THE BIG BEND Sentinel

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BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES
by order of Presidio County

Judd Architecture Office, damaged in fire, to re-open Spring 2024

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com
ALLEGRA HOBBS
allegra@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — The Judd Foundation recently announced Donald Judd's Architecture Office, a historic downtown Marfa building which suffered extensive damage due to a fire in 2021 just as its initial renovation was nearly completed, will be reconstructed with an opening date of Spring 2024.

The Highland Avenue building, which the late artist Donald Judd had used as his architecture office, caught fire in June of last year, leading to what Marfa Fire Chief Gary Mitschke called "a total loss for the most part." The roof had gone up in flames, and the center of the second floor caved into the first floor.

In the ensuing months, the foundation oversaw a multi-phase remediation process to repair the fire damage, so that the interrupted restoration work could resume. Because it had already undergone the beginnings of the restoration project at the time of the fire, the brick structure remained largely intact — it is currently braced with steel buttresses, a temporary measure to reinforce the facade. Architecture firm SCHAUM/SHIEH was on-site for much of the remediation process to help ensure that the existing structure was salvaged as much as possible.

Now, over a year since the fire, the foundation is looking forward to getting the long-awaited restoration back underway.

"As far as morale, just getting this project back underway is going to be the biggest boost there, to actually see progress again on the building," said Peter Stanley, the foundation's director of operations and preservation.

But getting that process back up and running is a serious undertaking following such extensive damage — much of the second floor has been wiped out, noted Stanley. But the team will attempt to use the original elements within the structure as much as possible.

"We're confident we can save a lot of doors and some windows," said Stanley. "Unfortunately, a lot of the other materials like the tin ceilings, those show damage pretty quickly." Some of the wood floors may be salvageable, but even those that survived will carry a lingering burnt smell.

What sparked the blaze will remain a mystery, per Stanley. Following an investigation led by The Hanover Insurance Group, the foundation's

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Staff photo by Maisie Crow

Marfa Shorthorns mascot Bullette rides in the parade down Highland Avenue a part of the 35th Annual Marfa Lights Festival.
READ MORE ON PAGE 5.

Mayor Baeza introduces 2022-23 Marfa city budget, city council workshops begin this week

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — At a special city council meeting last week, Mayor Manny Baeza introduced the proposed 2022-23 Marfa city budget and council members voted to accept a new proposed tax rate.

All council members were present. The city will host budget workshops throughout the month of September to further discuss the proposed budget. The meeting schedule, along with a draft of the city budget, is available online on the city's website.

First, council heard from Dan Dunlap, contract accountant for the city, on setting the new tax rate. The city's current property tax rate is $0.363 per $100 taxable value and the new rate — which council voted to accept but is pending final approval after a public hearing — will be $0.371, a 2.35% increase from the previous year. The public hearing on the proposed tax rate will be held at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 20.

Next, Mayor Baeza presented a rough draft of the 2022-23 fiscal year budget and council members went through department by department to go over the basics and familiarize themselves with the new proposal.

The bare bones nature of the budget was emphasized by Baeza and City Manager Mandy Roane, who said it didn't reflect a cost of living adjustment for city employees or potential new rates that result from the city's water and wastewater study, which she is expecting to be completed by the end of month.

Baeza also clarified that the budget did not include potential grant monies because the money was not yet in hand. The budget presented was slim, with some utilities departments, including water and natural gas, which are designed to be revenue-generating sources for the city, losing money.

"You're looking at a negative revenue of $41,000 for one of your enterprise funds," said Baeza of the natural gas department. "This is where you should be making money to provide services for the city."

Council again addressed a matter previously discussed in early August — the anticipation of citizen's natural gas utility bills rising, potentially even doubling, as a result of the hike in natural gas prices. At the time, Roane said the city would be unable to absorb the difference in price due to such high increases from the market.

Baeza put it plainly, explaining that most city departments lose money. "Your library loses money, your admin loses money, EMS loses money, law enforcement loses money. A lot of the services we provide are not profitable," he said. "You have to focus on your revenues, you have to focus on water and sewer, natural gas, your enterprise funds, so that way we can offset

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Effort to conserve state's mountain lion populations, formation of stakeholder group underway

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

AUSTIN — Texans for Mountain Lions — a coalition of landowners, hunters, biologists and more which filed a petition to Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) in June advocating for better management of the state's mountain lion populations — is continuing to move forward with the cooperation of the state agency regarding the formation of a stakeholder group and further studies into the status of big cat populations.

Texas, unlike other states with viable mountain lion populations, does not currently implement hunting regulations such as seasons, harvest limits or harvest reporting. The petition, which was ultimately denied by TPWD, requested harvest reporting, 36-hour trap check times, the prohibition of canned hunting, and immediate enforcement of harvest limits in South Texas, where lion populations are known to be dwindling to dangerously low numbers.

While the rules the coalition put forth were not adopted by TPWD, two elements of its petition — the formation of a stakeholder group and need to conduct further research — were met favorably by TPWD commissioners, who agreed in a commission meeting in late August to make swift progress on the initiatives.

Romey Swanson, private land ecologist affiliated with the Hershey Ranch in Gillespie County and member of Texans for Mountain Lions, said the petition was, in part, successful because it helped initiate public conversation and awareness of the lack of mountain lion management in the state. Texans for Mountain Lions received around 1,700 letters of support from the public in support of their mountain lion management petition, said Swanson.

"We're not necessarily discouraged with the results of the denial of the petition. We're seeing a lot of positive signals," said Swanson. "It's just making sure that those positive signals result in accountability, timeliness and transparency throughout the process."

While TPWD has yet to take any formal steps to fund research on the topic, Swanson said the agency didn't seem opposed to doing so once input from the advisory committee as to the scope of data has been discussed. The formation of the committee is ongoing, but will likely include a number of stakeholders representing different facets of mountain lion management, said Swanson.

"I think that wisely, you're going to see the group represented mostly by those folks who live closest to and among mountain lions, including ranchers, farmers, landowners within mountain lion country in South Texas and West Texas,

(Continued on page 2)

New COVID boosters that protect against omicron subvariants available in Alpine

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
allegra@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — This week, a new round of COVID booster shots that strengthen immunity against the now-dominant omicron subvariants of the virus will be available at Alpine pharmacies.

The bivalent formula has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use as a single-shot booster to be administered at least two months following a patient's most recent vaccine dose. The Moderna vaccine is authorized for individuals 18 and older; the Pfizer vaccine is authorized for those 12 and older.

The Moderna shot will be available at Highland Drug in Alpine on Thursday, September 8, during the pharmacy's regular hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Pfizer shot will be available the next day, on Friday, during the same hours. Appointments are not necessary — the pharmacy will take walk-ins. Highland Drug is located at 504 E. Avenue East.

At Prescription Shop, located at 909 E. Holland Avenue, the Moderna shot will be available on Friday during the shop's regular hours, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Anyone hoping to get a shot is advised to make an appointment in advance — they are limited in number, per head pharmacist Meredith Schoch, and may go fast. The pharmacy had ordered 300 shots; as of Tuesday, there were around 250 remaining, and folks were booking appointments.

"I'm going to try to keep giving them every Friday, but it's going to depend on the availability," said Schoch. She noted that she'd ordered more vaccines, but it was unclear how soon they would arrive. Three hundred doses was the maximum amount available for pre-order.

The new boosters are not yet available at the Marfa Country Clinic, said Dr. Christie Alexander. A representative for Preventive Care Health Services could not immediately be reached.

Beto rallies in Alpine as Brewster County Democrats get out the vote

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
allegra@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — On Sunday afternoon, Beto O'Rourke stood before a crowd of over 600 inside Alpine's Granada Theatre and told enthusiastic attendees that he would be the next governor of Texas. The victory was assured, he said, by a platform that included the championing of reproductive rights and the reformation of permissive gun laws. But beyond policy proposals, O'Rourke came armed with a message of unity, collegiality, and the seeking of common ground that cynical actors had worked to upset.

"In their Texas, it is you or it is me. In our Texas, it's going to be you and me, all of us together, working for, by, and with one another," said O'Rourke. Then there was the matter of his opponent, the Republican incumbent, whose record has been lambasted by the Democratic hopeful throughout his campaign.

"We're going to win because we are running against arguably the worst governor in the United States of America, Greg Abbott."

Brewster County went for Abbott in the 2018 gubernatorial election, but by a slim margin — fewer than three percentage points gave him an edge over his Democratic opponent. Statewide and national races tend to be that close in the purple county, where local offices are often held by Democrats. In any case, in a statewide election, whether or not O'Rourke takes the county is beside the point — local Democrats are more concerned with adding to the overall number of ballots cast statewide for their candidate.

Mary Bell Lockhart, chair of the Brewster County chapter of the Texas Democratic Party, was present at Sunday's rally and left hopeful about their chances this November. She maintains that the voters are there — it's just a matter of spurring them into action. "Brewster County has more Democrats than Republicans in it, but not as many of ours are faithful voters, so that's what we want to change this go around," she explained.

Lockhart also estimated that the political landscape in the region had "changed dramatically across the summer" — in large part due to the Republican Party's extreme stance on abortion. Not only is abortion banned in the state, even in cases of rape or incest — a position the majority of Texans do not hold, polling shows — due to a "trigger law" that took effect after the fall of Roe v. Wade, it is now a felony to perform an abortion in the state.

O'Rourke came ready to capitalize on the unpopularity of the policy — right out of the gate, he pledged to fight for "every woman to make her own decisions about her own body, her own future and her own healthcare."

