

Burn bans lifted across tri-county as drought conditions improve

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
allegra@bigbendsentinel.com

TRI-COUNTY — With a recent wave of much-needed rainfall alleviating severe drought conditions, long-standing burn bans were lifted across the tri-county region over the past week.

Most recently, a burn ban in Presidio County — which had been in effect since March of last year, per the Texas A&M Forest Service, which maps the status of the bans across Texas — was allowed to expire by the county this week. Burn bans must be renewed by county commissioners every 90 days to avoid expiration.

In Jeff Davis County, a burn ban that had been in effect since October 2021 was lifted on September 13, according to the Fort Davis Fire Department, which shared the news on social media.

The Brewster County judge’s office confirmed that the county’s burn ban was lifted on September 13, at the most recent commissioners court meeting.

Marfa Fire Chief Gary Mitschke said he had recommended Presidio County allow the ban to expire — though extreme drought conditions in the region over the summer had created a significant wildfire threat, recent heavy rainfall improved conditions such that a burn ban was no longer necessary, he said.

“We don’t try to implement the burn ban unless we absolutely have to, and right now I think conditions are such that we can drop the burn ban,” said Mitschke. The ban will remain suspended for as long as conditions will allow.

“If we continue to get rain, chances are it’ll be good for a while,” he said. “If things start drying up, or we start getting a lot of fire activity, we’ll have to revisit it.”

Burn bans prohibit actions that could spark a fire under dry conditions, such as smoking without using an ashtray, driving or parking in tall, dead grass, lighting campfires and welding in grassy areas.

Mitschke did request that anyone starting large fires in the county — “bigger ones that are going to put out a sizable column of smoke” — contact the sheriff’s office so authorities can be aware of the burn in case they start receiving reports of smoke. But such an action is not required by law, he said, and with the burn ban lifted, permits from the county judge’s office are no longer required for controlled burns.

“It’s not mandatory,” said Mitschke. “But we do request they do that.”

The U.S. Drought Monitor currently shows conditions across all three counties as either “abnormally dry” — the lowest category on the monitor — or under “moderate drought,” the second lowest category. Just last month, conditions in the area were under either “severe” or “extreme” drought — and the month before that, the monitor’s highest possible category, “exceptional drought,” persisted across swathes of the region.

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Photo courtesy of Marfa and Presidio County Museum
A vintage photo of the playground at the Blackwell School. The Blackwell School provided education to Marfa students of Mexican descent from 1909 to 1965 and was officially designated as a National Historic Site this week.

Marfa’s Blackwell School to become a National Historic Site

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — This Tuesday, Congress voted to pass a law designating Marfa’s Blackwell School, which served as school for Mexican American students from 1909 to 1965, a National Historic Site.

The designation has been 16 years in the making and dates back to the formation of the Blackwell School Alliance, a local group of alumni and school proponents, which currently operates the one-room adobe schoolhouse as a museum. Blackwell is one of the only remaining original structures that tells the story of de facto segregation for students of Mexican descent in the Southwest and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2019.

“The message that Mexican American

students received when they stepped through the doors of the Blackwell School was simple: you are second-class citizens,” wrote Theresa Pierno, president and CEO for The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) in a statement. “They were given hand-me-down furniture and outdated textbooks. They were told to bury their native language and leave it behind. They were threatened with punishments if they disobeyed. The odds were stacked against them, but many Blackwell students persevered and even saw their school as a place of joy.”

Many involved in the effort to gain historic site designation for Blackwell School, including senators, representatives of the NPCA, Blackwell alumni and more, emphasized the significance of obtaining national recognition for a site that specifically commemorates Latino history — stating it was a monumental step towards the

National Parks System encapsulating a more complete, diverse story of the country’s history.

“With the Blackwell School National Historic Site, we can commemorate how far we have come, while also remembering some of the wrongs that happened here in Marfa. The lessons taught here can help us understand discrimination and racism, and better equip us to fight back against those forces in the present,” said Mario Rivera, Blackwell School alumnus and founding Blackwell School Alliance board member in a press release.

“Our historic schoolhouse speaks to an experience of segregation that was common in schools and many aspects of daily life in Texas and other border areas, yet is now forgotten. The Blackwell School is as significant today for understanding American history as it was to

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City renews natural gas contract, slashes 2022-23 budget

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — City Council met this week to renew its contract with natural gas provider West Texas Gas and worked to make significant cuts to the mayor’s 2022-23 proposed budget.

A scheduled public hearing on the proposed 2022 tax rate was postponed due to an administrative error on the agenda, and will instead take place on September 29 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. At a meeting earlier this month, Council voted to approve a preliminary tax rate of \$0.371 per \$100 of taxable value, a 2.35% increase from 2021.

At the September 29 meeting, the Council will hear any citizen comments and concerns and formally adopt a new tax rate. That evening, City Council will also vote on whether to approve the proposed budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year, which the governing body is still working through via a

series of budget workshops.

On Tuesday night, Council first went over contract renewal rates for natural gas provider West Texas Gas (WTG). Per Mayor Manny Baeza’s recommendation, Council voted to move forward with a three-year contract that locks in the price at \$7.91 per MMBtu, an energy unit, pending confirmation that the rate includes the cost of transportation. The rate was the cheapest of three options presented, but will still more than double the previous rate the city’s contract held of \$3.60 per MMBtu, meaning customers will see an increase in their natural gas bills moving forward.

Next, Council discussed expanding the scope of work for a previously approved invitation to bid on the repaving of Russell and Mesa streets to include a handful of additional city thoroughfares. City staff outlined critical areas in need of a total rehabilitation to be Third Street, from SH 17 West to Austin; Gonzales Street, from Columbia to

Third; Summer Street, from Lincoln to Columbia; and Edinburg Street, from U.S. 90 to Sacramento. The city has, so far, budgeted to spend \$2 million — an increase from their original allocation of \$1.5 million — worth of forthcoming tax note funds on street repairs this budget cycle.

Councilmember Jason Ballmann expressed concerns about spending \$2 million solely on street repairs when the fire department’s expansion project was still short \$87,000, but Council voted unanimously to approve the addition of more streets, with City Manager Mandy Roane explaining that the invitation to bid could always be revisited if funds were ultimately allocated elsewhere.

Then the budget workshop portion of the meeting began. As council members left it the previous week, the budget was in the red by around \$200,000 and cuts needed to be made. Since that

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Dam releases on the Rio Conchos lead to sustained flooding on the Rio Grande

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

SOUTH PRESIDIO & BREWSTER COUNTIES — After weeks of heavy rain, Mexican reservoirs on the Rio Conchos — a major tributary of the Rio Grande — exceeded capacity, leading to a large release of water. Though the rain has slowed down, the river has held steady at flood stage for weeks thanks to the infusion from the Conchos.

Typically, water is released from the reservoirs on the Conchos to fulfill a long-standing water use treaty between Mexico and the United States — since 1944, Mexico must release a certain amount of water from its reservoirs every five years to satisfy the treaty. Earlier this summer, the Rio Grande ran dry in several places as prolonged drought and a series of drier

monsoon seasons took their toll.

The nearest reservoir to Presidio-Ojinaga, Luis Leon — about halfway between Chihuahua City and Ojinaga — has hovered between 10 and 20% full since the last series of releases in 2020. This summer’s weather event, a collision between a cold front and a tropical storm system, recharged the Mexican reservoirs. At press time, Luis Leon held 150% of its typical capacity.

Lori Kuczmanski, public information officer for the International Water and Boundary Commission (IBWC), explained that this particular release isn’t part of the water debt cycle. “In this particular situation, the treaties don’t apply,” she said. As the dam settles down to a manageable capacity, folks who live along the river have been battenning down the hatches and keeping an eye on flood warnings from the

National Weather Service.

For Terry Bishop, a Presidio farmer, this year’s flood season hasn’t been as bad as the legendary flood of 2008 — but that doesn’t mean it hasn’t come with its own challenges. A stretch of IBWC-maintained levee runs through his property, so he’s been able to keep a careful watch on the water’s rise and fall. “The levee that the government built, to my knowledge it’s never failed,” he explained.

The Presidio levees — originally constructed in 1975 — help protect the riverfront from run-of-the-mill flood events. The last time the water went up and over the levee was in 2008, and the IBWC made repairs as soon as the water receded. Bishop predicts that this year the situation will be reversed — heavy rainfall caused drainages that don’t normally run to overflow, colliding

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Student suspended amidst ongoing investigation into Sul Ross dorm invasion

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
allegra@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — A Sul Ross State University student has been suspended after allegedly entering multiple dorm rooms without the occupants’ consent in the early morning hours of Thursday, September 15. The student also faces an allegation of “physical contact,” per a statement from the university.

The director and chief of the university’s police department, Kent Dunegan, declined to provide further information on the incident, citing student privacy, but said that it remained under investigation and that his department was working with the district attorney’s office.

According to a statement distributed by the university on the official SRSU Facebook page, students, faculty and staff were alerted of the incident via the university’s emergency alert system; counseling has been offered to students amidst the ongoing investigation.

“We understand and acknowledge that this incident has created some alarm, but please know that the safety and wellbeing of our students is our priority,” the statement reads. “We ask for your patience as we work through our process in accordance with the law.”

As of press time, no criminal charges have been filed against the accused student, a university spokesperson confirmed.

