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Trial date set for Leach defamation case against alleged victim

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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BREWSTER COUNTY — A trial date of December 12, 2022 has been set for the defamation suit brought by Basecamp Terlingua owner Jeff Leach against a former employee who accused him of assault.

Leach sued Katy Milam, who also goes by Schwartz, in 2019 for defamation and intentional infliction of emotional distress when she told authorities that Leach had held her down and said "he gets what he wants." The suit has since then been dismissed, made its way through an El Paso appeals court, and been returned to trial court in Brewster County where it now awaits trial.

Judge Stephen Ables had initially tossed the suit in early 2020, stating Milam was protected by free speech laws, but the Eighth Court of Appeals in El Paso reversed that decision in May, citing missed deadlines.

The dismissal in 2020 was made under the Texas Citizens Participation Act, which protects people from being sued for exercising their legal rights, and which comes with a statutory 60-day deadline for a hearing on the dismissal, though an extension to 90 days can be granted. Because the dismissal in the case was granted past the 90-day deadline, the appeals court determined that while the reasons for the missed deadline were understandable — including a reshuffling of judges when the first recused himself and the second was objected to by Leach — it could not ignore the statute.

Though the civil suit drags on, a criminal case against Leach was recently dismissed. After Leach sued Milam, several other women came forward with accusations of rape and assault — one of those accusations led to Leach's indictment on a felony sexual assault charge. The case had been poised to go to trial, but the office of 83rd Judicial District Attorney Ori White in May filed a motion to dismiss the case, citing insufficient evidence. A judge subsequently signed off on the dismissal. The woman whose accusation had led to Leach's indictment, Shawna Graves, submitted a statement to the court opposing the dismissal.



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

A small crowd of Marfa residents gathered last weekend with protest signs to promote gun reform in a march down Highland Avenue.
READ MORE ON PAGE 7.

School board and city council partner on grant to designate full-time safety officer for MISD as trustees consider permitting trained staff to carry firearms

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — School safety was a major topic of discussion this week at the Marfa school board and city council meetings, with community leaders looking to act fast to bolster campus security in the wake of the mass elementary school shooting in Uvalde this May.

"I just encourage you all to consider options for us so that we're no longer sitting ducks. In a utopian world, we would be full of law enforcement 24/7. But that's not reality," said MISD junior high and high school principal Luanne Porter at a school board meeting Monday night.

School board trustees at that meeting discussed the possibility of allowing trained teachers and staff to carry weapons on campus for student protection, while city council on Tuesday approved a grant application, with a letter of support from Superintendent Oscar Aguero, which would fund the placement of a full-time armed school resource officer (SRO) on campus.

Porter, previous councilor for the district, led the campus security discussion at the school board meeting. She introduced the board to two options — the school marshal and guardian plans, outlined by Texas education and penal codes — that would allow for designated staff to carry firearms on campus for the purpose of protecting students.

The district currently employs the Avoid, Deny, Defend civilian response strategy in the case of an active shooter, a method of survival tactics to use during an active shooter event developed by Texas State's Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Program. But Porter said the strategy could only do so much, and having armed staff on campus might be the logical next step.

"We're not being realistic if we're asking our teachers to defend in an unarmed situation. It's

(Continued on page 2)

In civil suit deposition, AG prosecutor says DA Ori White's conduct had raised concerns

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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TRAVIS COUNTY — A prosecutor with the Texas Attorney General's office said in sworn testimony that 83rd District Attorney Ori White's attempts last year to take back a case relinquished by his predecessor due to a conflict of interest had concerned the AG's office enough to prompt subpoenas and a planned hearing on the matter.

Prosecutor Geoff Barr testified in a deposition as part of the civil lawsuit brought by former Assistant District Attorney Jerry Phillips against current DA Ori White, which alleges that White had wrongfully terminated Phillips for attempting to report improper and possibly illegal conduct within the office. In the sweeping lawsuit, filed last fall, Phillips details several instances of alleged corruption or cronyism and claims that his refusal to participate in those acts and his attempted whistleblowing led to his firing. White has denied the allegations and pledged to fight the suit, calling it "false."

Among the claims in the suit is Phillips' allegation that Brewster County attorney Steve Houston pressured White to take back a felony criminal case against Houston's grandson that White's predecessor, Sandy Wilson, had relinquished to the AG's office in order to avoid the appearance of impartiality, citing a personal and professional relationship with the elder Houston. After taking office in early 2021, White moved to take the case back. Email correspondence attached to the suit shows Phillips discouraging White's attempts to reclaim the case, warning that it might create the appearance of "repaying political support." Still, White filed a motion to take back the case, though he dropped the motion one day before a scheduled hearing on the matter.

Barr, a prosecutor with the AG's office who handled the case in question, testified that White's request had struck him as unusual, that the timing of the request — shortly after the AG's office had offered Houston's grandson, Michael Houston, a plea offer — was "suspect," and that it raised enough "suspicions or smoke" about White's impartiality to prompt him to issue subpoenas to those involved and pursue a hearing. He also testified that Michael Houston's attorney, James McDermott, told him that White had offered an alternative plea offer, despite the case residing in the AG's jurisdiction.

Barr is one of several witnesses, including current and former elected officials, to be deposed in the case. His deposition was taken by one of Phillips' attorneys, Jodi Cole, on May 31 and a

(Continued on page 2)

City Council approves water and wastewater rate study, county clerk take over of registrar duties and more at latest meeting

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — City council met for a brief meeting this week in which they approved a number of initiatives, including a water and wastewater rate study and the formal passing off of local registrar duties to the Presidio County clerk, with councilmembers Mark Cash, Raul Lara, Mayor Pro Tem Irma Salgado as well as Mayor Manny Baeza, City Manager Mandy Roane and City Attorney Teresa Todd present.

The meeting began with Roane presenting a draft proposal submitted by Willdan Financial Services, one of two companies which responded to the city's request for proposals to conduct a water and wastewater rate study. Jason Gray of Willdan was present via Zoom to respond to councilmember questions as needed.

Willdan, who council ultimately awarded the project to, will assess the city's water and wastewater utility rates which haven't increased since 2015, said Roane. They will recommend changes to the utility rates in order to cover basic cost of service as well as capital improvement projects for the next five years. Possible capital improvements the new, likely increased, rates could help fund include the city's new water storage tank, extending city services to the East Heights neighborhood, and more, said Roane.

Gray said they could turn the study around within 60 days at the earliest. Mayor Baeza said council would like to have study results in hand in early to mid-September in time for the next city budget cycle.

Next, council approved the renewal of the disc golf course lease to the non-profit that maintains and utilizes the city property, with Coleman Morris-Goodrick there in person representing the disc golf group. Morris-Goodrick advocated for a five year, versus one year, lease, which he said would allow the group to work toward their goals of more signage, equipment and maintenance. But Mayor Baeza recommended one more one-year lease which will extend until June 2023. At that time council will reconsider a longer lease for the disc golf course, he said.

After approving a firework ban for July 4 due to continued drought conditions, council moved to discuss the matter of Presidio County

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Marfa High School completes construction on new track, sets rules for public use

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — Construction on Marfa High School's brand new six-lane track is finally complete, and the district is working on publicizing the rules for the new facility, which will be open to the public.

If well-maintained, said Athletic Director Linda Ojeda at this week's school board meeting, the track should last well into the future. Rules will be displayed publicly via signage on site, said Ojeda.

"People in the community have a really good idea of how important this [track] is right here and also what we need to do to take care of it," said Ojeda. "I'm not concerned about individuals from the community not taking care of it, because I think right now they're the ones who are heavily invested in it."

Ojeda did note that if the district experienced repeated public infractions they would have to make the necessary decision to close the track to the public.

In order to ensure the track wears down evenly across lanes over time, the public is asked to run and walk only on the outermost lanes — five and six. Footwear that will not be permitted on the new track includes softball and baseball cleats and high heels.

Wheels, including bikes, strollers, rollerblades and skateboards, will not be allowed, as their texture can lead to the removal of the track's polyurethane coating, said Ojeda. Pets of any kind will not be allowed. The long jump and the triple jump areas are also not to be used as sandboxes, said Ojeda.

Problematic snacks, forbidden because they could damage the track's porous rubber surface, include gum, sunflower seeds and Skittles — which can melt, harden and be impossible to extract without also removing a portion of the track surface, experts told Ojeda.

The public open hours for the track will be seasonal and are yet to be fully finalized, but during the school year members of the public will not be permitted to use the track during school hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday for student safety. The school may opt to cover up the track for protection during special events and has factored in a designated concrete slab area for the ambulance to park during athletic events.

In January, the school board voted to spend $926,000 on the new track citing safety concerns over the old track and construction officially began this past March. The track's continued maintenance will see the school board spending a recommended $5,000 to $12,000 every year or every other year for track cleaning and $245,000 every 10 to 12 years to retop. The track, complete with a high jump area, pole vault runway, long jump, triple jump as well as shotput and discus rings, will allow for the school district to host regional track meets.

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Full-time safety officer

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just not realistic. What are we going to defend with?" said Porter. "It's our responsibility to keep our kids and our staff safe."