It was among several promises he made to the people of Brewster County. Noting that the average public school educator in the county is paid $17,500 less than the national average, he promised to help close that gap. "When we win this and when I'm your governor, we're paying every teacher in Brewster County enough to just work one job," he said. He also pledged to do away with the state's STAAR test, a standardized test he said teachers had informed him was ill-equipped to evaluate a student's potential.

He also promised to set up a

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC

Marfa city budget

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the services provided to the City of Marfa."

The city, which has not raised water and wastewater rates since 2015, will likely decide to do so, but has yet to discuss specifics as council members and city administrators await the completion of the water and wastewater study.

"The budget presented was slim, with some utilities departments, including water and natural gas, which are designed to be revenue-generating sources for the city, losing money."

In addition to allocating funds for maintenance to City Hall, council discussed Marfa Police Department's facilities, stating there was $32,000 allocated for the renovation of their space in order to increase security and privacy for citizens. The city recently submitted an Operation Lonestar grant for $40,000 for overtime for Marfa PD officers and $80,000 to pay the remaining cost of police vehicles which were funded, in part, by the city's first grant from Governor Greg Abbott's border security program.

The city budgeted that Marfa ISD would reimburse a $40,000 salary for a school resource officer, who would work on school grounds but be a city employee under the umbrella of the Marfa PD. The Marfa Volunteer Fire Department's budget, which was recently awarded over $200,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in order to expand its facilities, was likely to change, said Baeza, and did not yet reflect those forthcoming grant funds.

Other city-run entities like the Marfa Public Library were facing some fiscal challenges. Due to the dissolution of the Lannan Foundation, who has long provided $10,000 a year to the library to expand its book collection, library leaders were looking elsewhere for funds, including to the Hancher Library Foundation. The Marfa Activities Center could potentially see some money allocated to fix bathrooms, as well as to resurface and repaint the pool.

Council also reviewed funding to continue street repairs. Baeza said tax note funds would likely help funnell $1.5 million into the repair of Mesa and Russell streets, plus more projects were being considered. The city would also explore applying for another Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which it last received funds from in 2018.

Notably, council members also touched on the idea of utilizing hotel occupancy tax (HOT) revenue more creatively for projects which could benefit the local community, a topic previously discussed at local meetings with the Texas Hotel Lodging Association. Currently, laws surrounding the use of HOT funds primarily allow for the money to be funneled back into tourism activities. So far, the city has budgeted similar HOT revenue from the past of $754,650. Councilmember Jason Ballmann suggested partnering with other cities to lobby Congress on the issue in the coming legislative session.

City council met again Wednesday evening at a budget workshop after press time. They will also meet on Thursday, September 8 at 6 p.m. at City Hall. *The Big Bend Sentinel* will have an update in next week's issue.

Mountain lion population

(Continued from page 1)

biologists, conservationists, hunters," said Swanson.

Data on mountain lion populations in the state of Texas, while not extensive, does exist. A scientific paper titled "It's time to manage mountain lions in Texas," released in conjunction with the petition, outlines the results of studies that have monitored mountain lion populations in the past (one conducted in the '90s by TPWD in South and West Texas) and details routine efforts to learn more about mountain lion populations dating back decades. Swanson said the narrative that some pushed that there was a complete lack of information in order to make management decisions was simply not true.

"We would recommend that there does exist a small, but mounting, growing amount of data that could be interpreted by reasonable people to suggest that there are reasons to be concerned about the longevity of the South Texas population in particular and problems with the West Texas population potentially," said Swanson.

Swanson said further research on Texas' mountain lions should start with an effort to establish trends and over time rely on consistency and a systematic approach as opposed to anecdotal evidence. But gaining information on illusive creatures with large roaming areas won't be without its challenges.

"We need a systematic approach to monitoring mountain lions that is consistent and consecutive," said Swanson. "So that we have a pulse on what the population is doing in as real time as possible."

TPWD does collect data on mountain lion harvest if voluntarily shared, but Swanson said decades of helpful data has been lost as a result of that policy and Texans for Mountain Lions are advocating for codification of basic regulations, including harvest reporting. In addition to recreational hunting, mountain lions may be trapped and killed for the protection of livestock.

"I don't think anybody in the group is intending for this to be an overreach. We just want to provide a backstop for understanding and for management," said Swanson. "None of those things require removing tools that landowners need to be able to be viable in the operation of their ranches."

But some have already come out in opposition to formal mountain lion hunting regulations. Wildlife filmmaker Ben Masters, who showed public support for Texans for Mountain Lions' goals, posted online in August on his Instagram page that he and his family were being harassed by "a prominent individual in Texas hunting media" as a result of his position on the matter of mountain lion management.

Swanson said the pushback seemed to stem from the fact that Texas is primarily a private land state and knee-jerk reactions tend to go against any forms of regulation. But, he said, the coalition will continue to help individuals understand their goals — which the group says promote ethics, not take away mountain lion hunting. For example, the issue of 36-hour trap check times could involve implementing technology, like sensors, that would help alert landowners without them having to make routine checks if traps are hard to reach.

"The more conversations that I have, the more trust that I earn from some stakeholders that are otherwise against this. I hear more and more, 'Well, that doesn't seem so bad.' Or, 'We might be able to work with that,'" said Swanson. "There's ways to work through this that does not put out the landowner, the land manager, that also accomplishes the objective of ethical practices, monitoring and consistent management."

Successful partnerships with private landowners in terms of scientific studies and mountain lion habitat will be paramount moving forward, said Swanson, who underscored Texans for Mountain Lions' mission to ensure the animals continue to populate Texas landscapes for generations to come.

"Ultimately, the most important thing for the success of mountain lions continuing in the state of Texas is to have those landowners that manage large open spaces to remain viable and not feel the need to sell their properties and potentially break them up into smaller and smaller parcels with mixed management," said Swanson.

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Beto

(Continued from page 1)

registry connecting veterans with the healthcare they need and spoke of his intention to ensure no veteran goes unhoused. Marijuana will be legalized under his purview, he said, and the records of those arrested for its possession will be expunged. He pledged to weatherize and winterize the grid to prevent the catastrophic blackout of 2021 from recurring, and further pledged to connect ERCOT to the national grid for access to its electricity in a pinch. Finally, he said that he intends to take the gas companies that profited off the blackout to court and return the $11 billion they reaped to the people of Texas.

Where the candidate shone, said Lockhart, was in his attention to the matter of rural healthcare, or lack thereof. O'Rourke acknowledged the dearth of options in the remote Big Bend region and said he planned to expand Medicaid to the tune of $10 billion, and would work to revive grow-your-own programs to bring more healthcare providers back into the communities they hail from.

"Our biggest problem, our most urgent problem here, is healthcare," said Lockhart. "I think that's our most urgent problem, and Beto obviously gets it."

On the matter of gun control, O'Rourke stopped short of calling for a ban on assault weapons, as he has in the past. He decried the permitless carry law Abbott signed off on last year, and called for "find[ing] some common ground to get back to the responsible tradition" of gun ownership in Texas. He advocated raising the legal age to purchase a firearm from 18 to 21, the implementation of red flag laws that would allow law enforcement to take guns away from a person believed to be a danger, and for universal background checks.

"We should admit that there's nothing that we can come up with that would prevent every instance of gun violence, but we should also acknowledge that that should not stop us from doing what we can to defend the Second Amendment and protect more lives of those in our lives," he said.

The remaining elephant in the room, the border, was addressed at the end of O'Rourke's speech, in which he spoke of the need to create a viable legal path for migrants coming into the U.S.

In a subsequent interview with The Big Bend Sentinel, when asked what would become of the Operation Lonestar program — Governor Abbott's initiative to send resources and troops to border counties — O'Rourke said he would halt the state's operations he characterized as "stunts."

"I would focus on the solutions that we're all looking for instead of the stunts, the publicity, the extremism that has been the hallmark of Greg Abbott's approach to the border," he said. "As governor, there will be no more bussing of migrants indiscriminately to Chicago, New York and Washington D.C., spending all this money to build a few miles of border wall, or involuntarily activating 10,000 members of the guard," he said. "None of these things have made us any safer or improved conditions at the border, or addressed the root causes of the challenges that we face right now.

What I will focus on as governor is a safe, legal, orderly path for people who want to come here to work, come here to join family, or come here to seek asylum," he continued. That means making the process of seeking asylum easier.

"If you're seeking asylum, today you're waiting six years for the adjudication of your claim," he said. "How about six weeks?"

When asked by The Sentinel to weigh in on a matter of local concern — the stagnating construction on the Presidio International Bridge — O'Rourke said he was willing to expedite that process.

"The fact that we've been waiting so long for the Presidio-Ojinaga — the rail line, the economic trade and even just the ability to move people, opportunities that that presents — is an indictment on this state," he said. He further advocated devoting some of the $8 billion of TxDOT's excess budget to infrastructure in Presidio County and Brewster County.

Lockhart said her chapter had received more assistance from the Texas Democratic Party this election cycle in their quest to win over rural voters. The party has supplied them with a database of voters so they know who to contact — who they can most likely sway to vote blue this November, that is — plus tips on talking points and yard signs. Over the next month, her group will be making phone calls and going door-to-door to get out the vote. They will also work to help elderly residents vote by mail.