“This is an ongoing investigation. The University Department of Public Safety responded immediately and notified the campus community. The student has been disciplined and was suspended last week. The safety and well-being of our students is our primary concern,” said the spokesperson.

One of the students whose dorm was entered, Aaliyah Leal, told The Big Bend Sentinel that it was around 4 a.m. Thursday morning when she awoke and saw her door was cracked open. When she got out of bed to investigate, the person on the other side ran away.

“I started getting closer to my door and noticed it was creaking open like somebody was there and opening it themselves,” she said. “I got closer to it and I saw there was somebody trying to peek in and look at me. I guess they heard me getting closer to it so they ran out my front door.”

Leal said she thought it might have just been her roommate — but her roommate confirmed it hadn’t been her. “I was scared,” she said. “I didn’t know if it was my roommate, if it was a ghost. I got up an hour later to ask if it was her, she said no, and my heart just sank to my stomach.”

Leal was not able to get a good look at the intruder, but spoke to some other girls whose rooms had been entered around the same time, and said another girl was able to identify the student. She called the university’s police department and filed a report.

Leal’s father, Dominic Leal, has circulated a statement demanding the student’s expulsion. “I will not allow this situation to be swept under the rug,” he wrote.

Leal said that she had been unable to obtain a copy of the police report regarding the incident, and that university police had been argumentative and complained of

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Blackwell School

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us decades ago as we began our education,” Rivera continued.

The Blackwell School National Historic Site Act passed the House of Representatives Tuesday with 414 members voting yea and 12 voting nay. The bill, which was first introduced in 2020 by former Representatives Will Hurd and Filemón Vela of Texas, passed the senate in May but was sent back to the house for minor revisions. The bill will now be sent to the president’s desk to be formally signed into law.

Congressman Tony Gonzales, whose district includes Marfa, backed the bill, and applauded its passage in a statement on Tuesday.

“For decades, the Blackwell School has been an important piece of history for the City of Marfa, West Texas and Mexican Americans across the country. Establishing the Blackwell School as a National Historic Site will cement its rich, complicated legacy for generations to come,” said Gonzales.

This past July, the Blackwell School Alliance and the NPCA held a community workshop in which alumni, descendants and others talked through changes associated with the school transforming into a National Historic Site operated by the federal park system. Attendees discussed what they wanted visitors to take away from the site, how to present a layered, complex story that reflected both the positive and negative experiences of Blackwell students, and more practical day-to-day concerns about how increased traffic to the area might affect the neighborhood.

At the time, Gretel Enck, president of the Blackwell School Alliance, urged continued participation from the local community as the National Historic Site continues to take shape. Enck said public meetings such as the one held in July will continue to take place moving forward.

“Some discussions, like how we tell the story, may be geared toward alumni, while other discussions about tourism, parking and neighborhood concerns will be geared toward the Marfa community,” said Enck.

The Marfa Independent School District currently owns the Blackwell School and adjacent lots and leases the property to the Blackwell School Alliance. Superintendent Oscar Aguero said discussions about the sale of the property were just beginning, but the school district will benefit from the sale. The National Park Foundation will likely be the entity acquiring the property, according to NPCA spokespeople.

For Daniel O. Hernandez, a descendent of an alumnus and a member of the alliance, the news that Blackwell will become a National Historic Site was both exciting and humbling. He said the recognition helps honor the collective memory of students who experienced discrimination across Texas and the country.

“This designation validates the experience of these students who lived through a difficult chapter in our nation’s history — an experience that deserves deeper study and greater awareness,” wrote Hernandez in a press release. “I’m immensely proud that our nation’s newest venue for examining difficult history will reside in Marfa, Texas.”

Dam releases

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with the levee on the opposite side. “There was just too much water,” he said.

Before 2008, the family maintained a golf course on the east side of the levee — in 2015, Bishop refashioned the space into a privately-owned, publicly-accessible park that’s set to receive a cash infusion from grants secured with the help of the Big Bend Conservation Alliance. The main attraction is a patch of artificial wetlands, charged with treated wastewater from the city. The desert oasis is home to some of the best birding in the state.

The space is still too flooded for Bishop to access, and his maintenance to-do list keeps piling up. One particularly frustrating situation: this year’s flood season brought with it an invasive species of plant picked up by the floodwater. “I didn’t know what it was and none of my guys knew what it was, and we’re all from here,” he explained.

Texas Parks and Wildlife identified the culprit as coffeeweed, an invasive species that can be toxic to people and livestock. The region around Presidio and Ojinaga is the most heavily populated area in the Big Bend region and home to numerous cattle ranching operations and smaller farms. “Apparently it’s a real problem for rice farmers, and there aren’t rice farmers anywhere near here,” Bishop said.

Further downstream in Terlingua, business for the beleaguered river tours industry has picked up again after years of drought. Gay Davidson at Big Bend River Tours (BBRT) said that customers and guides alike were pleased by all the water. Because of risky flood conditions, Big Bend National Park has temporarily shuttered permits for private boaters — commercial outfitters like BBRT have been enjoying the overflow, so to speak.

All of the companies are running rafts, making a day on the river more accessible to folks who might be turned off by the traditional Rio Grande canoe or kayak excursion. The high flows have opened up dozens of opportunities for one-day floats through Santa Elena — a bucket-list trip that declining water conditions have made nearly impossible over the past decade. “We have guests that have been waiting five or six years just to get in there,” Davidson explained.

The high water hasn’t been all fun and games and dizzying canyon views. As the water rises and falls, it leaves long stretches of gloopy mud in its wake, washing out some of the traditional take-outs and making starting and ending a river trip difficult. “We let our guests know that it’s going to be a muddy situation — don’t bring your best shoes, because you may not ever wear them again,” Davidson said.

2022-2023 budget

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meeting, city department heads each suggested 5%-cuts to their budgets, and council members went through department by department to talk over which cuts made the most sense.

For city administration, Council voted to decrease the budget by a total of \$10,000, funds which were originally allocated to paint City Hall and purchase new conference room furniture for the Casner Room. The municipal court budget had originally allocated \$18,000 for the hiring of a new part-time employee to help city staff answer phones — the latest revisions, however, saw the removal of that proposed new employee.

The Marfa Activities Center, which Council originally budgeted for pool sandblasting and painting treatments, saw a decrease in the budget by \$10,000 from building maintenance and pool supplies and equipment categories — as it stands, city staff will repaint the pool, rather than using contracted labor. The law enforcement department was able to save a total of \$1,500 in the equipment maintenance category.

The city was able to save a significant amount of money on professional services for the water

department, which were brought down from \$40,000 to \$10,000 due to geographic information system (GIS) services no longer being needed, and made additional cuts to the gas department’s budget to the tune of \$9,500. The EMS, library and nutrition center budgets, for now, remain unchanged.

With those additional savings here and there, a balanced budget was starting to take shape, but there are still a number of undetermined factors, noted Mayor Baeza. The city is awaiting final recommendations on a water and wastewater study that will affect customer rates and the city’s budget, plus potential raises or salary adjustments for city staff also need to be hashed out, he said.

“So now, Council, we’re only in the hole \$30,000, but this does not include the COLA [cost of living adjustment], this does not include the water rate increase that y’all may propose, it doesn’t include natural gas rate increases,” said Baeza. “But this is much better than where we started off today.”

Before the final budget approval meeting on September 29, another budget workshop will take place at 6 p.m. September 28 at City Hall.

Sul Ross dorm invasion

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her father’s statement when she tried to obtain it.

Another student, Maria Garcia, said she had a closer encounter with the accused intruder when he came to her door around 4:20 a.m. on Thursday morning. She was woken up by the sound of her door creaking — when she saw a man standing outside her bedroom door, she ran towards him, yelling at him to leave. He didn’t flee immediately, but apologized, and asked to confirm her name, which was written on her dorm door. Before he left, Garcia said, she got a good look at his face and also asked for his first name. She called the university police, who came to take her statement, but was unsettled the rest of the night.

“I remember feeling scared,” she wrote via text. “I

cried, I was so confused and just kept think[ing] what would have happened if I didn’t wake up. And I couldn’t sleep much the rest of the night ... I’m expecting a baby in 6-7 months from [now] and I was more worried and scared because of that.”

Garcia also expressed frustration with the university response and the pace of the investigation. On Facebook, where some alumni expressed displeasure with the university response, the school has stated that the investigation is ongoing and that students are entitled to due process.

This is a developing story. The Big Bend Sentinel will provide updates as they become available.



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Notice of General Election
(Aviso De Eleccion General)

(As Prescribed by Secretary of State Sections 4.004, 83.010, 85.007, Texas Elections Code)

To the registered voters of the County of Presidio, Texas:
(A los votantes registrados del Condado de Presidio, Texas)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will open from
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. , November 8, 2022, for voting in a general election to elect presidential
electors, Members of Congress, Members of the Legislature, and state, district, county and
precinct officers.

(Notifiquese por la presente, que las casillas electorales citadas abajo se abiran desde
las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 8 de Noviembre de 2022 para votar en la Eleccion
General para elegir electores presidenciales, Membros del Congreso, Miembros de la
Legislatura, y oficiales del estado, distrito, condado y del precincto.

On Election Day, voters must vote in their precinct where registered to vote.
(El día de Eleccion, los votantes deberian votar en su precinto donde estan inscritos para
votar.)