Of the 1,200 school districts in Texas, Porter said 280 utilize the guardian plan, which offers more flexibility for school districts, allowing boards to set their own training requirements and limits to the number of staff carrying, and 71 employ the marshal plan, which requires more rigorous training and gives school marshals a higher status of a law enforcement officer with arresting capabilities. The identities of staff who are permitted through either of the programs to have firearms on campus would not be disclosed to the students and general public, said Porter.

Marshals are considered peace officers, must undergo a psychological evaluation and can only use frangible ammunition, said Porter. In order to obtain a school marshal license, 80 hours of training with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement is required in addition to 16 hours of training every two years for license renewal.

Under the guardian program, the school district can determine the type and amount of training but must meet a minimum requirement of 16 hours of training with a Department of Public Safety instructor.

In addition to other school safety measures the district could take in the coming months, having a school marshal or guardian could offer an added layer of protection, she said. Fort Davis has utilized the school marshall program for a number of years, said Aguero. Board president Teresa Nuñez inquired as to whether or not Porter had heard if any staff members were interested in participating in either of the programs, to which Porter assured her there were.

"We're not asking staff who are not comfortable with firearms to carry a weapon," said Porter.

"It's people who are already proficient and comfortable that want to do it."

Porter said she recently hosted a walk through of the junior and high school campus with law enforcement officers from the city, county and Texas Department of Public Safety and they were set to return soon to familiarize themselves with the elementary campus as well. She said it was important to maintain strong relationships with the local law enforcement community.

When asked if it would be possible to have both a hired SRO and school marshals or guardians, and whether or not they would be able to train alongside one another, Porter said it was and that would be the preferred option. The concept of multiple layers of security was brought up again, with Porter commenting on something as mundane as signage playing a role.

"Having signs at the front of each entrance. It makes people think twice. If you have a sign that says 'staff on this campus are armed and trained'," said Porter.

The discussion concluded with board members to do more research on the topic, weighing pros and cons of each plan. Aguero said it was unlikely a decision would be reached at the next board meeting as they would need to involve the public in the dialogue before proceeding.

"That way we're not forcing something on our community," said Aguero.

Aguero said he was in discussions with the city and Marfa Mayor Manny Baeza to hire a school resource officer and that at this point they didn't want to rule out any options regarding school safety.

"We're trying to look at all the different avenues we could have for protecting our kids," said Aguero. "That's the number one thing we're supposed to do."

At City Council's regular meeting the following day, City Manager Mandy Roane took the floor to ask for council's approval to apply for a grant that would help fund a full-time school resource officer. The grant, funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's 2022 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program, would allow for the city to hire a police officer under the umbrella of the Marfa Police Department, with 75% of the officer's salary being paid by the grant, and the other 25% by the school district.

"I just encourage you all to consider options for us so that we're no longer sitting ducks. In a utopian world, we would be full of law enforcement 24/7. But that's not reality.."

Roane said while it would have been ideal to have a formal discussion with school representatives before submitting the grant application, the timing in which they became aware of the funding and impending grant deadline required a decision sooner rather than later. At the next regularly scheduled city council meeting school representatives will be present to discuss the idea and, if needed, the city could always turn the grant down, she said.

The COPS Hiring Program would allow for the city to pay up to 75% or $125,000 for three years for a full-time school resource officer whose sole responsibility is to be present at the school. MISD would reimburse the city for the remaining 25% of the officer's salary for the first three years and would be solely responsible for funding the officer's salary in the final year of their four-year appointment. Roane said the job would include health and life insurance and the standard city employee benefits.

Roane, who is working on the grant with Police Chief Steve Marquez, said the program seemed like a good fit for the Marfa community.

"There are a couple of different things that the Department of Justice asks for a school resource officer to do, but it's things that our officers do anyway. It's community policing, it's reaching out to families," said Roane.

Chief Marquez added Marfa P.D. would still have a presence at the school. While their department is currently unable to spare officers to travel with the school, which has been a request, he said, the school resource officer would be able to provide that service.

After some back and forth in which council showed support for the initiative and welcomed further discussion with the school district, council unanimously approved the authorization to submit the grant proposal to the Department of Justice, with all non-grant expenses to be reimbursed to the city by MISD.

The discussions come on the heels of the mass shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas, in which a gunman killed 19 students and two teachers. The police response to the shooting, in which officers waited to confront the gunman despite knowledge of injuries in the classrooms, is currently the subject of intense scrutiny and multiple investigations.

Ori White

(Continued from page 1)

transcript was entered into the public case file last week. The attorney present at the deposition to represent the defendant, Steven Kiser, objected throughout to Cole's line of questioning.

"There was concern on our end that he might be taking this case back maybe because of relationship reasons, maybe because he could not be impartial in his review."

By Barr's telling, the brief conflict began in February 2021, shortly after he had extended a preliminary plea offer to Michael Houston through McDermott — the defense attorney then contacted Barr to express concern about the severity of the offer, and also said that he had received another offer from the district attorney. Barr said the details of that offer were never disclosed to him.

Shortly afterwards, Barr said, he was contacted by White — first by voicemail, then by email — who said he wanted the case back. "I do not have any conflict in this matter," White wrote in the email, which is included in the case's exhibits.

"It is not typical in my experience at the AG's office to receive those types of calls," said Barr.

White then filed a motion to remove Barr as DA pro tem. Barr said that his superior, Lisa Tanner, spoke with White around that time and walked away from the call under the impression that White was not moving forward with the motion, so Barr filed a document with the court saying the issue was moot. Barr subsequently heard from White again, telling him he had made an incorrect representation to the court — he was not withdrawing the motion, and a judge would ultimately decide whether to grant it or not.

Barr testified that there were concerns within his office about the actions, especially considering the supposed alternative plea bargain.

"There was concern on our end that he might be taking this case back maybe because of relationship reasons, maybe because he could not be impartial in his review," he said. "We didn't know that for certain, but we certainly wanted to figure it out. We weren't getting the plea bargain. They weren't handing over the plea bargain that he had offered. We were concerned about his authority to even give a plea bargain."

Barr was "given the green light to aggressively pursue a hearing" on the matter, he said, and served subpoenas to White, McDermott, Houston, and staff within the DA's office. McDermott retained a lawyer, who filed a motion to quash the subpoena, stating that his client did not have any document responses and asserted his 5th amendment rights. Barr said he was ready to fight the motion in court, and to attempt to get the subpoenaed individuals on the witness stand.

Shortly before a hearing was to take place, White withdrew his motion, bringing the conflict to a close.

Phillips' suit against White as head of the 83rd Judicial District Attorney's office is unfolding in the 53rd Judicial District in Travis County. Phillips had initially included Brewster, Pecos, Presidio, and Jeff Davis Counties as defendants in the suit, but when those counties attempted to move the case into a local district court, he non-suited the counties, concerned an impartial hearing would not be possible otherwise. Phillips had also sued White as an individual as well as in his capacity as DA, but a Travis County judge recently ruled that the suit against White the individual should be dismissed.

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It is based on this affirmation that we, the inhabitants of the commúnities Sotoleras of the Municipality of Aldama, Chihuahua through this conduit. We make a pronouncement and raise our voices expressing our disagreements against the theft of our cultural heritage and we strongly oppose companies like Marfa Spirit Co, Desert Door Distillery and Genius Liquids for not respecting the Designation of Origin of Sotol that belongs to Mexico since 2002 and use the name "Sotol" in its products.

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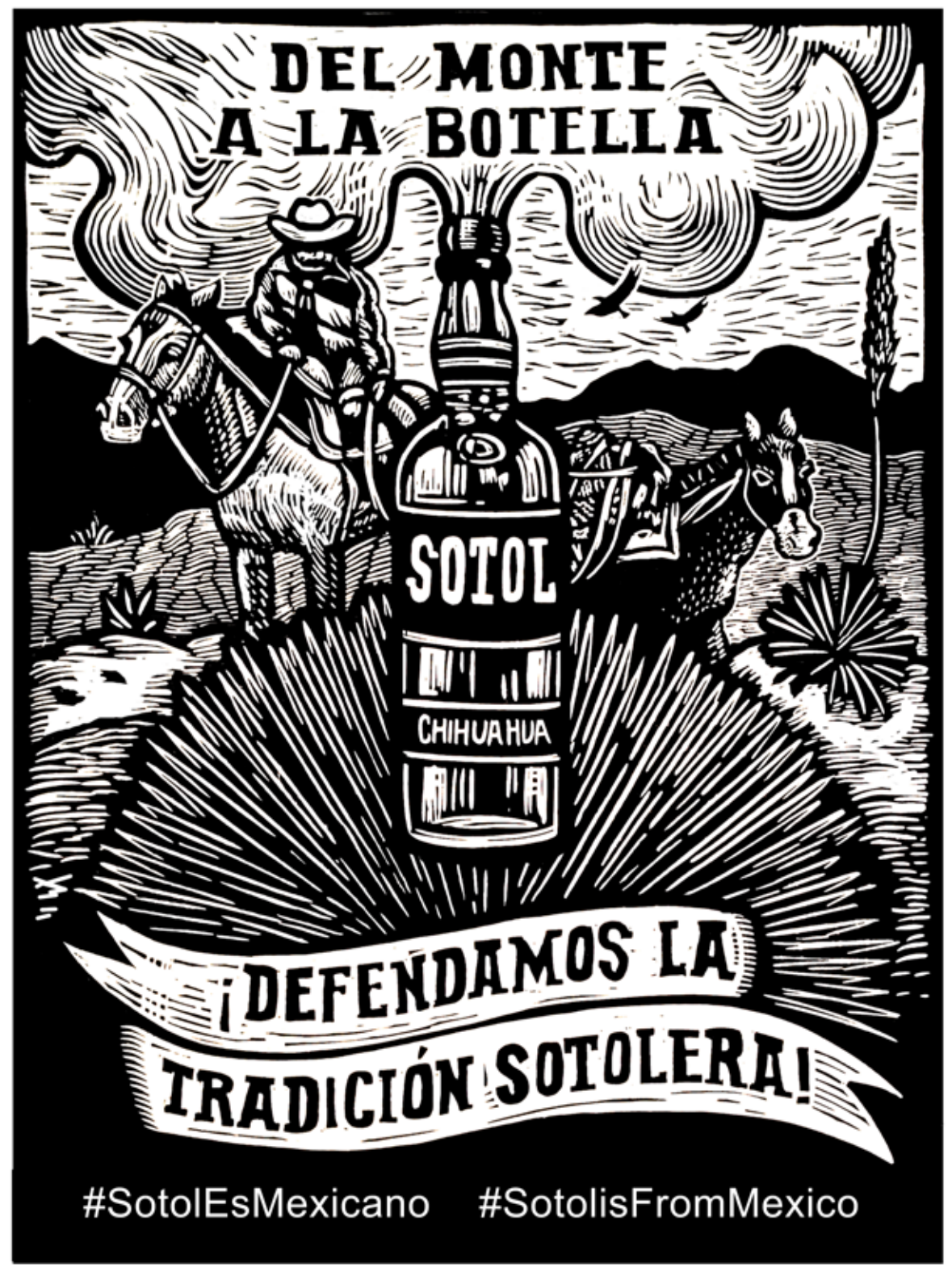
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City Council

