learn about a different topic every week. The library's Big Blue Planet Earth program for grades 1-4 will be hosted at 2 p.m. every Tuesday, and focuses on a different scientific topic each session. Older kids can blow off steam with a ribbon dance class on Mondays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

APL will be celebrating its 75th birthday on June 16 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. with extended library hours and fun activities for the whole family. Light refreshments will be provided and community members will have the chance to register for door prizes and bid on a painting by Chris Ruggia. The Calamity Creek String Band will provide the soundtrack for the evening's festivities.

MARFA

The Marfa Public Library will be kicking off the summer with "Kid Cafe," a Summer Shakeup event hosted in collaboration with Marfa ISD, on Thursday, June 9, at 11:30 a.m. The library will be hosting more programming for children a bit later in the summer, including the popular Summer Reading Program. Director Nicki Ittner was pleased to report that the library will begin hosting a Teen Movie Night — dates to be determined. "We've been wanting to host something like that for a long time and finally found a volunteer to do it," she said.

The Marfa Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a 3-on-3 basketball tournament on Saturday, June 11. Games start at 9 a.m. and the championship game will be held at 5 p.m. Concessions — including homemade Frito pies — will be sold throughout the event. "There are teams from Marfa, Alpine, Fort Davis, Van Horn, Fort Stockton and Presidio," said Abby Boyd, representing the Marfa Chamber.

The event was the brainchild of board member Patrick Rivera, and the organization hopes it'll grow into an annual tradition. "Our mission is community building and finding ways to bring people together," said Boyd.

PRESIDIO

Presidio ISD just kicked off its summer enrichment program, which will run until July 1. The program is open to Presidio ISD students in first through fifth grades, and will run Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities will include arts and crafts, indoor and outdoor games, and storytime. "We're also having a class that involves culinary skills, to start experimenting with cooking," said Paola Flotte, who is coordinating the program for Presidio ISD.

Transportation will not be provided by the school district, but the program does include lunch. "We have all the supplies and materials, we just ask that students come in clothes that they feel comfortable playing outside in," said Flotte.

Fort Davis Historical Society receives grant for Overland Trail Museum

By BIG BEND SENTINEL

FORT DAVIS — The Texas Historical Foundation recently approved grant funds for the Fort Davis Historical Society to install seamless gutters on the historic, 1883-built adobe building that houses the Overland Trail Museum.

The new gutter installation aims to preserve the structure and interior collections by diverging rainfall away from the foundation. In nearby Marfa, the Marfa and Presidio County Museum, an adobe building also built in 1883, is currently suffering from structural failures as a result of water exposure.

The Overland Trail Museum is located on the historic Overland Trail, a trade route between San Antonio and El Paso utilized from the mid- to late 1800s. The building was originally constructed in 1883 and was purchased by Nick Mersfelder in 1897. Mersfelder lived and ran various enterprises out of the home, including a barbershop, and added a courtroom on to the property in 1897. Mersfelder served as justice of the peace for 49 years and held court in that room until 1939.

The museum's current collection consists of displays and artifacts relating to early life in the West, including medical paraphernalia, a restored pioneer settlers' kitchen and numerous early photographs of pioneer settlers and buildings. The museum is run by the Fort Davis Historical Society, a nonprofit whose mission is to preserve, collect, exhibit and educate the public about the history of Jeff Davis County and the surrounding area.

The modest grant, submitted by volunteers Genie Mitchell and Barbara Curry, provides $2,665 from the Joanne R. Blocker Memorial Fund for the project.



Photo courtesy of the Overland Trail Museum

The Overland Trail Museum in Fort Davis recently received a modest grant to improve rain catchment systems.

"It is through the work of dedicated groups and individuals such as yours that we are able to preserve Texas' exceptional heritage for future generations," wrote Gene Krane, executive director of the Texas Historical Foundation, in a letter to the Fort Davis Historical Society.

The museum is located at 511 Fort Street and is open to the public from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and by appointment. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/Fort.Davis.Museum.