Location of Election Day Polling Places
(Name of Building and Address)

Ubicacion de las casillas electorales el
Dia de Eleccion)
(Nombre del Edificio y Direccion)

Marfa Visitor Center, 302 S. Highland Ave
Marfa, Texas 79843

Presidio County Annex, Building C
300 East O’Reilly Street, Presidio, Texas 79845

Presidio Activity Center (PAC Building)
1200 E. O’Reilly Street, Presidio, Texas 79845

American Legion Post 176
Harrington Street, Presidio, Texas 79845

Precinct Numbers

(Numero de precinto)

1 and 7

3 and 4

2

5 and 6

For early voting, a voter may vote at any of the locations listed below:
*Para Votacion Adelantada, los votantes podrian votar en cualquiera de las ubicaciones
nombradas abajo.)*

Locations for Early Voting Polling Places
Name of Building and Address
(Ubicacion de las cassillas electorales de
Votacion adelantada, nombre de Edificio y
Direccion)

Days and Hours of Operation

Marfa PCT 1-7 USO Building 302 South
Highland Ave Marfa, Texas 79843

10/24/ 2022 – 10/28/2022 8am – 5pm
10/31/2022 -- 11/04/2022 8am --5pm

Presidio PCT 1-7 County Annex, Bldg C
301 East O’Reilly St. Presidio, Texas 79845

10/24/2022 -- 10/28/2022 8am – 5pm
10/31/2022 -- 11/04/2022 8am - 5pm

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:
(Las solicitudes para boletas de votacion adelantada por correo deberian enviarse a ;

Florcita Zubia, Presidio County/District Clerk
Name of Early Voting Clerk (Nombre del Secretario del la Votacion Adelantada)
P.O. Box 789 (Address) (Direccion)
Marfa, Texas 79843 (City) (Ciudad)

Applications for ballots by mail must be received **no later than** the close of business on:
October 28, 2022
*Las solicitudes para boletas de votacion adelantada por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de
las horas de negocio el 28 de Octubre , 2022.*

Issued this the 9th of September, 2022. (Emitida este día 9 de Septiembre, 2022)

Signature of County Judge (Firma del Juez del Condado)

Hazmat spill on I-10 results in fatality, significant delays

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

CULBERSON COUNTY — A crash last Friday on Interstate 10 between Van Horn and Sierra Blanca left one person dead and resulted in significant delays for traffic in both directions.

Around 3:30 p.m., a truck tractor towing a trailer drifted into the median and overturned, spilling hazardous material. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), TxDOT and a hazmat cleanup crew responded to the incident, working through the night until early morning Saturday to unblock traffic.

According to the DPS crash report, the driver of the truck tractor veered into the median for “unknown reasons” and was pinned by the vehicle. He was quickly transported to the Culberson County Hospital and pronounced dead by Justice of the Peace Gilda Morales. Next of kin were notified as first responders attended the scene of the crash.

The driver of the truck trailer was identified as Nikolai Vidinliev of Hiram, Georgia. Vidinliev was survived by two daughters, Magi Vidinlieva and Dessi Richardson.

“We are all very heartbroken,” Magi Vidinlieva said. “My dad was a warm, friendly and kind man and he was loved by so many people. He has friends all over the world and they are all devastated.”

Vidinlieva said her father wished to be laid to rest in his home country of Bulgaria — the family set up a fundraiser to cover the costs of transporting his body for burial.

“He was a kind and loving man that brought his family to America from Bulgaria for a better life. He believed in the American dream and he sacrificed so much,” Vidinlieva remembered. “His last wish was to be sent home to Bulgaria for his final resting place.”

On Friday, the El Paso Fire Department and Lone Star Hazmat quickly responded to the crash. Richard Lenius, the president of Lone Star Hazmat, explained that his crew’s first step in any clean-up is testing the air quality of the scene to help determine what materials were spilled. “We immediately start doing air monitoring to make sure there’s no volatile organics involved,” he said.

Placards mandated for the transport of hazardous material communicate what types of risks the materials pose, but don’t always specify exactly what the materials are. “When you see a placard on the side of a truck, it will give a four digit number — that particular number can cover about 40 different chemicals,” Lenius explained.

In this case, Lenius’s team was able to narrow it down through additional testing — that process remains ongoing, and as of press time the team couldn’t specify exactly what materials were spilled. “During the process, we were able to identify that there were multiple different types of containers with flammable liquids and corrosive materials,” he said. Some of the containers had split open during the crash, requiring the crew to work quickly to deem the area safe for further cleanup.

A case like last week’s crash requires multiple steps of remediation. “Once we’ve identified what the material is, we go in and transfer the remaining liquids into special containers,” Lenius explained. “Once that’s completed, we’ll go back in and we’ll do some soil remediation.” Soil samples sent to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) determine when a scene has been officially and thoroughly cleaned.

To contribute to the family’s fundraiser, visit <https://gofund.me/1d2b9b8b>.



Photo courtesy of Lone Star Hazmat
Trucker Nikolai Vidinliev of Hiram, Georgia, was killed last week after this vehicle overturned on I-10.

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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 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for City of Marfa from the same properties in both the 2021 tax year and the 2022 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that City of Marfa 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 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2022 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON Thursday, September 29 at 5:30 p.m. at Casner Room, Marfa City Hall 113 S. Highland Ave. Marfa, TX 79843.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, City of Marfa 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 of City of Marfa 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.)

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

AGAINST the proposal: none

PRESENT and not voting: none

ABSENT: none

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.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 last year to the taxes proposed to the be imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Marfa 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 at 432-729-4081 or natalia.williams.pctac@co.presidio.tx.us, or visit <https://www.co.presidio.tx.us/page/presidio.County.Assessor.Collector> for more information.

Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As a long time reader of The Big Bend Sentinel, I have come to appreciate the political cartoons of your staff cartoonist. For over 30 years, The Sentinel, as I was told, represented the news of the area if you wanted to know what was going on in the Big Bend! As an even longer standing member of the Republican Party, I would chuckle at Golliver's characterizations of anything GOP and take umbrage at his sometimes caustic and ungenerous comments. After all, isn't this what American Society is all about? Last week's issue has been the camel's back breaking moment. His characterization of Governor Abbott was not political. It was far from it! His comments were hateful and crude and served no constructive political purpose other than to demean. Over the years, Golliver's artistic acumen has been a marvel to me, and when directed to politics has served him well. I would think that his commentary serves a proper political purpose. As such, I think he should examine his product more closely. And, Editor, I believe it would serve The Sentinel and your readers well to carefully review what you print on your pages.

Thank you

Robert W. Gray
Chairman
Jeff Davis County Republican Party

cc: Greg Abbott, Governor, State of Texas
...

Editor:

When I step out of my office in this handsome little town where I grew up, a little town set amidst the “mile-high” beauty of far West Texas, I glance across the street and see a small, yellow brick high school building that was old when I was in school nearly a half century ago. Built in 1929, it lacks certain amenities, shall we say. At lunch time, I see students sitting outside under the trees and opening up their sack lunches, since we don’t have a cafeteria. Later in the day, they’ll get home as best they can, since we can’t offer bus service. For the past three years, their numbers have declined.

If it’s early morning, I see teachers headed to their classrooms. They’re some of the most dedicated people their profession has to offer, but we can’t pay them what they deserve. I know they give their all, but you can’t blame them when they have to move on.

I walk back into my office, call up the numbers on my computer and face the dismal fact, yet again, that the Fort Davis ISD is in financial trouble. Like other small districts across the state, the numbers aren’t working for us. It gives me no satisfaction to predict that within the next two to four years, upwards of 10 to 20 percent of our smaller districts, including Fort Davis, will be facing financial ruin. Some may make it longer, some may hit the financial cliff sooner, but all will ultimately deal with it at some point.

Here’s why: Our two main sources of revenue, funding from the state and local property taxes, are not guaranteeing equal education to all students, as required by the Texas Constitution. We also get federal funding, which benefits some districts more than others, but those funds have decreased over the last decade to a fraction of what they once were.

State funding is determined through a bewildering maze of calculations, ratios, weights, attendance, enrollment, property values and more. I've considered donning a wizard's pointed cap when grappling with the calculations, but instead I resort to the most common method of trying to predict what funding a district may receive: an Excel workbook with more than 150 different worksheets all linked to each other with complicated formulas.

I'm persuaded the Texas Legislature makes these calculations complicated on purpose. Lawmakers want to confuse and frustrate the regular taxpayer. I realize I'm oversimplifying, but the basic fact taxpayers need to remember is that the higher the property values a district has, the lower the state share of money that district receives.

I can tell you from years of experience in this position that Fort Davis ISD, like many other small rural school districts, has managed our taxpayers’ funds in the most frugal manner possible. We routinely achieve a “superior” rating on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). Nevertheless, state funding for our district has steadily, and dramatically, decreased since the 2008-2009 fiscal year. We expect funding to continue to drop for at least the next two years.

We will see our fund balance — what many mislabel as our savings account — completely depleted in the summer of 2024. This precipitous drop is due to the state's deliberate action to increase local property values year after year, which then decreases the state’s obligation to fund the education of our children.