(Continued from page 1)

Clerk Florcita Zubia taking over as the county-wide registrar of birth and death records through the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Zubia, who was present at the meeting, said the county would have registrar capabilities up and running within the month, and she believed the process of her office taking the duty over from the Justice of the Peace would streamline the process for citizens.

"I think it will be a big benefit to all of the residents to be able to get everything that they need in one place."

"They wanted me to take it on when I first came into office, but I needed to get my feet wet first," said Zubia.

The city agreed to transfer birth and death records they were holding to Zubia for years 1931 to 2018. Roane said it's been frustrating in the past having to turn people away who had requests related to birth and death records, but no city staff had registrar capabilities so their hands were tied.

"I think it will be a big benefit to all of the residents to be able to get everything that they need in one place," said Todd.

Council next approved a fee waiver for Zubia to host a convention of 40 to 60 individuals for the County and District Clerks' Regional Convention at the USO this fall. Marfa Director of Tourism Abby Boyd said the event could be a good test run for welcoming back more conventions to town in the future. And said the city was considering actions that might incentivize hotels to lower nightly rates for convention attendees sometime in the future.

"Marfa's a little bit hard to promote convention wise, because we have smaller venues, our hotels are pricier than other places," said Boyd. "So this kind of sets a good precedent for us. We can host these smaller conventions, but still make a big impact on our town and our HOT taxes."

Council went into executive session to discuss actions related to a February 2021 natural gas invoice the city received this past December from provider West Texas Gas that totaled $114,000, which the city has been working with a lawyer to remedy. Afterwards, council stated there were no major updates but authorized their attorney to request additional information from West Texas Gas.

The final significant update was the announcement that the public Marfa Activities Center pool meeting set for June 16 would be postponed, due to council members not meeting the supermajority attendance requirement needed for special meetings. Mayor Baeza said they would work on rescheduling for the month of August or September.

Texas Border Coalition asks governor for special session to address gun violence

By SAM KARAS
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AUSTIN — On Friday, the Texas Border Coalition sent a letter to Governor Abbott requesting an emergency session of the state legislature. The letter is part of a wave of outrage following a school shooting in Uvalde last month that claimed 21 lives, and calls for "bipartisan commonsense policies" to address the crisis.

The Texas Border Coalition is an association of mayors, county judges, and members of local economic development associations along the US-Mexico border. The organization strives to be non-partisan and has advocated for borderlands residents on a number of issues over the years, notably in legal disputes over border wall construction.

The letter to Abbott was drafted by Eddie Treviño, Jr., who serves as both the chairman of the Coalition and as Cameron County Judge. Co-signer C. LeRoy Cavazos-Reyna serves as the Vice President of Government and International Affairs for the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

An early version of the letter was leaked to local officials in the Big Bend last week, but the final draft was sent to Governor Abbott's office early Friday afternoon. The version that ended up in the governor's inbox details many of the major shootings in the state since 2009. "The catastrophe at Uvalde comes less than three years after our border community of El Paso experienced a terrible gun violence tragedy on August 3, 2019," Treviño and Cavazos-Reyna wrote. "With each year of legislative inaction, new communities across our state are added to the roster of sorrow, pain, carnage, and grief."

The letter calls for gun reform that "respect the Second Amendment": increasing the minimum age to 21 for assault weapon purchases, requiring criminal background checks and a "cooling off" period between applying to purchase a weapon and picking it up, "red-flag laws" that help law enforcement prevent individuals with histories of violence to take possession of guns, and better funding for mental health resources.

The legislature isn't scheduled to reconvene until January, after the fall's elections. According to State Senator César Blanco, as of last week, the governor's primary legislative response had been to ask representatives to form committees to investigate aspects of the gun violence epidemic. The state's investigation of the tragedy in Uvalde is ongoing.

"Our great state has suffered more mass shootings over the past decade than any other," Treviño and Cavazos-Reyna wrote. "Our families and communities are depending on you. Please call an emergency special session."


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Marfa School Board meets to review STAAR test scores, staff salary structures, hires new business specialist

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — The Marfa Independent School Board of trustees gathered this week, between their summer bond-focused workshops, for a regular meeting to discuss preliminary STAAR test scores, salary structures for district staff and to finalize the contract for a new business specialist.

Present were board members Lori Flores, Christa Marquez, Teresa Nuñez, Ruben Martinez and Superintendent Oscar Aguero.

The board also discussed campus security in the wake of the mass elementary school shooting in Uvalde, including the possibility of permitting teachers and staff to carry weapons; the school district has also partnered with city council to apply for a grant to hire an armed school resource officer to remain on campus. The Big Bend Sentinel's coverage of those discussions can also be found in the June 16, 2022 issue of the newspaper.

STAAR Test Results

Aguero shared preliminary State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) Test results for grades 3 through 8, stating there were increased passing scores in some areas and decreased in others. Overall, across grade levels, math scores were down compared to reading, he said — a trend reflected across the state.

Official results would be in soon, said Aguero, and parents would be able to access their student's scores online as early as June 17. Students who did not receive passing scores will be required to return to school earlier to attend tutoring sessions, for which the school is considering utilizing a live virtual educator program called iTutor, said Aguero. House Bill 4545 requires school districts to provide 30 hours of additional instructional time per each subject a student doesn't pass on the STAAR test.

Moving forward, he said, school administrators, as well as students and teachers, would be asking themselves some key questions in setting plans for the 2022-23 academic year this coming August. Adult staff members will be prompted to consider how to instill positive changes and set realistic expectations for students, he said.

"This is how we're going to focus our students for next year. Where are we with each kid? And what do we do? Where do we want this kid to be?," said Aguero. "Student outcomes don't change until adult behaviors change."

Staff Pay

Bianca Gonzalez, business specialist with MISD, walked board members through the compensation plan for the 2022-23 school year. Aguero said the board would notice he and Gonzalez shook things up this year regarding the structure of staff salaries in an effort to address ongoing issues, incentivize more teachers and support staff to stay with the district and ensure pay rates were sustainable moving forward.

Gonzalez said their adjustments were, in part, a result of the state raising minimum pay a few years ago. She said before that MISD's salaries were more competitive but the state bumps were significant and they were finally assessing not just meeting the now higher state minimum pay, but exceeding it.

"We asked teachers to do so much," said Gonzalez. "Most of them would do [additional duties] out of the kindness of their hearts. But it's nice to get some money for having kindness in your heart."

Aguero chimed in that it was helpful to be able to say the district offers above the state minimum salary when recruiting new teachers, as well as retaining existing teachers. Aguero said he'd like to be able to offer $1,500 above state minimum and ensure teachers who have been with the district eight years or longer were seeing salary increases versus plateauing, which had been an issue in the past.

"Some of our teachers are gonna get a nice raise this year, and it's mainly those that have been teaching the longest," said Aguero.

The new plan involves creating salary midpoints and levels for support staff including administration, secretaries and custodians, in order to create a way for them to achieve higher and more routine raises through supervision evaluations and recommendations, as opposed to the current system where they have one base salary.

The plan also includes a new voluntary separation notice incentive, which Gonzalez said could have been helpful this year, giving the district a heads up about which teachers wouldn't be returning for the following year so recruitment efforts could be expedited.

The review of the compensation plan wrapped up with the board deciding to further review documents and continue discussions at the next regular board meeting. They intend to assess healthcare plans as well, including the possibility of adding life insurance and medical flight insurance.