But part of Lockhart's ideal strategy has already come to fruition. "I said, 'Listen, I'll get down on my knees and beg Beto to come to the Big Bend area,' because I knew what would happen if he did," she said. "So many people were just asking for him to come, and I was about to do that, then I get this email from his campaign saying Beto's coming to Alpine in September. I didn't even have to get down and beg.

"Because that's exactly what we needed," she said. "Someone to come down to this area and say that he cares about us."



Staff photo by Allegra Hobbs

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Beto O'Rourke addressed a crowd of over 600 at a campaign stop in Alpine.

Judd Architecture Office

(Continued from page 1)

insurance company, and the contractor, the cause of the fire was undetermined.

Once re-opened, the building will be accessible to the public — meaning visitors will have access to Judd's office, which contains architectural models, building plans, design prototypes and his furniture. The restoration of the building, said Stanley, means a significant piece of historic downtown Marfa will survive.

"This building, sitting right there on Highland Avenue, two blocks from the courthouse, is part of this historic fabric of downtown Marfa that is amazingly intact," he said. "You've seen a lot of towns where, for one reason or another, their fabric was reworked, demolished. And it was really through Judd's practice of acquiring these buildings, of holding onto them and doing his own kind of historic restoration, that we still have all these buildings and this bit of history is still very legible in Marfa."



Local officials seek solutions for storm damage to County Annex in Presidio

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO COUNTY — At the two most recent meetings of the Presidio County Commissioners Court, Precinct 3 Commissioner Eloy Aranda advocated for funding to address storm damage to the County Annex buildings in Presidio. The county has decided to explore grant-funded opportunities and invited William Helm of in*situ Architecture — the firm in El Paso advising the county on their courthouse and jail restoration project — to come and assess the damage mid-September.

After weeks of heavy rain, employees have complained of leaky roofs and damp carpets — a situation that could quickly spiral into mold and increased risk of health issues for employees. "The water came in really bad to my office," Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Juanita Bishop told commissioners at their meeting on August 24. "Water is coming in from the walls, the door, everywhere."

Two weeks later, the situation hasn't improved. Bishop said the buildings' employees have taken to layering the carpet with Clorox wipes before leaving for the day to combat the mold. Yellow stains have sprouted on the ceiling — she said her coworkers started noticing roof problems in July, and the monsoon made them worse. "The smell of mold and the soggy carpet is unbearable," she said.

Aranda's first proposition was to rescind American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the Marfa Fire Station to make repairs — after months of deliberation, the county had decided to use their federal stimulus money to help make necessary repairs to the building, to the tune of $224,000.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Brenda Bentley asked if there was still money left over in the ARPA pot to dedicate to both buildings. County Judge Cinderela Guevara and Auditor Patty Roach clarified that there wasn't anything left, but that the county had some time left to commit and use the funds — the funds had to be committed by 2024 and spent by 2026. "We still have some time," said Roach.

Despite the wiggle room, County Judge Cinderela Guevara quickly shot down the idea of reapportioning ARPA funds and promised to seek other avenues for cash. "I do not want to touch the funds set aside for the fire station at all — those need to be solidly for the fire station, period," she said.

Before seeking out and applying for grant money, Guevara stressed that the county needed a second opinion. "Without having an assessment, we really don't know what it's going to cost," she said. She suggested the commissioners pass on the item for the moment. "We want to clarify that we're not taking money away from the fire station, but that we will maybe address the annex buildings first because they're falling apart already."

At the commissioners court budget hearing held a few weeks later, Guevara invited William Helm of in•situ Architecture to field concerns from county officials before traveling to Presidio to assess the damage in person. Commissioner Aranda asked if Helm would be assessing the area around the buildings in addition to the leaky roofs — one problem that Aranda had observed was that the building's sidewalks are flush with the entrances, allowing water to pour into the buildings.

Helm explained that while he would be inspecting multiple aspects of the buildings to try and prevent water damage, creating a barrier between the inside and outside made seeking Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance difficult. "You don't want to create an obstacle to getting in with a wheelchair," he said.

The commissioners set a range of dates in mid-September that would be best for Helm's visit — Helm also stressed that he wanted to come during business hours so he could interview employees who use the buildings daily. "Let's hope the skies dry up for you down there a little bit in the meantime," he said.

la
fundación
the CHINATI
foundation

The Chinati Foundation is a museum
created by the artist Donald Judd.

Indoor viewing by guided tour only.
Outdoor viewing throughout the day.

THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY

Visitor Center, Bookstore, and outdoor viewing:
9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

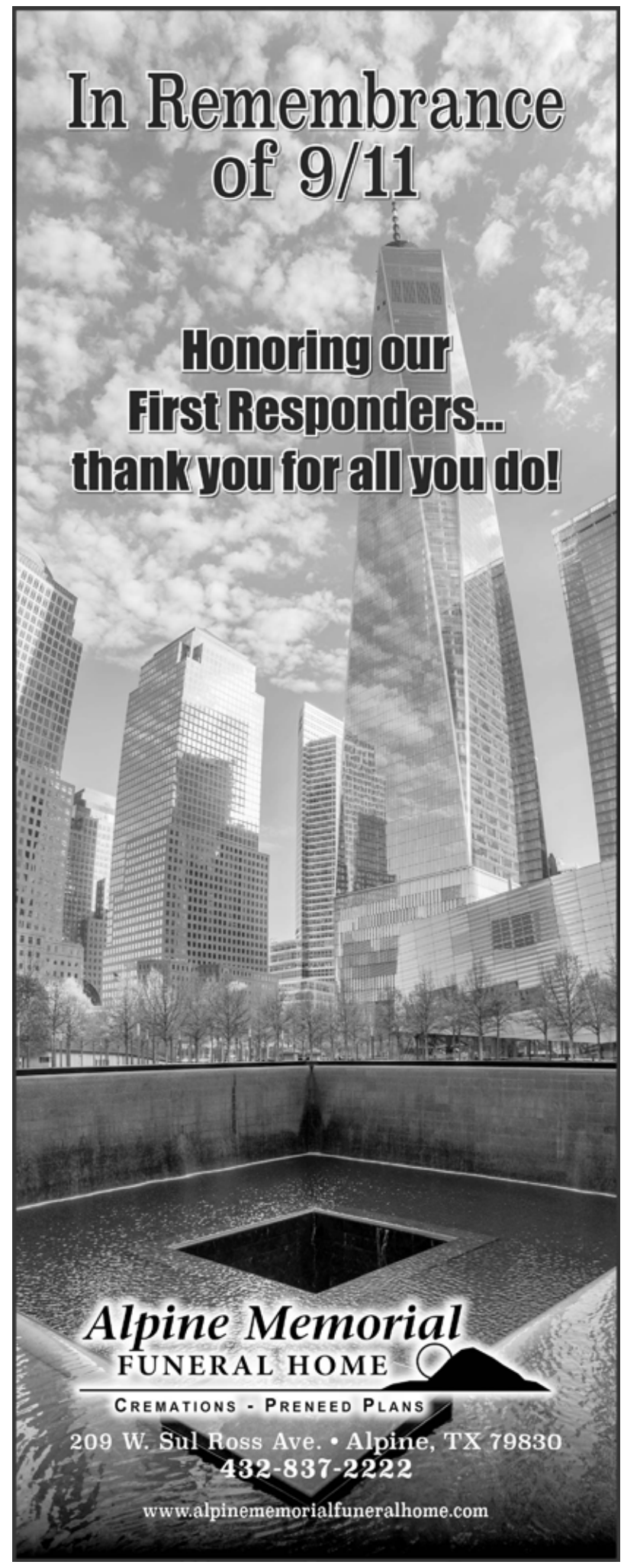
Full collection tour at 9:15 A.M.
4½ hours plus a 2-hour lunch break

Selections tours at 9:45 A.M. and 1:45 P.M.
3 hours with 2 miles of walking
Tickets are required

John Chamberlain Building in downtown Marfa
Free to the public 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Reservations are encouraged and capacity is limited.
Chinati follows COVID-19 precautions.

For tickets and tour information,
visit chinati.org.



Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The Marfa Chamber of Commerce is beyond grateful for the incredible turnout at the 35th anniversary of the Marfa Lights Festival this past weekend. We had more fun than we could have imagined and are more grateful than ever to our community for showing up with friends and family, tearing up the dance floor (otherwise known as Highland Ave), and making the most of our weekend together. We are grateful to all who came before us to establish this important community tradition.