The value of local property is determined by county appraisal districts, but the state comptroller's office routinely overrides these values every year, setting them much higher all across the state. These values are then used in calculations and formulas, and an allotment is assigned to the district. (I'm tempted to ask why we even need county appraisal districts if the state ultimately determines what local property values should be.)

The largest portion of this allotment is called Tier 1 and has remained almost unchanged for years, while the overall state share has declined. Fort Davis’s Tier 1 allotment has dropped 15 percent, but the state share of funding has dropped a whopping 95 percent over the same time period.

The state then basically directs that everything collected over our “allotment” returns to the state. These returned funds are known as “recapture,” commonly called "Robin Hood." There is more to the school funding calculations than the Tier 1 allotment, but this calculation makes up the bulk of what the state believes a local district should keep.

The primary problem with the current school-funding process is simply the way that the state determines and uses local property values. This faulty system is penalizing districts like FDISD. Property values have increased dramatically — by 45 percent since 2012 alone — while the state’s share of funding to the district has hit the floor. No other metric involved in the school funding calculations has changed anywhere near as much.

Fort Davis, like most other districts, has fixed costs that are simply unavoidable — utilities, insurance, internet, phone and dues, not to mention the 78 percent of our costs incurred through payroll. School districts also have very specific obligations to meet accreditation and graduation requirements. These costs leave very little for discretionary spending. In theory, we could cut every single extracurricular activity entirely, but that would only save a fraction of the budget.

Texans, of course, have been tussling about local revenues for decades. We've gone to court and argued over public school finance on multiple occasions, beginning in the 1990s. In 2016, the Texas Supreme Court



determined the system in place was constitutional, although in need of modernizing. The unanimous decision effectively closed off all remaining opportunities to challenge public school finance in court. Now the state gets to determine what our local tax rates and collections can be.

Those familiar with previous school-finance lawsuits will note the irony here. House Bill 3, comprehensive school-finance legislation passed in 2021, merely delayed what many saw coming. The legislation created a reprieve in funding designed to last only a couple of years. Those two years are up, and the crisis looms once again. For Fort Davis ISD and other small districts, time may run out before we are able to craft a fix.

A legislative Band-Aid, so to speak, won't be enough to save us. We need meaningful and long-term solutions to the school-funding crisis. Serious reform, first of all, would acknowledge that small districts in sparsely populated regions of the state are not the same as large urban districts. The urban districts do not have the same restrictions and limitations that we do. Just as our six-man Fort Davis Indians won't be taking on the Katy Tigers or the Odessa Permian Panthers next Friday night, all school districts are not the same with regard to funding. One size does not fit all.

In addition, the Texas Legislature should:

- * Include ALL revenues in calculations to determine whether a district is “rich” or “poor”
- * Increase and scale the Basic Allotment according to school size, but detach this allotment from the state’s minimum salary schedule
- * Increase the “weights” for special populations
- * Remove the ability of the state comptroller’s office to override local county appraisal district calculations of property values (except in very limited circumstances)
- * Place automatic inflationary adjustments into the calculations, so that legislative action is not required to adjust the funding system

When I graduated from Fort Davis High School in 1982 and headed to West Point, I never imagined coming back to serve as my hometown's school superintendent. But come back I did.

I was unaware of just how much this little town meant to me (the prettiest in Texas, in my humble opinion) and the upcoming struggle to keep our

schools open. Fort Davis was established in 1854; my family got here in the 1880s. My mother, aunt, cousins and I have taught here since the early 1960s. My children have attended school and graduated here. Many of my childhood friends still live here; their children and grandchildren attend Fort Davis schools.

Some days I climb into my red pickup and drive over to the elementary school, near the actual Fort Davis, now a state historical site. With kids back in class after the trying years of the pandemic, I see their bright-eyed eagerness to learn, to take in knowledge. (My grandson is among them.)

It's hard to imagine shutting the door on those opportunities, hard to imagine closing off their bright future growing up in this little town. Financial crisis or not, I'll do everything in my power as superintendent to make sure that doesn't happen, but lawmakers have to help. In the midst of all our other crises, manufactured and otherwise, this one really matters.

Graydon Hicks III has been superintendent of the Fort Davis Independent School District since 2014.

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**

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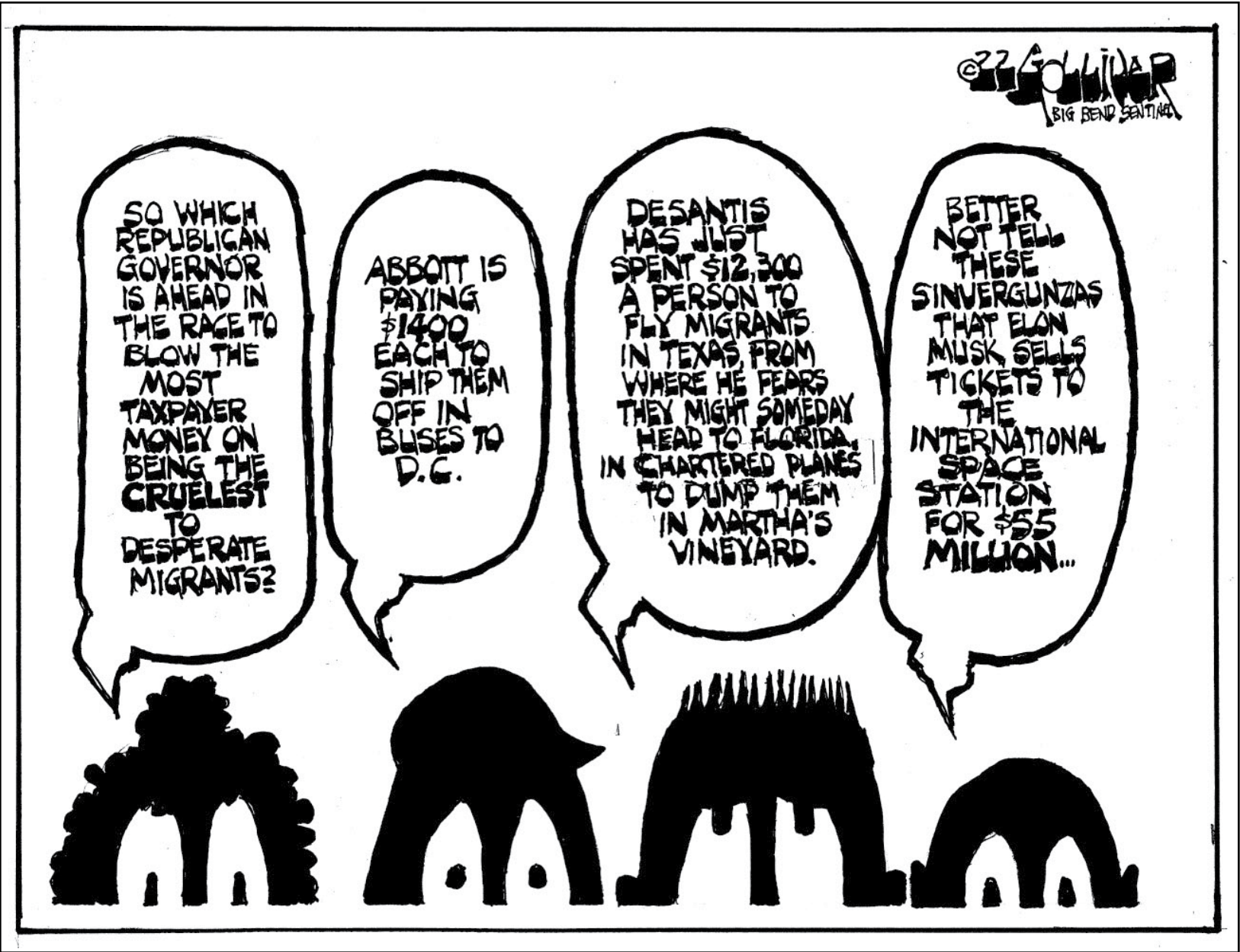
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TEXTURE PRESIDIO

Ramon Deanda

By HANNAH GENTILES

Texture Presidio uses the art of photography and storytelling to explore and highlight the textures and tales that make Presidio County and surrounding desert landscape both beautifully ordinary and unique. Each column will feature a new person, place or event.

In early August, Ramon met me in his tractor at the intersection of Hwy 67 and the dirt road that leads to his studio. He doesn’t technically have an address yet, and the dropped pin via Google maps led me down a wrong dirt path, so I was relieved to see his bright orange tractor waiting off the main road to guide me in. Ramon’s property is several miles outside of Presidio. He had long dreamt of finding land in/near his hometown of Presidio/Ojinaga with hopes to create studio space among the surrounding desert landscape. His dream came to fruition several years ago when he was offered a great deal through a family friend. Though it lacked access to water/electricity, he was not deterred. Only recently, he’s gotten the green light to start building, and with his dad’s help, they hit the ground running. He taught art in New Mexico prior to returning to Presidio to spend some quality time building the studio and work on various other projects on the “ranch.”

He has many visions for his land. Most recently, he’s begun dreaming of creating a space that invites fellow artists to retreat and work on their projects. Finding inspiration in the surrounding landscape is not hard to imagine — it’s beautiful. While an artist retreat has become commonplace in Marfa, Presidio has yet to offer anything of the sort. In addition to an artist retreat he would focus on creating community printmaking space, with dreams of local art classes and artists coming to the studio to learn and practice their own art.