Miscellaneous

In mixed news, the board finalized the contract for a new business specialist, with Gonzalez to remain working in the district but moving on to another role. Rosela Rivera, graduate of Marfa High School Class of '97, and previous business manager at Balmorhea ISD, will be taking over the role.

Rivera said she was excited to be coming back to her hometown, has previous experience working as a part of an administration going through a bond — Balmorhea passed a bond for a new kindergarten through twelfth grade campus in 2019 — and likes the direction the Marfa school board is going with the bond.

"Eight years in Balmorhea has given me experience, professional and personal development. I feel like I can come into Marfa and do well for Marfa," said Rivera.

In anticipation of the school board's attendance at the Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) conference hosted by the Texas Association of School Boards in San Antonio this week, Aguero addressed the board, stating he was excited about the group and their momentum to make change. He emphasized the importance of focusing on attending conference sessions that would benefit Marfa in particular. He said his ultimate goal was to nominate the board for school board of the year next year for Region 18, the education service center serving the West Texas area.

"I already feel like this board is moving in the right direction," said Aguero.

Presidio County Commissioners court talks water infrastructure, birth & death certificates

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — At last weeks' regular Commissioners Court meeting, Trey Gerfers, chair of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District, gave a brief update on the many water infrastructure projects that the county had applied to fund back in March, and offered an opportunity to apply for even more support from outside entities.

"We were looking to update sewage in various parts of Marfa, and to bring water and wastewater to East Heights and Antelope Hills," he explained. "There's a ton of other projects, but those are probably the ones that people in Marfa want to know about."

County Judge Cinderela Guevara and Commissioner Brenda Bentley worked with Gerfers to compose a list of projects that would benefit the entire county. Guevara made a point to advocate for Colonia, a community outside Presidio city limits where residents still have to haul water for basic necessities like drinking and bathing. "That's one of the last frontiers," she said.

In addition to the grant money that the county had already been seeking, Gerfers urged the commissioners to take advantage of a rare opportunity to apply for loans from state "revolving funds" dedicated to water infrastructure. The revolving funds are federal dollars apportioned to each state — mostly holdovers from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The revolving funds are loans, but Guevara and Gerfers reminded the commissioners that because of Presidio County's demographics, there was a high likelihood that 75% or more of the loans would eventually be forgiven. "We're already coming in as an economically disadvantaged county, and we are on the border. That's one of the reasons that they're really looking at us."

In addition to the positive prospects for the county's water infrastructure, the commissioners also approved a proposal from the Presidio County clerk, Florcita Zubia, to take on the responsibility for writing and filing birth and death certificates from the Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1. "She has decided that it is best if all the records stay in her office, since she is here in the county seat and she does hold those records already," Judge Guevara explained.

Presidio County has two Justices of the Peace: Precinct 1, which covers Marfa and the northern half of the county, and Precinct 2, which covers Presidio and everything south of Elephant Rock on Highway 67. Previous JP-1 David Beebe had taken on the responsibility of being the electronic registrar for birth and death certificates — since the Justice of the Peace pronounces births and deaths — but Zubia and the new JP-1, Dina Jo Losoya Marquez, decided it would be easier for the County Clerk to serve as electronic registrar instead.

"We all felt for the community that it was better served from the County Clerk's office," Marquez explained.

The commissioners hoped that keeping all of the records in the same office would help their constituents be able to access their records more quickly and easily — especially for Presidio County families that hoped to bury their loved ones in Mexico, a process that can take weeks. "I know a lot of families were very upset," Zubia said. "Now, everything that's processed through the state and as filed with the state we'll be able to see [electronically] on our site."

The commissioners thanked Zubia for her hard work. "Thank you for stepping up and seeking more responsibility," Commissioner Eloy Aranda said. "This is really going to help our constituents."

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DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Annalise Marquez
B&W Acrylic
10th grade

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR
No sports this week!
Check back next week for updates!

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6:30 PM	6:30 PM	4:00 PM	6:30 PM	6:30PM
VS. Austin Weirdos	VS. Austin Weirdos	VS. Austin Weirdos	VS. Weimar Hormigas	VS. Weimar Hormigas
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Opinions

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Big Bend Community:

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Marfa confirms that Martha Bumpas is our Minister-in-Residence. We welcome Pastor Bill Cotman of Alpine to our community.

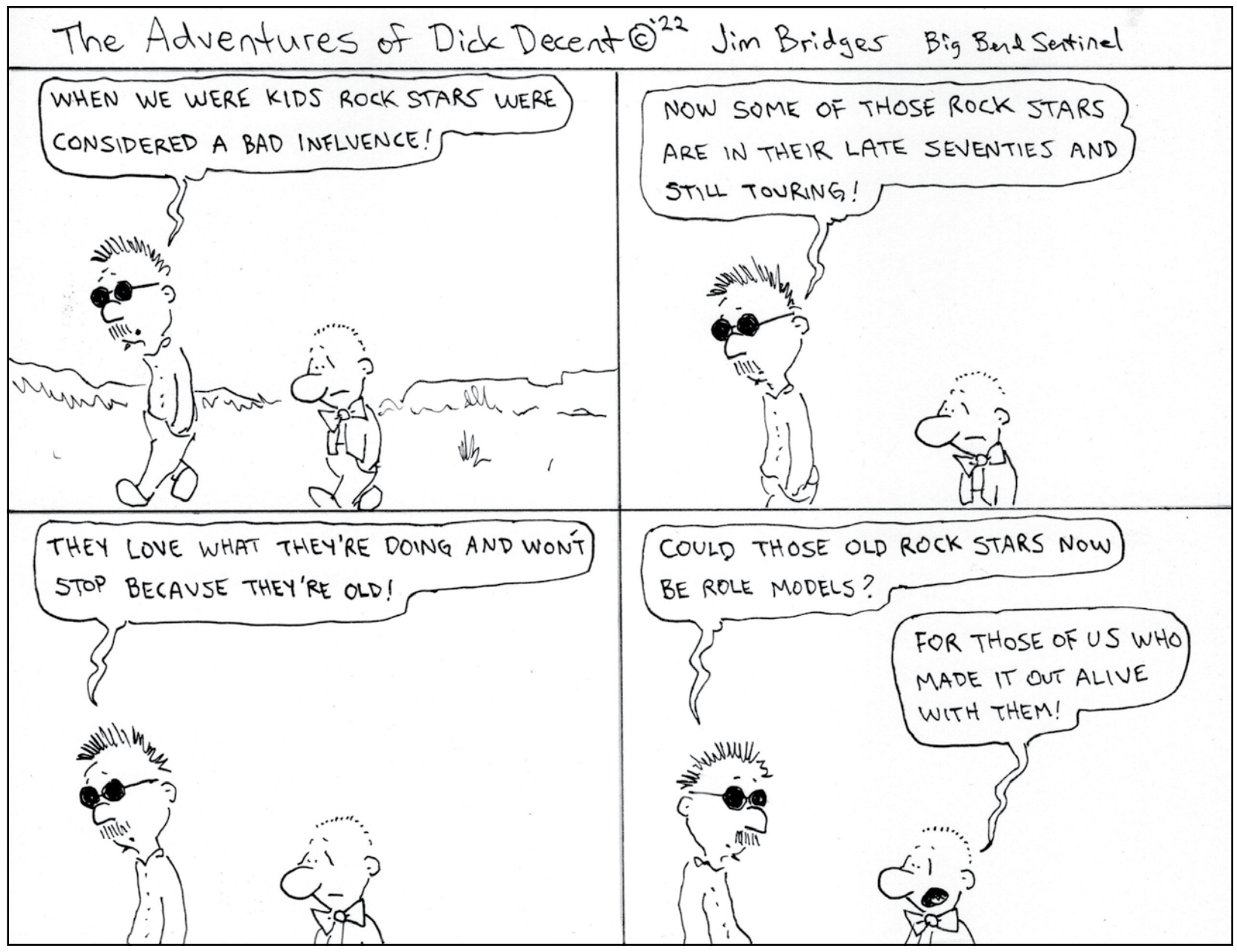
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We want to hear from YOU!

- 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.
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- 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***



OUR WATER MATTERS

Monitoring the health of our aquifers – one well at a time

By TREY GERFERS
tgerfers@pcuwcd.org

The Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District has been setting up a groundwater monitoring system in wells throughout the county for several years now. The goal is to equip as many wells as possible with sensors to monitor water levels and gain a better understanding of aquifer health over time (at no cost to well owners).

In the interest of informing the public about well monitoring, "Our Water Matters" will be presenting profiles of landowners whose wells the district is monitoring. They come from all walks of life and serve as examples of what other landowners may choose to do.

David Williams, a fifth generation rancher in Presidio County, is serious about conservation. In addition to his service on the board of directors of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District, Williams laughed that he has been on the NRCS Soil and Water Conservation District Board "for so many years, I can't even remember." He also served previously on the Agricultural Advisory Board of the Presidio County Appraisal District and the Chihuahuan Desert Resource Conservation and Development Council. He and his wife, Presidio County Tax Assessor Natalia Williams, are very active in the community. So, it's no surprise that he has a monitoring system installed in a well on his maternal great-grandfather's homestead, the Mellard Ranch, south of Marfa.