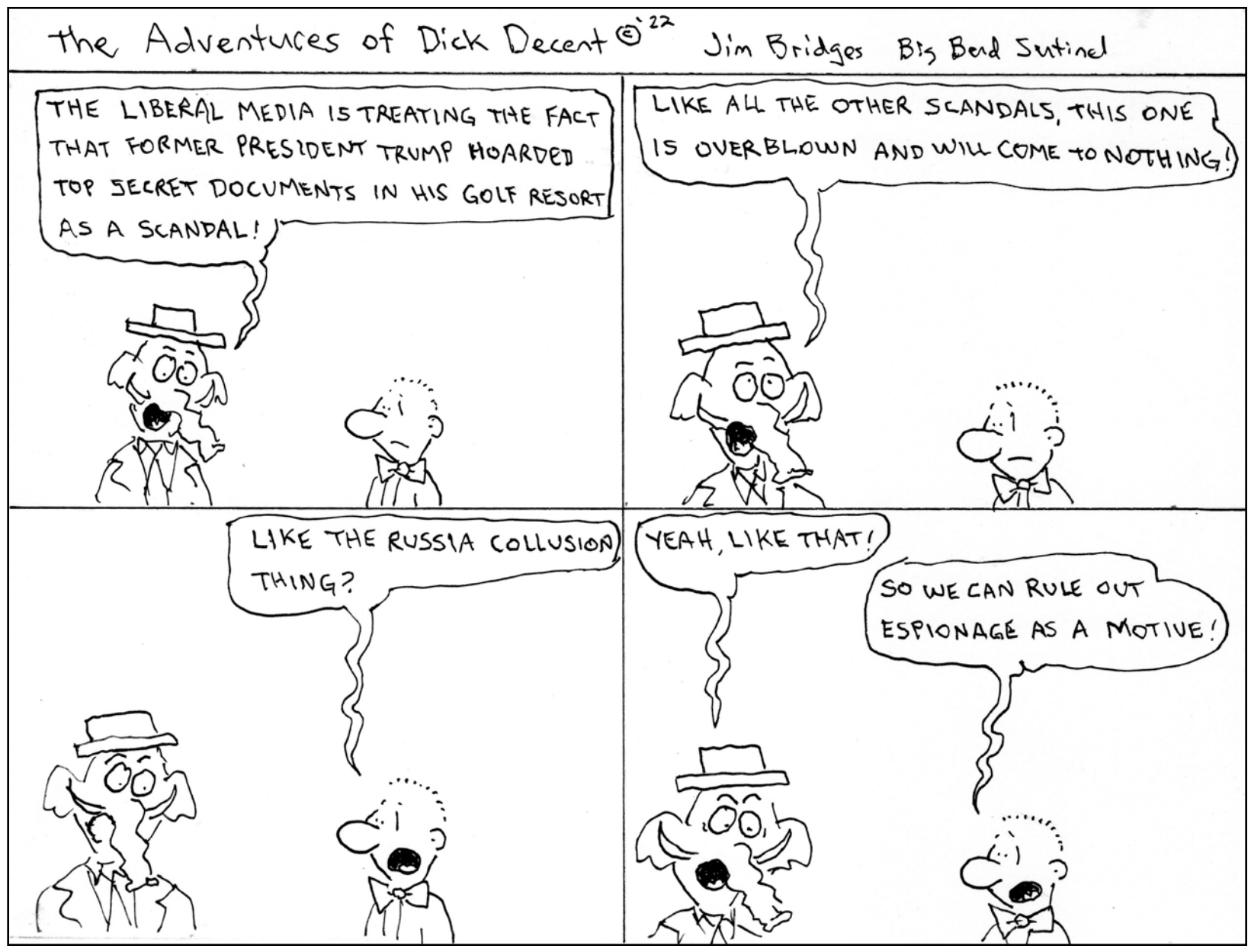
As always, it takes an effort from numerous individuals, organizations and businesses to pull off such an important community event. Thanks are due to our volunteers, vendors and amazing performers, the Jumano Indian Nation and everyone who participated in the parade, as well as Marfa Live Arts, Caitlynn Almance and the Juice Joint Criminal actors. El Cosmico, Porter's, Hotel Paisano, Big Bend Banks, Sarabia's, Republic Services, Budweiser, L&F Distribution, photographer Sarah M. Vasquez, Cactus Liquors, Streamlines USA, Mijelium, Marfa Rentools and Titan Productions went above and beyond in their service to this festival. We appreciate the assistance provided by the City of Marfa, TXDoT, AEP, the Marfa Volunteer Fire Department, Marfa PD and EMS, Presidio County, and the Sheriff's Department. We also thank Marfa ISD, our Zumba instructors, Sul Ross Library and the Archives of the Big Bend, and The Big Bend Sentinel. We appreciate the individual efforts made by Junie Villarreal, Chuck Simpson, Julian Garcia, Dillon Orr, Omar Mediano, Ruben Jurado, Tim Johnson, Cielo Gabaldon, Philip Boyd and Elizabeth Gutierrez.

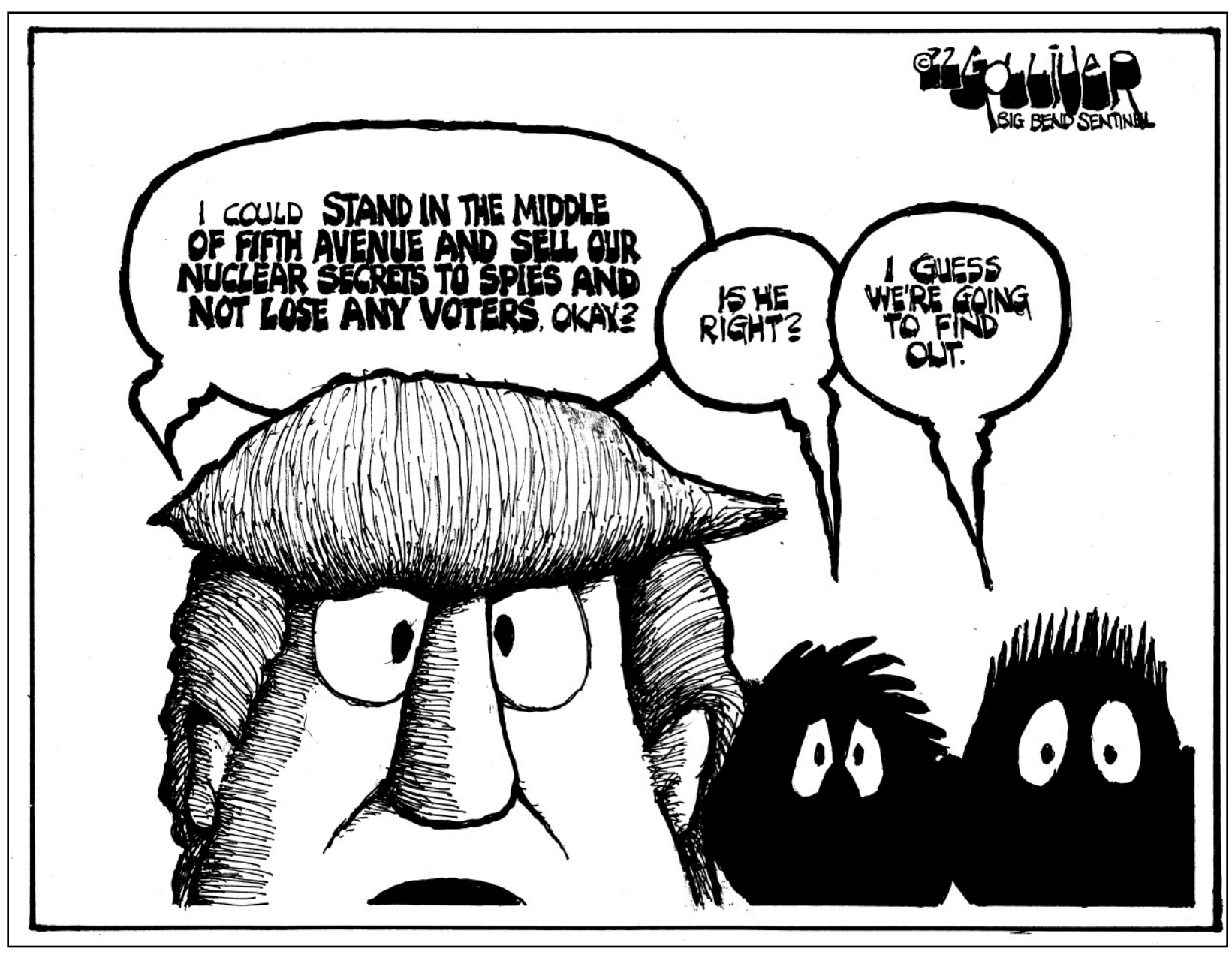
We would like to give special recognition to the members of the Chamber of Commerce, and sponsors for the 2022 Marfa Lights Festival. A full list of members and sponsors can be found on our website, marfachamberofcommerce.org.

Most importantly, my personal heartfelt thanks to the Board of the Chamber of Commerce for their incredibly hard work and dedication to this event. Consuelo Chavez, Albert Dominguez, Audrey Herrera, Patrick Rivera, and Eddie and Virgie Pallarez, I could not be more proud of the work we do together. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Abby Boyd
President, Marfa Chamber of Commerce





OP-ED

No family should go hungry in Texas

By SENATOR CESAR J. BLANCO

No family or child in the greatest state should go to bed hungry, and with September being National Hunger Action Month, there is no better time to raise awareness of the rising number of Texans struggling with food insecurity.

Before the pandemic, hunger already plagued thousands of Texas families and children. The COVID-19 pandemic made matters worse. Now, with the pandemic behind us, inflation and gas prices along with stagnant wages, Texas families are increasingly forced to make impossible choices between food and other basic needs.

Nearly 13% of Texas households — 4 million Texans — face food insecurity. In rural communities, like those in the Big Bend and Trans-Pecos region, food-insecurity rates are almost double the state average. According to Feeding Texas, "Rural families often face higher rates of hunger because of the unique challenges of living remotely. These challenges include poor geographic access to healthy food, limited or unreliable job opportunities, and high rates of un- and under-employment. Addressing hunger in rural areas is a unique challenge."

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) makes it possible for many struggling Texans to buy food to feed themselves and their families despite low wages. Yet a growing number of families are being denied help because Texas is one of the few states where owning a vehicle can disqualify you from receiving food assistance. Imagine a single parent with multiple kids who needs that vehicle to work two or three jobs to make ends meet. Imagine that ranchhand who works before sun-up to after sun-down and needs his truck to do his job to barely make ends meet. These countless scenarios are heartbreaking and these families need help.