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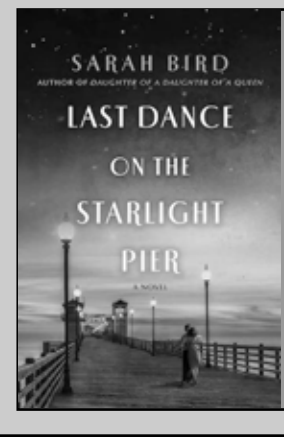
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Marfa Visitor Center / USO Hall
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Barbecue Lunch 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Public Meeting 1:00-4:00 p.m.
The Blackwell School Alliance and its partners are hosting a half-day community engagement event where former students and community members, historians and planners, and decision makers come together to explore values, hopes, fears, challenges, and benefits associated with the Blackwell School's transition to a National Historic Site. Please join us.
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Presidio County would like to thank the following people for helping make the Memorial Day Program a successful tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation.
We thank the public in attendance, the City of Marfa, Abbie Boyd and Patrick Paul Rivera for the venue, Pastor Mike Wallens for the beautiful invocation and benediction, DPS Trooper and US Army Veteran Amber Serrano for a moving and excellent speech as guest speaker, and Oscar Aguero for the reading of the names of the fallen and playing of Taps.
And to those who went to cemetery to mark the graves of the veterans with an American Flag, you paid a great homage.
The volunteers were:
Jose Catano, David Francis, Julian Garcia, Charles Simpson Jr. , Rita Simpson, Jacob Simpson, and Braydon Simpson.
I personally would like to thank each and every veteran still living and those who were able to attend the ceremony for your service to our country.
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Presidio County Judge
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Big Bend communities join national March for Our Lives rallies protesting gun violence

By BIG BEND SENTINEL

TRI-COUNTY — Local iterations of March for Our Lives, a national demonstration against gun violence, will take place this Saturday across the nation, with two local rallies taking place in Marfa and Alpine.

March for Our Lives is a youth-led movement born out of the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

"In the wake of the unthinkable gun tragedies in Uvalde and Buffalo, we're taking our fight back into the streets to demand lawmakers act to save lives," the March for Our Lives website states of Saturday's events.

Marfa's March for Our Lives will take place at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at the Presidio County Courthouse. Organizers are encouraging attendees to bring signs and speak at the gathering if they'd like. The group will start the march at the courthouse and move down Highland Avenue toward the Marfa Visitors Center (USO) ending at the outdoor Marfa Farmstand.

Alpine's march will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and meet at the gazebo at Brewster County Courthouse, 201 W Ave E. There will be a formal presentation at the gazebo and afterward those wishing to display signs will do so on the main street by the courthouse or at Railroad Park. In addition to signs, attendees are encouraged to bring flowers or small objects for a memorial as well as chairs, water and snacks.

"Ours is a community of schoolhouses and public venues no different but in population than those already hurting. Enough is enough," organizers of Alpine's march wrote in an announcement.



Photo by Mary Etherington

A local March for Our Lives event will be held in Marfa this Saturday morning.

Marfa ISD Scholarship Recipients

Listed below are the scholarship recipients among Marfa ISD's senior class.

"Marfa ISD, and our 2022 graduates, sincerely appreciate the generosity of our scholarship donors," wrote the school in a statement. "You, our valued donors, are providing a great opportunity for our students to further their education as they embark upon these new milestones in their lives."

- CMC Business Scholarship: $2000, Hannah Ibarra
- Kirr/Martin Family Scholarship: $1000, Juan Avila
- Marfa Film Shop Scholarship: $1000, Febi Brimhall
- Frontier Masonic Lodge #766: $1000, Soraya Vallez
- Ex-Shorthorn Group of El Paso: $2500, Soraya Vallez; $2500, Dakota Martinez
- Cynthia Hibbitts Memorial Scholarship: $500, Odalys Chacon
- Marfa ISD PTO Scholarship: $500, Hannah Ibarra
- Marfa Live Arts Scholarship: $1000, Febi Brimhall; $1000, Cristian Ontiveros
- Ernest Chavez Memorial Golf Scholarship: $2000, Cristian Ontiveros; $2000, Ian Marquez; $2000, Ethan Zubia
- Judd Foundation Scholarship: $2000, Odalys Chacon
- Marfa Rotary Club: $3000, Cristian Ontiveros; $2000, Odalys Chacon; $2000, Soraya Vallez; $2000, Dakota Martinez
- Marfa Athletic Boosters: $300, Ethan Zubia; $300, Odalys Chacon; $200, Jacynda Hernandez
- Big Bend Sector Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Association Scholarship: $500, Odalys Chacon
- Marfa National Bank Scholarship: $600, Odalys Chacon; $500, Cristian Ontiveros; $500, Uriel Torres-Hernandez
- Marion Financial Corporation Scholarship: $7500, Odalys Chacon; $2500, Cristian Ontiveros
- Pfeifer Scholarship: $30,000, Odalys Chacon; $5000, Soraya Vallez
- UTPB Bold Promise Scholarship: $43,864, Cristian Ontiveros
- Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award: $100, Odalys Chacon
- Highest Ranking Graduate: $10,966, Odalys Chacon