Williams grew up on the Mellard Ranch and attended Marfa schools in the late '70s and early '80s. He and the other ranch kids would ride the "school bus that went all the way to Redford." He recalled that the bus driver lived in Redford and would pick up the 10-12 kids from Shafter and other places along the route and take them to school in town. Williams always figured he would be a rancher. It was "all I thought I was going to do." A natural mechanic, Williams developed the many skills a rancher needs by working on tractors, windmills and "anything else that needs fixing." For the past 30 years, Williams has managed the MacGuire Ranch east of Marfa, in addition to tending to his own herds and land.

When asked why he decided to have his well monitored, he stated that "Part of it is … in this drought that we're having, we have a lot of wells that are going dry." He sees monitoring as a way to understand what's happening so he can prepare. "If we don't have water, we don't have anything in this country." The only problem he sees is when you have to service the well "because you have to pull the monitoring equipment first." But he felt confident that well servicers in the area could be trained and made aware that they need to "pull the monitor first, before they pull the well."

As a board member of the groundwater district, Williams is firm about the need to provide the monitoring data to the ranchers. If wells go dry on a ranch, the monitoring data can help ranchers understand how their monitored wells are doing "hopefully before they go dry," he said. Williams is also looking forward to when the district will have funding from the United States Geological Survey, perhaps as early as next year, to conduct water quality testing on his well. It's important to him to build up the "historic data" about "what the water was like before" so that we "have something to stand on" in the future if our water is adversely affected by new development. Landowners who allow the district to monitor their wells will be eligible to receive their annual water-quality results at no cost, as well as their water level data at regular intervals.

Williams feels that other ranchers should consider allowing the district to monitor their wells because "I think it would benefit them." He is aware of the privacy concerns that many folks have. But he believes that "while someone will be accessing your property, it's done with respect for your privacy." The district handles all landowner data in strictest confidence.

Landowners interested in learning more about having their wells monitored should contact General Manager Ari Stallard at 432.295.2568 or email her at info@pcuwcd.org

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



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Community

Pride Marfa to celebrate queer community in Far West Texas this weekend

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Pride Marfa, a free three-day celebration of West Texas' queer community, is taking place at venues across Marfa this weekend, with a variety of shows and performances open to the public.

The inaugural event is being organized by Christopher Gonzales and Paul Chavarria, a couple now based in El Paso who previously resided full-time in Marfa, in addition to a number of local residents. Gonzales and Chavarria said the idea to do a larger, community-wide Pride celebration was born out of informal drag events the duo hosted in 2018 and 2019 while working at the local restaurant Cochineal, which grew in popularity and quality over time.

"Let's just continue to do what we have been doing, but on a little bit bigger scale," said Chavarria.

"We just want to celebrate what should be celebrated," added Gonzales.

Pride celebrations honoring LGBTQ communities will take place across the state and country this June, and for Marfa's first-ever official Pride celebration, organizers said they wanted to ensure there were a variety of events for people to attend, regardless of age or work schedule. They are also hoping to attract people from around the tri-county region, they said, as Pride celebrations to this scale are not occurring in Alpine or Fort Davis.

"All these big major Texas cities have their own version of pride," said Chavarria. "For as many queer and trans folks that live here, it's like we need to bring [everyone] all together."

The weekend's lineup of events includes a welcome party at Planet Marfa, family-friendly block party at the courthouse with local vendors, and Sunday drag brunch at El Cosmico, all featuring a number of DJs, drag, dance, and pop music performers. The Pride Marfa team had the opportunity to organize their dream lineup of performers, and in addition to showcasing local talent, are bringing in performers from Central as well as East Texas.

Many of the performers have close ties to Gonzales and Chavarria, who will also be performing over the weekend, Gonzales as drag queen Sauvignon Blanca and Chavarria as DJ Gaying Mantis. Austin-based popstar P1nkstar, El Paso-based drag performer and DJ Puta Kahlo and Marfa's own Xavier Mcfarlin, performing under the DJ name Ex-Wife Material, are also among the artists performing.

"It's so nice that all of these performers are so proudly themselves," said Chavarria.

Pride Marfa secured a number of sponsors in order to put the event on and raised over $15,000. Funds raised are being allocated to pay and lodge performers, with all organizers volunteering their time and efforts.

Gonzales said so far, support for the event has been entirely positive, with Presidio County Commissioners approving the use of the courthouse lawn and Marfa's City Council the closure of Highland Avenue for the Saturday block party.

"It's encouraging. It makes me hopeful that at least it's being recognized. Even if some people don't agree with what we're doing, at least they're willing to let other people be exposed to it," said Gonzales.

"It's so nice to be able to represent [the state]," added Chavarria. "Especially in this part of Texas, which is totally underlooked a lot of the times, especially in regards to Pride and it being queer."

For more information, visit pridemarfa.org or follow @pridemarfa on Instagram



Photo courtesy of Christopher Gonzales / Pride Marfa

Drag performers during a curtain call for a previous drag event held at Cochineal.

Marfa residents hold March for Our Lives event, in solidarity with national movement

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
allegra@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Early Saturday morning, roughly two dozen Marfa residents flocked to the lawn of the Presidio County Courthouse to share their grief and anger over a recent string of mass shootings and to call for change.

Then, holding up signs calling for stricter gun laws, the group made their way down Highland Avenue to the USO Building, where the Marfa Saturday Market was setting up for the morning.

The event was a local iteration of the national March for Our Lives movement, the youth-led movement born out of the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. On Saturday, cities across the country participated in the national demonstration.

The matter weighed heavily on those gathered on the courthouse lawn, who spoke of the recent mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, where 19 students and two teachers were killed by a gunman.

Marfa resident and president of the Blackwell School Alliance Gretel Enck gave an impassioned speech calling for a wide-ranging response to the problem of gun violence, including stricter gun laws, universal background checks, and better mental health resources. "It's not either/or," she said. "It's yes, and."

She also spoke to the types of gun violence that call for attention — not just mass shootings, but suicides by gun and home shootings involving domestic violence. "There's no single cure to gun violence because there's no single cause, and there's no one kind of gun violence" said Enck.

Marfa resident Bob Schwab marched with the group from the courthouse to the USO building, where he proceeded to set up his table of fresh vegetables from his home garden. As he set up, he said he was deeply disturbed by the recent slaughter of school children and the persistent ability of Americans to purchase assault rifles despite the bloodshed.

"It's the epitome of selfishness, to insist on having an assault weapon when it's going to result in the horrifying deaths of children," he said. "What could be more selfish than that?"

Agave Festival to kick off this weekend

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — An annual celebration of the region's cultural heritage will kick off this weekend with a lineup of writers, historians, filmmakers, and many more.

"Agave Festival Marfa is an annual festival celebrating the agave and its influence on culture through food, film, music, science and spirits," organizer Tim Johnson wrote on the festival's website. "The Festival treats the agave as the indicator species for a region that is binational, multilingual, and deeply informed by indigenous culture and history."

Though the festival features lots of rigorous work by scholars of the region, many of the lectures and screenings are followed by spirit tastings to pair thoughtful inquiry with festive flair. On Friday and Saturday, Cactus Liquors will be hosting tastings of agave-based spirits from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at their Highland Avenue shop.

The festival kicks off on Thursday with a pool party and drink specials at the Hotel Saint George. The event is 21+ and will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Highlights on Friday include a guided walk at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute in Fort Davis to explore many of the regions' plants with an expert (those interested can visit agavemarfa.com for more information and to register for the event).

Saturday and Sunday will be packed with lectures and roundtable discussions — highlights include a poetry reading by Raquel Gutierrez and a lecture by historian C.J. Alvarez, followed by a special menu at Convenience West BBQ. The festival will close on Sunday with a film screening at 7:30 p.m. in the Crowley Theater by director Teresa Camou Guererro, who documented Tarahumara agricultural societies and traditions in her film Sunú.

A full list of events can be found at agavemarfa.com.

Marfa Saturday Market

Every Saturday morning from 9:30-11:30 the market will be set up behind the Visitor's Center/USO Building on S. Highland across from the bank. This Saturday we'll have breakfast tacos. Marfa Coffee Co pour-over, hot or cold. Marfa Meats. Socorito's Mexican food treats. Marfa Maid goat cheese. The Taylor's honey, canned goods and summer vegetables. Jane and Bobby's beef jerky. Bob and Leslie's garden vegetables. Gabriella's bread and arepas. Julie's cold drinks. And more surprises. This week we will have a station set up for clay making for the youngest market visitors.

To become a vendor, email the market manager, Malinda Beeman, marfasatmarket@gmail.com

Big Bend Telephone (BBT) Receives National Smart Rural Community and Gig-Capable Certification

ALPINE – Big Bend Telephone (BBT) was recognized by NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, as a Smart Rural Community (SRC) provider in 2015 and most recently a Certified Gig-Capable Provider for delivering gigabit broadband speeds and enabling technological innovation in West Texas communities.

SRC is a national network of communities powered by innovative rural broadband providers that are building a brighter future for small-town America. The program promotes rural broadband and its role in supporting innovative economic development, effective education, efficient energy distribution and use, state-of-the-art healthcare and other important issues for rural America.