Although SNAP is a federal program, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) gives states the flexibility on determining eligibility. Established in 2001, Texas rules cap the maximum value of a vehicle at $15,000 for the first vehicle and $4,650 for any additional vehicle in the household to qualify for SNAP benefits. Owning a vehicle worth more than those limits disqualifies hungry Texas families from SNAP benefits — even if you have lost your job and have no way to pay for food.

These vehicle valuation limits, set 20 years ago, are outdated and have lost touch with reality. If the limits were adjusted to reflect the current value of vehicles today adjusted for inflation, the maximum value of the first vehicle would increase to $25,000 and $7,800 for an additional vehicle in the household. Because the vehicle asset test has not been updated in 20 years and has not kept up with inflation, Texans that would otherwise be eligible for SNAP are increasingly facing food insecurity.

To make matters worse, a dramatic 40% average increase in the values of used cars has recently led to something we have never seen before; instead of depreciating, used cars appreciated in value in the past year. As a result, families that have previously been approved for SNAP and go to renew their benefits are having their cases suddenly rejected because their used cars are worth more today than they were just one year ago. Thousands of eligible Texas families are being disqualified from basic food assistance because of an outdated vehicle asset test mandated by the state. That's why I filed Senate Bill 1914 last legislative session. The bill would have modernized the SNAP vehicle asset test by adjusting for inflation. Unfortunately, the bill did not make it across the finish line before session ended.

Food insecurity and Texas' vehicle asset tests disproportionately affect children, seniors, rural families, and people of color the most. According to Feeding Texas, 20% of children, 11% of households with seniors, 25% of African Americans, and 18% of Latinos are facing hunger in Texas.

Updating Texas' SNAP vehicle asset test is not a handout, it is a hand-up for thousands of Texas families facing food insecurity who shouldn't be punished for having the vehicles they need to lift themselves out of poverty and welfare. Because Texas' SNAP vehicle asset test is not a federal requirement or in state statute, Texas can take steps now to help hungry Texans at no cost to the state. Texas should eliminate the SNAP vehicle asset test now, or at the very minimum, adjust the outdated vehicle limits to reflect today's inflation and distorted used vehicle market. If Texas fails to take action in the interim, I will continue the fight against hunger by refiling S.B. 1914 next session.

Senator César J. Blanco proudly represents the people of Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties in the Texas Senate.

OUR WATER MATTERS

2022 Texas Groundwater Summit focuses on conservation and drought

By TREY GERFERS
tgerfers@pcuwcd.org

The Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts held its annual groundwater summit in San Antonio last week. Groundwater professionals, scientists, lawmakers, attorneys, consultants and vendors from across the state gathered for the event, which is now in its 11th year.

The summit kicked off with a lively panel on "The 'S' word: Sustainability in Groundwater," moderated by Vanessa Puig-Williams of the Environmental Defense Fund. Panelists included Dr. Robert Mace of the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment; Wade Oliver of the INTERA Inc., a geoscience and engineering firm; Mitchell Sodek of the Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District; and Deborah Trejo, an attorney who represents several groundwater districts in Texas.

As readers of "Our Water Matters" will recall from past issues, maintaining our groundwater resources involves such concepts as "groundwater sustainability," which the U.S. Geological Survey defines as "the development and use of ground water in a manner that can be maintained for an indefinite time without causing unacceptable environmental, economic or social consequences," and "sustainable yield," which is the amount of groundwater that can be produced to achieve groundwater sustainability. The panelists discussed the challenges of pursuing and enforcing sustainable pumping of groundwater resources in the real world. Difficulties include the fact that Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, which governs groundwater districts in Texas, does not define sustainability but instead refers merely to "unacceptable" levels of pumping. The definition of "unacceptable" is ultimately a local decision which can vary widely within a given area, including areas that share the same aquifer.

Even if stakeholders may disagree about the definition of "unacceptable," the panelists pointed out that one of the best ways to achieve sustainability is through conservation. Dr. Mace recommended that groundwater districts reach out to cities and counties within their jurisdictions to "encourage conservation efforts." According to Mace, these partnerships can be very effective in "making up for GCD [groundwater conservation district] limitations as regards … authority." By partnering with counties, for example, groundwater conservation districts can advise them on commonsense protections against impacts from development, an area where counties have jurisdiction but groundwater districts do not.

Dr. Mace also suggested that groundwater districts get "good production numbers" to provide a clear understanding of the number of permit holders, municipal water utilities and water supply corporations within a given district and the volumes of groundwater they are pumping. Other ideas included looking at fee reductions to incentivize users to reduce their pumping, encouraging landowners to create conservation easements on their property to protect watersheds, and private-public partnerships to promote the restoration of waterways and experimental approaches, such as managed aquifer recharge.

All of the panelists agreed that sustainability ultimately protects private-property rights in groundwater over the long term by providing a clear framework for ensuring that everyone has the water they absolutely need, while ensuring that the investment-backed expectations of landowners remain realistic and practicable over time.

The realities of groundwater as a finite resource are increasingly clear as Texas continues to face drought conditions. Readers should not be deceived by recent rainfall. The drought is ongoing, and several Texas legislators expressed their concern during a panel at the Groundwater Summit. Senator Sarah Eckhardt (D-District 14), Representative Kyle Kacal (R-District 12), Representative Tracy King (R-District 80 and chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee), and Senator Charles Perry (R-District 28 and chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs Committee) discussed the resource challenges in Texas, where population growth and drought are expected to increase exponentially in coming years. The 2022 Texas State Water Plan predicts that future demand will outstrip supplies by nearly 7 million acre-feet of water per year, with the biggest growth in demand expected from municipal users. Senator Echkhardt pointed out that these projections, which are based on current rainfall patterns, could grow increasingly dire if rainfall decreases "just when that water is needed most." All the lawmakers emphasized the need for more conservation, while also respecting the private-property rights of landowners to use their groundwater as they see fit. The role of groundwater conservation districts (where they exist) will remain vital in balancing the rights and needs of Texas' growing population.

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

Community

Marfa Lights Festival sees greater involvement with Jumano Nation, return to its roots with melodrama play performance

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — The 35th Annual Marfa Lights Festival took place this past weekend, and included the first performance of a live melodrama play since the festival's inception in 1987. It also prominently featured members of the Jumano Nation of Texas, who connected with locals to share information about the area's Native American heritage and culture.

Musical acts, including cumbia group and headliner Erick y su Grupo Massore, set the soundtrack for the three-day block party as booths lining the Presidio County Courthouse lawn introduced a variety of local groups, food trucks dished up barbecue, Mexican food and carnival favorites, and a city parade with festive floats marched down Highland Avenue.

This year the grand marshal of the parade was Jo Ann Betancourt, tribal chair of the Jumano Nation, whose group was participating in the festival for the second year running. "It was such an honor to be asked to be the grand marshal," said Betancourt. "That's big for the Jumanos. I proudly represented them."

The parade, which took place on Saturday morning, was led by Betancourt and the spirited Presidio High School Blue Devil band. A honking, waving, candy-throwing procession slowly made its way through downtown Marfa. Nearly every mode of transportation, from horses to motorcycles to classic cars, could be found — even a group of kids manning go-karts whizzed by. A 16-wheeler hauled a rather unusual load — Marfa High School's student athletes — and was followed by mascot Bullette, who traveled in style in her own chariot and blew kisses to the audience.

Shorthorn pride was also on display on Marfa High School's Class of 1982 reunion float. Local business Bee's Hive restaurant went all out with a bee-theme float, complete with beekeepers, and dancers dressed as different cuts of meat were the highlight of the Marfa Meats float.

Betancourt invited anyone who identifies as Indigenous to walk in the parade with her — participants included other Jumano Nation members Harley and Elizabeth Flores, and local individuals from Alpine and Marfa who identify as Jumano. To emulate historically accurate dress, the Flores' wore buffalo hides and Betancourt walked with a staff made out of a sotol stalk and a fan, which is a traditional spiritual object, made for her by a man identifying as Lipan Apache, she said. Marfa is the ancestral territory of the Jumano Nation, Lipan Apache and Mescalero Apache. The Jumano Nation was present throughout the weekend at the Big Bend Conservation Alliance booth. Their setup contained a large banner with all of the Jumano family names — Aguilar, Carraso, Lujan and more — which Betancourt said was compelling and helped bring people in to talk to them at the festival.

The Jumano family names are those known to be given to the Jumanos by Spanish colonizers. Betancourt, who also acts as the enrollment registrar for the Jumano Nation of Texas, often helps people research their ancestry and family histories in Far West Texas. So far, there are around 200 individuals with Jumano roots enrolled with the Jumano Nation of Texas, she said, and they are hoping more will register. She said part of her conversations this past weekend revolved around helping people with relatives from the area trace back their lineage.

"They did some farming in Lajitas, they worked in the silver mines in Shafter, the mercury mines in Terlingua. They helped the cotton farmers up in Big Bend," said Betancourt of the histories she heard. "It's those descendants that are reaching out to us."

She said people traveled from Alpine, Van Horn and more to visit Jumano Nation members at the Marfa Lights Festival and she was grateful to be able to give those with Jumano heritage a platform and encourage younger generations to engage with their past.

"Being Native American itself is incredible, it's something to be proud of, even better when you know something about it that you can trace the history back," said Betancourt.

An impromptu pow wow, or Native American ceremonial dance, was performed by Marcus Pacheco, who traveled to the event from Odessa, and Esperanza Aguilar, who offered up the drum music for Pacheco's dance.