I arrived at his studio just after a very brief rainstorm, on my 10-minute drive up from Presidio. (In the vastness of Far West Texas, it is not uncommon to get hit by something like this, usually lasting all of a few minutes before a return to sweltering temperatures.) Looking out the back, Ramon pointed towards the Chinati Mountains, where more rainstorms were approaching. He noted that while at the ranch he learned the directional patterns of such storms as he pointed to a different storm slightly to the east that would likely reach us.

While outside, he showed me the various projects he’s working on: the new yucca trees he’d just put in the ground, the ladder up to the solar panels he’d installed on the roof, the gazebo Ramon and his dad had built, the stone tiles on the floor of the studio he laid, and of course, the tractor he guided me in on that has made all projects easier. When I hear of folks navigating home projects like these, on their own, I always feel inspired to try some of my own. Moving out to West Texas was the first I’d ever seen quite so many people taking on such extensive home projects for themselves. It seems to be one of the many survival skills you learn when living in such remote places; you just learn to do it yourself.

With the winds picking up, we retreated inside while continuing our chat

about Presidio; discussing both the frustrations we’ve felt as well as the extensive potential we see and our hopes for positive growth. We brainstormed ideas and shared our personal stories that connect us to the area. Ramon impressively serves on both the Presidio Convention and Visitor Bureau as well as the Consejo Cultural Ciudadano de Ojinaga; he is actively a part of helping to bring new opportunities and activities to both sides of the border.

Ever since I began dating my fiancé seven years ago and started making the hour drive south from Marfa to visit him, it has felt like a distinct privilege to be a part of this unique community. One that, while vastly different from the one I grew up in, has been endlessly welcoming. I have always felt the differences and similarities between the north and south of the county results in an ideal balance, continuously creating space for clarity and inspiration and perspective. Conversations like this one contribute to that feeling.

The storm approached us, as predicted. Initially, it was simply strong winds. But then the rain began to fall, and in no time we were moving from the right side of the building where we sat chatting, to the left, which already had windows to block the incoming weather. We teetered between continuing conversation and disbelief at how strong the storm continued to be. This had only been the second or third storm he’d seen come through this year. And frankly, I’d never witnessed a storm of this length and intensity. At one point rain was blowing horizontally through the building’s windowless/doorless openings. This would arguably be a sign of the extreme rain that would soon come to the area a couple weeks later, flooding the Rio Grande.

I later learned that this unique weather event was a “microburst,” which can be the equivalent of an F1 tornado, and that’s exactly what it felt like. After the storm we walked around the property assessing any damage, crossing the newly formed arroyo only feet from the building. He’d never seen it flow like this and excitedly sent videos to his parents in town, who hadn’t received nearly the same amount of rain. Rain is a rare occasion out here. At one point during the storm, Ramon commented, “This is like a rock concert to us, high entertainment.” We worried I wouldn’t make it out over the new arroyo, but thankfully, I did.

I look forward to watching as Ramon’s studio continues to morph and come to fruition, and the ways that this bold endeavor will contribute to create new opportunities and conversations in Presidio. Find him on Instagram at @ramonchis_07 to follow along with the creation of this new project and all of his work. Ramon has a handful of murals in Presidio — most strikingly, an homage to Presidio found on the side of the Don Jose Panaderia on Erma Avenue; he also created their hand-painted sign above the bakery’s entrance. I highly recommend grabbing some fresh tortillas and pastries among other mighty fine treats while you’re there.

When I followed up with him a few days later, I asked Ramon what inspires his work, particularly his newest project to create a print shop and studio space. This was his response:

“I grew up with limited access to art. Even Marfa seemed far away, out of reach, as it seemed like only the elite could be part of that. It is my dream to create a space where anyone who is genuinely passionate about art feels welcome. I want to be able to create a bridge between artists and people of all ages who want to at least learn, to learn from each other — create a place that Presidio doesn’t have.”

Hannah Gentiles is a photographer and trained social worker who has lived in Presidio County since 2015. She currently runs “Texture Presidio,” a photo essay-based storytelling project, and splits her time between Marfa and Presidio. To find out more about Texture Presidio and her photography visit <https://www.hannahgentiles.com/texturepresidio> or [ig:texturepresidio](https://www.hannahgentiles.com/texturepresidio)



Photos by Hannah Gentiles for The Big Bend Sentinel

Left: Ramon Deanda looks out the window at the printmaking studio he is building on his open land just outside of Presidio, Texas. Right: A powerful microburst, containing heavy winds and rain - makes its way through the property outside of Presidio that Ramon Deanda is building his artist studio and print-making shop.

OUR WATER MATTERS

Some unfinished business

By TREY GERFERS
tgerfers@pcuwcd.org

The Presidio County Commissioners Court recently approved an interlocal cooperation agreement with the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District. The agreement establishes the framework for the groundwater conservation district to hold a taxing election next year and addresses a bizarre turn of events here in Presidio County.

As readers of “Our Water Matters” will recall, Presidio County Attorney Rod Ponton has been seeking to defund the groundwater district here in Presidio County since mid-2021, when he announced without warning that it was illegal for the county to fund the groundwater district. With no path forward proposed by the county attorney, the groundwater district sought the advice of its attorney, Mike Gershon of Lloyd Gosselink in Austin, who parsed the details of the attorney general decisions Mr. Ponton used as the basis for his assertions. Mr. Gershon found that one of the decisions was no longer applicable because the Legislature had since changed the law, and the other, even older decision did not involve a groundwater district.

Despite Mr. Ponton’s poorly researched legal arguments, his underlying assertion remains sound. Each time a groundwater district is proposed, the Legislature in Austin passes what is known as “enabling legislation,” i.e. an act that enables the creation of a groundwater district. The enabling legislation of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District from 1993 gives the groundwater district the power to levy an ad valorem (property) tax not to exceed \$0.05 per \$100 of assessed valuation. According to Teresa Todd, who was Presidio County Attorney in 1999 when the measure to create the district was passed by the voters, the tax question was left off the ballot because there was a feeling that “it’ll never pass.” The county simply funded the groundwater district and “that was that.” The status quo seemed to be working fine with the groundwater district receiving about \$52,000 a year from an annual county budget of \$7 million. But thanks to Mr. Ponton’s insistence, the status quo will have to be abandoned in favor of a new property tax.

As a template for a prospective path forward, Mr. Gershon proposed a 2019 interlocal cooperation agreement from Starr County. The groundwater district there had failed to fulfill its obligations to the neighboring groundwater districts, including the payment of its fair share to consultants for completing several studies and reports required by state law. These groundwater districts went to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and filed a petition: Starr County must either reform its groundwater district or disband it. In an unprecedented effort, the Starr County Commissioners Court, Starr county attorney and Starr County Groundwater Conservation District, in collaboration with the governor’s office, the local state senator and local state representative, hammered out a plan with the TCEQ. According to the plan, the county would continue funding the groundwater district until the district could hold a taxing election. Fully aware of the pitfalls of asking the voters for a new tax, the commissioners wisely agreed to a “tax-rate swap” in which the county would decrease its tax rate to make up for the increase in new taxes levied by the groundwater district. The hope was that voters would be willing to agree to a new tax if their net property taxes did not go up.

Over the past several months, the board of directors of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District reached the conclusion that 1) No one on the board wants a new property tax, and 2) No one on the board has a choice in the matter. Upon the advice of its lawyer, the groundwater district voted to use the Starr County interlocal agreement — with its tax-rate swap provision — as the template for reaching an understanding with the Presidio County Commissioners. This agreement was approved by the county commissioners at their meeting on September 12.

The groundwater district will hold the election requesting an ad valorem tax by November 7, 2023. Since groundwater districts are the preferred method of groundwater management in Texas because they provide for local control by those most familiar with the resource and most affected by any regulation, the stakes could not be higher. If the voters reject the new tax, the groundwater district — and the protections it alone can provide — will cease to exist in Presidio County.

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.



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Homecoming 2022

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Marfa shorthorns to face off against Sierra Blanca Vaqueros at Friday night's homecoming game

MARFA — Friday night's football game will see the ceremonial crowning of this year's homecoming king and queen followed by a match up between the Shorthorns and Sierra Blanca Vaqueros.

The junior high game will begin at Martin Field at 5:30 p.m. followed by the homecoming court awards at 7 p.m. and varsity football game kick off at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices will be \$2 for children and students and \$3 for adults. Junior and High School Principal Luane Porter said for the seniors, as well as the underclassman, homecoming celebrations are important traditions everyone can look forward to participating in.

"It's one of those memories that throughout the high school years, they kind of look forward to, and then especially if they get to serve on the court, it's an additional honor," said Porter. "It's about building memories and a

connection to the school."

Presidio ISD will lend their marching band for Friday night's festivities, and plan to play the Marfa school song and alma mater. There will be no homecoming dance this year, according to Porter, due to a lack of interest among students and because the sophomore class, which is in charge of fundraising for homecoming, didn't have adequate time from the beginning of the school year to the present to raise enough funds.

But school spirit won't be in short supply with pre-game activities: a homecoming parade will proceed down Highland Avenue at 6 p.m. Thursday evening and a pep rally will follow at 7 p.m. at the football field, where students will cheer and view a senior skit as well as the burning of the "M."