Scholarship Total: $132,830

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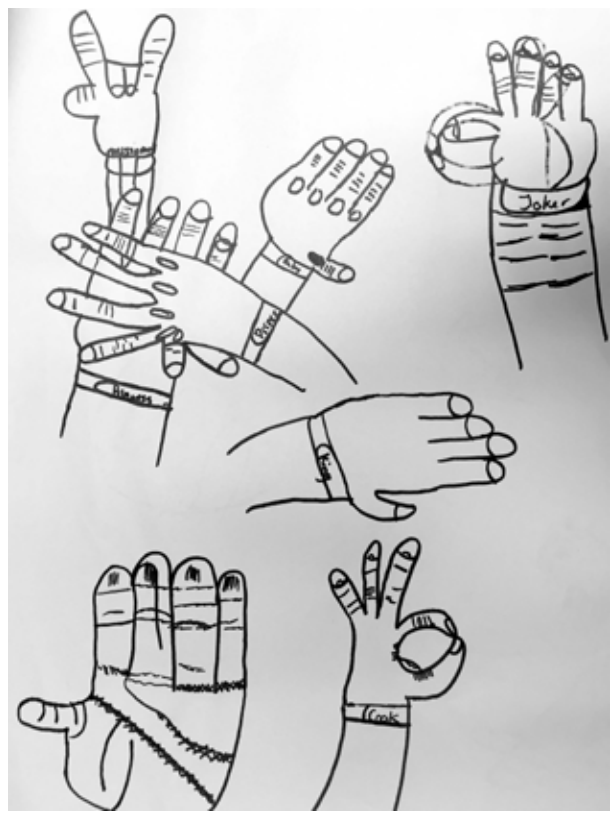
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DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Aubrey Taar
Marker
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.

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

5/23 © 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg June 6, 2022

ACROSS
1 iPhone programs
5 The "B" in USB
8 Spot to apply blush
13 Stance for Barbie
14 Curve
15 Pew book
16 "bye 4 now"
17 "That's a surprise, guv!"
19 Prudent
21 Baklava dough: Var.
22 "___: Vegas"
23 Neighbor of a Yemeni
25 One celebrating 25-Down
26 "Wizard of Oz" character's makeup?
27 Wave-developing garment
28 "Monk" condition, briefly
29 No, in Russian
31 Slide into the ___ (contact someone on Twitter)
32 Angelic ring
34 Got on in years
35 Urban planning regulation
37 Apartment with high ceilings
38 Opinion
39 Hailed ride
42 One missing social cues at a gala, say
43 One issuing travel advisories?
44 Tequila source
46 Chest muscle, informally
47 Wedding or graduation, e.g.
49 Knock on
50 Cry of inspiration
51 Stand the test of time
52 Throws in
53 Watching a Persian, say
56 Musicians' bookings
59 Conjures up
60 Item used at a regatta
61 With 12-Down, co-founder of Vox
62 Letter flourish
63 LeBron James' org.
64 Four years, for a president

DOWN
1 Fitting
2 Mary Jane
3 Campaigns involving propaganda
4 ___ Meyer ("Veep" veep)
5 "Sweetie"
6 It might be bookmarked
7 Gathering of Trekkers, e.g.
8 Pitcher's honor
9 "Let me think ..."
10 Passed, as a bill
11 Face-plants
12 See 61-Across
15 Gripped
18 "Um, do you ___?" ("Excuse me?")
20 Wordless "Whew!"
23 Strange
24 ___'s the word
25 Spring festival of colors
30 Tree whose name sounds like a pronoun
33 One in a picnic buffet line?
34 Redd's apple brew
35 Chaotic place
36 Bottle of wine, say, for a host
37 Tracking device
39 Tip over, and a phonetic hint to the starts of 3-, 7-, 8- and 20-Down
40 Director DuVernay
41 Wager
42 Act appropriately
43 Take a mental health day
45 Thingamajig
46 Duelists' distance units
48 Giant tubs
52 Home of the Taj Mahal
54 Navigate a black diamond run, e.g.
55 Apt rhyme for "grab"
57 (Don't touch my chew toy!)
58 Singer Cooke