Another memorable performance at Marfa Lights was of *Juice Joint Criminal*, a murder mystery play set in Far West Texas written and directed by Sul Ross Theatre student Caitlynn Almance. Abby Boyd, president of the Marfa Chamber of Commerce, reached out to Marfa Live Arts about the idea to put on a non-musical performance at this year's event to pay homage to the inaugural Marfa Lights in 1987, which involved a live melodrama.

Almance had the idea to track down the original script from the 1987 play but, due to time constraints, opted to write her own 1920s-inspired murder mystery instead.

"Melodramas are so much fun, they're very overdramatic, they're over the top, the characters are so funny. And you don't need a lot of characters to perform a melodrama, which is the best part," said Almance.

The actors in the play consisted of mostly local talent, including some Sul Ross Theatre students, and starred Alyn Covington as Josie, Dillon Orr as Erik, Yaritza Corona as Nancy, Cristian Sanchez as Donny, John Aguero as William, Sabine Blaese as Claire and Jenna Reyes as towns lady. Producers were Boyd, Jose Prat and Tina Rivera.

"The whole rehearsal process, everybody was so willing to do anything that I asked of them. All the actors would go above and beyond to embody these characters. So that was a lot of fun," said Almance of the time period leading up to the show.

Juice Joint Criminal played out at the intersection of Lincoln and Highland streets, which allowed the audience to get up close and personal with the characters, despite some technical kinks with the sound quality, said Almance.

"I kind of love the fact that we're on the street. It creates this really nice essence of the audience being there with the actors, rather than the actors being up on stage and the audience is watching," said Almance.

For more information on Marfa Live Arts, visit marfalivearts.org/. For more information on the Jumano Nation, visit jumano-nation.com/contact-us.

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We want to hear from YOU!

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

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

Form 50-876

Statements required in notice if the proposed tax rate exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate but does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate, as prescribed by Tax Code §§26.06(b-2).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

This notice only applies to a taxing unit other than a special taxing unit or municipality with a population of less than 30,000, regardless of whether it is a special taxing unit.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	$ .371255 per $100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	$ .300439 per 100$
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	.371255 per $100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2022 (current tax year) tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) from the same properties in both the 2021 (preceding tax year) tax year and the 2022 (current tax year) tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2022 (current tax year) tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON Tuesday, September 20 at 6:00 p.m. (date and time)

at Casner Room, Marfa City Hall 113 S. Highland Ave. Marfa, TX 79843 (meeting place).

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the City Council (name of governing body) of City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

(List names of all members of the governing body below, showing how each voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase or, if one or more were absent, indicating absences.)

FOR the proposal: Councilmember Salgado "AYE," Councilmember Lara "AYE," Councilmember Pallarez "AYE," Councilmember Cash "AYE," Coucilmember Ballmann "AYE."

AGAINST the proposal: none

PRESENT and not voting: none

ABSENT: none

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

Form developed by: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Property Tax Assistance Division — For additional copies, visit: comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax

50-876 • Rev. 4-22/3

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase — **Form 50-876**

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) last year to the taxes proposed to the be imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) this year.

	2021	2022	Change
Total tax rate (per $100 of value)	2021 adopted tax rate **.362748**	2022 proposed tax rate **.371255**	(Increase/Decrease) of (nominal difference between tax rate for preceding year and proposed tax rate for current year) per $100, or (percentage difference between tax rate for preceding year and proposed tax rate for current year)% **2.35% increase**
Average homestead taxable value	2021 average taxable value of residence homestead **$133,420**	2022 average taxable value of residence homestead **$150,650**	(Increase/Decrease) of (percentage difference between average taxable value of residence homestead for preceding year and current year)% **12.91% increase**
Tax on average homestead	2021 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead **$483.98**	2022 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead **$559.30**	**15.56% increase**
Total tax levy on all properties	2021 levy **$822,641.00**	(2022 proposed rate x current total value)/100 **$1,020,740.61**	(Increase/Decrease) of (nominal difference between preceding year levy and proposed levy for current year), or (percentage difference between preceding year levy and proposed levy for current year)% **24.08% increase**

(If the tax assessor for the taxing unit maintains an internet website)

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) at 432-729-4081 (telephone number) or natalia.williams.pctac@co.presidio.tx.us (email address), or visit **https://www.co.presidio.tx.us/page/presidio.County.Assessor.Collector** (internet website address) for more information.

Fall sports updates from Marfa ISD athletic director

By LINDA OJEDA

Marfa Girls Cross-Country

The Lady Horns came running out the gate Saturday morning at the Crane Invitational Meet. The team hit personal records and top 20 performances for their opening meet of the season behind team leader and two-time state qualifying senior Aundrea Garcia. The veteran Garcia placed sixth place overall in Crane and finished with a 13:04.3 time ahead of Ava Flores (14th 13:57.1), Lesly Torres (17th 14:05.9), Emily Hernandez (28th 14:38), and Liani Salcido (38th 14:59). From the field of 108 runners and several AA to AAA schools, Marfa held its own and finished in second place at the end.



Photo courtesy of MISD Athletics

Cross Country wins second place at Crane Invitational. From left: Aundrea Garcia, Lesly Torres, Liani Salcido, Emily Hernandez and Ava Flores.

Marfa Volleyball

The Shorthorn volleyball squad was undeniably playing their best volleyball since their last few outings last Friday as they took down Presidio in three sets to one after an inspiring pre-game ceremony of the Great Comebacks. Hearing the story of the 1980-1981 State Runner-Up Marfa volleyball team truly motivated the Horns and brought out some of the best performances of the senior-led Shorthorn team, behind strong play by Alexis Gonzales and Aundrea Garcia, as the two seniors produced offensively and defensively in the match. Garcia was the team leader in digs and kept Presidio off balance with her serving game, with numerous short served aces. Gonzales played her most well rounded match of the season with back and front row attacks, a team high in aces, and several digs — but most significantly, Gonzales was the team's vocal leader on the court for the Shorthorns. Ava Flores and Emily Hernandez were team leaders in assists, second in digs.

Marfa Football

Although the rain and lightning did not ruin the Friday night lights home opener at Martin Field for the Shorthorns, the Sanderson Eagles did rain on the Shorthorn's parade with a 0-47 win over Marfa via mercy rule. Derrick Campos and Jaden Nunez put up strong rushing numbers against Sanderson and were leaders in rushing and receiving yards, but the team was unable to break into the end zone before the mercy rule came into effect. Quarterback Alejandro Rodriguez commanded the team's offense behind senior lineman Nathan Pena and opened up several opportunities for the Shorthorns but could not reach the end zone for a score.

Upcoming Events:

• The track team's next meet is Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022, at Wink with an 8:30 a.m.

• The volleyball squad will host Kermit on Tuesday (4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.) and will travel to Fort Hancock Friday at 4:30 p.m. varsity, 5:30 p.m. JV

• The Horns now look ahead to Friday night's game on the road against the Fort Hancock Mustangs. The Shorthorns JH football squad kicks off at 5:30 p.m. CST and the varsity team kicks off at 7:30 p.m. CST.



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Members from the Lady Shorthorns Volleyball team 1980-81 were belatedly honored by MISD Athletics this past Friday for their accomplishment of coming in second place in state volleyball championships. From left: Linda Lassiter, Cynthia Madrid, Linda Webb, Gina Salgado and Minerva Dominguez.

Large crowd gathers to belatedly honor Lady Shorthorn volleyball alumni

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — The stands of the Shorthorn Gym were full last Friday afternoon as the community gathered before the evening's sports games to belatedly honor the 1980-81 Lady Shorthorn volleyball team for their participation in the state championship.

Linda Ojeda, MISD athletic director, addressed the purple-clad crowd, explaining that the honorary ceremony was part of a new school initiative called "The Great Comeback," which will seek to formally recognize overlooked achievements of the school's alumni.

"Within the last 50 years, the history of outstanding Shorthorn accomplishment has gone unnoticed," said Ojeda, listing various achievements of past students. "There was no proof of these storied accomplishments within the walls of our gymnasium, nor our fields."

Ojeda then introduced a handful of members of the 1980-81 volleyball team, one of the most successful volleyball teams in the history of the school, who walked out onto the gym floor to rounds of applause and whistles from the stands. In addition to putting their names up on a board on the gymnasium walls, school administrators re-presented their UIL State Runner Up trophy as well as a sports championship banner.

"Although the journey and the sisterhood can only be known for yourselves because you actually lived it and went through it, [we can imagine] the pride you must have felt, not only to play in the Texas State Championship, but furthermore to carry all of Marfa High School and Marfa, Texas' hope with you of winning and bringing home the championship game," said Ojeda.

Concluding the ceremony, Ojeda instructed the current JV and varsity volleyball team members to stand up in the audience and imparted to them the importance of looking back on the past and appreciating those that came before them. To the 1980-81 team members who were present — who had shared with Ojeda before the event that they had to host garage sales to raise money for food and travel for games — she thanked them for the many strides they made.

"Without individuals like you and everything that you went through, I don't think we'd be here right now," said Ojeda. "Your struggles, I promise you, now will not go unnoticed. We're very thankful and we're very proud of everything that you guys did."