HOMECOMING KING & QUEEN CANDIDATES 2022



Top row, queen candidates, from left: Ummi Chanez, Lesly Torres, Alexis Gonzales, Maribel Meraz, Emily Hernandez (not pictured: Aubrie Aguilar). Bottom row, king candidates, from left: Dimetrey Stuart, Juan Bautista, Nayar Flores, Alex Luna, Samuel Salgado, Nathan Peña.

12th Grade King Candidates

Juan Bautista: Juan Bautista is the grandson of Rosalinda and Nieves Gutierrez. He has participated in cheerleading for two years and will be on the basketball team his senior year. Juan was also crowned duke in the homecoming court his junior year. Juan worked as a lifeguard last summer, and has worked as a cashier at Porter's after school for a year. After graduation, Juan hopes to go to the University of Texas or another state university to pursue a degree in digital art and mathematics. Juan would like to say thank you to his family and friends for being there for him. He won't forget the memories he has with everyone. And he wishes everyone a good future and a safe and healthy 2022-2023 school year.

Nayar Flores: Nayar Flores is the son of Javier Flores and Yanelli Arias. Nayar participated in football his freshman and sophomore years. Nayar has worked in construction throughout his high school career, first for Silla and then alongside his father in the family business, KORA Construction. When he graduates, Nayar plans to continue working in construction or begin training to become an electrician and start his apprenticeship in Abilene.

Alex Luna: Alex Luna is the son of Ari Luna and Laura Boyd. Throughout Alex's high school career he has participated in art, yearbook, journalism and One Act Play. After graduating, Alex plans to attend college

at Texas State University to pursue a career in graphic design and digital media. He remains grateful to his friends and family and is wishing everyone the best of luck for his fellow senior classmates.

Samuel Salgado Martinez: Samuel Salgado Martinez is the son of Jose Raul Salgado and Norma Alicia Martinez. Throughout Samuel's high school career he has participated in band, welding, robotics, unmanned aerial vehicles, an Architectural Foundation of San Francisco architecture course, and UIL. Samuel is an active member of YoungLife. After graduating, Samuel plans to attend college at Texas A&M Kingsville to pursue a career in mechanical engineering.

Nathan Pena: Nathan Pena is the son of Jessie and Anabel Pena. Throughout Nathan's high school career he has been in football, track, powerlifting and One Act Play. He is also an active member of YoungLife. Nathan has worked at the City of Marfa during the summers and even started his own snow-cone stand. After graduating, Nathan plans to get his EMT basics in El Paso and hopes to join the U.S. Air Force to become an aircraft rescue firefighter.

Dimetrey Stewart: Dimetrey Stewart is the son of Elijah Stewart and Monica Lara and the grandson of Jimmy and Rammona Lara. Throughout Dimetrey's high school career he has participated in welding, band and UIL. After graduating, Dimetrey plans to attend Western Tech, or to pursue a career in AEP.

12th Grade Queen Candidates

Aubrie Aguilar: Aubrie Aguilar is the daughter of Tiffany and Freddy Aguilar. She designed the yearbook cover and participated in VASE her freshman year, illustrated a coloring book for the Blackwell School her sophomore year, and made it to state semifinals in the UIL Digital Animation category and advanced to the International Science & Engineering Fair her junior year. Aubrie is an active member of National Honor Society and is currently employed at the Marfa Public Library and is an intern at Ballroom Marfa. After graduating, Aubrie would like to attend a state college in Texas, where she plans to further her education in art and finance. She is very grateful to her teachers, friends, and most of all, her family for their support throughout her high school career. She hopes to make everyone proud and create many lasting memories her senior year.

Ummi Chanez: Ummi Chanez is the daughter of Elizabeth Gutierrez. Throughout Ummi's high school career she has participated in volleyball, cross-country, basketball, softball, track and Ballet Folklorico for all four years. She has also participated in cheer and One Act Play. Ummi is an active member of Marfa High School National Honor Society and YoungLife. In addition to her many extracurricular and curricular pursuits, Ummi has placed in the top 20 in the state cross-country meet in Austin for three consecutive years, placing 5th her junior year, and is hoping to place in the top three at state this year. Ummi has also been a part of the all-state XC team all throughout high school, and a part of the all-star team her junior year. She has also received recognitions in volleyball for outstanding hitter of the year and second team all district, and second team all district in basketball. After graduating, Ummi plans to attend college at the University of Texas at Austin or UT San Antonio to study business and pursue a career in real estate.

Alexis Gonzales: Alexis Gonzales is the daughter of Rene Gonzales and Roxanne Lujan. Throughout her high school career she has participated in volleyball, basketball, track, golf and softball for all four years. She has also participated in cross-country, cheer, and One Act Play. Alexis is an active member in the National Honor Society, student council, and YoungLife. In addition to her many extracurricular and curricular pursuits, Alexis received many recognitions throughout the years for

her athletic involvements, advanced to state in golf, and advanced to nationals in the International Science Fair in Atlanta, Georgia. Alexis has worked at the Waterstop and has helped with building projects in Marfa. After graduating, she plans to go into the workforce to join Border Patrol, AEP, or pursue a degree in criminal justice.

Emily Hernandez: Emily Hernandez is the daughter of Jimmy Hernandez and Amber Serrano. For all four years of Emily's high school career she has participated in volleyball, basketball and softball. She has also participated in cross-country, track and cheer. Emily is an active member in the National Honor Society, One Act Play and YoungLife. In addition to her many extracurricular and curricular pursuits, Emily received many recognitions throughout the years for her athletic involvements, including first team all-district for volleyball and second team all-district for softball. Emily worked at the Waterstop her sophomore year, and plans on getting another after-school job when she completes her softball and track seasons. After graduating, Emily plans to attend college to study engineering in order to become a mechanical engineer.

Maribel Meraz: Maribel Meraz is the daughter of Oscar Meraz and Arlene Acosta, and granddaughter of Luis Alvarez and Nora Lujan. During Maribel's high school career she participated in basketball her freshman year and plans on playing again her senior year, as well as participating in track and softball her senior year. Maribel is also an active member of YoungLife. After graduating, Maribel plans on attending The University of Texas at El Paso to pursue a pre-med degree before continuing onto a doctorate in medicine in hopes of one day becoming a cardiologist.

Lesly Torres: Lesly Torres is the daughter of Julio and Elida Torres. Throughout Lesly's high school career, she has participated in volleyball, basketball, cross-country, cheerleading, track, golf, softball, One Act Play and Ballet Folklorico. Lesly is an active member of NHS, student council and YoungLife. After graduating, Lesly plans to attend the University of Texas at El Paso to study kinesiology. She has also been invited to try out for the Universal Cheerleaders Association to help coach younger people that want to follow their dreams and become cheerleaders, and plans to pursue that upon graduation.

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DUKES & DUCHESSES



Photo courtesy of Adele Powers

Bullette on her home turf on Martin Field.

Being Bullette

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — As the Marfa Shorthorns take to the football field to battle it out against the Sierra Blanca Vaqueros at Friday night’s homecoming game, fans on the sidelines will look to trusty school mascot Bullette to keep their spirits high regardless of the numbers on the scoreboard.

“I enjoy being on the sidelines and seeing everyone, all of our Shorthorns in the stands. It makes you feel stronger and just more confident,” said Bullette, who wished to be identified only by her mascot name.

Bullette, who is accessorized with a purple tutu and bow, has long entertained Shorthorn audiences with her charm and enthusiasm, but the latest individual to wear the suit took over the role for the Marfa cheer squad this summer and is slowly developing her own take on Bullette, she said.

“When I was learning about how to get into character and how I wanted to portray Bullette, when she’s out there with the kids and all that, I wanted her to be very loving and sassy at the same time,” said Bullette.

On average, Bullette can spend anywhere from 30 minutes to two hours inside of her mascot costume at pep rallies and sports games, she said. While there is a small fan inside of the head of the mascot costume that provides some level of relief from the Texas heat, initially the suit felt a little claustrophobic, she said, but is getting more comfortable as time goes on.

At cheer camp this summer, Bullette learned routines for pumping up the audience and how to communicate with coaches using hand signals during games in order to signal if she is distressed or in need of a break. She also learned the importance of having fun with her role as mascot and not caring too much about what other people think, she said.

“Since you’re the mascot, everybody’s expecting you to play around. You are, in a way, the center of attention, because you’re the only one [wearing an animal suit] — but even if you’re tumbling down and falling, you can just play it off as, ‘I meant to do that,’” said Bullette.

Bullette is still working on her game and pep rally walk out, which she characterizes as having a signature hip swing. Bullette said going forward with the fall sports season she’d like to encourage everyone to continue to visit with her, offering hugs and high fives. Ultimately, she said, she’s appreciative of the role because it offers a chance to gain a whole new persona.

“It’s fun because I get to be a whole different person,” said Bullette. “It’s not like I’m usually going around blowing kisses to everyone like how Bullette does.”

9th Grade

Duchess - Kayla Angelina Vasquez

Kayla Angelina Vasquez is the daughter of Sarah and Grady Vasquez. She participates in volleyball and Ballet Folklorico and plans on participating in basketball, softball and golf this year.

10th Grade

Duchess - Maryfer Martinez

Maryfer Martinez is the daughter of Sandra Karina Martinez and Eric Martinez Rosas. She has been a member of the volleyball, basketball and track teams and UIL One Act Play.