As a Certified Gig-Capable Provider, BBT joins a national campaign to build awareness and industry recognition of community-based telecom providers that have built communications networks capable of delivering Internet speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second, which is 100 times faster than those currently available in many U.S. households.

"BBT has been committed to providing the best, available communications services to its customers for over 60 years. Our investment in a fiber infrastructure is another way of showing our continued growth in providing robust, scalable voice and broadband services for the next generation." said Rusty Moore, BBT General Manager/COO.

In order to receive recognition as an SRC provider, BBT was required to affirm that it offers 100 Mbps broadband to at least 50% of its service area; that it has broadband subscription rates of at least 50%; and that it is committed to program principles of collaboration and innovation.

To achieve certification as a Gig-Capable Provider, BBT showed that gigabit technology is currently commercially available within 95% of one or more exchanges within its serving territory and that such service can be provided without new trenching or stringing new aerial facilities. This statement must be confirmed by a letter from an engineering firm or other independent source involved in the company's network planning, deployment or operation.

BBT gigabit Internet is offered throughout BBT's service territory where fiber is available. The communities of Sanderson, Sheffield, Comstock & Langtry are 100% served by synchronous gigabit fiber Internet service with Presidio scheduled for completion this year.

About BBT

BBT has provided quality voice, high-speed broadband, and advanced business services to thousands of customers in West Texas's vast remote territory for over 60 years. BBT is the only fiber-based provider in the many rural communities served, and its service area covers 18,000 square miles, including 485 miles of border with neighboring Mexico. BBT is committed to providing the fastest speeds and most reliable voice service possible.

About NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association

The Rural Broadband Association is the premier association representing nearly 850 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural and small-town America. NTCA members are leading the technological evolution for rural consumers, delivering robust and high-quality services over future-proof networks that make rural communities vibrant places in which to live and do business.

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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.

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

6/1

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

5/23

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg June 13, 2022

ACROSS
1 Like a recently robbed vault's door, say
5 "Money, Money, Money" group
9 Lowest point
14 Sheltered bay
15 Borrowed sum
16 "A girl can dream!"
17 Trip to a celebrated wine region?
20 See 48-Across
21 Rapper Kool ___ Dee
22 Babysitter's charge
23 Oxford, e.g., in British slang
24 Not go out
28 Jiro of "Jiro Dreams of Sushi"
29 Clothes to pack for the Riviera?
32 Japanese coin
33 Many a prom queen, age-wise
34 First responder, often: Abbr.
35 It's distinct from "fewer"
37 Colors after a breakup, maybe
39 "Hold your horses!"
41 Prepare for a picture
43 Ewe's sound
44 College app letters
48 With 20-Across, nonkosher deli order
49 Luxury hotel in the City of Light?
53 Lines of credit?
54 Raising to the third power
55 Bloc of docs
56 Cardinals' city, in the 57-Across
57 See 56-Across
58 "We're live!" sign
60 Annual bike race, and a theme hint
65 Absolutely adore
66 Spiritual glow
67 Get really high?
68 Some are titled "To do"
69 Have on
70 "___ well that ends well"

DOWN
1 New user's creation
2 ___ Walker (Scotch whisky brand)
3 Extreme greed
4 "Ratatouille" protagonist
5 In the manner of
6 Mire
7 Prohibit
8 Iron deficiency
9 River in 11 African countries
10 ___ tuna
11 Bones and tennis balls, e.g.
12 Mobile devices with Messages
13 Gymnastics great Mary Lou
18 Nuisance
19 Affectionate
25 Megan ___ Stallion
26 Hand holders?
27 "... so far"
30 Puts the kibosh on
31 Cal Poly city, for short
36 ___ of Sandwich
38 "Uh-huh!"
39 Coy reply to "You were joking, right?"
40 Kathryn of "WandaVision"
41 Noodle dish often served with peanuts
42 Egg dishes often served with potatoes
43 Dribble guard
45 Biofuel option
46 Ludicrous
47 They saw logs, figuratively
48 Cheap lodging
50 Rights org. that RBG worked for
51 Really chafe
52 Composer Stravinsky
57 Janitors' tools
59 Org. for Curiosity and Perseverance
61 Disapproving syllable
62 Expected
63 Time named for a queen, perhaps
64 Not even close

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

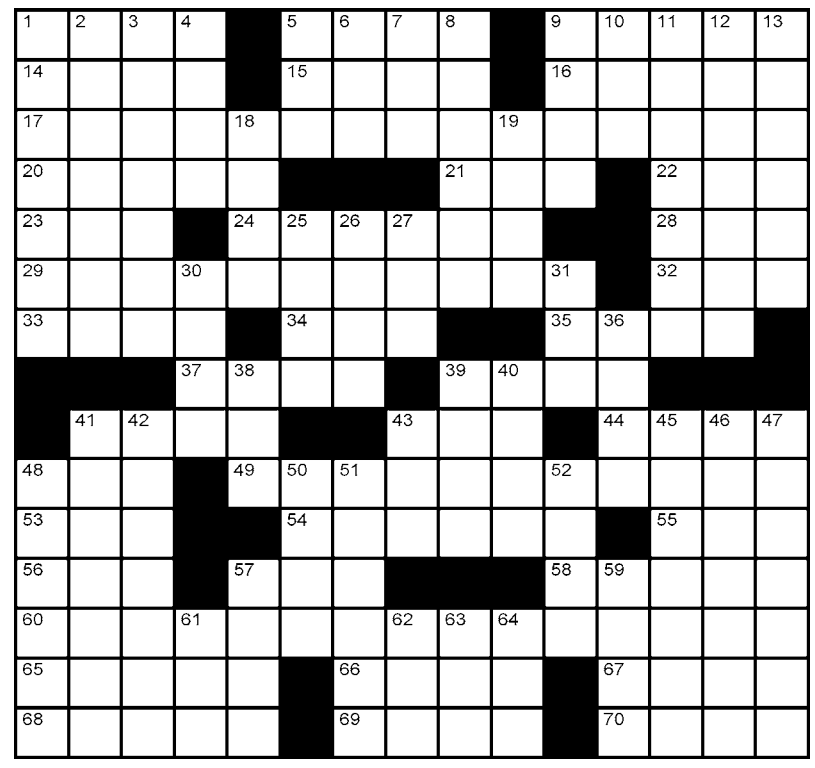
A	P	P	S	■	B	U	S	■	■	C	H	E	E	K
P	O	S	E	■	A	R	C	■	H	Y	M	N	A	L
T	T	Y	L	■	B	L	I	M	E	Y	M	A	T	E
■	■	W	I	S	E	■	F	I	L	O	■	C	S	I
O	M	A	N	I	■	H	I	N	D	U	■	T	I	N
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P	E	C	■	E	V	E	N	T	■	R	A	P	A	T
A	H	A	■	L	A	S	T	■	A	D	D	S	■	■
C	A	T	S	I	T	T	I	N	G	■	G	I	G	S
E	V	O	K	E	S	■	O	A	R	■	E	Z	R	A
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6/12

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6/13

Gallic Travels *by Sara Nies and Ross Trudeau*



☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

JUNE	Thu, June16	Fri, June 17	Mon, June 20	Tue, June 21	Wed, June 22
BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST PIZZA	NO SUMMER PROGRAM	BREAKFAST BREAD, YOGURT	BREAKFAST BURRITO	SAUSAGE KOLACHE, CHEESE STICK
LUNCH	PIZZA, GARDEN SALAD, TINY TOMATO CUP, PEARS	NO SUMMER PROGRAM	BREADED DRUMSTICK, GARDEN SALAD, SWEET POTATO FRIES, FRESH FRUIT	WALKING TACO, BEANS, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, CHILLED PINEAPPLE, COOKIE	FRITO PIE, FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, APPLESAUCE

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Portraits from the Big Bend: Nakaya Flotte, advocate and student of traditional Lipan Apache culture

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Nakaya Flotte, a sociocultural anthropologist who grew up in Presidio-Ojinaga, at the Marfa Gardens. Flotte works as a traditional ecological and cultural knowledge consultant, offering indigenous perspectives of the West Texas landscape to various community projects around the Big Bend.

FAR WEST TEXAS — After more than a decade in academia studying sociocultural anthropology, Nakaya Flotte, who grew up in Presidio-Ojinaga, is entering into a new phase of her career, prioritizing broadening West Texas' understanding of indigenous ecological and cultural knowledge through a variety of community projects.

Flotte, who is currently based in Austin but travels frequently to the Big Bend region, is working as a freelance consultant and has recently contributed her efforts to the ownership transfer of the Lipan Apache cemetery in Presidio from the county to tribe descendants as well as the ongoing Judd Foundation/ Big Bend Conservation Alliance grasslands project.

Flotte said at the root she is looking to expand the collective cultural understanding of the region beyond the widely-discussed history of Mexico, as told by Spanish conquistadors, to bring more awareness to West Texas' earlier occupants, including the Plains Lipan Apache peoples, which were one of dozens of indigenous groups that are generally classified as the Jumano, Apache and Comanche.

"That's not the entire story. There's much more complexity and many other cultures that are also part of that. I think that West Texas would definitely benefit quite a lot in understanding that indigenous people are still there and that we still have knowledge," said Flotte.