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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☺MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU☺

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LUNCH Menu courtesy of	PIZZA, GARDEN SALAD, GREEN BEANS, PEACHES	NO SUMMER PROGRAM	HAMBURGER/ CHEESEBURGER, GARDEN SALAD, TINY TOMATO CUP, CHIPS, FRUIT	QUESADILLA, SALSA, BEANS, CUCUMBERS, FRUIT	CHICKEN NUGGETS, MAC & CHEESE, BABY CARROTS, GREEN BEANS, GRAPES

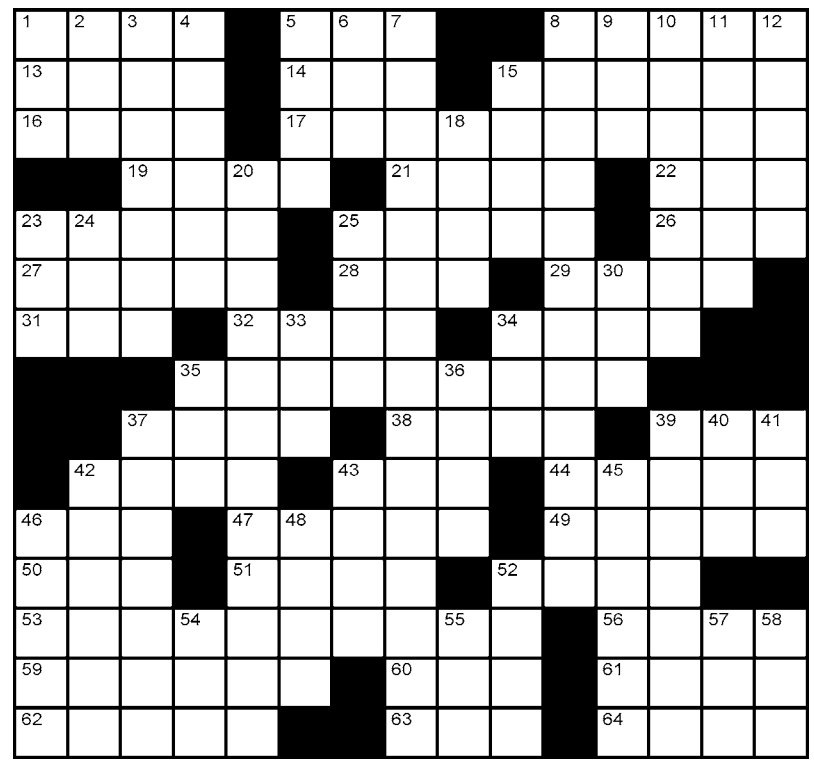
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6/6 **Four Starters** *by Ross Trudeau*





Courtesy of Marfa Chamber of Commerce

The Marfa Chamber of Commerce will host a 3-on-3 adult basketball tournament this weekend featuring teams from the Tri-County area.

Marfa Chamber of Commerce to host basketball tournament

By BIG BEND SENTINEL

MARFA — This Saturday the Marfa Chamber of Commerce will host a 3-on-3 basketball tournament starting at 9 a.m. at the Shorthorn Gym, 400 W. Columbia Street.

The tournament will consist of 16 teams coming from Marfa, Fort Davis, Alpine, Presidio, Van Horn and Fort Stockton. The tournament will be a 3-on-3 double elimination format and each team is allowed one substitute player. The winner of each game will be determined by the highest score after 20 minutes or the first team to 50 points. Teams will keep their own score and call their own fouls.

Spectators are welcome to come and cheer on teams at any point of the day. The championship game will begin at 5 p.m. The winning team will receive a $400 cash prize. Concessions will be for sale with proceeds benefiting the Chamber of Commerce. The basketball tournament was conceived by Chamber Board Member Patrick Rivera who is passionate about fitness, adult recreation and is currently earning his BS in Kinesiology.

"We have heard from city parks employees that they are seeing more people using the basketball court to practice for the tournament, which is so exciting," said Director of Tourism Abby Boyd. "The idea that people are getting out and spending time with their teammates so they can show up and do their best is pretty spectacular. We are looking forward to a fun and friendly competition."