11th Grade

Duchess - Fernanda Flores

Fernanda Rivera is the daughter of Fernando Rivera and Mayra Lujan. Her sophomore year she participated in basketball, softball and welding. Her junior year she plans on participating in basketball and softball.

Duke - Esdras Flores

Esdras Flores is the son of Javier Flores and Yaneli Arias. In his spare time he works construction with his father’s company, KORA.

Duke - Andres Solis

Andres Solis is the son of Mayra Del Bosque. He participates in UIL One Act Play and welding.

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Samantha Martinez
11th Grade
Mixed Media

Fall sports updates from Marfa ISD athletic director

By LINDA OJEDA

Football

The Shorthorn football team traveled to Balmorhea Friday evening with hopes of putting together a string of scores against the state-ranked Bears on their home turf. Unfortunately, the Bears had other plans and prevented Marfa from breaking the goal line and made the evening a short outing due to a 0-60 mercy rule defeat. Marfa (1-3) looks to shake off the loss as they head into homecoming week to face Sierra Blanca at Martin Field with a scheduled 7:30 p.m. kickoff time and pregame ceremonies set for 6:45 p.m.

Volleyball

Lady Horns made light work of Balmorhea and Iraan this week on the road to get the team back on track and add more wins to their pre-district record.

Cross-Country

The girls cross-country team traveled to Lubbock this past weekend for a meet in which they competed against 13 other teams and earned third overall.



Photo courtesy of MISD Athletics

From left: Lesly Torres, Umimi Chanez, Liani Salcido, Ava Flores, Emily Hernandez and Aundrea Garcia represent the Marfa Shorthorns at a cross-country meet in Lubbock last weekend.

☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

SEPTEMBER	Thu, Sep 22	Fri, Sep 23	Mon, Sep 26	Tue, Sep 27	Wed, Sep 28
BREAKFAST	WAFFLES, SAUSAGE	BREAKFAST SANDWICH	BREAKFAST PIZZA	FRENCH TOAST, SAUSAGE	POWER BREAKFAST
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MARFA SHORTHORNS
SPORTS CALENDAR

FRI, SEP 23: Football vs Sierra Blanca in Marfa, JH 5:00pm, HS 7:30 pm
SAT, SEP 24: HS Boys Cross Country in Presidio
SAT, SEP 24: JH Boys & Girls Cross Country in Presidio
SAT, SEP 24: HS Volleyball vs McCamey in McCamey, JV 12:00 pm, V 2:30 pm
MON, SEP 26: JH Volleyball vs Rankin in Rankin
TUE, SEP 27: HS Volleyball vs Iraan in Marfa, JV 5:00 pm, V 7:30pm

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Community

Marfa Open welcomes artist in residence Russell Dammers during 7th annual festival

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Marfa Open, a local artist-centric creative space, will host their seventh annual festival over the next month from September 23 to October 16, featuring a number of local and visiting artists, including current artist in residence painter Russell Dammers.

Events including musical performances, artist dinners and video projections will take place at Marfa Open this year. In addition to Dammers, other participating artists include Marcela Rodriguez, Paloma Mancha, Liv, Noah Kashinai, Efen Candaleria, Matt Nelson and Sally Lavengood. Regular hours will be 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and event organizers are encouraging local and regional artists across all mediums and skill levels to participate.

Dammers, who is originally from New Zealand but has been living in Chicago for four years, arrived in Marfa a couple of weeks ago, works of art stacked high in his SUV, to begin his residency at Marfa Open. Works in progress occupy his makeshift workstation, which is positioned to receive good light for the better part of the day, while fully realized works hang nearby on the gallery walls. Dammers, who is heavily influenced by the Op Art movement of the ‘60s, is currently experimenting with color and cubes, inspired by a recent trip to the grounds of the Chinati Foundation.

“The thing that’s great about a residency like this is having the time to play with stuff you don’t usually have time to,” said Dammers.

One of the main mediums Dammers works with is a non-slip mesh material, something he first became familiar with while working a “boring” job selling carpets 20 years ago.

“I was just looking at it and I thought, ‘Oh, I could use that.’ So I took some home and I started pushing paint through it,” said Dammers.

Using the mesh as a vehicle for acrylic paint, Dammers creates textural surfaces in his paintings, which, as of late, also incorporate geometric shapes and airbrushing. He said utilizing otherwise traditionally commercial tools like the mesh and an airbrush to make art has come naturally to him.

“I definitely like making art out of things I find and everyday materials ...



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Marfa Open’s current artist in residence Russell Dammers, who is originally from New Zealand, wields an airbrush while working on a sculptural painting containing his father’s old toy horses.

everything’s a potential art supply or surface to paint on to me. Everything’s a tool basically. Some of its commercial stuff. I’ll use kitchen spoons and things to flick paint,” said Dammers.

The grid-like pattern of his signature mesh material and the way Dammers has recently been layering colors behind the mesh onto the wall or canvas gives his black and white works a vibrating quality. Another technique Dammers utilizes to imbue his paintings with movement is airbrushing the acrylic surfaces created by pushing the paint through the mesh. By airbrushing one side of the dried paint drips yellow and the opposing side

blue, it allows the color of a work to change depending on the angle at which it is viewed.

“That’s why you get so much movement when you walk past — it kind of makes it like a sculpture. It brings time into it and movement rather than being a flat 2D object,” said Dammers.

Another 2D work which takes on a 3D quality is Dammers’ 10-by-7-foot mesh creation which hangs, almost like a tapestry, on a prominent gallery wall.

“It’s fun to come off a canvas stretcher and be a bit more free,” said Dammers.

The 3D quality of the work comes from a few strategic cut outs to the edges of the material which help further define geometric shapes painted onto the mesh and the light airbrushing of blue, pink and gold accents.

“I love working around the color wheel. I like a really simple color palette and complicating it through movement,” said Dammers.

Dammers plans to have around 40 works on view during the Marfa Open art festival and will also have a show after the festival, running until November 4, with sculptor Noah Kashinai. The opportunity to make work within a landscape he finds energizing is valuable and gets back to the roots of why he makes art — something that has been at the forefront of his mind as of late.

“Everything kind of changed in the pandemic, and I definitely realized I do this for me. Because when we couldn’t show in galleries, it was like, ‘Oh, this is keeping me sane,’” said Dammers.

He said he’s looking forward to mingling with more creatives throughout the Marfa Open festival and so far has felt very welcomed into the local community. He even plans to stick around after his residency is over.

“[Marfa’s] kind of like a mecca for interesting people in the arts. The fact that I showed up with a bunch of art and I’m making work, there’s automatic acceptance in the community.”

For more information, visit marfaopen.org/ or follow @MarfaOpen on Instagram.

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg September 19, 2022

ACROSS

1 Criticize harshly

5 AOL rival

8 Partners of aches

13 Forearm bone

14 Magnum — (master-piece)

16 “Are not!” response

17 Its roar can travel five miles

18 Improvise, in jazz

19 Birds’ homes

20 Thrift shopper’s mentality?

23 Look intently

24 Quaint hotel

25 Uber alternative

28 Angry rant that picks up steam?

32 ‘90s music recordings

35 Writing table

36 Like one who passes the bar, perhaps?

37 Permits

39 Sandal strap

42 Install a bathroom floor

43 Keep your distance from

45 Informed

47 Tennis court divider

48 Best cornrow at a hair contest, e.g.?

52 Sneaky

53 Chimpanzee or human

54 Spread sloppily

57 Febreze/ Glade competition?

61 Test if you’ve added enough salt to, say

64 Part for an actor

65 Shallowest Great Lake

66 More elevated

67 Destroy, as a dragon

68 James Webb Space Telescope org.

69 There are about 454 in a pound

70 Poetic homage

71 Cloth colorer

DOWN

1 It screws into a light fixture

2 Fake name

3 Nasal sound of disbelief

4 Garage for a 747

5 Where to make a scene?

6 Extend across

7 Unfeeling

8 Pressed Italian sandwiches

9 “You’re so right!”

10 “___ Always Sunny in Philadelphia”

11 Part of N/A

12 Morse code plea

15 Rosemary unit

21 Dry, geographically

22 Insect within “mantis”

25 Log house

26 “Rolling in the Deep” singer

27 French hat

29 Somewhat: Suffix

30 Boy band acronym whose second letter stands for “Kids”

31 Decay

32 Sharp parts of cats

33 New Jersey athlete

34 Unemotional

38 Religious misdeed

40 “I can neither confirm ___ deny ...”

41 Facial prosthetic worn by Sammy Davis Jr.

44 New parent’s first purchases, often

46 Lower, as lights

49 Ailsa Chang’s station

50 Their teeth may grind

51 Rely

55 Wide variety

56 Salary increase

57 Women in ___ (org. for some future chemists)

58 “Seize the day” letters

59 “The Impaler” who inspired “Dracula”

60 Time between anniversaries

61 Word before “boat” or “of war”

62 Car loan fig.

63 Massage venue

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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www.upuzzles.com

9/19

RAsputin by Matthew Faiella

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69							70				71		

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September 29

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

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Marfa ISD PTO seeking secret pals

By BIG BEND SENTINEL

MARFA — The Marfa Independent School District Parent Teacher Organization is seeking volunteers willing to help with an appreciation initiative for district staff.