The Big Bend Sentinel recently met with Flotte at the Marfa Garden, a small native plant sanctuary complete with casitas and a walking trail, to discuss her bi-national upbringing, lasting connections to the Big Bend region and career as an anthropologist moving forward.

Flotte spent the first 15 years of her life living in Ojinaga and first moved to Presidio in eighth grade. At Presidio High School she was a student of Patt Simms, science teacher and advocate of the Chihuahuan Desert ecosystem, who passed away in 2020. Growing up along the U.S./Mexico border, Flotte was eager to spread her wings after graduating high school and moved to Austin in 2008 to study at the University of Texas.

"As a young queer person, I was just trying to leave and go to the city," said Flotte, who is a transwoman. "I really paid attention in school just to be able to leave."

Flotte said being a first generation student entering Texas' capital city from a rural community was a culture shock initially, but her commitment to academic rigor earned her a degree in cultural anthropology in 2012. After a stint living in the Bay Area in California, Flotte decided to apply for graduate school to continue her studies.

She was accepted into a number of programs around the country, but opted to move to Boston to study at Harvard University, where she went on to earn a PhD in anthropology in 2021. During her time at Harvard, Flotte researched immigration and border externalization, volunteered to assist migrants seeking asylum and worked as an ethnographer interviewing unaccompanied minors with the nonprofit Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) in El Paso. While the work was heavily rooted in community involvement and field research which benefitted Flotte in her overall education, she ultimately felt the work lacked a vital connection to her own experiences.

"The project was a bit too distant for me from my own identity," said Flotte. "I was pressured at Harvard, because I'm an anthropologist — they push you to work on other communities that are not necessarily yours."

Flotte, as of late, has found a deeper appreciation for her craft by working on projects closer to home — like last fall, when she helped with the ownership transfer of the Lipan Apache cemetery back to the tribe. By connecting cemetery plots to current families residing in Presidio, primarily the Aguilar and Ornelas families, Flotte said some locals were spurred to think differently upon realizing the extent of their family's lineage in the region.

"It's changing everything in Presidio," said Flotte. "A lot of people, it changed the way in which they see themselves and that in turn changes the way in which they see their homeland."

Flotte is also working to revive the long lost language of the Lipan Apache with the goal of one day creating a dictionary. Flotte, working without the benefit of comprehensive knowledge passed down for generations or any formal texts, has taken the time to research the language via archives, books and oral histories. A Navajo language class she took while studying at Harvard has also aided her efforts.

"Every time I go to a bookstore I go to the Native American section and look for anything that's Lipan Apache. I have so many books that have a paragraph or two paragraphs, maybe a page on Lipan Apaches," said Flotte. "From there we gather new words that we don't know and we add them to the database."

Working with a cousin who lives in South Texas and shares her interest in reconstructing the language of the Lipan Apache, Flotte dove into a variety of research materials, including a 1903 interview between linguist Henry Hojier and Augustina Zuazua, a displaced Lipan woman living on the Mescalero Apache reservation. Talking to elders and researching archival materials can help piece together a more complete picture of the language's nuances, said Flotte.

For example, Lipan Apache, who were also referred to as prairie grass people, used the word łįbai to describe the coloration of the native grasses, which in part led their migrations. While older generations might be familiar with the concept of the color of the grass as meaningful, they might be unaware of the exact term, said Flotte.

"We have knowledge. We have just lost a lot of the specificities of it. It's a matter of being open to being wrong and to having people give you contradictions," said Flotte.

The work Flotte is performing with the help of others will hopefully one day lead to federal recognition of the Lipan Apache tribe, she said. The tribe submitted an application in 2012 but has yet to hear back on their status from the federal government. If federal recognition were achieved, the tribe would likely have access to additional funding sources. The tribe only recently became recognized by the state of Texas in 2019.

"Federal recognition might not happen in my lifetime. But it can definitely happen in the future because of the work we're doing right now. [Future generations] won't have to relearn all these things from scratch," said Flotte.

Flotte is also working in the region as a consultant offering an indigenous perspective on the Judd grasslands project, a partnership between the Judd Foundation and Big Bend Conservation Alliance to open a public park slash grassland preserve in Marfa.

Flotte is in the process of writing up recommendations for signage, educational materials and a land acknowledgement text, which will include information such as what the grasslands meant to indigenous peoples, different ways they interacted with the land and the language they used to describe it. Flotte said in addition to sharing her hard-won knowledge of the colloquial or indigenous names for certain flora and fauna, another key focus of the work is to emphasize the need for conservation of the land.

"I don't think I've seen signage in West Texas that includes indigenous traditional ecological knowledge, I think it's quite innovative," said Flotte. "It's also going to allow for the sacred aspect of the land and teach people there the ways in which we can relate to the land because after all, we have to be able to take care of it."

The grasslands project is conducting ongoing community engagement efforts in the form of meetings, which have already taken place among invited community members and will be opened up to the community at large this fall, said Shelley Bernstein of Big Bend Conservation Alliance.

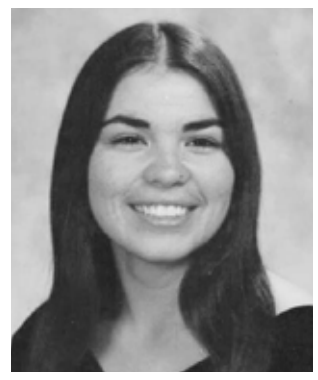
While Flotte herself will not be present for the community meetings, she is keeping in mind ways to make everyone feel welcome in the space and said there will be some barriers for the project organizers to overcome in order to successfully attract members from across the community.

"People that don't always interact with public greenspaces — elders, people with disabilities, local indigenous people, people that are lower class — tend to see green spaces as these wealthy places where only the wealthy have access to," said Flotte.

Flotte said as a transwoman who didn't always feel a sense of community growing up, for a while she was uneasy about returning home to the Big Bend region, but now envisions herself returning frequently to collaborate on projects.

"I think there's value to me being queer," said Flotte of her role as a sociocultural anthropologist and consultant. "It just adds to my ability to be more tolerant, and my ability to be more open minded, and find beauty in places where people might not find beauty or knowledge."

OBITUARIES



Gallego

Nelda A. Gallego, 66, passed away on February 19, 2022, at St. David's North Austin Medical Center in Austin. She was born June 21, 1955, in Alpine, the daughter of Santiago and Olga Gallego. She graduated from Alpine High School, Class of 1973. Following graduation, Nelda married Juan Llanez and was the loving mother of Jay Llanez Aguirre and Johnny Llanez. She worked as the administration assistant for the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences at Sul Ross for over four decades. She brought laughter, friendship and lots of attitude to anyone she came in contact with. If you were in her inner circle, you were one of the lucky few. She will be missed by many.

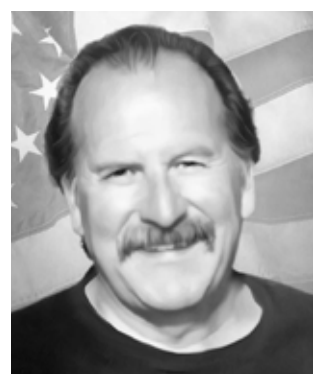
Praying of the most Holy Rosary will be held on Friday, June 17, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. followed by Mass of Christian burial with Father Pablo Matta as funeral celebrant.

She was preceded in death by her parents. Surviving include her daughter Jay Aguirre and her husband Curtis of Haslet, Texas; son Johnny Llanez; grandchildren Jocelyn and Elias Aguirre; four sisters, Rowena, Janet, Caroline and Denise; one brother, Jimmy Ray; many nieces and nephews; and the father of her children, Juan Llanez.

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

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

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Pacheco

Antonio "Tony" Munoz Pacheco, of Marfa, passed away on June 9, 2022, in Marfa, Texas.

Visitation will be 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 17, 2022, at St. Mary's Church in Marfa.

Funeral Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 18, 2022, at Merced Cemetery in Marfa.

Arrangements are by Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

Antonio "Tony" Munoz Pacheco was born in Marfa, Texas, to Mariana Munoz and Antonio Pacheco on September 9, 1943. He has a twin sister, Viola Razo. He went to school at the historic Blackwell School in Marfa. He married Patricia Miller on June 1, 1963, in Marfa and they moved to California to raise a family. They were married for 20 years. In 1991, Tony met Laura Fry and they married on October 16, 1998. Tony was a faithful Oakland Raiders fan. Tony worked as a commercial painter for W.G. Thompson Painting in Northern California for 35 years. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and served in the Army. Tony's love for Marfa and his family brought him back to his hometown where he resided for the rest of his days.

Tony is preceded in death by Mariana Munoz, Antonio Pacheco, Patricia Miller, John Razo, Chon Sotelo, Jose Sotelo.

Tony is survived by Laura Fry; children Christine Carroll, Veronica Pacheco-Yax and husband Ronald Francis Jr., and son Daniel Pacheco; sisters Viola Razo, Lillian Garza, Yolanda Patton; brother Alvaro Sotelo; grandchildren Vanessa Freeman, Bryanna Francis; and many wonderful nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Ricky Garza, Paul Garza, Clifford John Gordon, Aaron I. Razo, John A. Razo, Samuel Sailler, Juan Lara Jr. and Juan Carlos Villalobos.