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg September 5, 2022

ACROSS
1 Snoozes
5 Sand dune rides, briefly
9 Group of top celebrities
14 Notion
15 Shower bar?
16 More adorable
17 Set with a sharp picture
18 All: Prefix
19 Michael of "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels"
20 What's left when things have gone to pot?
23 One spelling for a Greek Earth goddess
24 Luke, Owen and Andrew, to Laura Wilson
25 Jack or jenny
26 The press
30 "___ about time!"
31 Small Energizer size
32 Actor Cary
36 Aptly named janitor played by David Spade
39 Person with wisdom beyond their years
41 "To conclude ..."
42 Respectful title in India
43 "... Mac ___ PC?"
44 Devised a fiendish scheme, perhaps
49 Plan that may be rolled over: Abbr.
52 Home of Hawaii's Hana Highway
53 Cries out (for)
54 Vital component
58 Madison Ave. industry
59 Portion (out)
60 Coffee region southeast of 52-Across
63 Light-emitting ___
64 Grease, informally
65 At any point
66 Fathered, as a foal
67 Citation abbr.
68 Believe to be

DOWN
1 Medical research org.
2 Use a + sign
3 Favorite charities
4 ___-faire
5 Beginning on
6 Voluminous volume
7 Williams who sang "Colors of the Wind"
8 Tap on a keg
9 Boldly confronted
10 Dinner at the Royal Hawaiian, perhaps
11 Singer Turner's 1986 autobiography
12 Mails off
13 Hair piece?
21 It may be unsaturated
22 Molecule in many COVID vaccines
23 Mounted
26 Vijay Singh's Oceanic country
27 Sound repeated after "hardy"
28 Have lunch, e.g.
29 Letters at the sides of "lateral"
33 Fleecy hand warmer
34 Capital of Germany?
35 Blinds part
37 "Obviously!"
38 Remark after having your mind blown
39 Refinery material
40 Container cover
42 Head to sea
45 Bask in the sun
46 Hold a spoon?
47 "Shark Tank" network
48 Took a quick look-see
49 High-tech payment devices at restaurants
50 Wheel spokes, geometrically
51 Shaded area
55 It may be red or rising
56 "Fantastic Four" actress Jessica
57 Fishing spool
61 Maiden name indicator
62 An ___ and a leg

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

9/4

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www.upuzzles.com

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.

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

8/24

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

8/16

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Come worship with us



First United Methodist Church

Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid,
for I am your God;
I will strengthen you,
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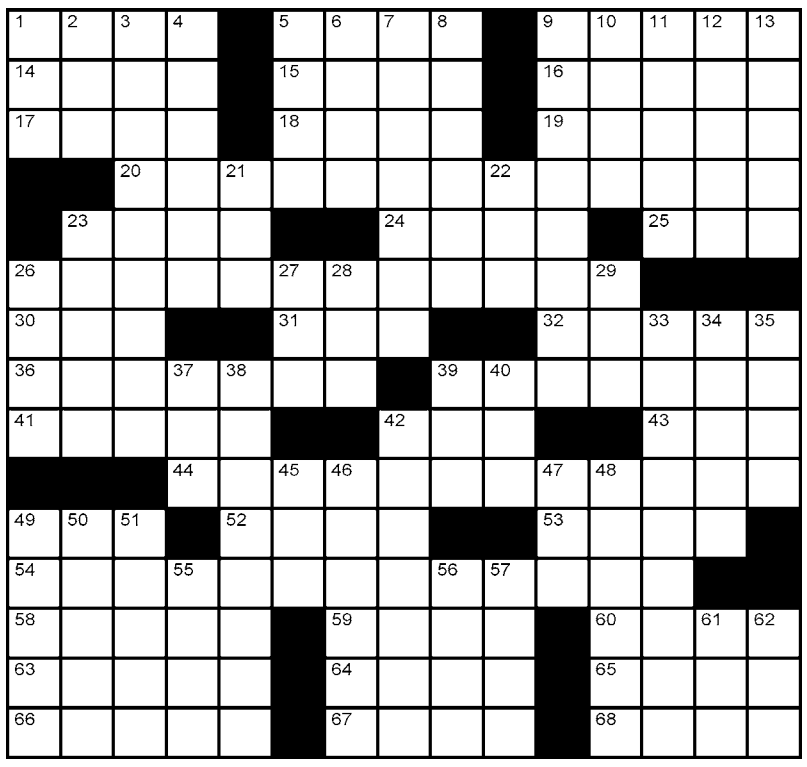
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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

FRI, SEP 9: JH & HS Football vs Fort Hancock in Fort Hancock, JH 5:30 pm, V 7:30 pm
FRI, SEP 9: HS Volleyball vs Fort Hancock in Fort Hancock, JV 4:30 pm, V 5:30 pm
SAT, SEP 10: HS Varsity GIrls Cross Country at Wink, 8:30 am
TUE, SEP 13: JH & HS Volleyball vs Balmorhea in Balmorhea, JH 4:00 pm, JV 5:00 pm, V 6:00 pm

9/5

Land's End *by Zachary David Levy*



DISPATCHES FROM MISD JOURNALISM CLASS

Support the Junior Class and 2023 Prom at Marfa Lights!

By ZALEY and SAMANTHA

On Friday and Saturday, September 2 and 3, come to the Marfa Lights Festival to support the Junior Class! Proceeds will go toward this year's prom fund! Come by and spend money to support our class and ensure we throw the seniors a nice prom to remember! Friendly juniors will be selling cotton candy and aguas frescas. For those of you who love sports and will be attending the volleyball game on September 2, do not worry, we are still having a concession stand, and you can see our booth September 3! The hours will be on Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Opinion: The MHS girls' restroom is in bad shape!

By SAMANTHA

As many of you know, there is currently a bond under consideration to tear down part of MHS and build a new school. In the meantime, Marfa high schoolers have to live with some pretty rough circumstances. Today, I will examine one of them: the high school girls' restrooms, because this one's for all my girlies out there! If you've been in the girls' restroom this year then you know what I'm talking about. And for all the boys reading this, y'all are lucky your restroom doesn't have the same problem!

As you can see in figure A, the recent rain has made gigantic pockets of water that leak and then burst, destroying the paint and possibly dripping on girls in vulnerable situations.

In an interview with a junior at MHS, Kily Ortiz, I began by asking, "What are your experiences in the girls' restroom?"

She replied, "One word, disgusting! The roofs are leaking and it makes me very uncomfortable when I pee."

She sounded very grossed out.

"How do you feel about the big bubble in the big stall?" I continued.

"I feel like it's all going to fall on my head," she shot back.

I then asked my final question. "Do you have any hope that they will fix it?"

With a slight laugh she said, "No, it has been soggy — for years."

The second person I interviewed was Liani Salcido, another junior at MHS.

"Have you been in the girls' restroom this year? Do you feel safe being in the big stall?" I began.

She interrupted me, "I have been, and ummm no. I do not feel safe. I feel like something is going to crawl up my leg. I'm scared every time I sit down the big bubble is going to pop over my head."

"Any last details you'd like to add since we are already on the restroom topic?"

"The sinks do not work at all, like the hot and cold water don't work anymore. And there's always toilet paper all over the floor."

Moral of the story: the HS girls' restroom needs lots of attention, besides just empty trash cans collecting rain in the stalls!

2022-2023 School Year policy change

By CHRIS and ISAIAH

This school year, many of you have noticed teachers and administrators are cracking down on rules and the school policies. You may remember that last year, if you had your phone out, it would not automatically be taken up. Or perhaps you've noticed the school dress code is a little stricter this year. No matter who you are, students can definitely tell that the rules are a little tougher this year.

So, these reporters went around the school asking staff, teachers and students what their expectations and thoughts were this year regarding such rules and policies.

First, we spoke to sophomore Xavier Davila. He said, "Well I don't know man, I mean if we're talking about the phone rules, I definitely agree with the you-have-to-pay-the-$15-whenever-you-get-it-taken-up, but they should let you use them more in the hallways and such." During the course of our interviews, these reporters were shocked by a lot of people actually agreeing to the new paying-for-your-phone rule.

In a separate interview, Vinnie Quintana said, "Oh yeah! Well I mean it sucks and all, but as long as that money goes to helping us here at school or supporting the students, I don't really care. Also I think that they should change the closed campus rules. I mean, for junior and seniors, really. If you're old enough, there should be a level of responsibility expected from our students here."

When my partner Chris and I were interviewing, more than half of the people we spoke to kept mentioning the fact that the fee you have to pay if you get your phone taken away should go into a fund for the students, like for events and such.

Vinnie said, "You know one thing that is really dumb, is how if they even get the smallest suspiscion, your phone immediately gets taken away. It's very OUTLANDISH!" Vinnie said with characteristic emotion and hand gestures.

While interviewing the staff, Mrs. Gomez had to say that, "Nothing's really wrong about the rules! One thing that should change is that y'all should be wearing uniforms."

After that, we went to the coaches down by the field house to see what they had to say. Coach Alferez said, "You know when it comes down to the new rules and such, I think that it's a bit more strange this year. Such as the new school emergency training and the new cell phone rules. Specifically the cell phones, I mean it's good and bad in both ways. Good because you can use it as a resource and a good way to stay in touch with parents. Then you have the fact that they can be a distraction and get a student off track." Coach Alferez was supportive of the new rules but thought the smallest changes could be made.

My partner, Chris, then went on to ask what he thought about the new rules regarding attendance and tardies. Coach said, "With all that, I think there should be a reward, man, like a pizza party or ice cream for those that do follow the rules and are responsible." Also Coach said, for the record, "TACO TUESDAY EVERYDAY!"