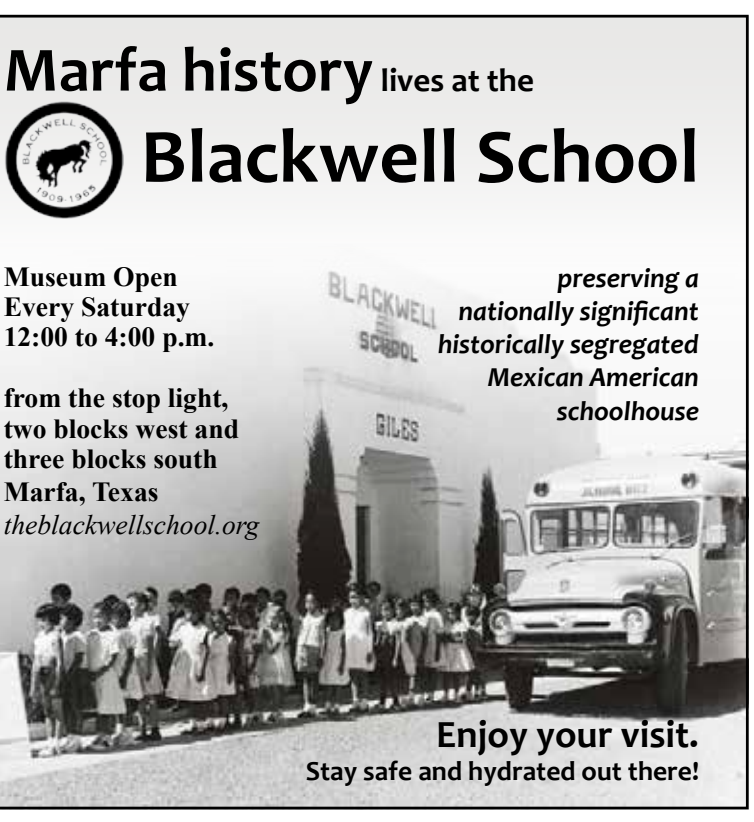
For more information, visit http://marfachamberofcommerce.org/

Marfa history lives at the
Blackwell School

Museum Open
Every Saturday
12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

from the stop light, two blocks west and three blocks south
Marfa, Texas
theblackwellschool.org

preserving a nationally significant historically segregated Mexican American schoolhouse



Enjoy your visit.
Stay safe and hydrated out there!

Stop by Kid's Café on June 9

MARFA — Marfa Public Library and MISD invites the community to visit Kid Café, a Summer Shakeup Restaurant Extravaganza, on Thursday, June 9, at 11:30 a.m. in the library's courtyard.

At this year's Summer Shakeup, the library debuted Kid Café, a camp where students visited local restaurants — Cochineal, Convenience West and Cloudy's Desert Bistro — for a behind-the-scenes peek at working kitchens. At Cochineal, they visited their beautiful gardens and tried pickled quail eggs; at Convenience West, they saw the crew's smoker and made homemade pickles; and at Cloudy's they toured a food truck and designed their own tacos. After visiting each restaurant, students decorated chef hats and aprons, taste-tested foods, and made their own recipes.

The week culminates on Thursday with students running their very own Kids Café in the Marfa Public Library Courtyard. Please stop by at 11:30 a.m. to have a very special meal, created and served by kids!

Many thanks to Oscar Aguero, Aubrie Aguilar, Brenden Cicoria, Cloudy's Desert Bistro, Cochineal, Convenience West, Friends of the Marfa Public Library, Claire Lindsay-McGinn, Maria Medrano, Porter's Marfa, Michael Roch, Suzy Simon, Kim Soto and Cary Wilson.



Photo courtesy of the Marfa Rotary Club

Marfa ISD Superintendent Oscar Aguero presents the Chuck Stephenson Memorial scholarship award to Valentine student Mekyla Siddiq.

The Rotary Club of Marfa awards $11,000 in student scholarships

MARFA — The Rotary Club of Marfa is pleased to announce that with the approval of a grant from Rotary District 5520, the club will be awarding one $3,000 student scholarship this year in addition to scholarships funded by the Marfa club's own fund-raising efforts. The club is awarding four additional $2,000 scholarships.