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

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Peiser

It is with a heavy heart that the family of Beverly Nanette Payne Peiser share that she passed from this life on June 7, 2022, in San Angelo, Texas, surrounded by her loved ones. A citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Beverly was very proud of her heritage.

Beverly (Payne) Peiser was a caring and loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, friend and colleague. Just shy of 87 years old, she very suddenly joined a circle of her family and friends in Heaven including her daughter, Lisa Powell, as well as her parents and two siblings.

Beverly is survived by her husband of 68 years, Billy D. Peiser of San Angelo, Texas. She is also survived by her son Barry (Joneen) Peiser of Fulshear and daughter Pam (Wayne) Seipp of Llano. Lisa's husband Rusty Powell and family live in Arkansas.

Beverly was born to Francis and Nannie Payne in Antlers, Pushmataha, Oklahoma. Honored to have a large family, she was raised in Hugo. She met Billy D. Peiser while working at the drugstore in April 1953 while still in school. Bill was in the area working for a survey crew.

Though she was the second oldest child, Beverly's parents would not let her marry until she turned 18. She traveled by bus to Oklahoma City to work for GTE as a telephone operator until she was of age to marry. Beverly and Bill were married in November 1953.

Beverly was strong-willed, but devoted to her family. She was a leader and a follower, as demonstrated by her moving multiple times with Billy D. while he surveyed in Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and New Mexico. During the earlier years they had two children, Barry and Pam.

Beverly, Bill, and family moved to Yuma when Bill went into the Border Patrol. Their daughter, Lisa, was born while in Arizona. In April 1964 they were transferred to Marfa, Texas, where they spent much of their life together, 44 years. For their last 14 they lived in San Angelo.

Beverly loved her family, including her grandchildren: Karin, Tess, Megan, Thorin and Jamie; and great-grandchildren: Alexandra, John, Elijah, Samuel and Raziela. She held annual summer camps for her grandchildren and took most of them on special "Disney tours" or trips.

Beverly treasured her extended families and always looked forward to their regular reunions. No matter a Payne or Peiser reunion, she was eager to gather for a buffet meal, a board game, white elephant exchange and of course "storytelling."

Beverly loved "happy hour" and had two each day. Beginning each with a devotional and coffee, she ended each with snacks, drinks, games and stories. Dedicated, she was given a key to Carmen's Café in Marfa to get the coffee on early. She often brought in her own baked goods.

As a service professional, Beverly always worked in public relations and communications. Serving first as a telephone operator, she spent several years as a travel agent. She was a teller for a savings and loan association, and she served the public at the Davis Mountain State Park.

From her travel agent work, Beverly learned to love travel. She took her sister on her first Europe trip, then her mother, and then Bill. She and Bill then traveled with the United States enduro team to several international enduro competitions around the world.

Whether Beverly was at home or traveling, she carried with her snacks, books, puzzles and more. Even spending her last week of life in the hospital, she had in her hand the newspaper, a Sudoku book and a mystery to read. And she pointed out meals that were ready at home.

Beverly was a generous volunteer! She served St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Marfa, as well as the thrift store. She volunteered at the Marfa Public Library, and she was an educational reenactor for the Fort Davis National Historic Site, cooking on a wood stove each weekend.

Beverly's suffering was short, and her grandchildren were with her. Enjoying time together, they hosted an Elvis concert that brought her great joy. Granddaughters Tess and Megan shared their individual projects working with Indigenous people, and Thorin shared his brew master work.

Beverly joins her family in Heaven and will lovingly be remembered by her 10 siblings and families: Phillip (Sally) Payne, Ross Dale Payne, Linda (Robbie) Robertson, Karen (Paul) Lyles, Jane Maxwell, Jan Maxwell, Becky (Dennis) Smith, Jill (Dudley) Sanneman and Chris (Vickie) Payne.

Beverly's grandparents preceding her in death include: Charles Francis Payne and Sophia Minnie Hibben Payne, and Roy Cornelius Harris and Priscilla Gertrude Taylor Harris.

Honoring her requests, Robert Massie Funeral Home provided a direct burial June 8, 2022, at Mullen's Cemetery outside of San Angelo. She wanted no funeral service and no flowers. As per her request, a "Celebration of Life" will be held at a later date. An announcement will follow.

In lieu of this, memorials in her name may be made to: Marfa Public Library (check to Friends of Marfa Public Library, Drawer U, Marfa, TX 79843); Chahta Foundation for Education (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma: https://chahtafoundation.com/donate/) or your favorite charity.

Excerpt of "Death and Transformation":

Choctaw proud, intense lover,
Holder of so many forgotten
stories, lessons to be learned
Passed on, I am honored to have
you as part of my story,
So honored to heal a wisdom
born of oppression and fear
Generations removed.

Written June 2022 for Mimi by Tess Arae' Seipp

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2021 Consumer Confidence Report for Public Water System CITY OF MARFA

This is your water quality report for January 1 to December 31, 2021 CITY OF MARFA provides ground water from the Igneous Aquifer,located in Presidio County, Marfa Texas.

For more information regarding this report contact:

Name: Charles Salgado, Public Utilities Supervisor

Phone: 432-295-0179

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (432) 729-4316.

Definitions and Abbreviations

Definitions and Abbreviations The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

- **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Avg:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
- **Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- **Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **MFL:** million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
- **mrem**: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
- **na:** not applicable.
- **NTU:** nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)
- **pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- **ppb:** micrograms per liter or parts per billion
- **ppm:** milligrams per liter or parts per million
- **ppq:** parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)
- **ppt:** parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
- **Treatment Technique or TT:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Information about your Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; persons who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by your community water system City Of Marfa has a fluoride concentration of 2.7 mg/L.

Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.

For more information, please call Charles Salgado of City of Marfa Public Utilities at 432-295-0179. Somehome water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.

Information about Source Water

TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water, and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system is based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system contact Charles Salgado, 432-295-0179

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2021	1.3	1.3	0.027	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

2021 Water Quality Test Results

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	02/19/2019	5.5	5.5 - 5.5	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

While your drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPAs standard balances the current understanding of arsenics possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Barium	02/19/2019	0.027	0.027 - 0.027	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	02/19/2019	1	1 - 1	100	100	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	02/04/2020	2.7	2.7 - 2.7	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2021	4	3.53 - 3.53	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	07/16/2018	8.9	8.9 - 8.9	0	50	pCi/L*	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	07/16/2018	1	1 - 1	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	07/16/2018	8.6	8.6 - 8.6	0	30	ug/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Disinfectant Residual

A blank disinfectant residual table has been added to the CCR template, you will need to add data to the fields. Your data can be taken off the Disinfectant Level Quarterly Operating Reports (DLQOR).

Disinfectant Residual	Year	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Violation (Y/N)	Source in Drinking Water
Free Chlorine	2021	1.21	0.23 - 2.07	4	4	Mg/l	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Violations

Lead and Copper Rule

The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
FOLLOW-UP OR ROUTINE TAP M/R (LCR)	10/01/2020	09/15/2021	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

Public Notification Rule

The Public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g., a boil water emergency).

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	12/23/2021	02/01/2022	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations

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

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.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

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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

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Presidio Police Department is looking for two full time Police Officers to perform a variety of law enforcement duties and maintain public safety.

JOB SUMMARY:
This Is general duty police work on an assigned shift involving the protection of life and property. To perform a variety of duties in the enforcement of laws and the prevention of crimes; to control traffic flow and enforce State and local traffic regulations; and to perform a variety of technical and administrative tasks In support of the Department.

REQUIRED EDUCATION, DEGREES, CERTIFICATES, AND/OR LICENSES:
- Must possess a high school diploma or equivalency.
- Must meet the minimum requirements for State licensure as established by T.C.O.L.E.
- Graduation from an accredited police academy.
- Must possess, at the time of employment and continuously throughout employment, a valid Texas driver's license.
- Possession of a T.C.O.l.E. Basic Peace Officer License.

Salary: Depending on Qualifications and Experience.

Benefits: Medical Insurance, Retirement Plan, Accrued Vacation, Accrued Sick Leave

Applications can be picked up at the Presidio Police Department, 501 E. Orielly, Presidio, Texas 79845, from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Position close date: June 27, 2022 @ 5:00pm

The City of Presidio Is an Equal Employment Opportunity.

WEST TEXAS PEST MANAGEMENT
TPCL 13335



CALL:
432-940-4075

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.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Community Council of South Central Texas, Inc. (CCSCT) is making applications for Housing Preservation Grant funds through the United States Department of Agriculture.

These funds are designed to assist low and very low-income homeowners in repairing and rehabilitating their homes in Brewster, Crane, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio, and Terrell Counties.

To receive a copy of CCSCT's statement of activities for review and comment, please call 830-253-4504.

MOONLIGHT GEMSTONES

Paul Graybeal, Owner
Ben Toro, Associate
432-729-4526
pgagates@gmail.com
moonlightgemstones.com

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ph:432-386-4422

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GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

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

CITY OF MARFA
Manny Baeza, City of Marfa Mayor
mayor@cityofmarfa.com
(432) 295-0048
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councilmembersalgado@cityofmarfa.com
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councilmemberjohnston@cityofmarfa.com
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councilmemberpallarez@cityofmarfa.com
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councilmemberbenyehuda@cityofmarfa.com

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

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

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

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

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

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