To conclude, with what the school students and staff had to say, it seems that most people are okay with the new rules, and also there were some ideas for tweaks that could be made.

Six-man shootout

By DARREN

On Friday evening, August 26, six six-man football teams squared off in Alpine at Sul Ross Stadium. The Marfa Shorthorns, led by the only senior on the team and team captain Nathan Pena, played Grandfalls.

When I interviewed Coach Alferez, I asked how he thought the football team would do in Friday's game. He said, "I think they will do good, I hope they are hyped and I believe we can win easily if we keep on practicing hard."

Senior Nathan Pena was also optimistic, stating, "I'm hoping it goes well and we win!"

I also interviewed my brother and running back Derick Campos. I asked him why he likes football, and his answer was, "I don't know, it's just a fun sport and just an all around good sport to play."

I then asked him what he's looking forward to this season. He shouted back at me, "Getting those DUBS!"

When I interviewed team captain Nathan Pena, I again asked him the reason that he likes football. He answered seriously, "I guess just the connection we have on the field."

Then I asked him what it's like to be the only senior on the team. He replied, "It's hard to lead the team and be the role model for them too."

The Big Bend Sentinel will be publishing the September dispatches from the MISD journalism class in installments in our print editions. The dispatches are published online in their entirety.

Chinati Weekend to take place Oct. 7-9

By BIG BEND SENTINEL

MARFA — Chinati Weekend, celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, will take place from October 7-9 at locations around Marfa.

The three-day event hosted by The Chinati Foundation was inaugurated in 1987 by the museum's founder, the artist Donald Judd, as a means to bring together Chinati's local, national and international communities. Events are free and open to the public, kicking off Friday evening with "Made in Marfa," where local business owners and community organizations host events around town and throughout the weekend. Chinati's artist in residence Jesus Benavente will hold an open studio at the Locker Plant.

On Saturday, October 8, Chinati opens its gate for an opportunity to freely explore the collection, which is otherwise only accessible on guided tours. A focus of Chinati Weekend 2022 will be the restored John Chamberlain Building, which is part of the newly-designated downtown Central Marfa Historic District.

A major commission by the artist Sarah Crowner, titled *Platform (Blue Green Terracotta for JC) (2022)*, goes on view on Chinati grounds. At an artist's talk Saturday afternoon Crowner will discuss her commissioned work within the context of her painting practice. The 2,000-square-foot platform of turquoise-blue tiles, handmade by Cerámica Suro, in Guadalajara, Mexico, invites viewers to step into a pool of reflective light, saturated color, and fluid shapes. The installation pays homage to John Chamberlain, another artist who gave painting a physical sculptural form.

Also on view will be an installation of photographs and sculptures by John Chamberlain from the permanent collection as well as the temporary installation of Dan Flavin's *untitled (in memory of my father, D. Nicholas Flavin) (1974)*.

A community supper Saturday night with ranch fare and mariachi music will be held free for all at the Arena on Chinati's grounds. Once a gymnasium in the 1930s, the Arena continues to serve as a space for hosting ever since Judd invited the public to the first Chinati Weekend Open House in 1987.

Sunday starts at sunrise with open viewing of Judd's 15 *untitled works in concrete (1980–84)* and *100 untitled works in mill aluminum (1982–86)*, as well as *Robert Irwin's untitled (dawn to dusk) (2016)*.

For more information, visit chinati.org.

Marfa Maid to host introduction to goat care, milking and home cheesemaking

MARFA — Marfa Maid Dairy will hold a special workshop at their Grade A, licensed dairy in Marfa. They will offer a three-hour workshop on two different dates: Saturday, Sept. 17, and Oct. 1. These workshops will introduce interested participants to the basics of owning and caring for dairy goats, milking techniques, handling of fresh milk, and instruction on making two easy cheeses at home with recipes and resource information to take home. The workshop will be hands-on for the participants, allowing some petting time with the goats and finishing with a cheese tasting on the dairy porch.

There are two possible workshop dates. Sign up on bookeo.com/marfamaid. Tuition is $75. Participants should be at least 14 years old. For additional information or questions, go to marfamaid.com or reach out at marfamaid.dairy@gmail.com. Workshops are limited to 12 participants. Pre-registration is required to attend.

WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR COMING SOON!!!

HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT YOU'D LIKE IN THE BIG BEND SENTINEL?

SEND THE DETAILS OF YOUR EVENT, INCLUDING DATES AND TIMES, TO ADS@BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM BY TUESDAY AT 10:00AM.

OBITUARY



Espinosa

Orlando Espinosa, 67, of Pflugerville, Texas, passed away unexpectedly on September 5, 2022, in his hometown Alpine, Texas, at Big Bend Regional Hospital. As many of you know, Orlando was a devout Catholic and prayed his Rosary daily, please pray for the repose of his soul. As one friend mentioned, "God needed an angel," and called him home.

The Rosary will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2022, at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, September 9, 2022, at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine. Burial will follow at Holy Angels Cemetery.

Orlando was born in Alpine to Francisco and Isabel Espinosa on October 29, 1954. He grew up and went to school in Alpine. He married Clara Espinosa in December of 2008 in a surprise wedding in Corpus Christi at Clara's family holiday event, a second marriage for both. He graduated from Sul Ross University and Angelo State University. For over 30 years, Orlando worked as a pharmaceutical research scientist at Cedra Corporation, which later became Worldwide Clinical Trials. He assisted in several drug developments and is published in some prestigious medical journals. After retiring, Orlando devoted a few years at Pflugerville ISD and most recently part-time at St. Elizabeth Of Hungary Catholic Church in Pflugerville.

Orlando is preceded in death by his parents Francisco and Isabel Espinosa.

Orlando is survived by his wife, Clara Espinosa; his son Xavier (Valerie) Espinosa; his stepson Sam (Marisol) Martinez; his brother, Alonso Espinosa, and sisters Virginia Lujan, Irma (Julian) Ramirez, Rosanna Mancha, Annabelle Rubio; his grandchildren Matthew Puente, Jaelynn Espinosa, Jonavon Espinosa, Jeremiah Espinosa; and step-grandchildren Leo and Logan Martinez; and numerous nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly and would read stories to, right hoojeps!

Pallbearers will be Xavier Espinosa, Matthew Espinosa, Rick Molinar, Frank Villanueva, Dominic Rubio, Michael Espinosa. Honorary pallbearers Adolfo Mancha, Gabriel Portillo, Julian Ramirez, Arturo Yáñez, Oscar Olazaba and Camilo Celaya.

The family wishes to extend our sincere thanks to the Alpine Emergency Services, the wonderful staff at Big Bend Regional Medical Center (especially the nurses), Alpine Memorial Funeral Home and Deborah Pruitt of Double K Flowers & Gifts.

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

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

• • •



Gallego

Shelly Dawn Pearce of Alpine, Texas, went to be with the lord August 29, 2022, at the age of 59. Shelly was born October 2, 1963, in Guyman, Oklahoma, to Jack and Patricia Smith.

Viewing for Shelly was held on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home Memorial Chapel. Services for Shelly were held on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at First Baptist Church in Alpine, with burial following at Holy Angels Cemetery.

Those honoring the memory of Shelly by serving as pallbearers were Daniel Alvarado, Chris Perdue, Mark Bennette, Jeremiah Pearce, Matthew Pearce, Riley Smith, Weldon Pearce and Jeremy Pearce.

Shelly moved to Alpine, where she met the love of her life and husband, Paul Dewayne Pearce Jr., both later moving to Odessa, Texas, where they welcomed their first-born, Paul Pearce III, then later moving back to Alpine where they settled down and welcomed their last three kids, Weldon, Jeremy Pearce and Sarah Alvarado.

Shelly was loved by many and everyone she encountered with her loving smile, and beautiful, one-of-a-kind, welcoming personality. To many she was known as Mamma Shelly, and was especially known for her bean and cheese burritos. Shelly had the biggest heart of anyone in this world. She will be greatly missed by many.

Shelly is preceded in death by her loving mother, Patricia Smith, and loving daughter-in-law, Angelica Aguilar Pearce.

Shelly is survived by her husband of 39 years, Paul Dewayne Pearce Jr.; sons Paul, Weldon, and Jeremy Pearce; daughter Sarah Alvarado and husband Daniel Alvarado; brothers Michael, Riley Smith, and Daniel Celaya; her sister Carolyne Bennett; and her father Jack Smith and many uncles and aunts; her grandchildren Jeremiah, Miah, and Matthew Pearce, Colby and Chrystian Alvarado, and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the entire Alpine community for all the love and support.

Services were entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home in Alpine.

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

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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.

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Irma Salgado, Mayor Pro Tem
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Mark Cash
councilmembercash@cityofmarfa.com
Raúl Lara
councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com
Eddie Pallarez
councilmemberpallarez@cityofmarfa.com
Jason Ballmann
councilmemberballmann@cityofmarfa.com

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

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Maisie Crow — Editor-in-Chief
Max Kabat — Publisher
Allegra Hobbs — Managing Editor
Sam Karas — Reporter
Mary Cantrell — Reporter
Ariele Gentiles — Copy Editor
Becca Foster — Designer / Advertising
Mary Etherington — Office Manager
Maria Gerardo — Distribution

Office: 209 1/2 W. El Paso St., Marfa, Texas
Mail: Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843
Telephone: 432.729.4342
Contact: editor@bigbendsentinel.com
Advertising Inquiries: ads@bigbendsentinel.com
www.bigbendsentinel.com

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