The club selected Marfa High School student Cristian Ontiveros as the recipient of the $3,000 award. The $2,000 scholarships have been awarded to Marfa High School students Odalys Chacon, Dakota Martinez and Soraya Vallez, and The C. K. (Chuck) Stephenson Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Valentine ISD student Mekyla Siddiq.

The club supports the youth of Marfa as one of its most important community projects. The club would like to thank all the citizens and businesses in Marfa who have purchased raffle tickets, participated in our golf tournament, and have supported the Rotary Club in this community for almost 100 years.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who extended comforting sympathy and help in our recent sorrow. For the beautiful church and service given by Father Pablo Mata, heavenly singing by Rick Ruiz, floral offerings and other kindness by many loving friends, family, and relatives.

We are deeply grateful just as Josefina would also have been honored for her remembrance.

God Bless you all,

The Josefina Dominguez Family

JUDD

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

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

The Studios
Every day except Monday and Wednesday
2:00–3:45pm
Guided visits begin at the Architecture Studio, the former Marfa National Bank, at 101 North Highland Avenue.

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

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

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OBITUARIES

Chavira

On Friday, May 27, 2022, with her beloved children by her side, Gloria Luna Chavira, 76, of Marfa closed her eyes to her earthly home and opened them to a glorious homecoming.

Gloria was born on February 20, 1946, to Augustine Luna and Seferina Ontiveros in Marfa, Texas. Gloria was an LVN at Big Bend Regional Medical Center for over 30 years and was in nursing for over 40 years.

Gloria loved her Blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and served in various ministries. A ministry that was very important to Gloria, was serving as mission coordinator for Rio Grande River Ministry. She held this position for over 30 years.

Those left to cherish the memory of Gloria are her sons: Patricio "Patrick" Chavira Jr. of Marfa, David Luna Chavira of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Travis Salvador Chavira of Austin, Texas.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family has asked that donations be made in Gloria's memory to:

Life Quest USA
4020 Edith Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107
(505) 341-9383
Lifequestusa.org

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

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

• • •



Lewey

On May 31, 2022, **Sky Marshal Jones-Lewey**, a native of Uvalde, Texas, passed on from this life peacefully in her home on the east bank of Nueces River. Born on May 26, 1958, Sky was the only child and beloved daughter of a true western couple, Elmo and Marge Jones. She grew up in a swimsuit unless she was horseback chasing wild cattle.

From an early age Sky set her intention to work on rivers, and true to her word, she became one of our state's strongest advocates for pristine streams and healthy watersheds. Sky dedicated her life to spreading knowledge, cultivating a passion for river protection and inspiring many others to do the same.

Sky was preceded in death by her parents Marjory Helen Scott Jones and Elmo King Jones. She will be dearly missed by her family, Jefferson and Cherie Lewey, Julie and Liia Lewey, grandchildren Jack Mathis and Sonora Sky, many friends and colleagues, and especially by the Nueces River.

Donations can be made in Sky's honor to the Sky Lewey River Protection Fund, set up by the family and managed by the Hill Country Alliance at hillcountryalliance.org/skyleweyfund.

• • •

Martinez

Elsie Wilcox Martinez was VERY proud of her maternal heritage in Jeff Davis County, and West Texas.

Anton Diedrich (07/04/1820 to 03/24/1904) was born in Antwerp, Belgium. In 1842 he witnessed a murder and was stowed away to escape the murderers. In time, he ended up in Galveston where he jumped ship and came ashore. He was five foot nothing, red hair and covered with freckles. He spoke Flemish and spoke very little English…He saw a line of people which were being fed at the end of the line (line for joining the Texas Mounted Volunteers serving as Texas Rangers) on October 7, 1848. Upon reaching the quartermaster, he told him his name was Anton Diedrich. The quartermaster could not spell Diedrich and told him he looked "Dutch all over."

He served and was given an honorable discharge. Anton later shortened the "Dutch all over" to Dutchover. Now all the Dutchovers in West Texas are his descendants.