Volunteers will act as secret pals for one or more Marfa ISD staffers and will contribute monthly thank-you gifts starting in October. At the end of the school year, in May, secret pals will deliver their final gift and reveal their identities. Participants will receive an email the first week of October from Marfa PTO with a list of their chosen staff member's favorite things, needs and wants.

Once a month secret pals will deliver something on, or off, the list to that staff member via the school's front office or by mail to the school addressed to their staff member.

If you have any questions, email ptomarfa@gmail.com. To sign up to be a secret pal, visit signupgenius.com/go/10c0e44afa722a4ffcf8-marfa

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Presidio Trading Post’s 7th annual River Run to Terlingua rumbles down FM170

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO & TERLINGUA — Last Saturday, the Presidio Trading Post celebrated Mexican Independence Day in style with their 7th annual Poker Run. Bikers from all over the region gathered at the Post early in the morning and rode to Terlingua together for lunch at Rustic Iron BBQ in the Ghost Town. After the return ride, everyone capped off the day with a fiesta and musical performances in Presidio.

The Trading Post’s annual event is what’s called a “poker run” — an adaptation of the classic card game for the road, played by motorcycle enthusiasts around the country. At each stop, a single card is dealt until riders have a full hand. “At the end, the best hand wins,” Carrera explained. “Everyone pays \$20 — [the Trading Post] doesn’t make any money from this, all the money is for the winner.”

Carrera has only been biking for a few years, but his hobby has quickly blossomed into a full-blown obsession. For his birthday this year, he and some buddies rode together for 1,200 miles to attend the world-famous motorcycle rally in Sturgis. That’s his longest ride to date, but he loves taking in the beauty of the Big Bend region on two wheels. “It’s like therapy for me,” he said.

Mario Peña of Redford joined Carrera for his trip to Sturgis this year — taking a roundabout route through Santa Fe and the Devil’s Tower in Wyoming to pack in as much sightseeing as possible. “We did it all crazy,

with no GPS, just a map — old school,” he said.

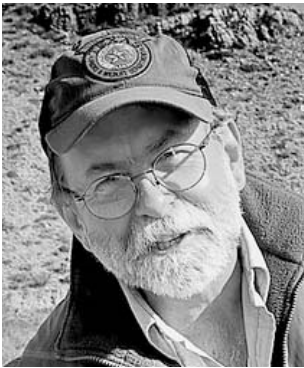
Peña has put almost 100,000 miles on his bike since he bought it — though he’s taken it all over the region, the River Road is his favorite place to ride. “We grew up here, but I could do that trip every day,” he said. “You see different stuff every time you go by — each time is a different story.”

All the riders made a stop in Terlingua for barbecue and karaoke at Rustic Iron BBQ before turning back to celebrate at the Post. Mariachi Santa Cruz and Roxy Cabello brought down the house with patriotic performances before everyone gathered for a screening of the Canelo v. Golovkin boxing match — marking another win for the reigning middleweight champ.

In its early years, the ride was held during Labor Day weekend, but organizer Rafael “Rafa” Carrera shifted the event by a few weeks to give Presidians a way to celebrate Mexico’s independence from Spain on this side of the river. “Nobody really does anything in Presidio,” he said, explaining that most folks cross the border to cook out and light fireworks with family.

This weekend’s festivities across Mexico were the first large public gatherings for the holiday since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in 2020 — it was a similar story for the Poker Run. Last year’s event was limited to close friends and family only, but this year folks traveled from as far away as the Permian Basin and Camargo, Chihuahua, to take part. “Next year is going to be even better,” Carrera promised. “I’m hoping we’ll get even more people after the pandemic.”

OBITUARY



Hall

An object in motion stays in motion, and **Blaine R. Hall** was never still. Born on March Air Force base in 1950, Blaine was the middle son to Lt. Cl. Paul M. Hall (Woody) and Mignon Rachal Hall. The Korean War took his father but his mother, Mignon, still had much life to live. Blaine would later be stepson to Bruce T. Pearson, in the process gaining his surviving brother and sister, John Pearson and Rachal Eriksen. His childhood was spent in Fort Stockton and Midland, Texas (the latter city proved less receptive to pet bobcats). Even as a teenager, Blaine was ready to see what more the world held. He attended New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, New Mexico, graduating with Honors in 1968. This time at NMMI cemented the foundation for the man he became — brilliant, principled, curious. His university experience included a bachelor’s degree at the University of Texas El Paso, a master’s degree in geological oceanography at Dalhousie University, and further graduate study at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University.

As a young man Blaine knew there was too much to see for one lifetime: traveling the Atlantic to and from oil rigs, motorcycling through Spain, and living in Paris while working for a discotheque (where he went by “Tex”). In his professional career, Blaine’s expertise would shine in the field of exploratory geology, allowing his family to twice live overseas in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The third chapter of his career brought him back to Texas as a professor at Sul Ross State University and later as a ranger at Big Bend Ranch State Park (aka “The Other Side of Nowhere”). But it was the fourth chapter of his career (most refer to this as retirement) where he was truly able to answer the siren call of “The Field.” Blaine spent retirement working on academic and research papers, lectures, mentoring graduate students, and visiting all the people and places he could manage. The only thing that could match his brilliant mind was the love, loyalty, and devotion Blaine felt for his friends and family, particularly his children — son Peter and daughter Blaine Anne.

My father was a confident, often eccentric, principled, kind, and loving man who experienced a full, adventurous life — whether the adventure took him to a mountain peak in Wyoming, a café in Europe, graduate study in Nova Scotia, or the desolate beauty of the high desert. I believe we all wish we had spent more time and been able to develop more personal relationships with my father, but despite his famous fondness for privacy, the love he felt for us and us for him was tangible as the rocks that followed his every step.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thu
Sep
22

Skating & Rollerblading at the Granada Theatre in Alpine
Thursdays in September at 5pm

Presidio Drag Race
5:30 pm at Presidio International Raceway
It's that time again! Spectators \$10; Racers \$75; \$40 Buy back only first round. Helmets required!

77th Annual Sul Ross NIRA Southwest Region Rodeo
7pm - 10 pm, September 22 - 24 at S.A.L.E. Arena
Adults \$10; Adults over 55 & children under two \$5; SRSU students & faculty with ID FREE. The expectations are high for this year's team!

Fri
Sep
23

Marfa High School Homecoming Game vs Sierra Blanca
7:30pm kickoff at Martin Field
JH Game starts at 5:30pm followed by Homecoming Court at 7:00pm. Go Shorthorns!

Inaguración Centro de Derechos Humanos
Grand opening is 6pm - 8pm at 201 Bomar Avenue in Presidio
The Border Network for Human Rights has opened a new office in Presidio. They are here to offer advice, assistance and guidance on basic rights in a variety of areas.

Sat
Sep
24

1st Annual Alpine Community Projects Community Potluck Social
5:30pm at Baines Park in Alpine
Bring a dish. Any dish! If we end up with nothing but desserts, it's ok. We'll bring the plates, napkins & silverware. Your bring a chair or blanket, a drink, food to share, and friends! Questions? kirsten@alpinecommunityprojects.org

Have an upcoming or weekly event?
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Sun
Sep
25

Rob Mazurek’s “Scattered Amplitudes” Opening Reception
4pm - 7pm at the Marfa Studio Arts Gallery in Marfa; Exhibition continues through November 12
Rob Mazurek is an interdisciplinary artist/ abstractivist, with a focus on electro-acoustic composition, improvisation, performance, painting, sculpture, video, film, and installation.

Ongoing
Weekly
Events

Coffee, Snacks & Conversation at USO Hall for Veterans
Thursdays at 9am at the USO Building

Saturday Farmer's Market
Saturdays at 9:30am at the USO

Community Yoga by The Marfa Yogi
Mondays through Thursdays at 10am at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Big Sky Yoga
Mondays & Wednesdays at 6pm, Fridays at 12:00pm, Saturdays at 10am at Saint George Hotel

Free Zumba Classes
Mondays & Wednesdays at 6pm at Marfa Public Library

Free Mysore Yoga Classes
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays at 8am at Marfa Public Library

Free Meditation Classes
Tuesdays at 6pm at Marfa Public Library

Coffee in the Courtyard
Fridays at 9am - 11am at Marfa Public Library

Alpine Memorial FUNERAL HOME

CREMATIONS - PRENEED PLANS

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209 West Sul Ross Ave | Alpine, TX 79830
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Judd Foundation

Judd Foundation offers direct engagement with Donald Judd’s art and vision in the Chihuahuan Desert. These formerly private living and working spaces provide firsthand experience of his concept of permanent installation.

Advance reservations are required. For the safety of everyone, masks and social distancing are required.

JUDD

La Mansana de Chinati/ The Block
Every day except Wednesday
Guided visits begin at the gated entrance at 400 West El Paso Street.

The Studios
Every day except Monday and Wednesday
Guided visits begin at 101 North Highland Avenue.

Visit juddfoundation.org or call 432 729 4406 for more information and to book reservations.

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.



Alexandra Rau, LCSW
Therapy for individuals and couples

www.alexandrarau.com
917.213.7449
alexandra@alexandrarau.com
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Explanation of Change of Ownership

As of Q1, 2022, current ownership fully bought out previous ownership.

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