Anton is credited with being the first European settler in Jeff Davis County, settling before 1854. He later became the major landowner in the county. Anton later sold livestock, vegetables and apples from his own orchard and nuts also from his own orchard to Fort Davis and the fort itself. He and his wife from Spain, Refugia (07/04/1842 to 05/24/1908), are both buried in the Pioneer Cemetery located behind the Texas Department of Transportation on Alpine highway. Anton was a major landowner and bought the mountain from the state of Texas north of Limpia (Clear Creek). They had three children, with one of them being a daughter named Dorthy or Dorothea. She was courted by Trinidad Granado, also known as the Eagle of the Mountains, who finally got a blessing from her parents to marry him. A descendant of the union was Rose (Rosa) Granado who eventually married Charles Wilcox whose family had ties to being neighbors with George Washington. Rose moved and lived in Marfa. After Charles' death, Rose married Stanley Lesniewski, who was a master sergeant in Camp Marfa.

The only daughter of Rose Granado was Elsie, also known as Elisa. Elsie married David Holguin Martinez and had four children with him: David, Rose, Daniel and Frank.

Another child was born (Fred), after she married a Nevadez man after a divorce with her husband David. The child's last name was later changed to Martinez

Elsie was and was known as a strong-willed woman who protected her loved ones against anyone at any time and any place. She was the first manager of the Community Action Agency that served the tri-county area.

She was instrumental in getting both Blackwell and Marfa ISD integrated. Elsie also went back to school and got a LVN degree to better herself and to better serve others. Elsie was known to not put up with anything or anyone and would stand her ground and proved it on many occasions. Elsie leaves behind her children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

There will be two masses said for Elsie. The first will in Fort Davis at the Catholic Church on Friday, June 10, at St Joseph's Catholic Church for relatives in Fort Davis. A Rosary will begin at 9:30 a.m. with Mass following about 10 a.m.

The next day, on Saturday, June 11, a Rosary will begin at St Mary's Catholic Church beginning at 9:30 a.m. with Mass following the Rosary. The priest will bless the gravesite and her cremated remains will be interred.

Alpine Memorial FUNERAL HOME
CREMATIONS - PRENEED PLANS

Obituaries presented in partnership with Alpine Memorial Funeral Home
209 West Sul Ross Ave | Alpine, TX 79830
alpinememorialfuneralhome.com | 432-837-2222

Classifieds & public notices

JOBS

HELP WANTED

Construction help wanted for projects in the Tri-County area.

Please call Jimmy Counts at 325-340-0175

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING WOMEN FROM YOUR COMMUNITY GET FREE BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING?

Please reach out to us to apply for the CHW – Community Healthcare Worker position.

As the CHW, you would be:

- Going out to the community to recruit participants
- Enroll participants who are eligible and provide simple health education
- Make sure that all paperwork is completed by the participant

Please call Sarah at 432-837-4812 for more information.

Applications may be picked up at 1605 N. FT. Davis Hwy Alpine, TX 79830 or call (432) 837-4555.

Please call first before arrival.

Family Health Service of Alpine • 1605 N. FT. Davis Hwy

PCHS is seeking a full-time Chief Financial Officer to oversee the financial responsibility of a federally qualified community health center.

Requirements: Minimum 2 – 5 years of healthcare high-level accounting experience, preferable in a FQHC based setting working in a financial management capacity; knowledge of grant management, accounting and fiscal systems, prepare and present monthly financial budgeting reports, monthly profit and loss by division, fund raising and strategic planning is required; Bachelors' degree in Accounting, Health Care Administration or related field. Masters' degree highly desirable.

Please call Sarah at 432-837-4812 for more information.

Applications may be picked up at 1605 N. FT. Davis Hwy Alpine, TX 79830 or call (432) 837-4555.

Please call first before arrival.

Family Health Service of Alpine • 1605 N. FT. Davis Hwy

THE MARFA PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD IS LOOKING FOR A NEW BOARD MEMBER.

Applicants must live within Marfa city limits and be available to meet the third Thursday of every month.

The term is for 2 years.

Interested parties should send a letter of interest by *noon on Wednesday June 15* to Board President Trey Gerfers at trey@stereoluz.net

JOB OPPORTUNITY
Big Bend Regional Hospital District

The Big Bend Regional Hospital District is now accepting applications and resumes for a full-time **Patient Advocate position at our office in Presidio, Texas.**

The Patient Advocate will assist clients with enrollment in state and local assistance programs. Job requirements include: high school diploma or equivalent, proficiency in English and Spanish, computer literacy, high attention to detail, and a 2 years' experience (professional or volunteer) in social services, customer service, case management, or other related experience. Occasional travel in company provided vehicle is required to our Alpine office and regional training events. Salary commensurate with experience. Benefits include: 100% company sponsored health insurance, generous PTO and paid holiday schedule, and retirement contributions.

Applications are available at www.bbrhd.com or can be requested in person at 602 W. O'Reilly St., Presidio, TX.

Please send a resume, cover letter, and completed application to jd@bbrhd.com or they can be dropped off at the Presidio office.

For more information call 432-837-7051.

The Big Bend Regional Hospital District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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•JOB OPENING•

Action Hvac is hiring tech.

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Starting pay $18 to $20.

Call 432-386-0275 for info.

JOB OPPORTUNITY
FRONTIER DEVELOPMENT INC.

Finished blade operators, heavy equipment operators, truck drivers, and laborers wanted.

Must pass background check.

Competitive wages.

Call 830-494-7000 and leave a message.

Big Bend Community Action Committee, Inc.

P O Box 265/1412 W. Berlin, Marfa, TX 79843
Phone: 432-729-1992 ext. 102 / Fax: 432-729-3435
TRAX TRANSPORTATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

BBCAC is accepting applications for a transportation driver position. Applicant must have a valid Texas driver's license and have at least 5 years of driving experience. Applicant must pass a drug/alcohol test; and a background criminal history check before being hired.

Requirements for this position include: transporting and waiting for clients; MN DHS Background Study; DOT Medical Exam; MN DOT New Driver Training; working with individuals from infants to elderly; be knowledgeable in both English and Spanish; and be willing to work with disabled individuals. We are looking for applicants who are interested in working long term, for our agency.

Starting pay is $15.00 per hour.

Applications may be picked up at Big Bend Community Action offices, from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM and 1:00 PM-4:00 PM; Monday-Friday.

BBCAC is an equal opportunity employer.

PREVENTATIVE CARE HEALTH SERVICES JOB OPPORTUNITIES

•FULL TIME FRONT DESK RECEPTIONIST•
•NURSE (CNA, NA, LVN, OR RN)
•PROGRAM COORDINATOR•
Collaborate with team to ensure program process and outcomes.
•HUMAN RESOURCE REP•
(Bachelors required)
•INSURANCE IN NETWORK CREDENTIALING REP•
•MEDICAL FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR•
•DENTAL FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR•
•FULL TIME IT SPECIFIC SOFTWARE TECH•
Preferably Medical Software
•CQI COORDINATOR•
Training will be provided.
Oversees the quality improvement program for the organization.
Prior clinical experience in health care setting is preferred:
RN, LVN, or other professional health care employment.

ALSO LOOKING FOR A DENTIST, MEDICAL DOCTOR, FNP, AND DENTAL HYGIENIST

Please call Sarah at 432-837-4812 for more information.

Applications may be picked up at 1605 N. FT. Davis Hwy Alpine, TX 79830 or call (432) 837-4555.

Please call first before arrival.

Family Health Service of Alpine • 1605 N. FT. Davis Hwy

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alexandra@alexandrarau.com
Highland Avenue, Marfa

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.

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

The City of Marfa Board of Adjustment has scheduled a Special Meeting for Monday, June 27, 2022, at 6:00 p. m. in the Casner Room, City Hall, 113 S. Highland Street, Marfa, Texas. This meeting is open to the public. The Board members will discuss and render a decision regarding:

A Variance Request No. 22-05, requested by Kevin Carney from the requirements of Marfa's Zoning Ordinance, regarding setbacks at 105 W. Murphy Street also known as Block 47, N/2 of Lots 1-2 and the E 17' of Lot 3, Original Town of Marfa.
A Variance Request No. 22-06, requested by Guy Sealey from the requirements of Marfa's Zoning Ordinance, regarding setbacks at 301 E. Columbia Street, also known as Outblock 3, Tract 3A, except for 133' of W/2 of Lot 3, Porter Addition.

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

PUBLIC AUCTION
HUDSPETH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
6/18/2022 10:00AM
@HUDSPETH COUNTY BARN
525 N. WILSON SIERRA BLANCA TX 79851
NO ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 4 P.M. ON THURSDAY 6/16/22. ALL ITEMS TO BE SOLD IN THE AUCTION MUST BE IN PLACE BY 5 P.M. ON THURSDAY 6/16/22

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GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

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

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

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

BREWSTER COUNTY
Judge Eleazar Cano:
(432) 837-6200 x 124

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

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

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

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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
www.bigbendsentinel.com

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